



BFTA
BRITISH FIELD
TARGET ASSOCIATION

BFTA MAIN SHOOT RULES 2019

1. AIRGUNS

Air rifles of any calibre, which comply with the Statutory Limitations and **BFTA** Limitation (please see **Rule 3a.** below) in force at the time of the event, may be used. In an event specified for Air pistols, the Statutory Limitations together with the **BFTA** Limitation for Air pistols shall apply.

2. SIGHTS

Any form of sighting system may be used with the exception of Laser sights. No separate device, designed specifically for range-finding may be used.

3. EQUIPMENT TESTING

The Organisers of any event that is subject to the **BFTA** rules reserve the right to Chronograph any Rifle or Pistol used at any shoot, to ensure compliance with legal requirements. This can be done before, during, or after the shoot at the Chief Marshal's discretion

- a. The **BFTA** has declared a maximum pellet speed for rifles of 5fps below the 12 ft/lbs limit; this is for the actual pellet being used by the competitor on the day. 5fps below 6 ft/lbs will apply for pistols. Please see **ANNEXURE – 1** for additional information
- b. (Non-Grand Prix Series Competitions) A minimum of one registering shot and a max of 3 registering shots will be allowed over the chronograph, no power adjustments are permitted once the competitor has started the competition. Failure of the gun to comply with 3a above will disqualify that gun for the whole event. Any competitor whose gun fails the chronograph test will have their card marked as void but they may complete the course if they wish with another gun (See Rule 17 - FIRING LINE CONDUCT) to help maintain the group they are shooting in.
- c. (Grand Prix Series Competitions) A minimum of one registering shot and a maximum of 3 registering shots will be allowed over the chronograph, if the gun registers over the Current Legal Limit the competitor will be asked to remove the gun from the course. If the gun registers over the **BFTA** Limit but under the Current Legal Limit the competitor will receive a YELLOW CARD. On the issue of the first YELLOW CARD the competitor will receive a warning, will be allowed to carry on with the Competition and his/her score will count. On the issue of a second or subsequent YELLOW CARD during the season the score will be void.
- d. Deformed pellets may not be used for the testing process (see Penalties, Rule 14) and to this end the Chronograph Marshal may request visual examination of pellets before loading and/or after insertion into the Competitors Gun but before the breech is closed.

4. AMMUNITION

Any design of pellet that is completely made of lead, lead alloy, or zinc or zinc alloy may be used.

5. CHIEF MARSHALL & INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

- i. Prior to each shoot, the organisers will appoint and clearly identify a Chief Marshal and, if required, a Deputy. The responsibility of this appointment is the implementation of these rules and the overall conduct of the shoot. The Chief Marshal or the Deputy will be present and contactable throughout the duration of the shoot. In any matters arising from, or not covered by these rules, the Chief Marshal's decision shall be final.
- ii. The **BFTA** marshalling system shall be used on all **BFTA** events unless the **BFTA** rule otherwise or the particular event rules state an alternative marshalling system, e.g. Buddy.
- iii. The following stipulations apply in the interest of firing line safety and as a means of identifying marshals
 - a. All marshals at **BFTA** events must wear high visibility vests or jackets.
 - b. At **BFTA** events no person shall cross the shooting line unless that person is wearing a high visibility vest or jacket. (This restriction does not apply before the event has started or when the event has ended).

6. MAIN EVENT TARGETS

Fall when hit targets shall be used. All targets shall be clearly and consecutively numbered both at the target and the firing line. The hit zones shall be circular and of a contrasting colour to the faceplate. Course builders should allow for competitors who are affected by colour blindness.

Targets are to have:

- Yellow faceplates with black hit-zones, or
- Black faceplates with yellow hit-zones, or
- White faceplates with black hit-zones, or
- Black faceplates with white hit-zones.

The use of simulated hit zones on any other part of the faceplate is prohibited. Standard hit zones shall be between 40 and 45 mm in diameter. The course may contain targets with reduced diameter hit zones, provided that they do not exceed 25% of the total number of targets in the course.

The following limitations shall apply to 'reduced hit zone' target:

- a. There may be a maximum of two 15mm hit zone targets set out to a maximum distance of 25 yards with the following restriction: An imaginary horizontal line is drawn from the feet of a competitor standing in the lane gate. 15mm targets must be positioned no more than ± 1 metre vertically of this line. (The intention of this rule is clear: to prevent 15mm targets being set high or low. This has been a recommendation since the introduction of 15mm targets but the recommendation is regularly ignored. It was recognised by the committee that the definition would change in reaction to the experiences of events in 2017. Feedback to the Competition Manager is welcome)
- b. All other reduced diameter hit zone targets shall be 25mm in diameter, set out to a maximum distance of 35 yards for freestyle lanes and 20 yards if used in a discipline lane. If a reduced hit zone target is used in a discipline lane then this contributes to the maximum 25% rule.
- c. Please see separate 'MODIFIED LENGTH COURSE' Rules and recommendations for possible implementation at Regional and Club Level to enable Grading Standard Courses.

