

Rules for Rimfire Competition

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

Overview:

First and foremost, Rimfire events are to be safe and fun. They are designed to promote the fun of shooting for all members of the family in a safe, wholesome environment.

All Rimfire competitions must include both handgun and rifle stages chambered for .22 Long Rifle only. Competition is open to all safe and responsible individuals who can legally own or handle a firearm in the jurisdiction of the competition.

Competitors may compete in more than one class if event organizers allow, and only if it can be accomplished in a safe and timely manner. Competitors must compete with a handgun and a rifle in order to qualify for prizes.

Targets used for Rimfire events should be easy to purchase or build.

All stages in Rimfire events should be designed with safety in mind. Courses of fire should not be “mind games” or designed to trick competitors into making mistakes or being unsafe. All actions on the range, from prop construction and target placement to competitor movement must be carefully designed and considered with safety in mind.

Safety: Always follow the basic rules of firearm safety:

1. **All guns are treated as always loaded.**
2. **Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.**
3. **Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.**
4. **Always be sure of your target.**
5. **Empty chamber flags are required at all times at CVRP.**

ALL COMPETITORS, RANGE WORKERS AND SPECTATORS ARE REQUIRED TO USE EYE AND EAR PROTECTION.

Divisions:

OPEN: Any firearm (pistol, revolver, or rifle) with scopes, optical sights, light gathering scopes, battery powered optics, lasers, compensator or muzzle brake.

LIMITED: Firearms with iron sights. Adjustable sights, fiber optics are allowed but no electronic sights. No compensators, muzzle breaks or barrel weights.

TOP LADY

TOP JUNIOR: Ages 13-18

Rules for Rimfire Competition

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

Course Guidelines:

Course of fire will be multiple steel plates of various sizes placed at a maximum of 25 yards from the firing line.

Each course will consist of up to five consecutive strings.

All courses of fire should be designed to be shot with one ten-round magazine and not necessitate a reload.

All magazines will be loaded with 10 rounds maximum. Competitors may start with a round in the chamber for a maximum of 11 rounds in the firearm.

Tubular fed magazines should be loaded with 10 rounds. Competitors may start with a round in the chamber for a maximum of 11 rounds in the firearm.

No magazine changes are permitted during the course of fire. If all ammunition is depleted prior to hitting the stop plate, the scored time will be 30 seconds for the string.

The maximum time for an individual string will be 30 seconds.

OPEN and LIMITED Pistol and Rifle shooters must have at least two magazines for each gun. Five magazines are suggested.

Firearms by any manufacturer that meet the division criteria may be used in the Rimfire events. All firearms are to safely use .22 Long Rifle ammunition. Any commercially available .22 LR ammunition will be considered suitable for competition.

No suppressed or full auto firearms are allowed.

Competitors are responsible to ensure that any and all equipment that they bring to the match is fully in compliance with all laws in the jurisdiction where the match is being held. Competitors are solely and personally responsible for the safety of any and all equipment and ammunition they bring to the match.

Course Design:

Matches must be designed, constructed and conducted with due consideration to safety. Rimfire coordinator reserves the right to modify courses of fire deemed unsafe or not reflecting the intent of Rimfire competition.

- Shooting boxes may be used.
- Course of fire may specify where or when specific target arrays may be engaged.
- A course of fire may dictate a shooting position or stance.

Rules for Rimfire Competition

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

- It is suggested each course of fire is to be shot three to five times. Dropping the score from one string is at the discretion of the match director.

Safe Angles of Fire - Courses of fire must always be constructed with safe angles of fire. Consideration must be given to safe target and frame construction and the angle of any possible ricochet.

Minimum Distances - Whenever metal targets or target frames are used, a minimum distance of 20 feet must be maintained.

Targets - When a course is constructed to include target locations other than immediately downrange, organizers must protect or restrict surrounding areas to which competitors, officials or spectators have access.

- All targets will be steel or polymer. Polymer falling plates may be used if they react reliably.
- Competitors must not be forced to act in any manner, which might cause an unsafe action. Targets must be arranged so that shooting at them will not cause competitors to breach safe angles of fire.

A Stage Description must provide the following minimum information:

- Scoring Method
- Targets (type & number)
- Minimum number of rounds
- Number of strings to be shot
- The firearms ready condition
- Start position
- Time starts: audible or visual signal
- Procedure

Targets should be repainted after each shooter.

