

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND FIELD TARGET ASSOCIATION  
Hunter Class – 2017 season

**(Regional Rules & Guidance Notes)**

**Note: if the HFT course includes firing points and / or targets that are also used by the FT course, and the shooter intends to shoot both FT and HFT, then the HFT course must be shot first.**

**1) AIRGUNS**

Open to any single shot or multi shot air rifle that abides by the relevant categories as defined within the current legislation. **It is the responsibility of the individual owner to ensure that their rifle complies with all current statutory limits.**

Where multi-shot magazine fed rifles are used, the magazine **must** be removed from the rifle between lanes. Rifles that are fitted with non-detachable magazines should only be loaded with sufficient pellets to complete a lane. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification.

There will be no limitation on the design of the rifle. The rifle may be fitted with a fully adjustable stock or incorporate such home-made or other after-market modifications as deemed suitable by its owner. A single rifle sling, separate or otherwise, and/or a butt hook are permitted as a means of steadying the aim.

The use of bipods, monopods or crossed sticks for supporting the rifle while taking a shot is only allowed in Open class.

**2) CLASSES**

SWEFTA operates three classes in HFT, the PCP class, the PISTON and the OPEN class.

**2a) PCP CLASS.** The PCP class is divided into two grades, A and B. Existing shooters are placed in a grade at the start of the season by the scores and grading secretary. Grading rules are detailed in a separate grading document. Shooters may elect to shoot in a higher grade.

Newcomers to SWEFTA will be placed in B grade. After they have completed three league shoots their grade will be re-assessed by the scores and grading secretary and the competition secretary, and a grade confirmed for the remainder of the season.

If the person moves from B grade to A grade at this time, their scores to date will move with them.

The use of bipods, monopods or crossed sticks for supporting the rifle while taking a shot is strictly forbidden in this class.

**2b) PISTON CLASS.** This class includes all piston operated air rifles, including sliding action, and contra piston systems. There are no grades in the piston class. The use of bipods, monopods or crossed sticks for supporting the rifle while taking a shot is strictly forbidden in this class.

**2c) OPEN CLASS.** This class allows the use of bipods, monopods and cross sticks as a means of support the rifle when taking any shot. In the open class, there are no compulsory standing or kneeling targets and all targets can be taken in any of the defined legal positions, viz., prone, seated, kneeling and standing. No other positions are permitted.

**2d) SHOOTING MORE THAN ONE CLASS.**

Shooters can enter more than one class at an event.

Scores from all classes are eligible for the club championship, but only one score can be used towards the club championship, and this will be the higher of the two scores.

### **3) ENTRY TIMES**

From the start of the 2014 season until further notice, no league shoots will commence before 09.00am.

Shooters who do not have a pre-arranged partner for the event should be prepared for the Competition Secretary or stats office on the day to allocate a partner.

Last entry into any competition will be accepted at 12.00 noon. Scorecards must be submitted back to the organisers by 3.30pm to be considered valid for the day's competition. Any cards submitted after that time will be classed as not handed in.

### **4) INSURANCE AND RULES**

Host club shall display a current and valid Certificate of Insurance and also a current copy of the regional rules.

### **5) SIGHTS**

Any form of sighting system may be used, however telescopic sights are restricted to a maximum of 12x magnification. A scope capable of more than 12x magnification shall be taped to restrict it to 12x.

The use of a laser attached to a telescopic sight is not permitted. The use of separate electronic laser range finders is not allowed.

All parallax and magnification adjustments for each target must be made unsighted, ie, without looking through the scope and before raising the scope to the eye. Once the rifle is mounted, no changes may be made. If the safety whistle blows after mounting and before the shot is taken, the scope cannot be altered in the period before the "All Clear!"

### **6) AMMUNITION**

Any design of pellet that is completely made of lead or lead alloy may be used. Pellets made from other materials may be used provided that there is no risk from rebounds, ricochets or fragments returning to the firing line. Due to the risk from rebounds steel ammunition should not be used.

### **7) RANGE OFFICERS**

Event organisers (clubs or region) are expected to provide range officers (R.O.'s) to ensure safe and efficient running of the event. The R.O.'s should be clearly identifiable by the use of armbands or high-visibility vests.

In the event of target related problems or any other down range problem the R.O. will signal a cease-fire by a single blast on a whistle, horn or similar audible device. An R.O. may request assistance from any person on the firing line to ensure rapid clearance of any problem encountered.

When the problem has been rectified, the firing line will be reactivated by a double blast of a whistle or other audible device.

