

NRA HIGH POWER RIFLE RULES

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Official Rules for High Power Rifle Matches

These rules establish uniform standards for NRA sanctioned High Power Rifle competition. Where alternatives are shown, the least restrictive conditions apply unless the tournament program sets forth limitations. The rules do not apply to High Power Sporting Rifle, Silhouette or International Shooting Union type competition. They supersede all earlier editions and remain in effect until specifically superseded. Tournament sponsors may not alter these rules. If sponsors require additional rules for special conditions, the additions must be fully set forth in the program for the competition concerned. The arrangement and rule numbering systems are such that corresponding rules for other types of NRA competition are correspondingly located and numbered in the Rule Books for those competitions. Gaps in the sequence of rule numbers result from there being a rule in one or more of the other Rule Books that does not apply in this book.

Recommendations for rule changes may be forwarded to the High Power Rifle Committee in care of the National Rifle Association.

NOTE Rules in which major changes have been made since publication of the previous Rule Book are marked thus: !(1.1).

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3. EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION

This section defines authorized equipment. Where alternative types of equipment are shown, the least restrictive conditions apply unless the tournament program sets forth limitations.

3.1 Service Rifle - U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M1 or caliber 7.62 mm M1, as issued by the U.S. Armed Forces, or the same type and caliber of commercially manufactured rifle, having not less than 4 ½ pound trigger pull, with standard type stock and standard type leather or web sling. External alterations to the assembled arm will not be allowed. The application of synthetic coatings, which includes those containing powdered metal, to the interior of the stock to improve bedding is authorized provided the coating does not interfere with the function or operation of safety features. The front and rear sights must be United States Army design, but may vary in dimensions of rear sight aperture and front sight blade. The internal parts of the rifle may be specially fitted and include alterations that will improve the functioning and accuracy of the arm, provided such alterations in no way interfere with the proper functioning of the safety devices as manufactured. (A device consisting of a modified cartridge clip that is intended to permit single loading from the clip into the chamber during slow fire is considered an internal alteration to improve functioning and is permissible under this rule.)

3.1.1 Service Rifle - U.S. Rifle, Caliber 7.62 mm M-14 as issued by the U.S. Armed Forces or the same type and caliber of commercially manufactured rifle, having not less than a 4 ½ pound trigger pull, with standard type stock of wood or synthetic material. Must be no more than 2 inches wide at a point

immediately to the rear of the front band, no more than 2.5 inches wide at the front and rear of the receiver, and have a continuous taper from receiver to front band. Width at receiver may be carried through to the butt plate, which may be the flat M-1 or hinged M-14 plate and standard leather or web sling. The rifle must be so adjusted as to be incapable of automatic fire without removing the stock and changing parts. In all courses and in all positions the standard 10 or 20-round box magazine or a reduced capacity magazine of the same external dimensions will be allowed. The hinged butt plate will be used only in the folded position. The gas system must be fully operational. External alterations to the assembled arm will not be allowed. The application of synthetic coatings, which includes those containing powdered metal, to the interior of the stock to improve bedding is authorized provided the coating does not interfere with the function or operation of safety features. The front and rear sights must be of United States Army design, but may vary in dimensions of rear sight aperture and front sight blade. The internal parts of the rifle may be specially fitted and include alterations that will improve the functioning and accuracy of the arm, provided such alterations in no way interfere with the proper functioning of the safety devices as manufactured. *For stock dimension see diagram in Illustrations.*

3.1.2 Service Rifle - U.S. Rifle, Caliber 5.56 mm M16 series as issued by the U.S. Armed Forces, or the same type and caliber of commercially procured rifle, without biped or grenade launcher, having not less than a 4 1/2 pound trigger pull, with standard-type stock, pistol grip, hand guard, and leather or web sling. The rifle must be so modified as to be incapable of automatic fire without removing, replacing, or altering parts. In all courses of fire and in all positions the standard 10, 20-round or 30-round box magazine or a reduced capacity magazine of the same external dimensions will be attached. The gas system must be fully operational. External alterations to the barrel, upper and lower receivers, stock, hand guard, or pistol grip will not be allowed, except that a device may be attached to prevent selector lever movement to the auto position. The front and rear sights must be the standard design. The rear sight aperture and front sight width may vary in dimensions to suit the shooter. The rear sight aperture may be hooded. Versions or adaptations of the M16 type rifle consisting of external modifications or alterations, will be shot as an NRA Match Rifle, except as allowed in Rule 3.1.3. The trigger weight of these versions or adaptations will not be less than 4 1/2 pounds, except as noted in Rule 3.3.1. A case deflector (D.C.-T-30 or commercial equivalent) is allowed.

