

Rules for Rimfire Sporter Benchrest Class

12/19/2020

1. Concept: this is a competition for rifles built to be carried around for sporting purposes. The rules are designed to emphasize shooter skill, rather than equipment, and contain costs. While the matches are shot off the bench, rifles specifically built for benchrest or which do not satisfy the Sporter Class rules will shoot in the Target rifle class. Ultimately it is at the discretion of the organizer to class a particular rifle.
2. Any repeater-action 22LR rifle or 22-caliber air-rifle which meets the other restrictions is eligible. Modifications to factory rifles of a sporting character, such as a barrel or trigger upgrade, are allowed.
3. Weight restrictions: the total weight of the rifle with all attachments, including empty magazine, scope, and bipod must be less than 10.5 lb.
4. Rest: The only front rest allowed is a bipod attached to the rifle (or no rest). Any style rear rest is allowed – typically this might be a bag or monopod. The rests cannot be fixed to the bench. No risers or other additional supports are allowed. A sheet of material no thicker than ½” is allowed to provide a smooth surface under the bipod.
5. Equipment: As a guideline, the only equipment on the bench should be the rear rest, ammunition, spotting scope and logbook. It should be possible to vacate the bench in a few minutes if squadding applies.
6. Optic: Any rifle optic is allowed, but they must be operated at 9X magnification or less. A spotting scope is necessary, and participants are encouraged to bring their own. The Plink Off scopes will be available for those who do not have one.
7. Ammunition: Only 22-caliber standard velocity allowed. Cost is restricted; the ammo must be widely available for all competitors at a cost less than 25-cents a round. This excludes premium ammo from Eley, Lapua, RWS, Federal and others. If in doubt ask the organizer before bringing ammo to the competition.
8. Safety: our usual safety procedures apply and will be explained at the event. Rifles should be transported to the bench in Clear condition: unloaded, with the magazine removed (if possible), and the action flagged.
9. Squadding: if there are more than 10 shooters, the Target and Aperture shooters using a mechanical rest will get priority for benches. Sporter shooters may have to share benches. If squadding applies, round counts may be reduced for the Sporter matches because of time.
10. Course of fire: The following course of fire is proposed for Sporter class matches. Unlimited sighter shots are allowed. A time limit may be applied. There will be breaks between matches for target changes. If squadding is necessary the course of fire may be reduced to meet time constraints.
 1. Match 1 - 50 yards using an ARA target (25 rounds)
 2. Match 2 - 50 yards using an ARA target (25 rounds)
 3. Match 3 - 100 yards using an IBS target (10 rounds)
 4. Match 4 - 50 yards using an NRA target (10 rounds)

Afterward, everyone helps with scoring and recording, and points and stickers are awarded. We release the range by 11am.

Some comments:

1. The weight restriction exists to prevent competitors from turning their sporting rifles into dedicated target rifles, while allowing most factory rifles and improvements with sporting character.
2. In general a high power rifle scope is not necessary, and we want it to be possible to be competitive using the same scope for the Plink Off and BR. With the ammunition restrictions high magnification is not needed for most people to shoot to the capabilities of the ammunition.
3. Shooting 100 yards will require a rifle scope which allows at least 7-MOA elevation setting above a 25-yard zero, and adjustable parallax is advisable. It is also necessary to see the hits, which requires a spotting scope.
4. The Sporter matches will probably use the same targets as the Target Rifle classes. If squadding is necessary, round counts may be reduced.
5. Ammo selection is a huge factor. Not only the brand of ammo but individual lot numbers can be the difference between winning and losing in benchrest. To avoid an expensive ammunition war, ammunition will be limited to brands which are widely available at a maximum cost of 25 cent a round. Examples of the better brands of allowed ammo would be: SK Rifle Match, Wolf Match Extra, Eley CMP, Eley Edge, RWS Target Rifle, Lapua Center-X, CCI Green Tag, Federal Gold Medal, and Remington Target. You will probably want to test a few brands to find what works best in your rifle. Less expensive ammo may shoot just as well.