

2021 National Championships – Smallbore Rifle

Coaches and Parents,

I want to thank each of you for your support in this event and for supporting 4H youth in their participation. I look forward to meeting all of you in a few weeks in Nebraska. I will soon be setting up the rosters for the matches. Since it has been a couple years since the event was held, I expect many of you to be new to the event and the protocol. With Covid issues to deal with, things will be a little different in trying to maintain social distancing. Our staff will do our best to help keep everyone safe.

The first activity where we will meet, is the firearms Check In. This is usually a very crowded time. We will attempt to spread things out as much as possible. Shooters can only check in one firearm for each event. You can bring a backup, and many do this, but only one for each event can be registered at the initial check. If you later need to switch guns, we will be able to perform the weight and trigger test at the range. If you are using the same firearm for silhouette and CMP, we will not tape the scope at check-in. You will need to get it rechecked and taped after shooting the Silhouette event.

Silhouette

We may not have as many shooters as in the past so the number of relays may be reduced. We will still try to have 32 firing points in Silhouette. I will squad two shooters from each team to shoot together in pairs. One will fire with the other serving as their spotter. When completed, the other will fire. The remaining two team members will be working on the same relay (in most cases) serving as the target setter and scorer for shooters from a different state. We will have a separate bank of targets set for each shooter so no reset will be done until both shooters are completed and ready to move to the next animal. At that time, shooters will case firearms and move to a new firing point while both of the target setter/scorer persons go down range to reset targets. When they are back to the line, and everyone is in place, we will shoot on the next animal. The same setter/scorer pair will stay with their shooters the entire relay. Parents and coaches will not be resetting or moving equipment and should remain behind the shooting area.

Since there are 8 firing points for each animal, the points for each animal will be marked 1-8. You will set up on the same number for each animal. Odd numbered points (1,3,5,7) will fire first, followed by even numbered points (2,4,6,8). The same spotter/setter persons will score and reset for each two points and will move with their shooters. We will have numbers on each target bank, but it is the shooters responsibility to shoot targets on the correct bank. **Crossfires and targets hit out of order will be scored as a miss.**

As mentioned in earlier posts, the targets will be set at 40 yd, 60 yd, 77yd and 100 yd due to limits of the range. Targets will be white. 5 on top row, 5 on bottom. The bottom row will be shot first. There will be black cloth posted several feet behind the target bank to improve visibility. Due to the range topography, the targets may be set at a little lower elevation to the shooter. There will be a table at each firing point. The shooter can place their rifle case on the table or beneath it. The shooter can stand on either side of the table but must be at a point where the muzzle is across the firing line. The person spotting can be setup directly behind them. The firing line is not covered, but shades will be located directly behind the shooting area that can be used when not shooting. Shooter will need to case firearms before moving to the next point.

Line movement will be from chickens to pigs, to turkeys, to rams. Everyone will move behind the firing line except those shooters traveling from rams to chickens. They will walk in front of the line since they are traveling in the opposite direction of the other shooters and have to most distance to travel. For this group, we make the exception to allow coaches to assist in moving spotting scopes if needed.

I would like to hear from you, if you have a preference for how your team members are paired up. If there is no feedback they will be squadded as listed on the roster. I also need to know if shooters on your team are sharing any equipment. Shooters may share the same rifle when shooting silhouette, but they may not shoot it together on the same relay. My email is: joebruch@hotmail.com

Each year we get questions regarding coaching. A shooter may request to leave the line at any time with permission from an RO to consult with the coach. The coach may not initiate conversation with the shooter. Also our range officers will try to be as helpful as possible for minor issues. Our main concern is safety for all and keeping the competition fair for all.

CMP

For CMP match, we plan to have two target frames set for each position. We will place the first sighter target on top of one of the frames with the slow and rapid targets on the bottom of each frame for the prone stage. We will not go down range until targets are changed for the sitting. kneeling stage. Targets will be placed a little higher for the sitting kneeling stage. Slow fire on the left, Rapid fire on the right.

We will have sandbags positioned at the 25 yd mark and shooter will assist moving target frames back to that point to shoot the standing stage.

3 Position

We may mount all three targets on frames to limit trips down range: Standing target on top left, Prone on bottom left, and Kneeling on middle right. This depends on the frames.

We are trying to reduce trips down range which really slow down the match.

Preparation times will be limited. The initial setup time will be longer but preps between stages will be a bit shorter. Shooters can be doing preparation for the next stage as soon as they finish shooting in their current stage.

Practice sessions

In the past, teams have crowded the firing points during practice sessions to get in as much shooting as possible. This will not be permitted due to social distance limitations. Once to final number of entries are known a practice session bay assignment will be prepared. Each state will be allowed some time to check rifle zeros, but a full-on practice match will not be possible.

The shooting and practice session rosters will be posted at the check in and can be viewed or photographed. Please check the posting at the range each day in case some change must be made. As a final reminder, we draw three names for each shooting relay. The shooters selected will be notified as soon as they are done shooting and will need to bring their rifles to the stats office or control location to be rechecked for weight/trigger/optic compliance. Failure to pass the requirements may result in a penalty.

I wish each of your teams' success in the competition.

Joe Bruch

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