3.1.3 Service Rifle - Any rifle or modified rifle not covered by NRA Rules 3.1, 3.1.1 or 3.1.2, but permitted by CMP Rules are considered service rifles in NRA sanctioned competition.

3.1.4 Foreign Service Rifle - Any center fire, self-loading rifle, as issued for general service by the armed forces of any nation (except rifles described in NRA Rules 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3), or the same type and caliber of commercially manufactured rifle, having not less than a 4 1/2 pound trigger pull, with standard type stock and standard leather or web sling. In all courses and in all positions the standard 10, 20, or 30-round box magazine will be attached. A hinged butt plate, if installed, will be used only in the folded position. The gas system, if any, must be fully operational. External alterations to the stock will not be allowed. The application of synthetic coatings, which includes those containing powdered metal, to the interior of the stock to improve bedding is authorized provided the coating does not interfere with the original design, but may vary in dimensions of rear sight aperture and front sight blade. The internal parts of the rifle may be specially fitted and include alterations which will improve the functioning and accuracy of the arm, provided such alterations in no way interfere with the proper functioning of the safety devices as manufactured. Such rifles will be fired in the NRA Match Rifle Division.

3.1.5 As Issued M-1 Garand - U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M-1 (.30-06), as issued by the U.S. Armed Forces or the same type and caliber of commercially manufactured rifle, having not less than a 4 1/2 pound trigger pull with standard stock and leather or web sling. Rifles in the "as issued" class must conform to the weight and dimensions of the standard CMP issue M-1 Garand, and only U.S. Government issue parts, or commercial parts of the exact same material, weight and dimensions may be used. Rifles may be accurized only to the extent possible by the careful assembly of standard parts. No other modification or alteration of the "as issued" rifle is permitted. Match officials are encouraged to disallow participation in the As Issued M-1 Garand Class of any rifle not complying with the spirit of the rules, which is competition between competitors firing equal equipment. Only .30-06 ammunition will be used. Competition in the "as issued" class is limited to Unclassified, Marksman and Sharpshooter classifications. (Match sponsors are

encouraged to obtain standard service issue .30 caliber ammunition from the CMP for issue to competitors immediately prior to the event.)

3.1.6 Service Rifle - U.S. Rifle, Caliber 7.62mm M-110 series as issued by the U.S. Armed Forces, or the same type and caliber of commercially procured rifle without bipod, having not less than a 4 1/2 pound trigger pull with standard-type stock, pistol grip, handguard, and leather or web sling. In all courses of fire and in all positions, the standard 20 round box magazine or a reduced magazine of the same external dimensions will be attached. The gas system must be fully operational. External alterations to the barrel, upper and lower receivers, stock, handguard, or pistol grip will not be allowed, except that plastic covers may be used on the mounting rails on the handguard. The flash suppressor may be removed or the rifle may be manufactured without a flash suppressor. Barrel length may not exceed 20 inches, as measured to the end of the rifling in the barrel. The front sling swivel must be attached to the end of the handguard, and must remain in the 6 o'clock position no more than 1/2 inches from its original location. The sights must be of the standard design found on the M16 series of firearms. Rear sight windage and elevation adjustments may be modified to allow finer adjustments. No optical sights are allowed. The removable carry handle and front sight assembly must conform to the dimensions specified. The rear sight aperture and front sight width may vary in width to suit the shooter. The rear aperture may be hooded.

3.2 Any Rifle - A rifle with no restrictions on sights or accessories including Schuetzen type buttplates and palm rests except that it must be safe to competitors and range personnel. Ammunition will be restricted to no larger than .35 caliber. (Attention is directed to safety fan limitations of various ranges. Individual ranges may further restrict ammunition). The provisions of Rule 3.16.1 apply to this definition. (a) See Rule 3.4 and 3.14.

3.3 NRA Match Rifle - A center fire rifle with metallic sights and a magazine capable of holding not less than 5 rounds.

(a) See Rule 3.14, Palm Rest.

(b) A service rifle may be used as a match rifle unless otherwise stated in the program. Any service rifle used as an NRA Match Rifle shall conform to Rules 3.1, 3.1.1, or 3.1.2 as applies to trigger pull.

