

Pine Tree Rifle Club

Rimfire Benchrest League

Rules and Procedures

(2024)

Article I.

Officials:

1. League Director

The League Director is responsible for organizing and conducting league meetings, securing volunteers for league duties, reviewing and updating league rules and procedures, establishing the season schedule, developing a culture of safety on the rifle range, publishing forms and documents related to league registration and league membership, orienting league members as to the course of fire, firearm classifications, practice and scoring relays, fees, rules changes, qualifications for various classifications, targets, and for providing leadership and oversight when addressing financial items related to the league.

2. Financial Officer

The Financial Officer is assigned the responsibility of collecting league dues, match fees, including 50/50 raffles, keeping records of all revenue, providing periodic financial updates to the League Director, and submitting all monies to the PTRC.

3. Rules Committee Chairman

The Rules Committee Chairman is responsible for recruiting a committee for interpreting League Rules and Procedures as well as proposing amendments to Leagues Rules as required. The committee is responsible for ruling on any disputes not resolved by the scorers or referees. A minimum of three committee members is recommended for resolving any disputes.

4. Chief Range Officer

The Chief Range Officer is a PTRC club official. As such, establishes safety protocols for the RBL as well as other range activities.

5. Range Safety Officers

Range Safety Officers (RSO's) are persons who have completed the RSO training course and are responsible for inspecting the firing line throughout a match as well as identifying and responding to issues during a match. A minimum of two Range Safety Officers is recommended for a match. An RSO may enlist the assistance of a range officer to make safety commands and other assistants as deemed necessary.

6. Range Officer

To assist the RSO, a Range Officer may be appointed by the RSO to make announcements, give range commands, etc. on the public address system.

7. Referees

Referees are responsible for inspecting competitors' equipment at their discretion for compliance to League Rules and for ruling on any disputes arising from the conduct of a match. The RSO shall appoint a minimum of three (3) referees.

8. Scorers

Scorers are responsible for scoring all targets, rule on the value of all shots, rule on crossfires and any other irregularities, and rule on any protests or complaints concerning scoring. Scorers will make every effort to collaborate with other scorers on any questionable or close shot.

9. Statistician

The Statistician is responsible for compiling, publishing, correcting, and maintaining scores for the season. The Statistician will provide updates on a weekly basis as well as final scores at the conclusion of the season.

10. Target Coordinator

The Target Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining target inventories, labeling targets, collecting fees for target sales as well as preparing and distributing targets for match competition.

11. Target Crew Director

The Target Crew Director is responsible for recruiting members for target frame setup and breakdown as well as familiarizing volunteers as to the proper placement and spacing of the target frames. Occasional target frame repair may be necessary.

12. Equipment Judges

Three equipment judges shall be appointed by the League Director to classify all rifles

Article II.

League Participation:

1. PTRC Members

Participation in the Rimfire League and eligibility for place finishes and awards is limited to members in good standing with the PTRC.

2. PTRC Candidate Members

Any PTRC membership candidate who has completed and submitted a PTRC Membership Application, paid the \$10.00 application fee, and has been placed on the Membership Waiting List is also eligible to participate in the Rimfire League.

3. Guests

To encourage others to join the PTRC and become Rimfire League members, non-PTRC members are invited as guests to participate in individual matches, but no more than three (3) matches total during the RFL season. Each guest must be sponsored by a Rimfire League member in good standing. Guests are not eligible for awards.

4. League Entry Fees

Rimfire League entry fees shall be paid prior to the end of activities for any participant's first record match (not necessarily the first scheduled match) unless there are extenuating circumstances accepted by the League Director. Rimfire League Dues are \$50.00.

5. Multiple Class Entries

Shooters may participate in multiple class entries for which they qualify. League fees for an additional class entry is \$15.00. This fee shall be paid prior to the end of activities for the participant's first record match in the additional class.

6. League Vesting

Final scores and place finishes will be based on the ten (10) best target scores registered during the season for each class. There will be between 16 and 18 scored matches held during the season. The registration/orientation/practice session does not count.

Article III.

Classification and Advancement

1. Classification Codes

Classes contested include: Open Iron Sights Class (OIS), Sporter Class (SC), Master Sporter Class (MSC), Marksman Class (MKC), Target Class (TC), Master Target Class (MTC), and Advanced Target Class (ATC). Classes are based on the rifle used and not the past performance of the competitor.

2. Classification Objectives

The objective of providing different classes within the PTRC Rimfire League (RFL) is to:

- a. Create a sense of equity and fairness amongst competitors based on firearms used.
- b. Foster a competitive spirit and an atmosphere of enjoyment and collegiality amongst competitors such that each competitor has the opportunity to further develop and improve their shooting skills.
- c. Eliminate any forced reclassification of shooters as long as the same class of rifle is used.

