

NRA COMPETITIVE SHOOTING BEGINNING COMPETITORS GUIDE



*Includes Tips on Being a Good Competitor,
Competitive Shooting Price Guide, and the
NRA Sanctioned Match Equipment Checklist*

TIPS ON BEING A GOOD COMPETITOR

Prepared by the NRA Competitive Shooting Division

Tournament Officials are not the only ones who have duties at a match. The success of any match depends as much on competitors as it does on the proper functioning of the Tournament Officials. Match personnel and competitors must work together during a tournament.

Here are some general rules which, if practiced consistently, will contribute to the smooth operation of any match as well as making you a welcome addition to that competition.

Know the Program

The only way to know both what to expect at a match, as well as what is expected of you, is to GET A COPY OF THE PROGRAM AND READ IT THOROUGHLY. Saying “I did not know that” is not going to make any difference to the other competitors or to a jury. The conditions under which the match is going to be fired are listed in the program. Once you have paid your entry fee, you have accepted those conditions. Familiarizing yourself with the program in advance is the only way to be sure that you will be free to concentrate on your shooting.

Check Your Equipment

The night before you leave for a match, get ALL your equipment together in one place and make sure you have everything you will need. Be sure that your ammo is correct for the gun you will be shooting, and that you have enough for the course of fire planned. Take along a screwdriver, pencil or ballpoint pen (fiber tips are terrible in the rain) and your eye and ear protection. Even if you do not normally wear glasses, and you are sure shooting .22 caliber will not bother you, eye and ear protection is a *necessity*. Many ranges have a mandatory eye and ear protection requirement. Do not forget the rain gear—you would rather have it and not need it than the other way around. Be sure to take your data book, classification card or Silhouette record book and your NRA membership card. There is a checklist at the end of this publication which you can use to help get organized before you leave home. Eventually, most of the above will become automatic, but it never hurts to use your checklist each time.

Guns and Ammunition

Make absolutely certain that the gun or guns you are going to use are clean, in the best of condition, zeroed, and legal for the tournament. Where appropriate, you will want to take along extra magazines or clips. Again, be sure you have enough ammunition to complete the tournament, including extras for possible refires or shootoffs. You would hate to forfeit a match because you ran out of ammunition halfway through a shootoff.

Know the Rules

How well do you know the rules? All competitive shooters, novice or experienced, should have a copy of the current rulebook for the discipline they are shooting, and should be familiar with it. If a rule is unclear to you, ask a tournament official or the Official Referee for help, or contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at **1-877-NRA-MATCH** or **competitions@nrahq.org** for clarification. There are two important things to remember about the rules:

- 1) The rules apply to everyone, from a High Master with several National Championships to his/her credit to a Marksman attending his second match.
- 2) You may not agree with all the rules, but you must follow them.

Contact Information

NRA Program Materials Center - For rulebooks, scoring aids, etc.
1-800-336-7402 or online at **<http://materials.nrahq.org>**

NRA Competitive Shooting Division - For general information, tournament sanctioning, etc.
1-877-NRA-MATCH or online at **<http://www.nrahq.org/compete>**



Key Technicalities

There are a few details not generally covered by rulebooks or tournament programs, but which are important:

