



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

Seddon Rifle Range, cnr Messines Ave and Alexander Road
Trentham, Upper Hutt, New Zealand
PO Box 47-036, Trentham 5143
Email: secretary@nrnz.org.nz www.nrnz.org.nz
Phone +64 4 528 4843

NRANZ Winter 2021 Newsletter

The NRANZ Council held its winter meeting recently. A busy weekend with a lot of remits and the update to the NRANZ shooting rules. The rules had not been updated with the changes made to the ICFRA international rules for some time. We do not religiously follow the ICFRA rules and where we believe that we need to differ, we do. The updated rules should be on the website soon.

Remits

The proposed rules for the use of electronic targets were passed largely as sent out to clubs. There is now a lot of discretion given to Range Officers when a shot does not appear on a target.

The RO's will need to be sure of the new rules, and as normal, honesty from the shooter is important.

The rules around missing shots were written to reflect what has been happening with our targets, and this latitude does not reflect the international rules which are that the shot is lost.

The time delay in the electronic targets has, after much discussion, been set at 5 seconds.

The safety rule requiring the bolt to be removed and the barrel checked as clear if a shell case only is removed from the chamber when a misfire has occurred was passed. ICFRA are considering adding this to the international rules.

The other remit about empty cases was lost.

The remit with regards rifles over 8mm was lost.

Rifle Safety

There was an incident at the Palma Match in 2019 where a round was set off just outside the chamber of the rifle. A similar incident occurred on a club range last year.

What happened was the shoulder which holds the firing pin into the detent prior to chambering and cocking was worn. A live round was being extracted from the chamber, the bolt contacted the cheekpiece and bumped the firing pin off the detent. The firing pin fell onto the round which was held against the bolt face by the extractor and the round was set off.

There is a simple check to see if your bolt has a worn shoulder. With the bolt cocked, use your thumb to try and push the firing pin cocking piece off the detent. If you can do so, your bolt needs to be rectified so that it is securely holding the firing pin. The shoulder should not be built up, but the detent deepened by fine grinding by a competent gunsmith.

Affiliations

Our affiliation fees have not been changed for the coming season.

Championship Levy

The Championship Levy was raised to \$6 per person per day for all District Championships.

National Championships

A formula for the number of competitors shooting in the finals at the National Championships for the F Classes has been set.

For up to six competitors in a class, there will be two in the final.

Above six there will be 33% of the Class competitors in the final with fractions being rounded up. The Target Rifle final was set some years ago at 20% of the TR entries, up to a maximum of 20 finalists.

The 2022 Nationals will again be shot on manually marked targets.

With the increased number of classes, we are again short of trophies for some events at the National Championships. The trophies which NRANZ has are all donated, we do not purchase them. If you have a suitable trophy which could be re purposed, or if you wish to donate a new trophy, they would be welcome. There are several conditions though, NRANZ will decide if the trophy is suitable, if a repurposed one. The donors wish for the trophy allocation will be considered but the final decision will rest with NRANZ.

The medals which have been part of our National Championships presentations have recently doubled in cost. Most of the medals will now be replaced by badges. To keep the medals would have meant increasing entry fees by about \$50.

Firearms Licence Renewals

Check the expiry date on your firearms licence. It is currently taking at least SIX months for Police to process licence renewals. If it is not renewed there is no latitude. You must get someone else to look after your firearms as your licence has expired, even if it has been filed for renewal on time. I would consider filing a renewal closer to a year ahead of the expiry. New licence applications are now out to a year to process.

Components

Component supply, especially powder, is causing plenty of worry. The last shipment of powder we got was less than 30% of what we ordered. There is another shipment due in the spring. Again, we are expecting this shipment to be short of what is ordered. It is a worldwide problem and will not be going away soon. If you have to change from your preferred powder, then please be cautious with load development.

The powder that we do get will again have to be rationed out on the orders received, should the supplied amount be below that ordered. Some clubs have put in ridiculously large orders, such as three times their normal usage. This kind of order will be treated accordingly. Previous usage and order levels will be taken into consideration if we have to ration out what we receive.

We have also recently learnt that Optimus, the manufacturer of the HBC projectiles, have gone out of business. We currently have very good stocks of HBC, over 200k, and do not anticipate needing another source for some years.

New Dates for World Championships

As mentioned in the March newsletter, the F Class World Championships in South Africa are now to be held in March 2023.

As a result of the decision to postpone the F Class Championships, the Target Rifle World Long Range Championships and Palma Match have now been postponed to March 2024. Information about these events is available on the SABU (South African Bisley Union) website.

Open coaching and training prior to team selection for these events is being planned. More details soon.

Malcolm Dodson
NRANZ President