3. Classifying Rifles

- a. All rifles shall be submitted to the Equipment Judges to determine the classification of the rifle prior to a shooter's first official match. If there is a disagreement amongst the Equipment Judges, a simple majority will establish the classification. If there is no simple majority, the League Director shall make the final determination of the classification.

- b. Shooters may register more than one rifle to the Equipment Judges during the competition season; however, to remain in the same classification, the rifle must meet the same standards as the original rifle.
 - c. Decisions of the Equipment Judges are final once classified.
 - d. Pistols/Revolvers may be used in lieu of rifles and shall be classified by the Equipment Judges.
4. Advancement
- There shall be no forced change in classification once established by the Equipment Judges. Competitors, however, may elect to fire in a more challenging class (for example, a competitor may use a "Target Class" rifle in the Master Target or Advanced Master Target class.) See "Switching Classes" and "Declaring Classes" below.

Article IV. Participation and Eligibility.

- 1. Declaring Class
Competitors should clearly identify which class or classes they are going to compete in either at the registration-practice session in late April or prior to the first record match the competitor participates in. This is to ensure that scoring documents are processed correctly and the competitor is issued the appropriate score target.
- 2. Switching Classes
Switching to another class is permitted as long as the shooter is qualified. If the shooter elects to switch to another class, the shooter must inform the League Director and Statistician before changing. This change should occur prior to the Week 9 score match to ensure that the shooter has the opportunity to complete 10 score targets for league vesting. Scores from the previous class will be disqualified. The shooter will also be responsible for making sure his/her targets are appropriately marked before firing.
- 3. Disqualifications
Scores fired on the incorrect target for the class declared will be disqualified. Targets submitted with the incorrect date, classification or competitor name may be disqualified if the scorers cannot determine the correct marking. Each competitor is responsible for firing on and submitting a correct and appropriately-marked target.
- 4. Making Up Matches
Competitors are not permitted to double up on scoring relays to make-up for previously missed matches. Eighteen score matches are provided for each competitor to become vested in the best ten score matches successfully completed and submitted.

Article V. Course of Fire and Targets

- 1. Course of Fire
The Course of Fire shall be 25 shots for record, plus unlimited sighters at 50 yards in 30 minutes.
- 2. Targets
The targets used by each class are:
 - e. Open Iron Sights Class NRA 50 A-23/6 target.
 - f. Sporter Class PTRC Sporter 100 target.
 - g. Master Sporter Class PTRC Sporter 100 target.
 - h. Marksmanship Class IBS 50 Yard target.
 - i. Target Class IBS 50 Yard target.
 - j. Master Target Class IBS 50 Yard target.

Article VI. Equipment

- 1. Firearms
 - a. For all classes, Cable-release triggers are not permitted. Muzzle attachments or modifications which direct gas to the side or backwards are not permitted. Release triggers are not permitted.
 - b. For Open-Iron Sight class, no telescopic sights are permitted, but a single corrective lens attached to the rear sight is permitted.

- c. For Sporter Classes, attachments to the stock fore-end such as wide flat plates are not permitted. “Tuners” are not permitted.
 - d. For Target and Master Target classes, attachments to the stock fore-ends that do not exceed 3” in width ARE permitted, “tuners,” “bloop tubes,” and the like fixed to factory-supplied barrels ARE permitted. Aftermarket triggers ARE permitted, Aftermarket and extensively-modified stocks ARE permitted insofar as the 3” wide fore-end limit is not exceeded..
 - e. Handguns as per New York State’s definition may be used in lieu of rifles.
2. Scopes
- a. Telescopic sights of any magnification may be used in all but the Open-Iron Sight Class.
 - b. Laser optics are not permitted
3. Ammunition
- Only .22 short, long or long rifle ammunition firing a single projectile is allowed. Tracer rounds are not permitted.
4. Rests
- a. Rifles shall be fired from pliable sandbags, both front and rear. Adjustable pedestals supporting the front sandbags placed under forearms are permitted. Boxes or blocks used to raise sandbags to get proper elevation are permitted. Such boxes, blocks or rests may not be attached to the bench tops with clamps, wood screws, nails or other similar hardware.
 - b. One-piece rests, wherein the structure supporting the fore-end is connected to the structure supporting the butt stock are not permitted. Machines or other rests that can return a rifle to battery or retard recoil are not permitted.
 - c. Bipods attached to a rifle’s fore-end, in conjunction with a sandbag supporting the butt stock (optional) may be used in lieu of standard rests.
 - d. Backpacks, blankets, and other improvised rests are permitted as long as they are placed directly upon the shooting bench and don’t retard recoil and/or circumvent return-to-battery prohibition.
5. Flags
- Wind flags of any size may be placed on the range by competitors.
- a. The top of the flag shall be no higher than the line between the highest point of the bench top to the bottom of the target card.
 - b. Except for provision (c) below, personal wind flags will be restricted to within the competitive shooting lane of the competitor placing the flags. A shooting lane is defined as the centerlines between benches to the centerline between the target cards unique to each competitor.
 - c. During any scoring match, competitors may place personal wind flags off to the side of the range: that is left of the left-most bench being used on the range, and/or right of the right-most bench being used on the range.
 - d. If, after the match is started, a flag is causing an obstruction for any shooter, the range officer shall call a “cease-fire” and direct a Range Safety Officer (RSO) to lay the flag and pole in question down on the ground.
 - e. Unique to our Rimfire League, competitors will have the opportunity to set-up, adjust, or collect their personal wind flags between practice or scoring relays.
 - f. The use of electronic wind gauges or similar devices is not permitted.
 - g. Miniature wind flags place on the bench tops as well as ribbon tassels no longer than 12 inches long placed above the benches is permitted.

