

CLI .303 CLUB OF CAPE TOWN
RULES OF SHOOTING AND CONDUCT

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1. INTRODUCTION

- a) These rules have been prepared to govern the shooting activities of the CLI .303 Club's members and their guest shooters at events which are organised by the Club at either the SANDF Good Hope range or elsewhere.
- b) They are based on current norms for national target shooting competitions and are formulated to promote safety, orderly conduct, fair competition and the proper adjudication of ties, challenges and disputes.
- c) Responsibility for seeing that the rules are obeyed lies with the officers of the Management Committee of the Club as elected at its Annual General Meeting and with the appointed Range Officers controlling the firing points and the butts.
- d) It will be desirable, from time to time, to amend these rules to adapt to changing circumstances under which competitions are held. Such amendments will be ratified by the Club's Management Committee and will be circulated timeously to all members by e-mail, for immediate implementation.

2. FIREARM REGULATIONS

a) Rifles:

Only British No 1 (SMLE), the No 3 (Enfield Pattern 14) and No 4 as manufactured by and /or for the British Government or its Dominions pre- 1954 or a similar pattern rifle of a private manufacturer of British Government pattern .303 rifles may be used in club competitions. Such rifles shall be used in the "as issued" condition. Older (pre 1904) military issue .303 rifles may also be used provided they are in good condition and have been judged to be safe to shoot by the range officer on duty. Sporterised .303's may be disallowed if the alterations done give any advantage over the standard rifle. I.e. Bull barrels, adjustable triggers and Monte Carlo stocks etc.

b) Back Sights

Aperture back sights (peep sights), adjustable for both elevation and windage and of patterns that was specifically manufactured for use on .303 service rifles are recommended. A single prescription lens or coloured or polarising filter may be used in the rear sight aperture. Service Issue open iron sights are permissible, but are unsuited for shooting at the longer ranges, where precise corrections have to be made.

c) Foresights

Either service pattern post foresights, as issued or a fixed tunnel foresight with a post insert may be used. No other foresight accessories (i.e. spirit levels, tubular extensions, lenses, ring front apertures inserts, filters, etc...) are permissible.

d) Trigger and Trigger Pressure

Only standard double stage military triggers, as issued in service rifles, are permissible. The trigger of a cocked action must be able to support a weight of 2kg without activating the firing pin.

e) Slings

A material or leather sling attached to the rifle by means of sling swivels may be used as an aid for steadying the rifle, provided that it does not exceed 55mm in width and 6mm in thickness. The sling must be attached to the rifle at either one or two points. The sling

may be placed around one arm and one wrist, but not around any other part of the competitor's body.

f) Packing of Barrels and Bedding of Actions

Packing of barrels and bedding of actions for better accuracy is permissible as long as it does not detract from the rifle's original form.

3. AMMUNITION

Ammunition is restricted to manufactured .303 British ammunition, loaded with a 174gr bullet, or the hand loaded equivalent thereof.

4. DRESS AND SHOOTING AIDS

The use of shooting jackets and other aids are solely aimed at providing comfort and support for the shooter whilst shooting in the prone position. No aid shall be applied in a manner so as to afford the user unfair or unwarranted advantage over other competitors.

a) Shooting Jackets

These must be made of a soft, flexible and pliable material. Closure must be by non adjustable fasteners such as buttons or zippers. Closure by straps, laces or quick release buckles is not permitted. Padding not exceeding 13mm in thickness may be applied on the shoulder, elbows and upper arm. Elbow padding may not be extended to give support to the wrist.

b) Strap on or Elasticized Elbow Pads

These may be worn over or under the shooting jacket. Stiffening of elbow pads with metal or any other rigid material is not permitted.

c) Shooting Gloves

A soft and pliable shooting glove may be worn. The cuff may not extend more than 8cm above the wrist.

d) Spectacles & Shooting Glasses

Spectacles or contact lenses may be used, provided they are of a similar prescription to those used by the competitor for everyday use.

e) Groundsheets and Mats

Competitors must use groundsheets or padded shooting mats. Holes may not be made in the ground below shooting mats to provide elbow anchoring.

f) Hearing Protectors

During shooting, the wearing of hearing protectors (ear muffs, ear plugs or preferably both) is compulsory for any person within 10 metres of the firing point. This includes competitors, range officers, score keepers and any persons allowed on the firing point whilst shooting is in progress.

