

Minneapolis/ Richfield



Post 435 Gun Club



Introduction to NRA Highpower Rifle

There are 3 different types of NRA High Power Rifle matches, Across or Over the Course, Mid-Range and Long-Range. An Over the Course or OTC match is fired at 200, 300 and 600 yards from the standing, sitting and prone positions. A Mid-Range match is fired at 300, 500 and 600 yards from the prone position. A Long-Range match is fired at ranges starting at 800 yards but must contain at least 1 string of fire at 1000 yards and like Mid-Range, is fired from the prone position.

This primer is focused on Over the Course matches. An OTC match consists of 4 stages or matches.

Course of Fire:

The first stage is the Standing or Offhand match, fired at 200 yards. Standing is fired "Slow Fire" which means loading and firing one round at a time. You will fire 2 sighting shots and 10 shots for record in a time limit of 12 minutes.

The next stage is fired from the Sitting position, this stage is also fired at 200 yards. Like Standing you will be allowed 2 minutes for 2 sighting shots. Unlike Standing, the Sitting position is fired "Rapid Fire". In Rapid fire Sitting, you will have 60 seconds to get into position, fire 2 or 5 shots, reload and fire your remaining shots to complete your 10 shot string.

For the third stage we move back to 300 yards and shoot from the prone position. This position will be fired just as in Sitting. You will have 2 minutes for 2 sighting shots than 70 seconds to get into position, fire your first 2 or 5 shots, reload and fire your remaining shots to complete your 10 shot string.

Our fourth and final stage is fired from 600 yards and like the last stage it is fired from the prone position. Unlike the last stage this match will be fired "Slow Fire" as Standing was. You will fire 2 sighting shots and 20 shots for record in 22 minutes.

Please note: At Post 435 we will be firing all stages at 200 yards on appropriate reduced sized NRA targets.

Range Safety and Etiquette:

All uncased rifles will remain unloaded, magazine removed, bolt open and a open bolt indicator inserted. Handling of rifles will be kept to a minimum until your Preparation Period begins.

No rifle will be loaded until the command to load is given.

Upon completion of firing, all rifles will be cleared, magazines removed and a empty chamber indicator inserted before the line will be declared safe.

Safety is the responsibility of all participants, anyone seeing an unsafe condition may call a "Cease Fire" at any time.

Safety First, Last, Always

Match Procedures:

The first thing that will happen at any match is you will be squadded into relays. The match director will assign you a relay and target number when you check in and pay your match fees. Regardless of which relay you are squadded on, you will either be shooting, scoring or pulling and marking targets in the pits.

When it is your relay's turn to shoot, the first command will be, **Relay (1,2 or 3) to the line**. This is the time to move your gear to the firing line. Again, handling of rifles should be kept to a minimum. This is not the time to be fiddling with your sights or sling.

Next we will start our 3 minute **Preparation Period**, All stages will be proceeded with a 3 minute Preparation Period. At this point you may handle your rifle, adjust your sights and sling, and get into shooting position, You may begin dry firing, but DO NOT LOAD YOUR RIFLE.

When Preparation Period ends you will begin a 2 minute **Sighting Period**. You will have 2 minutes for 2 sighting shots, loaded and fired one at a time. On slow fire stages the **Sighting Period** is added to the total time for record shooting.

We will now begin shooting for record. As mentioned above, during slow fire stages, you will fire your 2 sighting shots than fire your shots for record, there is no need to come out of position.

When shooting Rapid Fire stages, once your sighting period has ended all shooters will stand, load and when your targets rise from the pits get into position and begin firing. Service Rifle shooters will shoot 2 rounds than reload with 8 to complete their 10 shot string, Match Rifle shooters can shoot 5 and 5.

Range Commands:

Slow Fire:

Relay (number) take your positions on the line, Do not handle your rifles until your preparation period begins.

Your 3 minute preparation period will begun when your targets appear.

Your 3 minute preparation period has ended. This will be your (standing or prone) string of fire, you will have (12 or 22) minutes for 2 sighting shots and (10 or 20) shots for record. With one round load! Is the line ready! The line is ready! Ready on the right, ready on the left, All ready on the firing line! Your time will start and you may commence firing when your targets appear.