3.3.1 Semi-Automatic Match Rifle -

(a) A Semi-Automatic rifle that does not meet Rules 3.3(b) may be used as an NRA Match Rifle and must comply with Rule 3.14 (Palm Rest). If the trigger used on this rifle is of the design of the trigger for rifles under 3.1, 3.1.1, and 3.1.2, Rule 3.3(b) will apply. M-16 or commercially equivalent rifles, configured or customized as NRA Match Rifles are exempt from the 4 1/2 pound trigger weight requirement.

(b) Any semi-automatic rifle that has an original factory design receiver/frame in excess of 3 1/4 inches below the center line of the bore may be used as an NRA Match Rifle (Rule 3.3).

3.3.2 NRA Match Rifle - Other Nations—A center fire rifle with metallic sights. This rifle must meet the requirements to be a legal Palma rifle in the participant's home country, and may only be used by someone who is a foreign national, and can provide evidence thereof. It may be used in all matches where a rifle under Rule 3.3 would be legal. (It would be wise for a foreign competitor to have a copy of his own country's rifle rule, or letter of certification from his National Association with him when competing under this rule.)

3.3.3 U.S. Palma Rifle -

(a) A rifle with metallic sights chambered for the unmodified .308/7.62 or .223/5.56 NATO cartridge case. Rifles which also meet Rules 3.1 (.308 only) or 3.1.1 (.308 only) are authorized.

(b) A rifle with metallic sights chambered for the unmodified .308/7.62 NATO cartridge case. Rifles which also meet Rules 3.1 (.308 only) or 3.1.1 (.308 only) or 3.1.2 (.223 only) are authorized.

Advisory: For competing in other countries, weight restrictions may equal 6.0 to 6.5 Kilos and require trigger weights up to 1.5 Kilo.

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3.3.4 NRA Any Sight Match Rifle/Tactical Rifle - Same as NRA Match Rifle Rule 3.3 except there is no restriction as to sights. The following restrictions will apply:

(a) No person firing an any sight rifle under Rule 3.3.4 will be allowed to compete with any other group of shooters who are also firing. A competitor using any sight rifle under Rule 3.3.4 will only be eligible for awards in their own division.

(b) Bipods may be attached but not utilized. Ammunition will be restricted to no larger than .35 caliber.

3.4 Reduced Capacity Magazine - In slow fire, on rifles using an external detachable magazine, a reduced capacity magazine must not exceed the external dimensions of the original rifle magazine. Reduced capacity magazines may not be larger than the rifle's magazine well dimensions. A single round loading block is considered a reduced capacity magazine. Any device inserted in the magazine well in lieu of a single loading device or magazine will conform to the other restrictions contained herein.

3.5 Automatic Rifle - No rifle is permitted unless it is incapable of automatic fire without the replacement or alteration of parts.

3.6 Blank

3.7 Sights

(a) Metallic -

(1) Non-corrective:

Any sighting system constructed of metal or equivalent which provides a method of aiming by aligning 2 separate but visible sights or reference points, mounted on the rifle, including tube sights and nonmagnifying filters.

(2) Corrective:

(Front Sight) - A single lens may be used in conjunction with the front sight.

(Rear Sight) - Any sighting system constructed of metal or equivalent which provides a method of aiming or aligning two (2) separate but visible sights or reference points, mounted on the rifle including tube sights and non magnifying filters except that a lens or system of lenses, not containing an aiming reference or reticle at the focal plane or any side lens or system of lenses may be included in such system. A Corrective lens may be placed inside the rear sight hood on service rifles conforming to Rules 3.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. No part of the lens or method of installing the lens may protrude outside the rear sight hood. (This rule applies only to NRA sanctioned matches and is not allowed in DCM competition). A lens may be used in the front sight or the rear sight but not both at the same time.

(b) Telescopic -

Any sighting system which includes a lens or system of lenses and an aiming reference or reticle at the focal plane of a lens or system of lenses.

(c) Any -

Any sight without restriction as to material or construction.

Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

3.8 Spotting Scope - The use of a telescope to spot shots is permitted. It may be positioned forward of the shooter's forward shoulder.

3.9 Shooting Kits - The shooting kit may not be placed forward of the shooter's forward shoulder on the firing line. The shooting kit or stool may not be of such size and construction as to interfere with shooters on adjacent firing points or to constitute a wind break. (Use of a rifle rest forward of the forward shoulder is prohibited except in the prone position for resting the rifle between shots. See Rule 6.1.)

3.9.1 Personal Wind Indicators - Self contained wind indicators may be used, as long as they do not present a hazard or impediment to other competitors or range operations and not placed forward of the firing line.

