



## ***National Rifle Association of Australia Limited***

### **MEMBER UPDATE #36**

#### **Chairman/Competitions – John Fitzgerald**

At the NRAA Board of Directors Meeting conducted over the weekend of 26 May last, the Board approved the use of **Berger Projectiles** (in principle) subject to certain conditions for inclusion into Standard Shooting Rules for Australian Rifle Clubs (SSR's). **This approval will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.** The other condition being that we would now proceed to draw up a commercial agreement (contract) with the supplier. Providing that agreement is satisfactory to both parties and meets the conditions as set out and distributed to the members (States & Territories) in the questionnaire requesting feedback preceding this decision to approve the **Berger**, orders will be placed to satisfy anticipated demand for the introduction date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. **Please be aware and note that the Berger Projectile is not approved for use in competition under SSR's before this date.**

Australian International Shooting Ltd (AISL), the controlling body in Australia for the major shooting disciplines, and the body responsible for Olympic and Commonwealth Games competition has recently conducted elections for two directors to the AISL Board. I am pleased to advise that one of the successful candidates proposed on NRAA's nomination is Brigadier Bruce Scott. Bruce will be an enormous asset to the Board of AISL and we are delighted that we finally have NRAA representation at this level.

You will note elsewhere in this issue that NRAA is calling for nominations for a Open – Under 25 and Ladies Teams to travel to New Zealand in January 2013 to compete in the NZ Championships and a **“New Zealand”** Teams Event. Nominations close soon (end of August) and the successful candidates will be confirmed by the NRAA Board at our September Meeting. Please consider this invitation to be part of a NRAA Team, it is quite an experience.

News at date of writing on the future of Anzac Rifle Range is that the mediation meeting held between NSWRA and the Commonwealth in May was terminated without any resolution or agreement by both parties being reached. It is anticipated the matter will now proceed to the NSW Supreme Court as previously advised for determination. Depending on the outcome of any decision the court may hand down, the NSW Annual Open Championships (NSW Queens) is still scheduled to be conducted in September of this year – please watch the NSWRA website for further developments.

#### **Nominations- Ladies Collinson Match, New Zealand ,7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Nominations are being recalled for persons to fill the positions of Captain, Manager, Coaches and shooters to compete in the 2013 Collinson Match in New Zealand. Team composition is Captain, Manager/Adjutant, 5 Shooters, 1 Reserve, and 1 Target Coach. The Team will wear the NRAA Blue Blazer and will be self funded. Please forward your request for the NRAA Nomination Form to the NRAA office [executive@nraa.com.au](mailto:executive@nraa.com.au) or download from the NRAA web site [www.nraa.com.au](http://www.nraa.com.au). Nominations close 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012.



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#### **Nominations- Under 25 Trans Tasman Match, New Zealand , 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Nominations are being recalled for persons to fill the positions of Captain, Manager, Coaches and shooters to compete in the 2013 Trans Tasman Match in New Zealand. Team composition is Four (4) Firers; One [1] Reserve; One [1] Wind Coach (can shoot if required); One [1] Captain/Manager [may be over 25 but takes no part on the mound]. Total Team composition: seven [7]. The Team will wear the NRAA Blue Blazer and will be self funded. Please forward your request for the NRAA Nomination Form to the NRAA office [executive@nraa.com.au](mailto:executive@nraa.com.au) or download from the NRAA web site [www.nraa.com.au](http://www.nraa.com.au). Nominations close 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

#### **Nominations- Open Trans Tasman Match, New Zealand , 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Nominations are being recalled for persons to fill the positions of Captain, Manager, Coaches and shooters to compete in the 2013 Trans Tasman Match in New Zealand. The Team will wear the NRAA Blue Blazer and will be self funded. Please forward your request for the NRAA Nomination Form to the NRAA office [executive@nraa.com.au](mailto:executive@nraa.com.au) or download from the NRAA web site [www.nraa.com.au](http://www.nraa.com.au). Nominations close 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

#### **Finance – Gordon Duncan**

##### **Affiliation Fees**

The financial year is finalised and affiliation fees for 2012 are again due.

Member Associations will be required to pay their affiliation fees in July. The fees for 2012 -2013 were set at the Annual General Meeting held in November 2011.

##### ***Affiliations***

Senior           Forty (40) dollars Inc GST.  
Junior           Twenty (20) dollars Inc GST

##### ***ATR Magazine***

Thirty Seven (37) dollars Inc GST

New member fees will now be a one off annual charge as stated below.

##### ***Affiliation***

Senior           Twenty (20) dollars Inc GST  
Junior           Ten (10) dollars Inc GST

##### ***ATR Magazine***

Eighteen (18) dollars Inc GST.

#### **Membership – John Harding**

We are currently progressing with the National Data Base of members. This will also be incorporated with the new Grading system that Bob Pedersen is developing. Once this stage is finalised a more detailed report will be forwarded to the Members.



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#### **Ammunition – George Edser**

In about March 2012 a Notice was provided to all States and Territories which requested responses and input to a number of proposals regarding projectiles and matters relating to current approved projectiles and ammunition. This Notice was not specific for 308 but included .223 users.

