

2021 National Rifle League's Rules and Regulations

Official 2021 Rules and Regulations as written by the 2021 Board of Directors and the Director of Match Operations.

This document is to be updated yearly by the current Board of Directors To give athletes, aspiring athletes, and the community the most compelling competitive shooting experience possible.

NRL is the premier precision rifle advocacy & support organization.

We are a non-profit engine of impacts that empowers organizations and athletes in precision rifle by providing education and opportunities for growth.

These activities are designed to develop marksmanship skills for those participating in this discipline, and to educate the public about firearm safety.

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 its Match Director.

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Section 1, NRL Organization and Responsibilities

A. Executive Staff.

The NRL 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 2021 season, the Executive staff is as follows:

1. President / Founder - Travis Ishida
2. Executive Director / Co-Founder - Tyler Frehner
3. Marketing Director / Co-Founder - Brittney Weldon
4. Managing Director of Match Operations - Scott Satterlee

B. Board of Directors

The NRL has 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 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 2021 season is as follows:

1. Jim See of Iowa
2. Jake Vibbert of Washington
3. Paul Dallin / Verl Dallin of Utah
4. Dusty Brixner / Scotty Friedline of New Mexico
5. Aaron Menze of Minnesota
6. Doug Straus of North Dakota
7. Aaron Gines / Paul Higley / Tony Peterson of Utah
8. Lee Anderson of Nebraska
9. Josh Botha of Calgary, Alberta, CA
10. Erick Findley of Texas
11. Jacob & Lisa Bynum of Texas
12. Chaz Macrander of Nebraska
13. Seth Howard & Nate Lauerman of Idaho
14. Robert Quigley & Kreat Lewis of Colorado

Section 2, Safety

A. General Rifle Safety

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

B. Rifle Safety While at a NRL Match

1. NRL 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 at all times so that anyone can identify an unloaded rifle. The rifle may only be loaded and chamber flag removed at the discretion of the Range Officer. Once the stage is complete, the magazine shall be removed, bolt in the rearward position and chamber flag inserted before the rifle is removed from the firing line.
2. Only ground rifles in a proper rifle rack, or wherever the Range Officer designates as a safe location and direction.
3. When moving to another shooting location, always ensure the rifle is pointed in a safe direction.

C. Rifle Safety During Your Stage

1. Always wait for the Range Officer's command of "load and make ready" until you remove your chamber flag and insert magazine.
2. Stages always begin with magazine in and bolt to the rear unless specifically directed by the match booklet and the Range Officer.
3. 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.
4. 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

1. 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. The only violation that will be issued to having a live round in the chamber while not shooting shall be a match DQ.
2. Muzzling and/or violating the 180 rule: Muzzling is pointing or sweeping another person's body with the muzzle of a rifle. There will be no warnings of this unsafe act. If any shooter muzzles any other attendee, that action shall result in match DQ and removal from competition. It will be the duty of the RO to inform the MD of the infraction, and the MD's call to issue the match DQ. The rifle would be in hand to be considered a flagging offense. While walking in front of a grounded rifle is not best practice, it is not a flagging offense. Rifle owner shall ground the rifle in safe direction / designated areas.
3. 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".
4. 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.
5. 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. The shooter will receive a zero for that stage, and all follow up stages will be forfeited during this down time.
6. False Starts: Firing before the start signal will result in a zero for the stage.
7. 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.

E. Match safety briefing

The following shall be read prior to the start of the competition. This briefing will also be at the top of the rules for easy access.

Match safety briefing:

1. Always point your rifle in a safe direction. Never point a rifle at anything you don't intend to kill or destroy. Only ground your rifle where you are instructed to by a Range Officer. If you point your rifle at anyone else you shall be disqualified.

2. Always keep your rifle unloaded until ready to use. Only load the rifle when instructed to by a Range Officer. With the exception of when it is your turn to shoot, rifles are always cold at NRL events. This means the magazine is out and bolt back with chamber flags inserted. Violation for breaking this rule will be a warning on the first offence. A second violation will be a stage disqualification. A third violation will be a match disqualification.
3. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to fire. If you have a negligent discharge, you will be disqualified. If you have an accidental discharge / mechanical failure, you will receive a zero for that stage and all follow up stages until the rifle is repaired.
4. In the event of an emergency, the Range Officer shall immediately declare cease fire which will be echoed down the firing line. The Range Officer shall then size up the situation and relay by radio the situation to the Match Director. The Match Director will activate the 911 system and the primary medical responder. The primary medical responder will obtain the NRL trauma kit and treat the patient.
5. The 911 system is: YOUR MEDIVAC PLAN
6. The primary medical responder is: YOUR PRIMARY MEDICAL RESPONDER
7. The NRL trauma kit is: ITS LOCATION
8. Identify any other medical personnel.
9. Are there any questions?