Handling of Firearms and Ammunition:

Firearms are only to be handled when in a designated safety area or when under the supervision of, and in response to a direct command issued by, a Safety Officer.

There will be no loaded firearms on the range other than those loaded at the direction of a Safety Officer in order to complete a course of fire.

Firearm will be loaded and unloaded only on the line under direction of a Safety Officer.

During Competition:

- When loading, reloading, or unloading during a course of fire, the competitor's fingers must be visibly outside the trigger guard and the firearm must be pointed safely down range or in another safe direction authorized by a Range Officer.
- Keep the finger outside the trigger guard while clearing a malfunction;

Rules for Rimfire Competition

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

- Shooter will start with firearm in hand(s) ready to fire with safety disengaged and finger off trigger.
- Any competitor that experiences a target malfunction or a range problem during a course of fire will be allowed to re-shoot once the problem is resolved. (This is not a firearm/ammo malfunction)
- A firearm/ammo related malfunction will not result in a reshoot (mulligan). Reshoots or Mulligans for equipment malfunction are NOT to be used at any Rimfire matches.
- Failure to comply with Range Officer commands will result in a warning. Two warnings of any kind on a single stage will result in a match disqualification.
- An unintentional discharge striking within 9 feet of shooter or range officer, or which travels over a backstop, berm, or in any other direction specified in the stage briefing by the match organizers as being unsafe results in a match disqualification.
- If at any time during the course of fire, a Competitor allows the muzzle of the firearm to point rearward, that is to break the "180" as defined by the Safety Officer, the Competitor must be stopped immediately. Such an action will result in a match disqualification.
- If at any time during the course of fire, or while loading, reloading or unloading, a Competitor drops a firearm or causes it to fall, loaded or not, it is to be retrieved only by the Safety Officer. Dropped firearms must always be retrieved by a Safety Officer who will, after checking and/or clearing the firearm, place it directly into the Competitor's gun case or gun bag. Dropping an unloaded firearm or causing it to fall outside of a course of fire is not an infraction, however, a Competitor who retrieves a dropped firearm will receive a match disqualification. Dropping a loaded gun will result in a match disqualification.
- Allowing the muzzle of a firearm to point at any part of the Competitor's body during a course of fire (i.e. sweeping) will result in a warning. Two times on a stage would incur a match disqualification.
- When course of fire is completed and Safety Officer has certified firearm is unloaded and safe., firearms must be bagged, have the magazine removed, slide locked or held open, and an empty chamber indicator in the empty chamber.
- Not reshooting a course of fire when directed to by the Safety Officer will result in a no score for that stage.
- Safety Officers are encouraged to assist the Competitor. Safety Officers may tell a competitor a gun is not loaded or the safety is on. Safety officers may assist a shooter at the shooters request. (Remember we are here to insure a positive experience for new shooters)
- Competitors confined to wheelchairs or similar devices may be given special dispensation by the Range Master in respect of mobility assistance.
- In the event that inadvertent contact from the Range Officer or another external influence has interfered with the competitor during a course of fire, the Range Officer may offer the competitor a reshoot of the course of fire. The competitor must accept or decline the offer prior to seeing either the time or the score from the initial attempt.

Range Commands:

The approved range commands and their sequence are as follows:

- "Shooter Make Ready" – This command signifies the start of "the Course of Fire". Under the direct supervision of the Range Officer the competitor must face down range, or in a safe

Rules for Rimfire Competition

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

direction as specified by the Range Officer, fit eye and ear protection, and prepare the firearm in accordance with the stage briefing. The competitor must then assume the required start position. At this point, the Range Officer will proceed. A Competitor is permitted to take a sight picture with an unloaded firearm once given the command to "make ready". The competitor will then load the firearm.

