

Sporter/Hunter class. November 2016 / revised October 2022

Purpose of this class

The idea of a Sporter/Hunter class is to get back to the concept of using a cheaper rifle that is commonly available, used by thousands of existing shooters, and with the intention of them joining and shooting in NRANZ clubs.

The rules are designed to ensure the intent of using a practical, walk-around hunting rifle is maintained. By not having to purchase specialized equipment to compete in this class, this class may appeal to a wider group of firearms users. These shooters could start joining and competing immediately, thereby bringing new members into NRANZ rifle clubs.

NRANZ Clubs are encouraged to support this competition at the local level with the view to consider any improvements to the rules for the future. Given an increase in members competing in Sport/Hunter Class NRANZ will move to consider the national development of the class.

Reviews of the class rules will be undertaken by the normal remit procedure.

Rules

1. A competition for standard factory hunting rifles of any calibre that do not exceed the energy limits on NRANZ ranges.
2. Rifle weight will not exceed 4.5 kg (9.94 lb) and if a bipod or suppressor is fitted then they are included in the all-up weight of the rifle.
3. Any sights, open aperture, or optical up to 10x magnification may be used.
4. Ammunition can be handloads or factory ammunition using hunting or match bullets that will work in the standard factory twist rates for that calibre.
5. Rifles may be re-barrelled if necessary, but where possible, the replacement must be the same twist rate and profile as the factory original. Where the exact same twist rate is not reasonably available in a replacement barrel, a twist rate of no more than 1 inch rate up or down may be used but the profile must follow the factory original.
6. Rifles may be bedded in their stocks for best performance, but any other modifications from standard, such as Bull-barrels, or barrel fluting to stay within weight, that are seen to be pursuing an unfair advantage are banned. In any competition The Match director/Range Officer has the final say on whether a rifle meets the intent of a practical, walk-around hunting rifle.
7. Matches are to be as recommended by the event organisers on standard NRANZ targets. Scoring to be 5 & V. Normal time limits for ranges to apply.
8. Rifles may only be supported by a backpack or a hunting bipod (Harris, Caldwell, or similar) but no rear bag or other rear support can be used. Only the front of the rifle may be supported. The rifle must be held in the hands, clear of the ground.