5. SHOOTING POSITION

The condition of all .303 Club matches is that all shooting shall only be from the prone position. No other position will be allowed except in the case of a physically disabled shooter

who is unable to assume the prone position. In such an instance the Management Committee may allow the use of another shooting position, provided they consider it safe.

a) X, A, B and Veterans class

When shooting in the prone position the shooter will always:

- Shoot from the built up firing point;
- Lie with his elbows as close to the front of the firing point as possible without resting a forearm on the front kerbing;
- Support the rifle with both hands with the butt plate placed against the shoulder or upper arm on the outside of the shooting jacket, and all parts of the rifle, i.e. The sling and the arms below the elbows are visibly clear of the ground and other objects;
- Have the back of the forward hand no less than 10cm clear of the ground, as measured from the outside surface of the hand or shooting glove, if one is worn.

b) J class

Shooters in the J class may use a rest for stability, placed underneath the forward hand while shooting. All other rules from 5a) must still be followed.

6. TARGETS

The following targets are specified for short, mid and long range events of the .303 Club:

- *100 meter events - UIT 50m Pistol Target*
- *200m events - 300m SABU pre 2011 rules SABU target (i.e. old SABU target)*
- *300m - 900m events - SABU pre-2011 rules targets*

7. COURSES OF FIRE FOR 100-900M EVENTS

These are as follows:

- *100m - 3 marked non-convertible sighters (all to be patched,) plus 2 strings of 10 shots for record.*
- *200m - 3 marked non-convertible sighters (all to be patched,) plus 15 shots for record.*
- *300, 500 and 600m - 3 marked convertible sighters, plus 15 shots for record.*
- *700, 800 and 900m - 5 convertible sighters, plus 10 shots for record.*

Sighting shots may be converted singly or in sequence up to three shots, provided they are verbally declared to your scoring partner before further record shots are taken. If more than one sighting shot is converted, they must be linked in sequence to the last sighter that is converted.

8. RESOLVING TIES

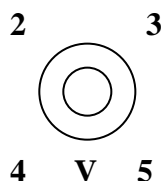
Ties will be resolved as follows:

100m: Firstly by comparison of numbers of 10s, 9s, 8s etc. And if these are the same, by comparing the distances of the furthest, lowest value shot from the centre of the bull.

200-900m: Firstly by comparison of the number of V-Bulls and if these are the same, by numerical comparison of shot values, beginning by comparing highest shot values recorded and working back in descending ring value order.

9. MARKING AND SIGNALLING OF SHOT VALUES

All .303 events are shot as deliberate string fire competitions. In the 100m and 200m events the position of each sighting shot will be indicated separately by the butt's markers. These sighters will then be patched and the record shots will be taken without further marking. In the 300-900m events the position and value of each shot taken will be individually indicated. The shot value signals are placed on the target in the positions indicated below:



10. SAFETY RULES ON THE FIRING POINT

- a) Rifles shall always be conveyed from vehicles to the firing point in rifle cases or padded rifle bags with either the bolt removed from the rifle action or the bolt open with an open breech indicator (Breech Flag) in place.
- b) Rifles shall only be removed from cases and bags, on the firing point when the range officer gives the instruction to make ready to shoot.
- c) Whilst on the firing point and not engaged in shooting (i.e. before a match starts or after it ends) a competitor must at all times either have the bolt removed from the rifle or have the breech open with a breech flag clearly inserted into the chamber and barrel.
- d) It is the responsibility of a competitor's marking partner on the firing point to ensure that the competitor either removes the bolt from his/her rifle or inserts a breech flag immediately after finishing shooting and before their rifle is packed away and they leave the firing point. Compliance with this responsibility must be indicated on a competitor's score card by the respective marker's signature. Failure to comply with this duty may lead to the score being disqualified and disciplinary action being taken against both the competitor and marker.
- e) Any malfunction of a rifle or cartridge which cannot be rectified from the prone shooting position shall be reported to the range officer and only then may the problem be resolved under his direct observation and supervision.
- f) No shot may be fired irrespective of any range commands if the Red Butts Safety Flag is raised. Each competitor should confirm that this flag is down before he fires his first shot.
- g) Cellular phones should be switched off by all persons on the firing point whilst participating in an event. Disciplinary action may be taken against any persons using a cellular phone on a firing point whilst shooting is in progress.

