



## **2019 NATIONAL RIFLE LEAGUE SOUTH AFRICA'S RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Official 2019 Rules and Regulations as written by the 2019 Director of Match Operations. This document is to be updated yearly by the current Board of Directors.

### **VISION**

To be the most transformative leadership community, bringing innovation and inspiration to every precision rifle athlete.

### **MISSION**

To give athletes, aspiring athletes, and the community the most compelling competitive shooting experience possible.

The goal of this document is to provide maximum safety to all participants, while providing standard rules to follow without limiting the creativity of the individual Match and it's Match Director.

### **DIRECTORY**

#### **Section 1, NRL South Africa Organization and Responsibilities**

- A. Executive Staff
- B. Board of Directors
- C. Advisors

#### **Section 2, Safety**

- A. General Rifle Safety
- B. Rifle Safety While at a NRL South Africa Match
- C. Rifle Safety During Your Stage
- D. Safety Violations and Penalties

#### **Section 3, Match Format**

- A. NRL South Africa's Responsibilities
- B. Shooters Responsibilities
- C. Match Directors Responsibilities
- D. Range Officers Responsibilities
- E. Specific Competition Rules



#### **Section 4, Scoring Classes and Championship Qualification**

- A. Classes
- B. Equipment
- C. Scoring
- D. Championship Qualification
- E. Championship Match and Scoring

#### **Section 5, Sportsmanship**

- A. Good Sportsmanship
- B. Unsportsmanlike Conduct
- C. Cheating
- D. Penalties for Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Cheating
- E. Reports to the Board of Directors

### **SECTION 1, NRL South Africa ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A. Executive Staff**

The NRL South Africa has an executive staff whose responsibilities include day to day operations, media, match operations, logistics, marketing and finances. The executive staff shall not override the board of directors unless safety or legal concerns arise. The President appoints the executive staff. For the 2019 season, the Executive staff is as follows:

Director of Match Operations – Pieter Malan and Dirk Klaver  
Finance and Logistics Director – TBA  
Marketing Director / Financial Analyst – TBA



## **B. Board of Directors**

The NRL South Africa will appoint a Board of Directors, whose responsibilities include forming and adjusting the rules and regulations, planning the format of the season, ruling on disciplinary matters and inclusion additional matches for the following year. The only way to serve on the NRL South Africa Board of Directors is to be a Match Director in the current season. When the need to vote on an issue arises, each member is allowed one vote. The Director of Match Operations shall preside over any meetings and be responsible for moving the meeting along and presenting issues as they arise. The Director of Match Operations does not get a vote unless the Board vote comes to a tie at which time the Director of Match Operations breaks the tie. The Board of Directors for the 2019 season is as follows:

Dirk Klaver  
Pieter Malan

## **SECTION 2, SAFETY**

### **A. General Rifle Safety**

Always point your rifle in a safe direction. Never point a rifle at anything you don't intend to kill or destroy. Always keep your rifle unloaded until ready to use. Treat all rifles as though they are loaded even if you believe otherwise. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to fire. Know your target and what is beyond. Always wear proper eye and ear protection and ensure others have the same before firing. Never use alcohol or drugs while shooting. Individual Range safety rules always supersede NRL South Africa rules.

### **B. Rifle Safety While at a NRL South Africa Match**

NRL South Africa competitions are always cold ranges. All rifles are to be unloaded, with magazines out and bolts to the rearward position. Chamber flags are to be utilized always so that anyone can identify an unloaded rifle. Ground rifles in a proper rifle rack, or where ever the Range Officer designates as a safe location and direction. When moving to another shooting location, always ensure the rifle is pointed in a safe direction.

### **C. Rifle Safety During Your Stage**

Always wait for the Range Officer's command of "load and make ready" until you remove your chamber flag and insert magazine. Stages always begin with magazine in and bolt to the rear unless specifically directed by the match booklet and the Range Officer. Any movement or barricade transition must be done with the bolt to the rear and an empty chamber. The only exception to this rule will be with the use of semi automatic rifles but only at the approval of the Match Director. If the MD allows this, the shooter must engage the safety, and yell "safe" loud enough for the RO to hear with ear protection. During movement, the 180 rule must always be adhered to. The 180 rule refers to only pointing the rifle with in 90 degrees of straight forward. There may be stages when a Range Officer reduces the 180 rule even more. Always follow directions and be aware of where you are pointing your rifle.