7. 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 or for any other reason deemed valid by the Chief Marshal.

The minimum distance for any target from the firing line shall be 10 yards and the maximum distances of any target from the firing line shall be 55 yards.

Any target that is 20 yards or nearer to the firing line must be positioned so that the faceplate is parallel to the firing line.

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 on the course

All targets should be clearly visible down to a height of 21cm measured at the centre of the gate on firing line.

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)

On a course of fire it is permitted that 1 target in a kneeling lane and 1 target in a standing may be 25mm hit zone. The maximum distance for these targets is 20 yards.

All other enforced positional shots shall not be set beyond a distance of 45 yards.

8. TARGET SEQUENCE

Feed on start: All targets must be shot in numerical order {1, 2, 3...}

Shotgun start: All targets must be shot in ascending order, from the competitors' start lane until the last target is reached. The competitors then move to the first target of the course and continue to shoot the remaining targets in ascending order.

Sanctions

For lanes shot out of sequence both targets in the lane are scored as missed.

In the correct lane any target that is shot out of sequence will be scored as a miss.

It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that the correct target is addressed.

9. SCORING

- a. Scoring shall be on the basis of one point for each hit and zero for a miss. A hit shall be awarded when the target falls. Any movement of the plate which does not result in the target or the hit zone falling shall be scored a miss. A Hit shall be marked with an X and a Miss marked with a 0. Any declaration on a score card must be correctly filled in. The declaration shall state "To the best of knowledge and belief the equipment listed by me conforms to the current legal requirement".
- b. Definition of a shot: A release of air from the rifle counts as a shot, unless the competitor has requested permission from their buddy marshal to release an un-scoped shot, and a zero must be entered on the scorecard.

10. SHOOTING

- i. Any shooting position is allowed, but some lanes may be designated as 'standing' or 'kneeling'.
- ii. Lanes designated kneeling may be shot from the standing position (Both targets must be shot using the same position).
- iii. All shots, from whatever shooting position must be made with the rifle's muzzle wholly beyond the firing line and the rifle's trigger wholly behind the firing line.
- iv. On kneeling and standing lanes, the rifle must not be loaded until the competitor is in the correct position for the specified discipline lane. (For example: if on a kneeling lane the competitor chooses to range find sitting then the rifle must not be loaded until the competitor has adopted the kneeling position).
- v. Fully adjustable Rifle Stocks are permitted to accommodate various shooting styles and positions with no limitation as to design. Additional attachments are not permitted to be added or removed during the course of the event
 - a. The use of a sling, single or double point, for any shot is to be allowed to steady the aim. This as well as carrying a rifle between lanes.
 - b. Competitors shall not gain extra support by resting their feet against any post or similar object that forms part of the course. Equally, the back must not rest against any support that is not part of the competitor's seat.
 - c. Any type of clothing, glove, or footwear is allowed provided it is not a hazard to the competitor or others. Clothing may be padded to reduce the pressure of the rifle stock resting on the arm or knee. The padding may be e.g. felt, or layers of cloth.
 - d. The surface of the pad on which the stock rests must be flat and not shaped to provide lateral support to the stock.
 - e. Separate pads may be worn over non-padded clothing provided that they conform to the above specifications.

Only one shot is allowed at any one target. Shots taken at any one lane shall not exceed the total number of targets in that lane with the following exceptions:

- a. Rule 8.
- b. Rule 13
- c. Un-sighted shots with the knowledge and consent of partner/s or Marshall.
- d. In a shoot-off situation.

Definitions of shooting positions:

For lanes that are designated kneeling or standing the shooting positions are defined as:

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

Shooters may use an ankle roll to aid kneeling. The following rules apply:

- a. The roll must be placed between the ankle and the ground.
- b. The foot and knee must be in contact with the ground.
- c. Shooting the kneeling lane without using a kneeling roll is permitted.
- d. Competitors may additionally use a flat mat to keep their knee clean and protect it from objects in the ground.
- e. Competitors may not use a shooting bag during the kneeling shot, except to sit on whilst range finding.
- f. The kneeling roll:

- i. Can taper from one end to the other (cone) and can be flatted, but its cross section must remain consistent in shape along its length.
- ii. Must be a maximum diameter of 180mm (7.08”).
- iii. Can be of any length.

Standing: Any shot taken in a standing position without the aid of any support.

For lanes that are not designated kneeling or standing the competitor may use any shooting position that is safe and comfortable to the competitor and does not infringe rules 10iii and 10iv. However, if competitors choose to shoot prone then they must adhere to this definition:
Prone: The competitor lays face down. The gun and forearm, from elbow to fingertips, must be clear of any artificial or natural support.