R.O.'s shall have absolute discretion in attending to any matter not specifically encompassed by these rules and guidance notes.

## **8) MARSHALLING**

The normal marshalling system shall be the "buddy" type where partners score each other. Normally this will be based on pairs, however should circumstances dictate, groups of three can be allowed. It is the buddy who decides if the shot was a hit, miss or plate.

Competitors must find different partners from match to match. Partners shall be from different clubs. An exception will be allowed where a junior is partnered with a parent or guardian to fulfil the legal requirement of supervision by an appropriate person of over 21 years of age. Supervision of shooters who are under 18 years of age will be in accordance with current legal requirements (a shooting partner in competition does not necessarily constitute supervision of a shooter under 14 years of age).

Any exceptions to the above must be cleared by the range officer.

Only a member of the shooting group is permitted to record scores on a scorecard. Under no circumstance is a shooter allowed to score his/her own scorecard. If an error is entered on any scorecard the shooting partner who made the mistake must seek a marshal who will amend this error for you and sign the card.

## **9) TARGETS**

Reactive targets shall be used. In this context the term reactive means that following a successful hit the target will give some visible indication, whereby a **change in target profile, movement of the target** or **fall of the target** occurs. The trip plate must be of a contrasting colour to the face plate.

Standard apertures shall not exceed **1¾ inches** (45 mm) in diameter. The minimum distance for any target (for safety reasons) shall be **10 yards**. The maximum target distance shall be **55 yards**

The course may also contain targets with reduced diameter apertures, provided that the total number of such targets does not exceed **40%** of the total number of targets in the course with the following limitations:

- a) Apertures of not less than **1 inch** (25.4mm) may be used on freestyle targets to a maximum distance of **45 yards** (41.1 metres).
- b) Apertures of not less than **1/2 inch** (12.7 mm) may be used on freestyle targets to a maximum distance of **25 yards** (22.9 metres).
- c) Apertures smaller than **½ inch** (12.7mm) are prohibited.
- d) The number of **½ inch** apertures shall be less than the number of **1 inch** apertures.
- e) All targets shall be clearly indicated and shot in numerical order.
- g) The course may contain compulsory kneeling and standing targets.

## **TARGETS Cont.**

All positional lanes must be situated on as flat a shoot area as possible. i.e., the shooting area between the lane pegs must be as flat as is reasonably possible.

The total number of targets designated as standing and/or kneeling must not exceed 20% of the total of targets on that particular course and these positional targets should be divided as equally as possible.

For example:

On a 30 target course (4 standing and 2 kneeling targets or 2 standing and 4 kneeling targets)

On a 40 target course (4 standing and 4 kneeling targets)

On a 50 target course (6 standing and 4 kneeling targets or 4 standing and 6 kneeling targets)

Maximum distance for positional targets shall not exceed 45yards.

If two positional targets are used in that same lane, they should not exceed combined distance of 80yards for kneelers or 70yards for standers.

No ½ inch aperture targets to be used on positional shot

In the event of a target being shot out of sequence, the competitor shall forfeit the omitted target, being credited with a 'miss' and resume shooting at the target immediately following it.

Out of sequence shots involving targets on another lane require the above procedure to be followed. In this case the target shot out of sequence shall be shot as normal upon reaching that lane.

Shots taken at any one lane should not exceed the total number of targets in that lane with the following exceptions:

1. Rectification of faulty targets.
2. Un-sighted shots with the knowledge of partner or R.O's.
3. In a shoot-off situation.

Any target found to be defective shall be repaired / replaced and re-shot. However, if upon examination, the trip plate has moved to a point where it has to be reset, the target shall be scored as a hit.

Regardless of any circumstances such as forgetting to load a pellet, not shutting the loading bolt or if the trigger is pulled before aiming at the target, if the gun goes off (air released) the shot is considered as having been taken and will be scored accordingly. If this does happen, the competitor should make sure the pellet has left the gun by dry firing safely into the ground over the firing line with the consent of their shooting partner.

## **10) COURSE OF FIRE**

A full course of fire shall consist of not less than 25 targets.

A full course of fire must be completed for a score to be deemed valid excepting any circumstance under Rule 15 (Leaving the firing line).

All shots must be taken from within a designated firing area. The use of any natural or artificial objects present within the firing area as a rifle rest is allowed except when shooting positional targets. These must be shot in the designated position without any form of external support.

When taking all shots, some part of the shooter's body, must touch 'the PEG.' This may be a separate white peg hammered into the ground, or a white mark on a post, tree, etc. In either case the peg but must be completely free of any strings, nails, cleats or any other item that may impact or damage a rifle if the competitor chooses to use either side of the peg while shooting that lane.

