

# **Rimfire Rifle Falling Plates**

Laguna Seca Shooting Sports Association  
Rimfire Rifle Falling Plate Match SOP  
Date of Adoption 04.02.2012

## **Competitor Eligibility**

All competitors with proper firearms and safety equipment are eligible to participate in the Rimfire Rifle Falling Plate Match (RRFP).

## **Match Director**

The Match Director will have complete control of the range and will conduct the match on scheduled dates. He is responsible for range safety and enforcement of all the rules. Match Director may function in the role as a Range Officer.

## **Range Officer**

The range officer is responsible for the safety of range personnel, competitors, and spectators in the section of the range he has been assigned. His duties include:

- Checks firearms to make sure they are unloaded, safe and have an empty chamber indicator installed.
- Gives range commands.
- Calls competitors to the firing line.
- Is responsible for the accurate recording of shots and scoring of results.
- Receives protests and passes them on to the Match Director.

## **Safety**

Safety rules shall be strictly enforced. Two violations in any single match is automatic disqualification. Safety violations will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:

- Pointing an unloaded rifle up range.
- Dropping an unloaded rifle.
- Leaving the firing area with a loaded rifle.
- Any accidental discharge. This includes discharge while loading or clearing a rifle.
- Unsafe gun handling, not keeping the muzzle up when transporting firearm from one location to another.
- Not Having Empty Chamber Indicator installed in .22 rimfire firearm while transporting firearm from one location to another.

Immediate disqualification violations will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:

- Pointing a loaded rifle up range breaking the 180 rule. The 180 is an imaginary line separating up range from down range.
- Dropping a loaded rifle.
- Any shot fired into the ground less than six feet down range from the firing line or in a direction deemed unsafe by the Range Officer.
- Picking up a dropped rifle, except under the direction of a Range Officer or Match Director.
- Displays disruptive behavior or is abusive (verbal or otherwise) towards the Match Director, Range Officers another competitor or spectator
- Competitors not familiar in the safe operation of their firearm.

Falling plate matches function on a “cold range” basis. Unloaded firearms may be handled only in designated areas and on safe tables. Firearms may only be loaded or unloaded at the direction of the Range Officer.

## **Course of Fire**

The course will be 6 eight inch round steel plates one foot apart, edge-to edge. They will be 4 feet above the ground level to the bottom edge. The course will be divided into 4 stages; each stage will have two strings, 6 shots per string, 48 shots total. Stages:

- 50 yards offhand - 6 shots in 15 seconds, 2 strings
- 75 yards kneeling (or standing)-6 shots in 20 seconds, 2 strings
- 100 yards sitting – 6 shots in 25 seconds, 2 strings
- 100 yards bench rest – 6 shots in 25 seconds 2 strings

Shooter’s starting position will be muzzle pointing down range. Each shooter may request 2 sighters rounds per distance position.

No reshoots allowed for defective guns, ammunition or for other malfunctions of the shooters equipment.

## **Scoring**

The 8-inch steel plate must be knocked down to score as a hit; each hit is scored with 1 point. If a plate falls, for whatever reason, during a string of fire it will be considered a hit.

Any round fired over the allotted time within the designated number will not be scored.

Tie scores will be determined by a shoot-off. The competitors will repeat the 100 yard bench rest stage with the time limit reduced by 5 seconds. The number of plates knocked until a plate is missed shall determine the placement of the shooter in first, second or third place. The time limit shall be reduced by 5 additional seconds after every string of fire.

- All competitors who shoot in the match will receive 1 participation point.
- First place will receive 3 match points.
- Second place will receive 2 match points.
- Third place will receive 1 match point.

## Range Commands

- **Load and make ready with 6 rounds and 6 rounds only;** The shooter now may take a sight picture, load their firearm and assume the starting position as defined in the course of fire.
- **Shooters are you ready:** The Range Officer asks if the shooters are ready to proceed. If the shooter is not ready to proceed it is their responsibility to inform the Range Officer that they are not ready.
- **Stand by:** This is the verbal signal given by the Range Officer (once he is satisfied, that it is safe to proceed with the string) to the shooters that the start signal will follow soon.
- **Start signal:** The signal for the shooters to start the course of fire. The signal will be an audible from an electronic timing device.
- **Unload and show clear:** The shooters will unload and hold their rifle in position that allows the Range Officer to confirm the firearm is unloaded.
- **Shooters put a chamber flag in your rifle and place it on the table:** The Range Officer gives this command when he determines the shooters rifles are unloaded and can be placed on the tables.
- **Range is cold:** This command given by the Range Officer(s) indicated the range is safe. No one shall move forward on the range until this command is given.
- **Stop:** This command given at any time by anyone if an unsafe condition exists. The competitors must immediately cease firing, stop moving, and wait for further instructions from the Range Office.

## Firearms, Equipment and Ammunition

- **Rimfire Firearms:** Any semi-automatic, lever, pump, bolt-action rifle chambered for .22-rimfire ammunition, which is serviceable and safe.
- **Rimfire ammunition:** Any .22 rimfire ammunition ( with the exception of .22 Magnum and .17 caliber/HMR which could damage the steel plates)
- **Hearing Protection:** All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the firing line are required to wear earplugs, earmuffs, or similar hearing protection. Electronic hearing protection that amplifies weak sound at the same time blocking out loud, harmful noise are recommended.
- **Eye protection:** All competitors and other personnel anywhere on the range are required to wear eye protection.

Note: These rules should be considered as guidelines only and are subject to change at any time by the Match Director in the interests of safety, sportsmanship and or other considerations.

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