Article VII.

Match Operations

1. Bench Selection

- a. Shooters shall be briefed concerning the rotational schedule system of the rimfire league at registration/practice day, and if necessary, any time thence forward.
- b. Shooters will select an available starting bench (first come-first served basis) on the first day they participate in an official Score Match.

- c. Shooters who start after the first Score Match must gain approval from the League Chairman when adding their name(s) to the rotational system.
 - d. Based on the initial selection of a bench, the shooter will follow the rotational schedule provided for the rest of the season regardless of the Score Relay they are in.
 - e. Shooters will advance six benches each week.
 - f. Shooters must honor and recognize the advancement schedule even if they are absent on any given week.
 - g. No shooter will be permitted to substitute in on a bench rotation for an absent shooter. The league chairman may give consideration, however, to guest shooters, scoring officials, target coordinators, range announcers, and board members on nights of meetings. Special consideration may also be given to shooters on any match that falls on a holiday, whereas, a shooter may request to use an open, adjacent bench during Relay 1 so that they can leave early for another commitment. The League Chairman will always have the final say in these matters.
 - h. The rotational schedule will be available in both the Range Office (where the targets are stored) and the Range Master Station (where announcements are made).
 - i. Up to two shooters will be assigned to each bench. A gentleman's agreement will decide the Relay each shooter participates in. All scoring officials, range announcers, target coordinators, and board members should be given special considerations for Relay
 - j. Alternating relays or flip-of-the-coin could serve as a solution for the general membership.
2. Parking and Set-Up
- a. Shooters may officially set-up their equipment starting at 3:00 pm. Please recognize all range and league firearm safety rules and procedures.
 - b. Vehicles may unload and load equipment at the drop-off area, but everyone must park in the grassy knoll area located above the road behind the range platform. There will be "No Parking along the Range Platform."
 - c. Handicapped shooters will have Range Carts they can use to transport their firearms and equipment to their assigned benches.
 - d. Range Safety Officers should be available to assist handicapped shooters during the transitions.
 - e. Shooters shall ensure that all firearms are unloaded during transport to and from the firing line. It is recommended that gun cases be used.
3. Target Posting and Retrieval
- a. Each participant is responsible for obtaining their own properly labeled Score Target from the Target Coordinator.
 - b. Each participant is responsible for posting and retrieving their own target.
 - c. Each participant is responsible for securing and submitting their own Score Target to the RSO (Range Master) at the conclusion of each Scoring Relay.
 - d. Any Score target suspected of being tampered with prior to submission to the RSO may be subject to disqualification.
4. Range Commands
- a. The Range Commands established for the PTRC Rimfire Benchrest League are specific in content with the Range Command language posted in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual located in the PTRC Clubhouse Board Room. The Range Commands are clear and distinct in purpose designed to encourage and enhance the understanding and importance of incorporating safety procedures into benchrest competition shooting.
 - b. Prior to the Scoring Relay 1, the RSO will ask all competitors to assemble in front of the Range Master Station. The RSO may address any concerns identified from previous matches as well as update members on shooting related issues.
 - c. The Pledge of Allegiance will follow. Shortly thereafter, the RSO or designated range officer will announce: "Shooters: To Your Benches."
5. Initiating Relay
- a. Shooters be advised that the range is about to go Hot.