Is firing complete on the right? Is firing complete on the left? All firing is complete! Cease Fire, clear all rifles and insert your Empty Chamber indicators!

The line is safe, you may go forward to police your brass.

Rapid Fire:

Relay (number) Take your position on the line, Do not handle your rifles until your preparation period begins.

Your 3 minute preparation period will begun when your targets appear.

Your 3 minute preparation period has ended. This will be your rapid fire (sitting or prone) string of fire. You will have 2 minutes for 2 sighting shots. With one round you may now load! Is the line ready? The line is ready! ready on the right, ready on the left, All ready on the firing line! Your time will start and you may commence firing when your targets appear.

Cease Fire, clear all rifles. Have sighting scores been received?

(To the pits) Pull, paste and half mast targets.

Relay (number) you will have (60 or 70) seconds for 10 shots for record!

Shooters Rise! With safeties engaged on M1 rifles and bolts remaining open for everyone else, you may now load! Is the line ready? The line is ready! Ready on the right, Ready on the left, all ready on the firing line!

Cease Fire! are there any saved rounds or alibis? Clear your rifles, insert your open bolt indicators and make the line safe. Prepare to receive your scores.

The line is safe, you may go forward to police your brass.

Shooting Positions:



The Standing Position is the most challenging position for most shooters. As we are all built differently, finding a stable position will take some trial and error.

To start building a basic standing position, start with your feet about shoulder width apart, approximately perpendicular to the target.

Place the butt stock of the rifle into the pocket of your shoulder then rest the rifle on your left hand (right handed shooter) with your elbow pulled into your hip for support. Arch your back slightly so the rifle is held in your center of gravity. Hold the rifle as high as possible to keep your head in as vertical a position as possible.

Next we need to find your **Natural Point of Aim**. Simply, what this means is finding the position where holding the rifle is most comfortable. First close your eyes and mount your rifle as described above. Assume you will need to hold your rifle in position for a long time and relax. Now open your eyes and see where your sights are aligned. It is important you do not twist your body to align your sights, this is called muscling the rifle. Gross elevation adjustments can be made by moving the butt stock up or down in your shoulder. Minor elevation adjustments should be made by moving your rear foot forward (towards the target) or

rearward (away from the target). Windage adjustments should be made by moving your rear foot left or right in relation to the target.

For the Sitting Position we will start out sitting cross legged, what use to be called "Indian Style". With your sling on your left arm and the rifles fore stock in your left hand (right handed shooter) place your left elbow into the pocket of your left knee. Next place the butt of the rifle into the pocket of your shoulder and bring your right elbow down into your right knee. Use the same procedure you used in standing to find your **Natural Point of Aim**. Elevation adjustments should be made by moving the butt stock up or down, windage is adjusted by moving your entire body left or right,



The Prone position is the most stable position we will shoot.

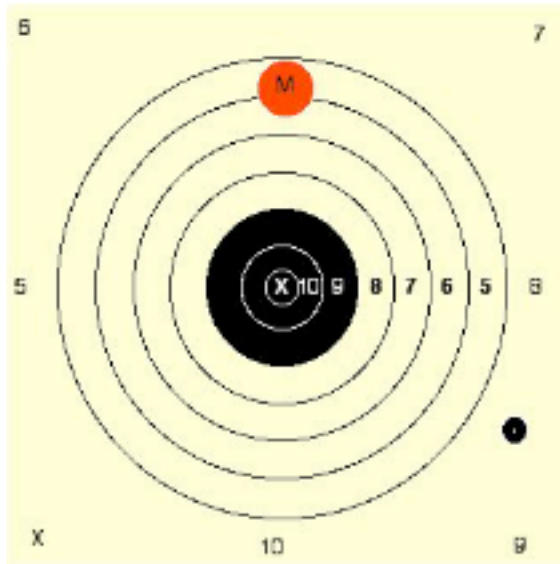


Start by looping the sling on your left arm and holding the rifles fore stock with the left hand. Next place your left elbow on your shooting mat and build your position around it. Your left elbow should be placed as directly under the rifle as possible. Once your left elbow is in position it should not be moved. As in sitting place the butt stock into the shoulder and then bring the right elbow down onto the mat. Your left leg should be straight away and your right leg should be

out at an angle with your knee bent to take the pressure off your abdomen. Find your **Natural Point of Aim**, elevation adjustments can be made just like in sitting. Gross windage adjustments are made by rotating your body around your left elbow like a pivot. Minor windage adjustments can be made by adjusting your right elbow.