11. TIME PER LANE

In the event of a competitor delaying excessively, the Marshall may time the lane, with the time starting when the eye is put to the sight. The time will be continuous with the number of minutes allowed equating to the number of targets in that lane. If a cease-fire is sounded during the timed period then the clock is stopped. When the cease fire is over the clock is restarted when the competitor has reached the same state as when the cease fire was sounded.

Timing is mandatory for all **BFTA** events

If the time per lane is exceeded then the competitor will forfeit any `hit` obtained after the expiry of the allotted time.

At **BFTA** events it is the responsibility of the Buddy Marshal to time their shooting partner. At all times the clock must be clearly visible. If a Marshal observes that the Buddy Marshal is not timing their partner then the following sanctions will apply to the Buddy Marshal:

First offence – a verbal warning is given.

Second or subsequent offences – both targets in the lane(s) are scored as missed, whether they have been shot or not. The Marshal will amend and sign the scorecard.

12. SEATING

The maximum height for any form of seating is 6 inches (150 mm), including any backrest. Bean-bags should be measured when flattened between 2 boards. The seat may be used as an aid to sitting, kneeling, or standing shots using the above rules but for no other purpose.

13. DISPUTED SCORES

Any disputed score must be made prior to leaving the target. Under no circumstances should the competitor touch the reset cord until the dispute has been resolved. Targets should be checked by the Chief Marshal or his/her deputy whose decision shall be final. Any target found to be defective should be repaired or replaced and re-shot.

Target checking – if a competitor claims that a target was hit but did not fall over then the Marshal will check the target is functional by using the Brian Samson Target Checker.

The target is checked and it falls over: score is zero

The target is checked and does not fall over: the target is repaired or replaced and the competitor who called that the target is faulty can shoot again at the target.

14. PENALTIES

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

15. LEAVING THE FIRING LINE

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

- a. Voluntary abandonment of the shoot, in which case the competitor's score to that point will be presented as a valid result.
- b. To affect a repair to equipment that 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.
- c. (Rule 15 b. is NOT applicable when a shot-gun start is employed; in this circumstance please see shooting Rule 17 - FIRING LINE CONDUCT)
- d. For any other occurrence deemed valid by the Chief Marshal or Deputy.
- e. Note: In Rule 15 b, the competitor may replace the offending part or equipment with the permission of the Chief Marshal or Deputy. A visit to the zeroing range is not permitted by the competitor or any person on the competitor's behalf, using the repaired or exchanged equipment, before re-commencing the shoot. (Unless the Chief Marshal grants specific permission).
- f. In all the above cases the competitor's scorecard must be handed to the Chief Marshal or Deputy and his/her permission obtained to leave the firing line, with a stipulated time for return. The card will be marked with the time of departure. Any card not claimed within the designated time will be submitted for scoring.

16. TIED SCORES

This procedure is to be used if a shoot-off is required to decide the winner at the following BFTA events:

BFTA Championship, BFTA Masters and BFTA European Championship.

Also, the procedure is to be used to decide the winning team of the **BFTA Inter-Regional Championship**; one member of each team will shoot-off.

- Two targets are set out in one lane.
- The targets will be: 2 x40mm hit zones
- The ranges of the targets are at the discretion of the Marshal.
- The order of the competitors in the shoot-off will be chosen at random.
- Shooting will be timed by a marshal: 2 minutes per lane.
- Competitors will each shoot the two targets kneeling.
- When complete each competitor will shoot the two targets standing.
- The competitor with the highest score is the winner.
- If this procedure does not identify a winner then:
- Competitors will each shoot the two targets standing.

The competitor with the highest score is the winner.

If this procedure does not identify a winner then:

- The Marshal will choose one of the targets to be shot standing in a sudden death shoot off (time allowed = 1 minute). This process is repeated until a winner is identified.

Open Class

Two targets are set out in one lane.

The targets will be:

2 x40mm hit zones

The ranges of the targets are at the discretion of the Marshal.

The order of the competitors in the shoot-off will be chosen at random.

Shooting will be timed by a marshal: 2 minutes per lane.

- Competitors will each shoot the two targets.

The competitor with the highest score is the winner.

If this procedure does not identify a winner then:

- The Marshal will choose one of the targets to be shot a sudden death shoot off (time allowed = 1 minute). This process is repeated until a winner is identified.

The shoot-off to decide any other position, including silhouettes, is at the discretion of the marshal administering the shoot-off.

17. FIRING LINE CONDUCT

Coaching or persistent barracking of a competitor in competition is not allowed. Rifles and/or equipment will NOT be shared on the firing line (except in the circumstances below). In the event of a 'cease-fire' order, guns will be discharged safely into the ground and the muzzle kept angled downwards. 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.