11. SAFETY RULES IN THE BUTTS

- a) Competitors will in turn be required to pull and mark targets in the butts and will be under the command of a butt's officer when they are performing this duty.

- b) Target markers may only enter and leave the butts when the red butt's safety flag is raised and they are instructed to do so by the butts control officer, after the firing point officer has declared the range to be safe by radio communication with the butt's officer.
- c) Only the butts officer will give the command for the butt's safety flag to be raised and lowered and will confirm by radio communication with the range officer on the firing point that he is aware that the flag is either up or down and that this is in accord with the firing point commands which are operative at that time.
- d) When the butts safety flag is down, markers may not under any circumstances pass or ascend the stairways leading to the firing point level of the range, without a general cease fire command being given to the firing point by the butts officer, and the butts safety flag being raised and an all safe confirmation is received from the firing point range officer. These stairways are potentially unshielded bullet pathways and are strictly out of bounds when firing is in progress.
- e) Target markers are strictly and absolutely confined to the limits of the protected butt's passageway when firing is in progress. When firing is in progress, they may not under any circumstances move forward beyond the line formed by the target faces. If for any reason butts personnel need to move forward beyond this line, (e.g. to free a stuck target frame or adjust its counterbalance with weights), they may only do so if:
 - A general cease fire has been ordered by the butt's officer
 - Radio communication of an all clear acknowledgement has been received from the range officer on the firing point
 - The butt's red safety flag has been raised and acknowledgement of this raised flag is verbally received from the firing point officer by radio communication.
- f) Hearing and eye protection is recommended in the butts. This is to protect target markers respectively from the potentially harmful effects of the supersonic cracking noise of bullets passing through the target and from any target frame splinters that may be generated by bullets striking target frames.
- g) The use of cell phones for making and receiving calls by target markers whilst they are under the control and orders of Butts Officers is prohibited and violation of this rule may lead to disciplinary action being taken against offenders.

12. RANGE COMMANDS

- a) **"Take up your positions and make ready to fire"**

Action: You are given a five (5) minutes period to take up your allocated position on the firing point, unpack rifle with bolt out or bolt open with breech flag inserted, set your sights and telescope, roll out your shooting mat and unpack your ammunition and other shooting accessories. Prior to this order being given no shooter may occupy the firing point or place his equipment on the firing point

- b) **"Prepare to fire"**

Action: Take up the prone shooting position with rifle shouldered and sling engaged. Bolt may be inserted or breech flag removed, however, the rifle may not be aimed at the target, dry fired or loaded.

c) **“Range safe; commence firing when the targets appear”**

Action: Load one (1) round into the magazine, chamber the round by closing the bolt gently, then aim and fire. Note: Bolts should not be slammed shut when chambering a live round. Always work the bolt gently on your rifle. Slamming the bolt closed on an incompletely chambered round could cause it to detonate, if for example there is a case neck separation which obstructs the chamber or any other abnormality which prevents the round from chambering normally.

d) **“Cease firing and make your rifle safe”**

Action: Cease firing, open your bolt, check the magazine is empty, insert your breech flag or remove your bolt. At the end of a detail, your shooting partner is responsible for checking the safe state of your rifle (i.e. bolt open and removed, magazine inspected and empty and breech flag in place) and signing this off on your score card and vice versa.

e) **“You may pack away and leave the firing point”**

Action: Pack away your rifle in a case or bag and vacate the firing point with all your other equipment.

13. **SERIOUS TRANSGRESSIONS AND PENALTIES**

- a) If, before firing a match, a competitor is found with a bolt in his rifle without a breech flag inserted, anywhere on the firing point or area behind it, he will be penalized by deduction of five (5) point from his score yet to be made.
- b) Loading of a rifle prior to the Commence Firing command being given - this will be reported to Management Committee for further disciplinary action.
- c) Firing of a shot prior to the “Commence Firing” command being given. The competitor will be disqualified from further competition that day and reported to Management Committee for further disciplinary action.
- d) Accidental Discharge without aiming whilst shooting for score. The shot will be recorded as a miss.
- e) Discovery of a bolt in a rifle without breech flag in place after leaving the firing point or before taking up position on the firing point. This will be reported to the management committee for further disciplinary action
- f) Acting in any manner which the Range Officer considers being dangerous. The competitor will forthwith be ordered to cease firing until the circumstances have been investigated by the Range Officer. Such instances may lead to formal disciplinary action being taken against the offender by the management committee.