- 1) Be sure your entry card is filled out completely, correctly, and *legibly*. Include current classification and special category, when appropriate. Your NRA ID number is required as it is the key to your records.
- 2) At any match where competitors score for each other, you must make neat, legible figures. There must be no question whether a figure is a “1” or a “7”, and each box on the scorecard must be properly filled in with a figure. For example, in High Power Rifle matches, a miss is an “M”, it is not an empty space, a dash, or anything else. In any match, an “X” in the first box, followed by a line through the next nine boxes DOES NOT mean 10 X’s, but 1 X and 9 misses.
- 3) The shooter also has a responsibility to make sure the score fired has been marked on the card properly, and if not, to take the proper steps to change it through the Range Officer. Never sign your scorecard until you have fired the match and have verified the shot values and total score shown on the card. Once you and the scorer have signed the card, you have accepted the shot values indicated and have no appeal.
- 4) Know the difference between a “challenge” and a “protest.” You challenge the evaluation of a particular shot. You protest: a) any injustice you feel has been done to you (except the evaluation of a target); b) the conditions under which another shooter has been permitted to fire; or c) the equipment which another competitor has been permitted to use.
- 5) Be punctual. Better than being punctual, get there early. An hour is sometimes not too long to get squadding, get out your gear, and be ready to participate. If the program states the match begins at 8:00 a.m., you can be 99% sure that the first relay will be on the line at 8:00 a.m. ready to shoot. Allow yourself plenty of time to get to the match, especially if the location of the range is unfamiliar to you. Arriving late and rushing about to get yourself and your equipment ready is almost guaranteed to ruin your shooting day, so give yourself plenty of time. If you arrive after the three minute preparation period, you might not be able to shoot at all.
- 6) Do not be afraid to go to your first match. Everyone has to start somewhere. Provided you follow the rules, other shooters are always happy and willing to answer questions and help you along.
- 7) Offer to help out. The vast majority of tournaments are conducted by just a handful of volunteers. Extra help is always welcome. Granted, you have paid your entry fee and are entitled to devote your attention to your shooting, but you can still offer to police the range after the match, put away equipment or any number of other tasks. Without the people who give up their shooting time in order to provide it to others, there would not be a tournament, so do your part as a competitor.
- 8) Be sure clothing worn to a tournament reflects your concern for comfort and safety as well as recognition on your part that competitive shooting should be represented in as positive a matter as possible. Especially when TV or other media coverage will take place, attire should be in good taste in order to enhance the image of this sport being conveyed to the general public. In some cases, inappropriate clothing could be the basis for a match sponsor not allowing a competitor to compete.
- 9) Enjoy yourself. Sometimes it is hard to remember, keep in mind that matches are great fun and are populated by the nicest people in the world—other shooters.
- 10) Know the rulebook. A working knowledge of the rules for your discipline can prove invaluable in case of protest.



NRA COMPETITIVE SHOOTING DIVISION PRICE GUIDE

Rulebooks



CR16750 - Smallbore Rifle.....	\$3.25
CH16420 - High Power Rifle.....	\$3. 25
CP16650 - Conventional Pistol.....	\$3. 25
CC16410 - BB Gun.....	\$3.25
CS16820 - Silhouette Rifle.....	\$3.25
CS16830 - Silhouette Pistol.....	\$3.50
CA16330 - Action Pistol Shooting.....	\$3.25
CH16430 - High Power Sporting Rifle.....	\$3.25
CI 16490 - International Rifle.....	\$3.25
CI 16500 - International Pistol.....	\$3.25
CB16390 - Black Powder Target Rifle.....	\$3.25
CB16380 - Muzzle Loading Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun.....	\$3.25
CA16320 - Sporter Air Rifle.....	\$3.25
CA16310 - Precision Air Rifle.....	\$3.25

Scorecards and Scoring Aids



CS16810 - SR-7 Black Powder Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CA16350 - SR-45 Action Pistol Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CT16930 - SR-1 Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CT16940 - SR-1A Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CT17350 - SR-3 Team Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CT17360 - SR-5/6 Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CT17390 - SR-23 Cards - National Match Course (pk/50)....	\$0.00
CT17400 - SR-34 Team Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CI 16510 - SR-9 Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CS19450 - SR-72 Silhouette Score Cards (pk/50).....	\$0.00
CS19440 - Stat. Office Score Sheet (pad of 50).....	\$5.00
CS19460 - Silhouette Paper Target Scoring Overlay.....	\$7.00
CT17170 - SR-31 Bulletin Sheet (Singles).....	\$1.00
CT17180 - Smallbore Rifle (Plastic) Scoring Aid.....	\$4.50
CT17190 - .177 Air Gun (Plastic) Scoring Aid Overlay.....	\$5.00
CT17200 - SR-59 Statistical Office Bulletin (PK/10).....	\$2.50
CT17220 - Pistol Intl. (Plastic) Scoring Aid & Skid Gauge..	\$4.00
CT17280 - 50 Ft. Pistol (Plastic) Scoring Aid 6"x13".....	\$5.50
CT17410 - SR-31A Bulletin Sheet (Pad/25).....	\$15.00
CT17540 - CIP-17 Handicap Table (Drop Point System)....	\$4.50
CS19430 - Silhouette Bulletin Sheet.....	\$2.00

Miscellaneous



CP19680 - Developing a Scholastic Shooting Program.....	\$6.00
CS17630 - Paper Silhouette Target Brochure.....	\$0.50
CT17010 - Year-Round Shooting Programs Brochure.....	\$0.50
CT17510 - Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) (25-Pack).....	\$15.00
CT17515 - .22 ECI (50-Pack).....	\$27.75
CT17550 - Tournament Operations Guide.....	\$5.50
CT17560 - Certificate of Appreciation	\$1.25
CT19710 - NRA Guide to Comp. Shooting Programs.....	\$3.00
CT17580 - Tripod Shooting Stool.....	\$10.00
CT17000 - High Power Rifle Brochure.....	\$1.50
CT17020 - Smallbore Rifle Brochure.....	\$0.50
CT17025 - Light Rifle Shooting Brochure.....	\$0.50
CT17050 - Action Pistol Shooting Brochure.....	\$0.75
CC19510 - Air Gun Competition Brochure.....	\$1.50
CS17620 - Silhouette Shooting Brochure.....	\$1.50
CT17040P - Conventional Pistol Shooting Brochure.....	\$1.50
CC19715 - Air Gun CO2 Safety Poster.....	\$2.50
CC19725 - Air Gun Compressed Air Safety Poster.....	\$2.50