3.10 Ground Cloth or Ground Pad - Ground cloths or ground pads may be used provided it is not constructed or used in a manner to provide artificial rest or support.

5. POSITIONS

Positions - The positions for use in a match shall be stated in the program under conditions of the match and shall be in accord with the definitions of positions prescribed in this section.

5.1 The Ground - All references to "the ground" in the following position Rules are to be construed as applying to the surface of the firing point, floor, or shooting mats, and platforms as are customarily used on shooting ranges.

5.2 Artificial Support - Any supporting surface except the ground not specifically authorized for use in the Rules for the position prescribed. Digging of elbow or heel holes at the firing points which form artificial support for the elbows, arms, or legs is prohibited. Use of artificial support, including back braces, is prohibited except as individually authorized by NRA for a physically handicapped shooter.

5.3 Position of Rifle Butt - In all positions, except standing (Rule 5.12), the butt of the rifle must be held against the front of the shoulder on the outside of the shooting coat or shirt and must not touch the ground. In the standing position, the butt of the rifle may be held against the upper arm.

5.4 Rifle Magazine - The magazine of the rifle may touch the person or clothing of the shooter, but may not touch the ground or be used to provide artificial support.

5.5 Blank

(See Illustrations for some approved positions.)

5.6 Prone - Body extended on the ground, head toward the target. The rifle will be supported by both hands and one shoulder only. No portion of the arms below the elbows shall rest upon the ground or any artificial support, nor may any portion of the rifle or body rest against any artificial support. The magazine may not compress the coat to the ground so as to provide artificial support (see Rules 5.2 and 5.4).

5.7 Blank

5.8 Kneeling - Buttocks clear of the ground, but may rest on one foot. The rifle will be supported by both hands and one shoulder only. The arm supporting the rifle rests on the knee or leg. The elbow of the trigger arm will be free from all support. One knee must be touching the ground. A roll as described in Rule 3.14.1 may be placed under the instep provided the foot is placed toe down at an angle not greater than 45 degrees from the vertical. Only the trousers and underclothing may be worn between the shooter's buttocks and heel. The jacket or other article may not be placed between these two points. If the kneeling roll is not used, the foot may be positioned at any angle, to include placing the side of the foot and the lower leg in contact with the ground.

5.10 Sitting - Weight of the body supported on the buttocks and the feet or ankles, no other portion of the body touching the ground. The rifle will be supported by both hands and one shoulder only. Arms may rest on the legs at any point above the ankles.

5.11 Blank

5.12 Standing - Erect on both feet, no other portion of the body touching the ground or any supporting surface. The rifle will be supported by both hands, the cheek and one shoulder and upper arm. The upper arm is defined as from the middle of the biceps toward the shoulder. The elbow or back of the forward arm may be placed against the body or rested on the hip. The sling may not be used for support and may not be wrapped around the arm or hand. The butt of the rifle must be on the outside of the coat.

NOTE - Discharging a firearm while resting the butt of the firearm on the top of the shoulder is not allowed may result in personal injury.

(a) If attached to an NRA Match Rifle, the sling must be attached to both the forearm and butt stock sling swivels and may or may not be included in the grasp.

(b) Service Rifles are required to have a sling attached to the rifle (See Rules 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2., and 3.1.3). The sling must be attached to both the forearm and butt stock sling swivels and may or may not be included in the grasp. The position of the sling on M-14 and M-16 series rifles is to the bottom, left or right of the magazine.

5.13 Any - Any position in which the rifle is supported only by the body, assisted if desired by the sling, with no artificial support, and by which no competitors or range personnel are endangered. National Records may not be established by competitors using Rule 5.13.

3.11 Gloves - Gloves may be worn which do not form an artificial support.

3.12 Padding - Shoulder pads, sling pads and elbow pads may be worn provided they are constructed so as not to provide artificial support.

3.12.1 Shooting Pants - Trousers made of cotton, cotton twill, khaki or similar weight material which may have non-slip- patches added to the knees and buttocks are permitted. Trousers made of any heavier material (example: leather or canvas) are considered to provide artificial support and are prohibited.

3.13 Slings - A sling may be a strap or straps made of leather, webbing, or synthetic material, and hooks, buckles, and keepers as necessary for attachment to the rifle and adjustment to the shooter. Unless otherwise specified in match conditions or position descriptions (Rule 5.12), the sling may be used in connection with one arm to steady the rifle. A button, hook or strap may be placed on the sleeve of the shooting coat to support the sling loop that is placed on the upper arm.

