



Responsible and Accountable
Firearm Ownership

Accredited as a Hunting and as Sport-Shooting Association with SAPS (CFR)

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Newsletter

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NEW NSA SPORTS-SHOOTING EXERCISES FOR SEMI-AUTO RIFLES

Dear Member

The Newsletter, Vol. 8(4) dated 22 November 2012 regarding the issue of endorsements for semi-auto sports-shooting rifles, has reference.

In the above mentioned Newsletter it was stated that because NSA does not present a semi-auto postal shooting exercise, the Association would issue endorsements to its dedicated sports-persons for semi-auto sports-shooting rifles if they could furnish proof that they belonged to any sports-shooting association or shooting club where they present shooting exercises devised for semi-auto rifles. In addition such members also have to furnish proof that they indeed participate in activities presented specifically for semi-auto rifles by said associations or clubs (albeit with the semi-auto rifles of friends).

Despite this arrangement it was clear that a semi-auto sports-shooting rifle exercise must be found which conforms with, and could be adapted from an international standard to fit NSA's specific needs, and would also fit in with the NSA policy regarding ease of participation and affordability.

In deliberations with NRA (USA) (to which NSA is affiliated) regarding their semi-auto rifle postal sports-shooting exercises, it became clear that NSA could implement an own semi-auto rifle postal target shooting exercise with some minor adaptations made to the extensive system used by the NRA. The NSA Executive therefore decided to draft a sports-shooting specific semi-auto rifle postal target shooting exercise. We have concluded the initial phases and are ready to start implementing the exercise on 1 August 2013 for a trial run of five months until the end December

2013. After this date the whole exercise plus target-sets will be re-evaluated with feed-back from participating members so as to make the exercise further objective specific for NSA postal target shooting competitions.

In the Newsletter of 22 November 2012 it was stated that one of the limitations NSA has with the implementation of semi-auto rifle sports-shooting exercises is that not all shooting ranges which are readily accessible to NSA members, are also suited for such activities as three gun shoots or combat type of exercises. We therefore, had to devise an exercise which would test the participant's ability with a semi-auto sports-shooting rifle on the general shooting ranges our members have regular access to. At the same time, however, such an exercise should remain within the confines of the NSA basics for postal shoots namely that these should be affordable and easily executable.

The NSA In-House Semi-Auto Rimfire Rifle and/or Centre-Fire Semi-Auto Rifle Target Shooting Events are conducted in the familiar fashion of members posting their A4 shot targets to the NSA (PO Box 11461, Hatfield, 0028) for purposes of updating their participation record free of charge. NSA ratifies the scores and we place the scores on our database under the specific member's activities. Members can send as many shot targets for logging on the NSA database for their own records as they would want to and request as many official participation records as they would want to for purposes of proof of participation for application of licences. Remember score is not the issue here. Participation is - this definitely has a bearing on the renewal of sports-shooting firearm licences.

The shooting range where members conclude the semi-auto rifle exercises must have a rimfire rifle range of at least 50m or a centre-fire rifle range of at least 100 meters. Shooting ranges remain the choice of the member.

Both the NSA rimfire semi-auto and centre-fire semi-auto sports-shooting postal exercises are completed on a set of four A4 targets each, accompanied by an A4 scoring sheet which must also be completed before the set of targets can be forwarded to the office under cover of the relevant score sheet.

Members who would want to participate in these sports-shooting specific semi-auto rifle events must be accompanied by another NSA member who will act as range officer (mandatory – no exceptions). The range officer must confirm that the shooter has concluded the different courses of fire within the time limits set for each course of fire. The range officer (accompanying NSA member) must also counter sign the score sheet of each of the sets of four targets which make up the documentation for each exercise.

The specific sports-shooting exercises for semi-auto rimfire rifle and/or semi-auto centre-fire rifle are conducted in the following manner:

a. Exercise: Semi-Auto Rimfire Rifle (.22LR rimfire)

- i. A-Target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 15 seconds at 25 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- ii. B-Target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 25 seconds at 25 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- iii. C-Target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 25 seconds at 50 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- iv. D-target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 40 seconds at 50 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- v. Total score is calculated out of a possible 200 points (see relevant score sheet).
- vi. Participant and range officer are to complete and sign the score sheet for the semi-auto rimfire rifle target shooting exercise.
- vii. Semi-Auto Rimfire Rifle Score Sheet plus 4 shot-targets (A to D) to be posted to NSA.

b. Exercise: Semi-Auto Centre-Fire Rifle (.22 to .338 calibre)

- i. A-Target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 15 seconds at 50 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- ii. B-Target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 25 seconds at 50 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- iii. C-Target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 25 seconds at 100 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- iv. D-Target: rapid fire - 5 shots in 40 seconds at 100 metres – highest possible score = 50 points.
- v. Total score is calculated out of a possible 200 points (see relevant score sheet).
- vi. Participant and range officer are to complete and sign the score sheet for the semi-auto centre-fire rifle target shooting exercise.
- vii. Semi-Auto Centre-Fire Rifle Score Sheet plus 4 shot-targets (A to D) to be posted to NSA.

The following firing positions within which the exercises must be completed are mandatory:

- a. Rimfire 25m – standing out of the shoulder with no support
- b. Rimfire 50m – standing, prone, kneeling or sitting (own choice) out of the shoulder – elbows supported on the ground or on knees*
- c. Centre-fire 50m – standing out of the shoulder with no support.
- d. Centre-fire 100m – standing, prone, kneeling or sitting (own choice) out of the shoulder – elbows supported on the ground or on knees*

* In the step-by-step guide on the web it might still be mentioned that these shooting positions are with no support – the rules as are stipulated here (support on ground or on knees), will be in force from date of implementation.

The system of scoring shots, as well as the categories of participation, remain the same as for all other NSA postal target shooting exercises.

Members must please not participate in the above mentioned exercises without first reading the step-by-step guide for these specific exercises in its entirety. Incorrect and uncompleted sets of targets and score sheet will definitely not be accepted.

The complete step-by-step guide to the NSA In-House Postal Semi-Auto Rifle Target Shooting Events, as well as the sets of targets plus scoring sheets will be available on the website by 1 August 2013 (see Postal Semi-Auto Rifles on the left menu on the home page). If the webmaster for one or other reason has not been able to post these documents by 1 August, these can be requested from the office at herman.els@natshoot.co.za

Requests for endorsements, which follow the same application procedure which is in place, will now also be issued for participation in the above mentioned in-house postal semi-auto rifle target shooting events over and above the standing ruling re endorsements for semi-auto rifles as stipulated in the Newsletter of 22 November 2012 (quoted in paragraph 2 of this Newsletter). Endorsements for semi-auto rifles will still only be issued in the context of sports-shooting.

In the Newsletter of 22-11-2012 it was mentioned that semi-auto rifles are universally, not generally recognised as hunting rifles, despite the fact that one is able to hunt with such a rifle should the calibre be quarry-specific (only two provinces allow hunting with semi-auto rifles if one is the owner of a game ranch, or one is proven to be active in the culling business). It was further stated that NSA thus cannot within its responsibility and within its rights, endorse semi-auto rifles for hunting purposes.

Members who participate in the above mentioned NSA postal semi-auto rifle exercises must please not hesitate to make suggestions as to how the exercise(s) can be adapted or changed to make them more appropriate for our specific needs in line with our implementation policies.

Once again, please remain vigilant

Once again, protect yourselves against criminals and vandals at all times

And still shoot a round or two at your closest shooting range – its always fun – remember to post the targets !!

Kind regards
Herman Els