

LCSA GROUNDHOG MATCH – INFORMATION AND RULES

Updated February 2024

1. Safety. Safety is our most important concern. All shooters must adhere to safe range procedures and all shooters are asked to be aware of other competitors and constantly monitor safety performance.

- a. All bolts must be removed from rifles except when firing. The Range Officer will give the commands to prepare for firing and cease firing. Firearms that are not bolt-action firearms must use empty chamber indicators in place of the “remove bolt” commands.
- b. Before range personnel proceed downrange for target details, all competitors must leave their bench positions and stand behind the firing line.
- c. In the event of an emergency “cease fire” command, all competitors must empty firearms, remove bolts and/or insert empty chamber indicators and withdraw from the firing line. The Range Officer shall inspect all firearms that are on the benches before allowing any personnel forward of the firing line.
- d. Juniors are persons less than 16 years of age. All juniors shall compete and fire under the supervision of an adult (over 18 years of age).
- e. When the red range light is on, the range and bench area must remain in a safe condition. No one may handle any firearm at any time while the range safety bars (reflectors) are down and personnel are down range.
- f. All shooters and spectators must wear hearing and eye protection.
- g. On the day of the match, there will be no sighting in shots allowed before the match commences.
- h. NO alcohol is permitted on the range before or during a match.
- i. **NO EQUIPMENT SHALL BE PLACED ONTO A BENCH UNTIL**

REGISTRATION AND BENCH DRAWINGS/ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN

COMPLETED BY THE SHOOTER/EQUIPMENT OWNER.

2. All shooters are required to have read, understood and agreed to comply with the rules for the conduct of the match.

3. Course of fire.

- a. **This Match** will be fired with each relay firing at a given distance before targets are posted for the next distance. The first distance will allow 7 shots with the first fouling shot being shot into the dirt and then the ensuing 6 shots on the target with the best 5 of 6 counting for score. After this the shooter will only fire 6 shots on succeeding targets. To elaborate:
 - i. The first relay goes to the bench and after the command to commence firing, fires one fouling shot into the dirt bank and then 6 record shots on the first target.
 - ii. Then the benches are cleared for the next relay to assume their firing points.
 - iii. After all relays have fired at the nearest distance, the targets are then set for the first relay to fire at the next furthest distance (e.g., 200 yards for the short range

match) and the process is repeated for succeeding relays with each competitor firing only 6 record shots per target.

iv. 7 minutes are allowed for all shots at each target, at each distance, including the first fouling shot of the match..

v. Competitors are allowed to have only the required number of cartridges on the bench for a particular relay.

4. Match Conditions.

a. Spotting scopes are permitted, but only by the competitor for his or her own use during his or her own match. Exception is that adults may spot for a junior shooter (≤ 16 years old). Remember that this is an individual match and spotting for other shooters or use of a spotting scope while not shooting is prohibited.

b. This is an individual match, not a team event. In line with this philosophy, where multiple competitors use a single rifle, only the first competitor to fire the rifle is eligible for awards. Otherwise subsequent competitors receive an unfair advantage from what is essentially re-zeroing the rifle during the match. An exception is granted for junior shooters (≤ 16 years old).

c. Rifle rests shall be conventional bench rest pedestal type front rest and rear sand bag rest. No one piece rests (exceptions may be granted by the Match Director for individual needs, e.g., sub junior shooters.)

d. Any semi-automatic rifle must utilize a brass catcher or deflector.

e. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE CHECK-IN & RELAY ASSIGNMENT PROCESS STEPS BELOW.

i. Match registration will begin at 07:00, Bench drawing/assignment at 08:00 at the club house, the Match starts at 0900.

ii. Following registration, each competitor will be assigned a relay and a bench.

iii. Shooters shooting multiple rifles will receive preference for the earlier available relay in order to allow them to complete the match on relays with other shooters.

iv. The Match Committee may draw names at random or pre assign shooters to specific benches to help consolidate the number benches and the number of relays required for the competition.

vi. If a shooter is shooting more than one gun the Match Committee will make an effort to keep the shooter on the same bench for the succeeding relay.

f. Match Fees are \$12 per gun registered and checked in by the shooter

g. Electronics: Some electronic devices are prohibited such as cameras, cell phone cameras, wind flags, etc. The exceptions are individual timer's or cell phones used as a timer and chronographs, however if using a chronograph it must be entirely located on the shooters bench, anything placed in front of the shooters bench will not be allowed (i.e. the new radar operated devices may be considered acceptable).