(a) The sling need not be attached to the buttstock sling swivel in the prone, sitting or kneeling positions. (See Rule: 5.12 for standing requirements)

(b) Service Rifle Slings -On service rifle slings, metallic wraps and other type reinforcements to the sling keepers are not authorized. Standard issue type leather or web slings may be no wider than 1.250" and no thicker than .190". Leather slings may have no more than two keepers no wider than .860" each. Keeper ends may be joined by metallic devices. The overlap at the joining area may be no more than 1.10 and must be on the flat, i.e., may not go around the curved edge of the keeper. Placement of cartridge cases, spindles, and so forth, to tighten or lock the sling are not authorized. A button, hook or strap may not be used on the sleeve of the shooting coat to support the sling loop that is placed on the upper arm.

3.14 Palm Rest - Any attachment or extension or stock design which aids the normal hand grip and/or support of the rifle by the forward hand that extends to a depth of more than 3 1/4 inches below the centerline of the bore is a palm rest. The standard box magazines/reduced capacity magazines, Rule 3.4, of rifles under Rules 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, and 3.3 are not considered palm rests. Palm rest may only be used on "Any" rifles (Rules 3.2 and 3.3.4). Palm rest must be specified in the match program.

3.14.1 Kneeling Roll - A Cylindrical cushion for shooting in the kneeling position; maximum dimensions will be 9.84 inches long (25 cm) and 7.08 inches in diameter (18 cm), and made of soft and flexible material.

3.15 Buttplate - A butt or buttplate may have a curved rear surface in which the depth of the curve cannot exceed 1/2 inch when measured from a straight line drawn from the top to the bottom of the buttplate. The butt or buttplate may not have a hook or stud engaging in a hole or receptacle in the shoulder of the shooting coat or shirt, or have a knob or prong extending rearward more than 1/2 inch from the heel or toe of the butt.

3.16 Release Triggers - Triggers which function on release are prohibited.

3.16.1 Compensators and Muzzle Brakes - The use of compensators or muzzle brakes is prohibited. An extension tube that has been installed on the muzzle of a rifle to extend the sight radius shall not be considered a "muzzle brake". The extension tube must have an interior diameter of .5 inches or greater and may have 1/4" x 1" slots cut at 12 and 6 o'clock to remove cleaning patches. Threaded holes along the top of this tube for the installation of sight bases will be allowed.

(a) Sound suppressors are not authorized for use in high power competition.

3.17 Ammunition - No bullet diameter larger than .308 inch (7.62mm) will be used for NRA High Power Rifle competition except for rifles used under Rule 3.2.

(a) Service - Ammunition manufactured for or by the Government and issued for use in service arms. The use of armor piercing ammunition may be prohibited by local range or match regulations. Use of tracer or incendiary ammunition is prohibited.

(b) Any -Ammunition of any description that may be fired without danger to competitors or range personnel. Tracer or incendiary ammunition is prohibited. The use of armor piercing or any other type ammunition may be prohibited by local range or match regulations. Any ammunition that repeatedly blows primers or splits cases will be ruled defective or unsafe, and will be removed from the firing line.

3.18 General - All devices or equipment which may facilitate shooting and which are not mentioned in these rules, or which are contrary to the spirit of these rules and regulations, are forbidden. The Match Director, Official Referee, Jury Chairman or Supervisor shall have the right to examine a shooter's equipment or apparel. The responsibility shall be upon the competitor to submit questionable equipment and apparel for official inspection and approval in sufficient time prior to the beginning of a match so that it will not inconvenience either the competitor or the official.

3.19 Eye Protection* - All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the range complex are urged to wear eye protection devices.

3.20 Ear Protection* - All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the range complex are urged to wear hearing protection devices of either the passive or electronic type. Standard medically prescribed hearing aids may be used.

*Match sponsors (and/or ranges) may require eye and ear protection.

3.21 Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) - An Empty Chamber Indicator is required in all NRA High Power Rifle competitions to indicate the bolt is open and the chamber is empty. The ECI, when inserted into the rifle, must extend into an otherwise empty chamber.

3.22 Electronic Devices - Electronic devices such as radios, tape recorders, or any other type of sound production, or communication systems are prohibited forward of the ready line, including the pits, except those necessary for range control.

(a) During team matches only; team members may communicate with each other via hard-wired communications devices. These communication devices must not transmit over a radio frequency, and must not interfere with safety, range operations, or other competitors.