## **D. Safety Violations and Penalties**

Violation of the cold range rule: Any shooter who has violated the cold range rule shall be issued a warning. A second violation will result in a stage zero. Next violation will result in a match DQ and removal from competition. This includes a live round in the chamber, magazine inserted, a closed bolt, or chamber flag not being used.

Muzzling and/or violating the 180 rule: Muzzling is pointing or sweeping another person's body with the muzzle of a rifle. The shooter shall be issued a warning for the first violation. With a second violation, the shooter shall receive a zero on that stage. A third shall result in match DQ and removal from competition.

Unsafe transitioning: Transitioning on a barricade, or movement with out having the bolt to the rear will result in the Range Officer having the shooter correct the situation, then move back to the previous position firing position before resuming the course of fire. A second violation will result in a zero for the stage. A third will result in the shooter getting a match DQ and removal from competition. If the match allows for Semi Automatic rifles to move with a closed bolt with the safety engaged, the same rule applies if the shooter does not either engage the safety and or yell "safe".

Negligent Discharge (ND). A Negligent Discharge is defined as any round unintentionally discharged from a firearm during a transition, movement, and/or weapons manipulation; or a round intentionally discharged during a cease fire period. The competitor shall receive a match DQ and removal from competition.

Accidental Discharge/Mechanical Failure (AD). An Accidental Discharge is defined as any round unintentionally discharged from a firearm due to a mechanical failure. The participant will be removed from the event until he or she can repair the rifle to safe working order. All stages and points will be forfeited during this down time.

False Starts: Firing before the start signal will result in a zero for the stage.

If a Match Director judges a shooter to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during competition, the shooter will receive a match DQ and be removed from competition. The shooter will not be allowed to drive from the competition while still intoxicated.

## **SECTION 3, NRL South Africa MATCH FORMAT**

### **A. NRL South Africa's Responsibilities**

The NRL South Africa will provide a Executive staff member for assistance in administration of the match. This role is subservient to the Match Director and can be utilized in any capacity that the Match Director needs. Further, the Match Director should utilize the Staff member as a witness anytime he or she needs to make a punitive action. Provide media support through a film crews and web sites.



Provide optional logistical support to include: t-shirts, printing match booklets, trophies, and a sign up and match fee collection web site. These services are optional and designed to ease the burden of administering the match and to create buying power through volume. All service costs will be transparent. Shop for and promote sponsors through media efforts. Equally distribute sponsor's products to all NRL South Africa matches and Championship match.

## **B. Shooters Responsibilities**

Shooters should treat Match Directors and Range Officers with respect at all times. From time to time, disagreements arise between shooters and match officials. This is fine, so long as mutual respect and calm communication occurs. The Match Directors ruling is always final.

Shooters in the Precision Rifle discipline are regarded as the most professional and highly educated in any discipline. All participants in NRL South Africa matches are looked upon as Safety Officers. Any participant that witnesses an unsafe act is to call for a cease fire and stop the unsafe act. The participant should then inform the closest Range Officer of the act. It is the shooters responsibility to know the NRL South Africa Rules and Regulations prior to a competition.

Shooters should actively participate in any stage briefing to move the shoot along smoothly. Shooters shall understand that at the beginning of the stage, when asked by the Range Officer "Shooter do you understand the course of fire?" If they give an affirmative answer, that will be their last opportunity to get clarification. Because of this, arguments that they did not understand anything about the stage or its targets are invalid.

Shooters should be good squad mates by helping police brass, helping Range Officers when directed, and providing coaching to other shooters after their stage is complete. Sponsors are very important to the NRL South Africa. It is encouraged that the shooter writes emails thanking the sponsors that supported the competition.

## **C. Match Directors Responsibilities**

Match Directors are responsible for the overall direction of a match. He or she is the person in charge at that event. Match Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for the NRL South Africa. Match Directors shall provide a Match Booklet to all shooters. Match Directors shall provide enough Range Officers to ensure administration of the match is top quality. It is encouraged that at least 2 Range Officers be provided per stage, and at least 3 in stages that are further distances.

Match Directors are responsible for utilizing enough spotters, reactive targets and/or electronic flashers when putting targets at longer ranges. Match Directors must have a scoring system that allows for quick tabulation of points, and must allow shooters to see their scores after the stage. Using a system that makes the shooter sign or acknowledge their score is encouraged. If utilizing paper scoring, rain should be accounted for. If using electronic scoring, failure of equipment and battery life should be accounted for and paper backup should be available.