The rifle may touch the peg but it does not have to, and the rifle alone touching the peg is not sufficient.

The peg designates the firing line. The muzzle of the rifle must be over the firing line and the shooters trigger finger must be behind it.

The use of any electronic device, including phones, tablets, laptops or other similar device to run ballistic, windage, elevation, range finding or other related applications or programmes is not permitted.

## **11) SCORING**

Scoring shall be on the basis of:

Miss – 0; Hit on silhouette - 1 point; Target reacts (knock down and requires resetting, etc) 2 points.

If there is no audible or visible reaction from the target a miss shall be scored.

Any challenge to the above must be made prior to leaving the target. Any dispute not resolved at that time shall be referred to the R.O., whose decision shall be final.

Any target found to be defective shall be repaired / replaced and re-shot. However, if upon examination, the trip plate has moved to a point where it has to be reset, the target shall be scored as a hit.

It is compulsory to hand in scorecards, regardless of whether the full course of fire has been completed or not. The only exceptions to this are if for medical reasons, the competitor is no longer able to continue, or if, due to mechanical breakdown, it is not longer possible for a competitor's rifle to be discharged.

## **SCORING Cont.**

Shooters not handing in their cards will be credited with 1 hit.

Cards when handed in must be marked in ink, not pencil. Any mistakes, such as marking the wrong target or the wrong card, shall be corrected in such a way that the original mistake is still clear to be seen, but leaving no doubt as to the correct marking. Alterations should be witnessed by a third party signing adjacent to the correction.

Defaced cards, or cards that prevent proper audit of corrections will be treated as not handed in and credited with 1 hit.

Upon completion of the course one of your shooting partners should sign your scorecard, this is to signify that they have checked the card & agree with its scoring, the shooter should always check that their scorecard is correctly filled in & signed before handing it in as they are the ones who will be penalised for any irregularities.

If a competitor hands in a scorecard that is incomplete, unreadable or has any alterations not counter signed by a third party their score will be amended or the competitor disqualified.

SWEFTA organisers reserve the right to amend and adjust any shooters scorecard at any time during the series if infringements of the rules or evidence of cheating is subsequently discovered during or after the scheduled events.

## **12) SHOOTING**

Shooting positions as designated by the organiser may be **standing, kneeling or freestyle**.

Definitions of shooting positions:

**Freestyle:** This can encompass the sitting and prone positions.

**Kneeling:** There shall be only 3 points of contact with the ground (2 feet and 1 knee).

**Standing:** Any shot taken in a standing position.

## **13) SEAT CUSHION (bean bags)**

Bean bags cannot be more than 4" high when sat on

Bean bags cannot be used to gain extra support for shooter or rifle, they can only be used to sit on.

The use of a mat when the shooter is using the prone position is allowed.

When taking a prone shot, the only part of the rifle which may be touching the ground is the bottom edge of the butt pad, no other device, stock or butt pad extension may rest on the ground.

## **14) RANGE CONDUCT**

In the event of a 'cease fire' order, guns will be discharged into the ground, muzzles dropped and actions left in the open position. Targets must **not** be sighted during a cease-fire. Guns will only be sighted, shouldered or discharged over a recognised firing line. Guns will always be kept un-loaded and un-cocked when not in use.

## **PENALTIES**

The penalty for un-safe practice or any form of cheating is disqualification, with the club or regional association reserving the right to take further action.

## **15) LEAVING THE FIRING LINE**

The competitors may leave the firing line under the following conditions:

1. Voluntary abandonment of the shoot, in which case his score to that point will be presented as a valid result.
2. To effect a repair to equipment which has been rendered unsafe or incapable of firing a shot by whatever means. This does not include zero shift of optical equipment or poorly zeroed systems, an exception to this being should a rifle take a fall or severe knock on the firing line (e.g. by failure of sling or similar).
3. Any other occurrence, which is deemed valid by the R.O.'s (e.g. extreme weather conditions that may cause a safety hazard).

Note: In item 2, the R.O. can allow a competitor to replace the faulty part or equipment, but no visit to the zeroing range is allowed, unless permission is given by the R.O.

## **16) INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES**

The possession and/or consumption of any intoxicating substance (alcohol or illegal drugs) on the firing line is strictly prohibited. A competitor will not be permitted to handle or use a gun if the organiser discovers that they have consumed alcohol or illegal drugs prior to shooting, and will be asked to leave the club premises. The club and/or region reserve the right to pursue further action following any such misconduct.