Pitt Procedures:

Part of a High Power match is Pitt Service, ALL SHOOTERS WILL PERFORM PITT SERVICE.

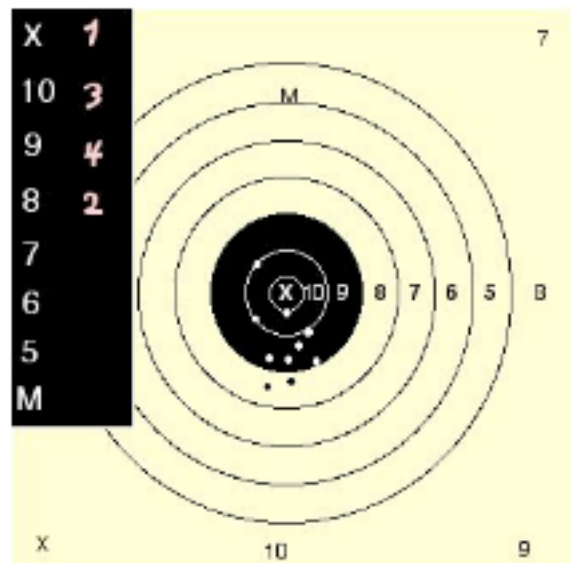


Pitt service is a lot of work but it is a simple job. In slow fire the pitt puller will run the target up, watch for a bullet to impact the impact area, withdraw the target, mark the hole with a 3" spotting disk, place a value disk on the appropriate place on the target and run it back up. The Spotting Disk is black on one side and white on the other with a spindle in the middle. If the bullet hole is in the white of the target the spotter is inserted black side out, if the hole is in the black, white side out.

In the example target here, the bullet hole is in the lower right of the target, outside of the scoring rings. The Spotter Disk is placed black side out in the hole and the orange Value Disk is hung on the appropriate value around the outside of the target.

In Rapid Fire the procedure is different. Once the Sighter Period has been completed the targets are withdrawn into the pits, holes are covered and targets are run half way up. When the command **Targets up** is given, the targets are run up and the timer starts. Your attention should be on the impact area counting impacts. With 5 to 10 seconds left, the Pitt Official will give the command **Stand By Your Targets** and when time expires (60 seconds Sitting and 70 seconds Prone) The command **Targets Down** will be given. When your target is down, the first thing you do is count the number of bullet holes, if 10 holes then score the target writing the number of holes in each scoring ring on the number board, hang the number board on the target, mark the holes with small 1" Spotting Disks (or Golf Tees), hang the number board on the target and run it up for the shooter to see. If you only can find 9 or fewer holes, inform the Pitt officer and await his instructions.

This target score is 90-1X



Poor pitt service is frustrating for a shooter. In Slow Fire, good service is pulling, marking and rising the target back up within 8 seconds of bullet impact. Remember, the shooter who's target you're working will be working your target when you are shooting.

Congratulations you have completed your first match. The match director will now tabulate scores and hand out awards.
It's Miller Time!

Mark Havlik
Post 435 CMP Club

High Power related Websites & Books

www.post435gunclub.org	Post 435 Gun Club	
www.mrra.org	Minnesota Rifle & Revolver	
www.nationalmatch.us	National Match Shooting Forum	
www.long-range.com	A Long Range Fourm	
http://forums.delphiforums.com/Uppermidwest/start		Upper Midwest Highpower Fourm

www.jarheadtop.com	Jim Owens site
www.champchioce.com	Champion's Choice
www.championshooters.com	Champion Shooters Supply
www.creedmoorsports.com	Creedmoor Sports
www.sinclairintl.com	Sinclair International
www.okweber.com	Otto Weber

Modern Highpower Competition From beginning to Master - Randolph Constantine

Sight Alignment, trigger Control and "the Big Lie".

Leather sling and shooting positions.

Care, Cleaning & Sportsmanship.

Reading the wind and Coaching Techniques. - M/Sgt Jim (Top) Owens

Highpower Rifle.

The Rifle Shooter. - G. David Tubb