Match Directors shall provide a 20-minute period for shooters to review scores and issue grievances if necessary. Match Directors must provide match scores within 3 days of the completion of their match to the NRL South Africa. Included in the scores will be one shooter who stood out to the Match Director as a good sportsman, names of any poor sportsmen, and any individual found to have cheated. Sponsors are very important to the NRL South Africa.

Match Directors are encouraged to pass along an email to all shooters after the competition with the email address for every sponsor. The role of Match Director is very hard work and is the most important role in Precision Rifle shooting. For this effort, match directors will be guaranteed entries into 2 regular season NRL South Africa matches of their choice. Shooter must pay full match registration fees. This offer is good within one year of directing a match.

#### **D. Range Officers Responsibilities**

Range Officers are any person assisting in running a competition, not including the Match Director. They can be the person running a stage, a spotter, the sign in person, or anyone that the Match Director acknowledged, as working the match. Range Officers should understand all Rules and Regulations prior to the start of the competition to ensure the safety of all participants.

Any Range Officer witnessing unsafe acts shall call cease fire and correct the unsafe act as soon as possible. Range Officers that are running a stage shall have complete knowledge of the stage that they are responsible for. They should conduct a stage briefing for all shooters prior to each stage and assist in target location on stages that allow for prior target knowledge. After stage briefing, the squad will have 5 minutes to prep before the first shooter is called.

Once the stage begins, the Range Officer shall run every shooter through that stage as close to the same as humanly possible. Match Directors shall ensure that Range Officers utilize standard commands at their competition. (Encouraged standard commands are as follows. "Shooter do you understand the course of fire?" If no questions are asked, then "Shooter clear to load and make ready". Once the shooter makes his or her rifle ready, "Shooter Ready?" Once an affirmative is obtained, the start tone should follow. Range Officers that are serving as spotters are responsible for calling hits or misses. Utilization of standard calls is encouraged. Standard calls are "impact" or "impact left target" or "reengage". Spotters should use loud clear voices when calling stages. Calling corrections during the stage is not allowed but encouraged AFTER the stage is complete.

Anytime a Range Officer is not able to settle a grievance presented by a shooter, he or she shall request the Match Director to make the final judgment. The role of Range Officer is essential to the competition and the NRL South Africa community. The use of active shooters in these roles should be encouraged when available. For this effort, the Range Officer shall receive 2 guaranteed entries into regular season NRL South Africa matches of their choice. Shooter must pay full match registration fees. This offer is good within one year of serving as a Range Officer for an NRL South Africa match.



## **E. Specific Competition Rules**

A NRL South Africa competition shall consist of at least 120 rounds fired, and at least 12 individual stages. Shoots should have at least 50 shooters and take place over the course of at least two days. Having a sight in period is mandatory and having at least a few targets out at distance is encouraged due to environmental factors. No single stage should be worth 1.5 times over the amount of another stage. Additionally, stages in which a single shot removes all points without the opportunity to earn any back is discouraged. In a timed stage, shots taken up to .25 seconds after the clock are still eligible for points.

It is understood that many ranges operate for profit and shutting a range down is not possible. Also, that train ups assist in profits for the range. Therefore, shooting at the range prior to a competition is allowed. Shooting on the ranges props is also allowed. However, shooting specific stages before the competition must not be allowed for any reason. For these reasons, it is important that the Match Director be involved or at least has knowledge of events taking place at the range prior to his or her competition so having common stages and /or course of fire does not occur.

No shooter may be allowed to assist in forming the stages course of fire or assist in set up of the match. From time to time, reshoots of stages will occur for reasons such as a cease fire being called, prop malfunction or target breakage. The Range Officer may offer a reshoot anytime he or she thinks it is warranted. A shooter may also request a reshoot to the Range Officer. If the Range Officer denies the request; the shooter may request to bring the issue to the Match Director. The Match Director's ruling is final. The Match Director shall also inform the shooter if they are able to request another reshoot in the remainder of the competition. Reshoots may be complete stage reshoots, or starting in the middle of the stage with points and time consistent with the stoppage. The score on the reshoot will be the only score used.

There will be a tiebreaker stage at every NRL South Africa event. The tiebreaker stage will be designated as such in the shooter booklet. The tiebreaker will go off of the shooters score on that stage first, and time to the hundredths of a second if the stage score is the same. In the rare event that both score and time are the same, the Match Director shall have the shooters repeat the tie breaker until the tie is broken.