Section 3, Match Format

A. NRL's Responsibilities

1. The NRL will provide a NRL Executive staff member virtually and at times physically on-site 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.
2. Provide marketing support
3. 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.
4. Shop for and promote sponsors through marketing efforts. Equally distribute sponsor products to all NRL matches and Championship match.

B. Shooters Responsibilities

1. Shooters should always treat Match Directors and Range Officers with respect. 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.

2. Shooters in the Precision Rifle discipline are regarded as the most professional and highly educated in any discipline. All participants in NRL 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.
3. It is the shooters responsibility to know the NRL Rules and Regulations prior to a competition.
4. Shooters should actively participate in any stage briefing to move the shoot along smoothly.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Sponsors are very important to the NRL. It is encouraged that the shooter writes emails thanking the sponsors that supported the competition.
8. If a shooter finishes high enough (first to third place) to receive a check from the NRL, the shooter must be a member before the event starts to be awarded the check.

C. Match Directors Responsibilities

1. Match Directors are responsible for the overall direction of a match. He or she is the person in charge at that event.
2. Match Directors also serve on the Board of Advisors for the NRL.
3. Match Directors shall provide a Match Booklet to all shooters.
4. Match Directors shall provide enough Range Officers to ensure administration of the match is top quality. It is encouraged that at least 1 Range Officers be provided per stage, and at least 2 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.
5. Match Directors shall have a means of having YG competitors identified such as tagging their rifle, the YG wearing a marker, etc so that it is apparent the YG may be coached.
6. 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.
7. Match Directors must utilize targets that ensure a quality, challenging course of fire. It is the goal of the NRL to ensure that Match Directors maintain the ability to be creative in their design. However, the guidelines for target size shall be 2 MOA maximum for prone supported shots, and 3 MOA maximum for all other shots. This measurement is in reference to the smallest diameter of the particular target.
8. Match Directors shall provide a 20-minute arbitration period for shooters to review scores and issue grievances if necessary. Once the arbitration period is complete, scores are then final. At no time and for no reason will scores or results be altered after this period. If individuals come forward any time after the arbitration period has ended, the reasons will

be noted and followed up with the Match Director, but scores, placements, prizes and checks will not be recalled.

9. Match Directors must provide match scores within 3 days of the completion of their match to the NRL. 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.
10. Sponsors are very important to the NRL. Match Directors are encouraged to pass along an email to all shooters after the competition with the email address for every sponsor.
11. Match Directors shall be members of the NRL at the time registration opens for their match.

D. Range Officers Responsibilities

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The role of Range Officer is essential to the competition and the NRL 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 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 match.

E. Specific Competition Rules

1. A NRL competition shall consist of at least 140 rounds fired, and at least 12 individual stages. Shoots shall have at least 50 shooters and take place over the course of at least

two days. Competition scores will be valid should a substitute match or sanctioned match not have at least 50 shooters, upon executive approval. Having a sight in period is mandatory and having at least a few targets out at distance is encouraged due to environmental factors. If weather or acts of God alter the competition, the competition scores will be valid if the intention of the competition meets the previous guidelines.

2. 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.
3. In a timed stage, shots taken up to .25 seconds after the clock are still eligible for points.
4. 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.
5. No shooter may be allowed to assist in forming the stages course of fire.
6. 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.
7. There will be a tiebreaker stage at every NRL 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. If the shooter does not fire all of the rounds in the course of fire the time will be based off of the last shot fired. 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 is everyone versus everyone, designated as open class; all shooters 12 and older, who sign up for open class, are eligible for awards in all matches and season series standings, simply the best shooter wins.

In addition, 2 classes shall exist as a means to be inclusive and responsive to the goal of expanding the sport for all ages and genders;

1. Women's class. Shooters in this class must be females. Competitors signed up for this class shall be eligible for the women class and open class awards, in all matches and

season series standings. Women's class is open to all females age 12 and up who wish to compete with and be score tracked with Women competitors.

2. Young Guns (YG) class. Specifically designed to foster training and sportsmanship among our newest shooters. YG will be male or female shooters between the ages of 12-17 at the time of the first match of the season, and who sign up for membership as Young Gun competitors within the grace period (Note - a parent or guardian must be present with a minor during match events). The YG competitor may be coached on the clock during all stages of an event. YG are only eligible for YG awards / recognitions for this reason. If a Young Gun gains the experience to compete with adults, they may choose to class up at the start of the following season by registering in either Open or Women. By doing so, they forfeit any YG points and benefit programs designed for YG, and must abide by all rules of the class they register for.