14. **SCORING**

- a) A shot fired on the wrong target will be scored as a miss.
- b) If two shots strike the target during one exposure, the competitor who fired in his proper turn will be credited with the higher value shot
- c) The signalled value of a shot may, if considered to be incorrect, be challenged once only by the firer, if done so before another shot is fired at that target.
- d) When the value of a shot has been challenged, the target must be lowered and be examined by the Butts Officer irrespective of whether he can clearly see that the

challenge will be successful or not. Whatever the result, the value of the shot must be re-signalled and the outcome of the challenge confirmed by radio to the range officer.

- e) If a target is moved at the moment a shot is fired, in such a way that it can affect the value of the shot, the firer will be permitted to immediately fire another shot in its place. The shooter concerned must lodge an appeal to the Range Officer and the incident must have been observed and be confirmed by another competitor.
- f) If a spotting disc position disagrees unmistakably with the value signalled, the firer or marker must inform the Range Officer who will then communicate with the Butts Officer and have the error investigated and corrected. The correction will be confirmed both by radio communication from the butts and by signalling on the target.
- g) If a spotting disc remains in the same place which was signalled for a previous shot the competitor is entitled to request the Range Officer to confirm with the Butts Officer that the last two shots fired on that target were close to each other. If not, the marking error must be investigated and corrected and the correction be confirmed both by radio and signalling on the target.
- h) It is the responsibility of every competitor to promptly bring any errors or scoring anomalies to the attention of the marker and Range Officer and have these corrected *BEFORE THE NEXT SHOT IS FIRED ON THAT TARGET.*

15. CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS

- a) Any claim or complaint arising on the firing point must be made at once by way of a verbal protest to the Range Officer. If his decision is disputed or not disposed of on the spot, the matter must be referred to a member of the Management Committee for resolution in consultation with his co-members. If the complaint still remains unresolved, it must be put in writing and be considered by the Management Committee.
- b) Protests, not directly related to occurrences on the Firing Point or Butts must be made in writing to the Chairman of the club, for resolution by the Management Committee.

16. BUTTS COMMANDS

- a) **“Take up your positions - firing is about to commence”**

Action: Target markers will move to the lowered target they have been allocated to mark.

- b) **“Lower the butts safety flag”**

Action: The target marker closest to the Butts Safety Flag will lower it and verbally confirm to the Butts Control Officer that this has been done.

- c) **“Raise targets and commence marking”**

Action: Markers will raise their targets and watch their back stop for bullet impact (I.e. dust) in the soft bullet strike area directly behind their target. After each observed bullet impact, they will lower their target, insert a spotting disc in the bullet hole, attach a value signal to the target, patch the previous bullet hole, if present, and raise the target. This service should be performed in 7 - 10 seconds. If a miss is observed, as judged by the impact position on the back stop, the target should be lowered, be patched and any value signal attached to it be removed and then be raised as a clean target. If observed, the location of the miss should then be verbally reported to the Butts Officer, to relay by radio to the competitor, via the Firing Point Officer.

d) **“Cease marking, lower all targets and raise the butts safety flag”**

Action: All targets will be immediately lowered and the marker nearest to the flag mounting point will raise the butt’s safety flag.

The flag raiser will verbally confirm that the flag is up, to the Butts Officer

NOTE: (This order will be given if a cease fire has been declared during a detail by jointly by the Firing Point and Butts Control Officers or at the closure of the butt’s service, at the end of a detail)

e) **“It is safe to leave the butts”**

Action: This order will be given when the Firing Point Officer has confirmed by radio to the Butts Officer that:

- All rifles on the firing point have been declared to be safe, that they packed away and the firing point is being vacated.
- The raising of Butts Safety Flag has been acknowledged by the Firing Point Officer to the Butts Officer, by radio.
- All markers and the Butts Officer will then promptly leave the Butts and proceed to the firing point for their turn to shoot. Alternately at the end of a day’s events target markers will remove the targets from the frames and load them on to the targets trolley. The butt’s passage will then be cleared of spotting discs, scoring panels and patch boxes and these will be loaded on to the target trolleys.