a. Unlimited Custom. Any rifle cartridge smaller than 50 caliber. Any scope. Muzzle brakes are permitted. Typical equipment in this class is varmint, heavy varmint bench rest rifles and F-class rifles; or any rifle deemed appropriate to this class as determined by the Match Committee. Rail guns or other such highly specialized equipment is not envisioned for this class.

b. Factory Varmint. Must be identified as a factory original rifle with original

stock and factory barrel. Bedding may be changed. Triggers may be adjusted but must be safe. NOT PERMITTED IN THIS CLASS ARE CALIBERS 6 PPC AND 6 BR. Any scope, scope levels or bipods are permitted. Typical rifles in this class are factory varmint rifles; or any rifle deemed appropriate to this class as determined by the Match Committee.

c. Ineligible for awards equipment. Please note that it is the intention of this club to encourage shooting. In line with this intent, a shooter, upon payment of the entry fee, may shoot a rifle that may not conform to the rules of the classes designated above, so long as that shooter agrees that he or she will NOT be eligible for awards and provided that the rifle is considered by the match director as suitable and safe. This exception will be administered in accordance with the above stated intent.

d. Equipment rules changes. The match committee recognizes the investment in equipment that shooters make. Therefore, rules changes are not undertaken trivially. We will attempt to give at least an entire season's notice of any rules changes that would substantially affect equipment, especially the rifles themselves.

e. It is important to recognize the match committee's dedication to conducting a fair match. It is expected that shooters will support this expectation. If a completely "out of the ordinary" rifle is registered for the match, the match committee may have to take action that does not meet the standard of a "season's notice" on equipment.

6. Scoring.

a. A scoring committee under the oversight of the match officials will do the scoring.

b. All scoring is to the higher ring. For example, a shot which barely touches the "X" scoring ring is scored as an "X". A shot, which just barely touches the 10 scoring ring counts as a 10. This change has been facilitated by the use of the individual targets used at the shortest range of the Match course.

c. Tie Breaking rules. Following the "X" count, the next level of tie breaking is by comparison of scores shot respectively at 300, then 200, then 100 yards (for the short range match and respectively longest to shortest distances for the long range match), with the higher scores at the longer distances being given preference.

d. In the event a tie cannot be broken, shooters may elect a shoot off after the last relay at 300 yards (or the longest distance) with the closest to the center taking the win. Otherwise a tie will be declared and the two shooters will equally share two place prizes.

e. In the event of crossfire, an attempt will be made to score the cross fired target (e.g., where a caliber difference, bullet marking, or observation is clear). Otherwise, the cross fired target will be scored with highest 5 shots. The target of the person who cross fired is scored but will be deducted 5 points for the first cross fired round from the targets total score (additional cross fired rounds will be scored as a zero). At no time can any shooter decide to "swap" targets in order to prevent a deduction if cross firing occurred. Shooters are encouraged to pay close attention to the marked numbers on each target.

f. Any protests must be filed before prizes are awarded.

g. If a shooter has an issue with the scored target (number of points or number of X's) they must promptly, and immediately after the scored targets are issued, request a review with the scorer. If this issue still cannot be resolved the shooter has the option to request an additional review by preassigned individuals (either club member or guests) by providing \$10.00 to that days Match director. The scored target will again be reviewed by the preassigned team, if the score is changed the \$10.00 will be returned to the shooter otherwise the \$10.00 will be forfeited and the score will remain as was originally posted.

7. Prizes. Prizes will be awarded to the top three places in each class (subject to a minimum of three shooters in the class) as follows:

- a. 50% of the match proceeds go to the club.
- b. 25% of the class proceeds go to the first place shooter.
- c. 15% of the class proceeds go to the second place shooter.
- d. 10% of the class proceeds go to the third place shooter.
- e. In the event of a class having fewer than three (3) shooters, the shooters may be combined with the next higher class for purposes of awards.

Best Group Award

Shooting participants may also sign up (additional fee -\$3.00) to compete for the best group. No additional targets/shots are required as the targets used for scoring will also be used to determine the best group. The group will be measured regardless of the location on the target but must have at least 5 rounds completely on target, the best (closest) 5 rounds of the 6 shots fired will be counted. Only the target positioned at the longest distance shot that day (either 300, 400 or 500 yards) will be used to determine the best group. A cash award will be paid from the collected additional fee for the best group competition.

8. Improvements.

a. The club is always interested in improvements to this match and we welcome your ideas and suggestions, preferably in writing so these can be communicated to the committee responsible for conducting these matches.

9. Contacts: The Match Committee consists of:

- a. Bill Beatty Match Director
- b. Joe Dragonjac Co-chairman
- c. Mark Chestnut
- d. Dale Garen
- e. Cliff Halstead
- f. Scott Brown
- g. Mike Rook
- h. Mark Robison