2. All States and Territories responded **except** for Northern Territory. Some States or Territories did not respond or provide input to each and every matter raised in the Notice.

3. A unanimous response supported the approval of the use of another projectile for use if that projectile could be supplied to the Members at a price that is comparable to the price that is presently being paid.

4. Seven out of the eight States and Territories that responded supported the approval for use of the Berger projectiles if priced competitively.

5. The Board unanimously approved the introduction and use of the Berger range of projectiles, as detailed as follows, subject to a satisfactory Agreement being entered into as referred to in Item 8:-

22 Calibre:

80gn Match VLD Target

80.5gn Match Fullbore Target

308 Calibre

155gn Match VLD Target

155gn Match Hybrid Target

155.5gn Match Fullbore Target

6. Subject to Item 8 the commencement date for use of the Berger range of projectiles is the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

7. The majority of the States and Territories did not recommend the approval of pointing and meplating of projectiles and as a result this process was not approved of by the Board.

8. The NRAA is now negotiating a suitable supply Agreement and pricing policy and notices advising of progress will be published from time to time.

9. The NRAA wishes to also thank all those individuals who took the time and effort to respond to the questionnaire.

10. Separate notification will be published by the Executive Officer in relation to new prices for the Sierra projectiles and a larger quantity sized boxes available for purchase through your State or Territory.

11. We are still awaiting advice as to when the first shipment of JLK 80 gn projectiles will be available for distribution and the applicable price and further notice will issue when that information is available.



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12. The NRAA is continuing testing the Winchester loaded .223 and, if the final report is available, the matter will be further considered at the next Board meeting.

#### **Rules – Bob Pedersen**

##### **Electronic Targets Committee**

##### **User Requirements Document (URD)**

The Draft Copy has been circulated for some time and a number of Submissions and suggestions have been received by the E-Target Committee, which is looking at the suggestions many of which have been very helpful. We hope to have a final document for submission to the NRAA Board by the September meeting.

The User Requirements Document is meant to be a guide to any organisation looking at purchasing Electronic Targets. The NRAA will not be recommending any single specific brand of electronic targets, but we recommend that you use the URD as a guide to what to look for when making decisions. The Committee is debating the desirability and its capability of certifying various makes of Electronic Targets after the URD is finalised.

##### **E-Target – Additions and Alterations to the SSR's**

The E-Target Committee has been working on a set of additions and alterations to the SSR's to cater for the use of Electronic targets. A Draft of this is now available. It will be posted on the NRAA Website and distributed to all S&T's for consultation and comment.

The RETURN DATE for comment and suggestions is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012. Please send this to Bob Pedersen, Rules Director.

##### **National Grading System**

I am still waiting for nominations of State Liaison Officers from some States. I will also shortly be asking all States and Territories for their lists of members so that I can compile a database of members to base the National Grading System on. It will help enormously if members who have not done so, register and get a UIN from the NRAA Website.

My plan is to first of all get the National Grading System up and running on the NRAA Website. It will be updated as more scores are added to it. No doubt there will be teething problems to overcome. The present (old) Grading System will continue to operate until all the problems have been sorted with the new one. I do not plan to "switch over" until the new system has been well bedded in. In any case the switch over will not be until at least January 2013 and perhaps later.

A lot of the success of the operation will depend on the cooperation of all the States in supplying information. Without this, the whole process will fail.



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#### CHANGES TO NRAA SSR'S

The following Standard Shooting Rules have been added/alterd at the May 2012 NRAA Board Meeting

- (a) These rules come into force as of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- (b) They have been placed on the NRAA web site and advertised in the next available edition of the NRAA Magazine
- (c) They have been circulated to all States and Territories who were asked to place them on their respective web sites and to circulate this document as widely as possible amongst their members.
- (d) The Electronic Copy on the NRAA web site will be updated ASAP.
- (e) The Written Copy of the Rules will not be updated at this time. A number of changes to Grading Rules and additions because of Electronic Targets are being contemplated and it makes sense to wait until all these are finalised.

#### **CHANGES / ADDITIONS TO SSR's as of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Rule 4.5.1.7 The dividing line or mark separating the divisions of the target shall be included in the measurements shown in Rules 13.1 and 13.2 and when a shot touches the edge of the line or mark between two divisions of the target the competitor shall be credited with the higher value. When marking 7.62mm and 5.56mm bullet holes close to the lines a gauge of **7.82mm** diameter must be used. See Appendix 2 to Chapter 4.

*Comment:- A 0.308" projectile is actually 7.82mm in diameter, therefore any gauge should be 7.82mm, not 7.62mm as previously mentioned. This also then agrees with the gauge size in Appendix 2*

Rule 9.5 Any competitor who commits an offence set out in Rule 8.4 shall incur a deduction of points at the distance at which the infringement was detected. This shall be 5 points for a TR competitor and 6 points for F Class. Any subsequent offence detected during the continuance of the meeting shall result in the entire score of that distance being forfeited.