Should a competitor's gun, sight or any other equipment break down having begun a shotgun-start competition, the following will apply.

- a. The competitor may not leave the firing line, but a replacement gun may be given to him/her and the faulty gun etc. removed from the course. The replacement gun will be tested over the chronograph at the earliest opportunity.
- b. If the competitor's partner(s) are in agreement he/she may continue by sharing a gun with one or more of them, again the faulted equipment shall be removed from the course.

Either a. and/or b. above must take place in agreement with the Chief Marshal.

(Coaching may be allowed by team members for certain Team events at the discretion of the Chief Marshal). All practise shooting or zeroing must be restricted to the zeroing range. No practise shots may be fired on the main course until all shoot-offs have been concluded.

Whilst competitors are competing on the course, whether they be shooting or scoring, any form of audible equipment i.e. mobile phone or sound systems (whether or not they utilise earphones) must be switched off or muted.

Any auditory obstruction, e.g. earphones, ear defenders, ear plugs etc., shall not be worn unless agreed with the Chief Marshal for medical reasons.

There may be a necessity to make or take a mobile phone call whilst on the course but the Chief Marshall should be informed at booking in.

18. CLASS OF ENTRY

If used, there will be classes of entry per the BFTA Grading system. Competitors may elect to shoot in a higher grade. This does not affect their listed grading unless results alter their grading percentage. Supervision of competitors under the age of 17 years will be in accordance with legal requirements.

NOTE: A shooting partner in competition does not necessarily constitute supervision of a competitor under 14 years of age.

The above age limits are subject to variation if the law changes at any time during the shooting season.

19. DRUGS & ALCOHOL

- i. No alcohol is permitted anywhere along the course of fire (i.e. behind the firing line) for a BFTA event which includes spectators as well as those who are shooting or have shot the course during a BFTA competition
- ii. Any competitor who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, which may impair them, will not be permitted to take part in the competition.
- iii. **Note:** The host club may already have such restrictions but this will ensure that BFTA events set a standard for safe shooting.

20. DISPLAY OF RULES AND INSURANCE

A current copy of the BFTA Main Shoot Rules shall be clearly displayed at the booking-in point of all shoots, together with a current and valid Certificate of Insurance.

21. RULES

The above rules must be strictly adhered to.

Trevor Ryan (Chairman) 2019

Section A

The Kneeling Position

General Clause:

Unless specified, it is accepted that when referring to parts of the body it includes the clothing adjacent to that part of the body.

Definitions:

Rear Foot:	This is the foot which is placed under the backside.
Front Foot:	This is the opposite foot to the Rear Foot.
Knee:	This is the kneecap, and the area directly below the kneecap, on the leg which ends in the Rear Foot.
Shin:	This is the area occupied by the shin-bone on the leg which ends in the Rear Foot.
The Trigger Hand:	This is the hand which is used to hold the pistol grip and operate the trigger.
The Leading Hand:	This is the opposite hand to the Trigger Hand.
The Leading Arm:	This is the arm below the shoulder which ends in the Leading Hand.
Ankle Roll:	Any ankle roll defined as legal by the BFTA rules.

1. The Position.

Only the Rear Foot, the Front Foot, the Knee and/or the Shin may contact the ground.

An Ankle Roll may be used: No part of the Ankle Roll can touch, or appear to touch, any of the following; Thighs, Buttocks or Front foot. If an Ankle Roll is used it must be placed under the ankle of the Rear Foot.

No other use of an Ankle Roll, when adopting the Kneeling Position, is allowed.

The Knee may be protected from the ground by use of a flat mat.

2. The Hands

The Leading Hand will support the gun, and forward of the wrist should itself be unsupported (the wrist is deemed to be the hinged joint between hand and forearm). On the Leading Hand, in front of the wrist joint, only the Leading Hand or Glove should contact the rifle, or appear to contact the rifle and it should not touch or appear to touch a part of the shooter's body.

On the Leading Hand and Leading Arm, any parts of the Glove and/or other clothing and/or arm behind the wrist joint should not contact the rifle or appear to contact the rifle.

3. The Rear Foot

The Rear Foot, when viewed from the rear should be vertical in appearance and not turned along the axis of the rear leg. The Rear Foot is allowed to be angled so the ankle joint can be closer or further from the ground as desired. The toes can be bent or flat. If an ankle roll is not used then the ankle joint must not be in contact with the ground or appear to be in contact with the ground.

Please also see **BFTA Kneeling Rules 2018** for addition information.

ANNEXURE – 1

Table with the maximum Pellet Velocity allowed based on the pellet weight:

Weight (Grains)	BFTA FPS
7.9	823
8.4	795
8.6	785
10.3	718