- Once the "Shooter Make Ready" command has been given, the competitor must not move away from the start location prior to issuance of the "Start Signal" without the prior approval, and under the direct supervision, of the Range Officer.
- "Shooter Ready?" – The lack of any negative response from the competitor indicates that he fully understands the requirements of the course of fire and is ready to proceed. If the competitor is not ready at the "Shooter Ready?" command, he must state "Not Ready". It is suggested that when the competitor is ready he should assume the required start position to indicate his readiness to the Range Officer.
- "Standby" – This command should be followed by the start signal within 1 to 4 seconds.
- "Start Signal" – The signal for the competitor to begin their attempt at the course of fire. If a competitor fails to react to a start signal, for any reason, the Range Officer will confirm that the competitor is ready to attempt the course of fire, and will resume the range commands from "Shooter Ready?".
- In the event that a competitor begins his attempt at the course of fire prematurely ("false start" prior to the issuance of the start signal) the Range Officer will assess a 2 second procedural penalty at the completion of the string.
- "Stop" – Any Range Officer assigned to a stage may issue this command at any time during the course of fire. The competitor must immediately cease firing, stop moving and wait for further instructions from the Range Officer.
- Range Officials may issue other interim commands on completion of the first string, in order to prepare the competitor for the second and subsequent strings. (e.g. "Reload for the Next String").
- "If You Are Finished, Unload And Show Clear" – If the competitor has finished shooting, he must lower his handgun and present it for inspection by the Range Officer with the muzzle pointed down range, magazine removed, slide locked or held open, and chamber empty.
- While continuing to point the handgun safely downrange, the competitor must perform a final safety check of the handgun as follows:
 - Self-loaders – release the slide and pull the trigger (without touching the hammer or decocker, if any). If the firearm has a magazine disconnect it should be bagged with the slide locked back. If the shooter chooses, he or she may leave the firearm at slidelock.
 - Revolvers – close the empty cylinder (without touching the hammer, if any).
- If the gun proves to be clear, the competitor must place an empty chamber indicator in the empty firearm.
- If the gun does not prove to be clear, the Range Officer will resume the commands from "Unload and Show Clear."
- "Range Is Clear" – This declaration signifies the end of the Course of fire. Once the declaration is made, officials and competitors may move forward to score, paint, reset targets etc.

Starting Position:

Rules for Rimfire Competition

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

- Handgun Competitor will start with handgun in hand(s), elbows at side with arms and gun barrel parallel with ground. Alternate start position: aiming at a designated object (orange cone) down range.
- Rifle Competitor will start with stock of rifle touching hip with rifle barrel parallel with ground. Alternate start position: rifle shouldered and aiming at a designated object (orange cone) down range.
- Safety Officer will indicate start position if course of fire mandates something other than standard position. Finger will be off the trigger as shooter awaits start signal.

Scoring:

- Score is total time plus penalties. If a course of fire contains targets that will reduce the overall score, they should be computed after all other scoring is completed.
- Failure to finish the course of fire during a string or not hitting the “stop-plate” results in a 30 second penalty time (total time) for that string.
- Each missed target will incur a two (2) second penalty.
- All misses should be calculated per string, not per stage. In a match where the shooter is allowed to drop their highest time for each stage, any miss penalties applying to the string/score being dropped will also be dropped.

Competitor Conduct:

Competitors will be disqualified from a match for conduct which a Safety Officer deems to be unsportsmanlike. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, dishonesty, failing to comply with the reasonable directions of a Match Official, or any behavior likely to bring the sport into disrepute. The Match Director must be notified of any such conduct as soon as possible.

Other persons (non-competitor) may be expelled from the range for conduct which a Safety Officer deems to be unacceptable. Examples of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to, failing to comply with the reasonable directions of a Match Official, interference with the operation of a course of fire and/or a Competitor's attempt thereof, and any other behavior impacting the safe management of the match.

All persons are required to be in complete control both mentally and physically during matches. Safe performance by Competitors and officials at matches must not be affected by drugs (including alcohol) of any sort during matches. Any person who, in the opinion of the Match Director, is visibly under the influence of any substance and not able to function safely will be disqualified from the match and may be required to leave the range.

Disputes:

- All disputes are to be settled by the Safety Officer on the range where the issue has become evident before the squad moves on. If necessary, the Match Director may be consulted. The decision is immediate and final.

Rules for Rimfire Competition

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

Safety Areas:

- Safety areas must be provided where Competitors can clean and check firearms.
- No ammunition, or magazine containing ammunition, is to be handled in a safety area. The word "handling" does not preclude Competitors from entering a Safety Area with ammunition in magazines or speed loading devices on their belt, in their pockets or in their range bag, provided the Competitor does not physically remove the loaded magazines or loaded speed loading devices from their retaining or storage device while within the Safety Area.
- Handling live ammunition, loaded magazines or loaded speed loading devices in a Safety Area, will result in a match disqualification.
- Competitors may handle unloaded vendors' firearms while remaining wholly within the vendor areas, provided reasonable care is taken to ensure that the muzzle is not pointed at any person while being handled.

Payout:

- Payout will be high over all, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, High Lady, High Junior in each class.
- High over all pay is based on total Competitors, while class awards are based on the number of Competitors in the class.