B. Equipment

1. Rifles shall be any caliber between 223 Remington to 300 Winchester Magnum 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.
2. Rifles can be Bolt action or Semi Automatic.
3. The shooter should only use one rifle for the competition. If the competitor's rifle has a malfunction, the shooter shall be able to use a backup or loaner rifle so long as the replacement is of similar caliber. The Match Director must be notified when an equipment malfunction occurs. The shooter shall demonstrate the failure to the match director and obtain permission to utilize the backup rifle.

C. Scoring

1. Match points may only be obtained by NRL members. If a shooter is not a member, they have 7-day grace period after the event to obtain membership and the points be counted. If the membership is being obtained after the event for points to be counted, the membership classification and recognized NRL points shall be what that individual participated as / received recognition for, in that event.
2. Match points will be acquired by shooting one of the thirteen sanctioned NRL competitions.
3. Scores shall be awarded by a combination of percentage and placement for a total possible score of 100.
 - Percentage is described as follows: 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

- Placement is described as follows: The match winner will be awarded 100 points. All others will be awarded points in relation to the amount of shooters at the match and the placement of the shooter. (For example, if the shoot has 100 attendees and the shooter finishes in 4th place, the shooter would earn 96 points)
 - In the above examples if that shooter obtained 93.14% of the winner's score at a 100 person shoot in which he or she finished 4th, the score would be 189.14. This score will then to divided by 2 for the final score of 94.57.
4. Once a competitor has begun the COF all points acquired will be maintained regardless of shooter status at the conclusion of the match.

D. Championship Qualification

1. Shooters may shoot as many competitions as they like. However, only the competitor's three (3) best match scores will count toward the season point's race and Championship qualification.
2. Season points will be tallied by the NRL and displayed on the NRL website. Rankings will be determined by the best score.
3. The top 90 shooters based on their season points will qualify for participation in the NRL Championship.
4. The top 5 shooters in Woman's class and Young Guns class will qualify for the NRL championship, if they do not qualify with their "season points" alone.
5. 20 shooters shall qualify for the NRL championship from the Border War series. These 20 spots shall be distributed to the regions proportionately to the number of members per region at the conclusion of the season. Qualifications shall be to the top ranking shooters of each region by points who are not otherwise qualified for the championship match. In order to qualify, the competitor must be a NRL member.
6. The NRL executive staff will be allotted 5 spots to be awarded to sponsors.
7. 10 spots will be allotted for international shooters.
8. There will be no other way of gaining entry except as described above, and all championship shooters must be NRL members.

E. Championship Match and Scoring

1. The NRL will be responsible for conducting a Championship match at the end of the season.
2. Championship match points will be calculated as previously defined and will be worth double the amount of a regular season match. So, first place will be worth 200 points at the championship match.
3. The Season Champion and the rest of the rankings will be determined by adding the three best scores with the Championship matches points.
4. Shooters will be recognized and walk the prize table according to that combined score.
5. Specific 2021 Season Trophy Recognitions:
 1. 1-5 Overall Season
 2. 1-3 Women Season
 3. 1-3 Young Guns Season
6. Specific 2021 Championship Match Trophy Recognitions:
 1. 1-5 Overall Match
 2. 1 Women Match
 3. 1 Young Guns Match

Section 5, Sportsmanship

A. Good Sportsmanship.

1. Good Sportsmanship is one of the founding principles of the NRL and is highly regarded by the NRL 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.
2. The NRL will have a special trophy presented to a shooter at the Championship match whom the NRL Board of Directors votes as deserving.

B. Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

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

C. Cheating

1. The NRL defines cheating as: acting dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage in competition. Examples of cheating are:
2. Sabotaging another shooters equipment.
3. Assisting in writing any course of fire or obtaining the course of fire prior to the match.
4. Exceeding the velocity of 3200 FPS or using a cartridge above 300 Winchester Magnum.
5. Altering or destruction of score sheets.
6. Any other act as deemed unfair/cheating by a Range Officer or Match Director.

7. Any assistance given or received while on the clock will be a stage DQ for both competitors. The only exception is for the coached class.

D. Penalties for Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Cheating

1. Any shooter who is deemed as acting in an unsportsmanlike fashion will be subject to any penalty that the Match Director deems appropriate including warnings; stage zeros and/or matches DQ and being removed from competition.
2. The only penalty appropriate for cheating shall be the Match Director issuing a match DQ and being removed from competition.
3. In the event of a competitor being removed from a competition for cheating or unsportsmanlike conduct no match points will be awarded.

E. Reports to the Board of Directors.

1. Upon completion of an NRL 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.
2. 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.
3. If any competitor was deemed as cheating, the Board of Directors will conduct a vote in which it will be determined the discipline of the competitor. Regardless of the decision, the Director of Match Operations will inform that shooter of the Board's decision by phone call.