## **SECTION 4, SCORING, CLASSES AND CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION**

### **A. Classes**

The NRL South Africa is everyone versus everyone. We do have two classes. The classes will compete and finish with every other shooter, but will have an additional ranking for Championship qualification. Women's class: Shooters in this class must be female. Young Guns. Young Guns will be any shooter between ages 12-18 at the time of the first match of the year. Note that a parent or guardian must be present with the shooter. The shooter may utilize their parent or guardian or any designated shooter in the squad to assist with their rifle and call corrections during the course of fire.



## **B. Equipment**

Rifles shall be any calibre between .224 to .308 and not to exceed 3200 FPS. Shooters should understand that environmental conditions, and chronographs vary. They should take these factors into account when settling on their ammunition. A Match Director can choose to chronograph at any time throughout his or her match with any shooter him or her chooses. If a shooter is violating the speed limit, he or she shall get a match DQ and be removed from competition for cheating. If the Match Director chooses to alter this rule for a particular match format (extreme long range for example) they may do so at the official announcement of the match.

Rifles can be Bolt action or Semi Automatic. The shooter may only use one rifle for the competition. If the competitor's rifle has a malfunction, the shooter must forfeit stage scores until he or she can get their rifle working again. The Match Director must be notified when an equipment malfunction occurs.

## **C. Scoring**

Match points will be acquired by shooting one of the fifteen sanctioned NRL South Africa competitions. The match's winner will be awarded 100 points. Other match points will be based off of the percentage of the winning shooter. (For example, if the winning shooter scores 175 points, and the second place shooter scores 163 you would divide 163 by 175 to end up with 93.14 points)

## **D. Championship Qualification**

Shooters may shoot as many competitions as they like. However, only the shooters three best match scores will count toward the season points race and Championship qualification. Season points will be tallied by the NRL South Africa and displayed on the NRL South Africa website.

Rankings will be determined by the best score. The top 100 shooters based on their season points will qualify for participation in the NRL South Africa Championship. The top 4 shooters in Woman's class and Young Guns class will qualify for the NRL South Africa championship, if they do not qualify with their "season points" alone.

Each member of the Board of Directors shall be allowed one invite. Examples of this invite can be a top Range Officer or an exceptional sponsor. There will be no other way of gaining entry except as described above.

## **E. Championship Match and Scoring**

The NRL South Africa will be responsible for conducting a Championship match at the end of the season. Championship match points will be calculated as previously defined, a percentage of the winners score. The Season Champion and the rest of the rankings will be determined by adding the three best scores with the Championship matches points. Shooters will be recognized and walk the prize table according to that combined score.



## **SECTION 5, SPORTSMANSHIP**

### **A. Good Sportsmanship**

Good Sportsmanship is one of the founding principles of the NRL South Africa and is highly regarded by the NRL South Africa as a whole. Good sportsmanship helps grow the sport, creates positive role models, and is impressive to the sponsors. It is not something that can be quantified, but is easy to recognize by all participants. The NRL South Africa will have a special trophy presented to a shooter at the Championship match whom the NRL South Africa Board of Directors votes as deserving.

### **B. Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Unsportsmanlike conduct is taken very seriously by the NRL South Africa. Examples of bad sportsmanship include treating participants or range staff with disrespect, unwarranted complaining, throwing tantrums, or being unpleasant.

### **C. Cheating**

The NRL South Africa defines cheating as: acting dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage in competition. Examples of cheating are: Sabotaging another shooters equipment. Being involved in setting up a match, assisting in writing any course of fire or obtaining the course of fire prior to the match. Exceeding the velocity of 3200 FPS or using a calibre above 308. Altering or destruction of score sheets. Any other act as deemed unfair/cheating by a Range Officer or Match Director.

### **D. Penalties for Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Cheating**

Any shooter whom is deemed as acting in an unsportsmanlike fashion will be subject to any penalty that the Match Director deems appropriate including warnings, stage zero's and/or match DQ and being removed from competition. The only penalty appropriate for cheating shall be the Match Director issuing a match DQ and being removed from competition.

### **E. Reports to the Board of Directors.**

Upon completion of an NRL South Africa competition, the Match Director shall issue a report to his or her fellow Board of Directors which will include scores, who was the standout sportsman, and who if any shooters showed unsportsmanlike conduct or cheated along with any other pertinent information. If any shooter was deemed as displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, the fellow Board of Directors will be informed and can choose if they will allow that shooter into their shoots. The Director of Match Operations will inform these shooters of the report by a phone call. If any shooter was deemed as cheating, the Board of Directors will conduct a vote in which it will be determined the discipline of the shooter. Regardless of the decision, the Director of Match Operations will inform that shooter of the Board's decision by phone call.