Order Items from:

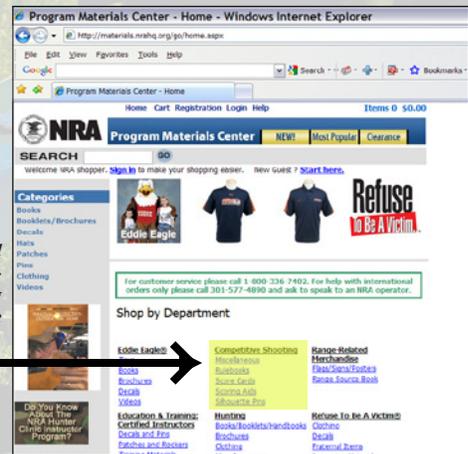
NRA PROGRAM MATERIAL CENTER

The NRA Program Materials Center is viewable online at:

<http://materials.nrahq.org>

Click under the heading "Competitive Shooting" for Competitive Shooting Division items.

The yellow shaded box is where Competitive Shooting Division items are located.



Or

Call 1-800-336-7402. An operator will be happy to assist you with your purchase.

Please note: This catalog shows current-year prices. Materials and prices are subject to change without notice.



EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| _____ guns | _____ shooting stool/equipment bag or box |
| _____ data book/diary | _____ stopwatch |
| _____ ammunition | _____ wind indicator (if allowed) |
| _____ NRA Classification Card | _____ sight blacking |
| _____ eye protection | _____ target clips |
| _____ ear protection | _____ ammo block |
| _____ spotting scope/extension rods | _____ tournament program |
| _____ sling | _____ directions to range |
| _____ small tool set | _____ food/beverages |
| _____ glove | _____ apertures |
| _____ shooting hat | _____ sights/scopes |
| _____ shooting jacket/vest | _____ sweatshirts |
| _____ shooting pants | _____ rain gear |
| _____ side shields for glasses | _____ mirage strap |
| _____ boots | _____ NRA Rulebook |
| _____ kneeling roll | _____ cleaning gear |
| _____ shooting mat | _____ handstop |
| _____ clips/magazines | _____ rifle accessories |
| _____ gun lubrication | _____ pens/pencils |



HELPFUL NRA COMPETITIVE SHOOTING SPORTS INFORMATION

Competitors may now sign up to receive periodic e-mail updates and monthly E-News on NRA Competitive Shooting programs, rule changes, and other related subjects. To subscribe, go to: http://www.nrahq.org/compete/list_signup.asp
 NRA Rulebooks are located online at: <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/nra-rule-books.asp>

For the latest NRA Competitive Shooting Sports updates, please subscribe to the digital edition of *Shooting Sports USA*. You can find the magazine online here:
<http://nrpublications.org/ssusa>



Click the blue link to view the online version of *Shooting Sports USA*.



Competitive Shooting Division Directory

Collegiate & Schools Dept.	703-267-1473	collegiate@nrahq.org
Disabled Shooting Services	703-267-1495	disabled-shooting@nrahq.org
Division Administration	703-267-1480	compadmin@nrahq.org
Rifle: High Power Rifle	703-267-1479	nrahighpower@nrahq.org
Rifle: Smallbore/Air Gun	703-267-1456	sbrifle@nrahq.org
Silhouette Dept.	703-267-1456	silhouette@nrahq.org
Tournament Operations Dept.	703-267-1466	tournopns@nrahq.org
Tournament Reporting Dept.	703-267-1454	tournrpts@nrahq.org
Volunteers Dept.	703-267-1485	volunteer@nrahq.org
Marketing/Sponsorship	703-267-1469	comp-marketing@nrahq.org
NRA Action Pistol	703-267-1478	actionpistol@nrahq.org
Pistol Dept.	703-267-1452	pistol@nrahq.org

The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling are:

- **ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

When using or storing a gun always follow these NRA rules:

- Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- Know how to safely use the gun.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.

To learn about gun safety, enroll in an NRA safety or basic marksmanship course. Visit this website:

<http://www.nrainstructors.org/searchcourse.aspx>