*Comment:- A TR Shooter receives a penalty of 5 points, which is the full value of one shot. An F Class shooter should logically also receive a penalty of the full value of a shot, which is 6 points in F Class.*

Rule 20.10 (f) No maximum weight limit is imposed on an unattached rest, however, the rifle must be able to be lifted clear of a front pedestal rest and rear sandbag without disturbing either rest in any way.

*Comment:- This is for F Standard. In the same way that the rifle forend must be able to be lifted without disturbing the front rest, so should the rifle be able to be lifted without disturbing the rear bag. This also prevents the making of special grooved butts and/or rear bags that may theoretically give some advantage. F Open already has Rule 20.1.2, which accomplishes the same thing.*



## **National Rifle Association of Australia Limited**

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#### **Safety Alert for Users of Modified Military Rifles**

##### **(There will be an Extra Note (2) Inserted at the beginning of Chapter 2)**

Users of certain Military Actions designed for military ammunition (specifically the Lee Enfield actions including the No.4 MkI and MkII and Mauser M93 through to M96), which have been converted to use the 7.62 x 51mm cartridge, are advised that the use of SAAMI specification .308 Winchester ammunition, whether Factory produced or handloaded, may produce pressures well above the design limit of the Actions. This may lead to safety issues.

Accordingly, the NRAA advises that the use of ammunition which produces pressures higher than 47,000 psi CUP in these modified military actions is NOT permitted. Handloaded or Factory ammunition which complies with these pressures may be used. For a more detailed discussion and ruling, refer to Appendix 5

#### **Wireless and Telephone Communications on the Mound – The following will be inserted.**

- Rule 5.1.9 The only means of communication between the Butts and the Firing Point is to be that formally used by the Range and Butts Officers. No person in the Butts is to use any other means of communication that could be contacted by any person in sight of the Firing Point. In particular, mobile cell phones must be switched off by all personnel in the Butts and anyone within 20m of the Firing Point.
- Rule 4.1.1.12 No other person is allowed to give advice to competitors on the firing point whilst that competitor is competing in an individual competition, subject to the exceptions in Rule 3.3.10.
- Rule 4.1.1.13 Whilst on the Firing Point, a competitor may not use a mobile cell phone or any other type of device which is capable of communicating either wirelessly or through a wireless phone network. This applies even if the communication capability has been turned off. See Rule 4.1.1.14 for permissible exceptions to this.
- Rule 4.1.1.14 If Electronic Target Systems that rely on wireless communications are being used, it is permissible for Shooters, Scorers, Check Scorers and other Range Officials to use wireless capable devices for the purpose of scoring, check scoring and administration of the Electronic Targets System, provided always that this is the only purpose that the devices are being used for.

FOR TEAM SHOOTING add the following:-

- Rule 4.2.1.17 The use of any sort of Electronic Device by Team Officials for scoring or plotting is NOT allowed if such devices have any capability of wireless or telephone communication. This applies even if the communication capability has been turned off.

*Comment:- A number of electronic Applications and programs such as "Shot Plot" are becoming available on devices such, IPHones and IPads and other Smart Phones and Tablets. "Shot Plot" is an electronic Shot Plotting program that could be used on the mound whilst shooting. Unfortunately the Phone or Tablet being used also provides the ability to have messages transmitted to the shooter by other people on the range without others knowing. Whilst the NRAA acknowledges the desirability of advances in technology, it was felt that it would be impossible to supervise the use of these devices adequately enough to ensure that no unfair advantages were being taken. Some of these rules already exist in the ICFRA Rulebook and ICFRA is considering the same matter at the moment.*





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### Rules Affirming that F Open Projectiles may be Metplatted and /or Pointed

Rule 3.4.8 Issued ammunition and projectiles used for TR and F Standard may not be modified or interfered with in any way. F Open competitors should refer to Rule 20.1.1 and Appendix 1

Rule 20.1.2 (Create 2 points within the original rule. Part (a) the same, Part (b) is new.)

- (a) An F-Class Open Rifle may be of any calibre up to and including 8mm. The overall weight must not exceed 10kg including all attachments (such as, but not limited to, its sights and bipod, if any). NB: An attachment is defined as any external object (other than the competitor, his sling (if any) and his apparel) which recoils (or partially recoils) with the rifle, or which is in any way joined to the rifle for each shot, or which even slightly raises with the rifle when vertically lifting the rifle from its rest(s).
- (b) Projectiles used for F Open may be modified by competitors. This includes Metplating and Pointing. Projectiles. Ammunition components and Powder need not be sourced from the NRAA.

Amend APPENDIX 1 – Point (d) (amend this point)

- (d) The above points (a), (b) and (c) do not apply to ammunition used for F Class Open. Projectiles may be modified by competitors. This includes Metplating and Point of projectiles.

*Comment While F Open has always been able to Metplat and Point projectiles if desired, it has never been explicitly specified in the SSR's. These rule changes make it clear that F Open is allowed to do so.*

### New Procedures for Marking Sighters on Scorecards

Rule 4.1.3.16 If the competitor decides to convert one or both sighting shots, the value/s must be struck through with a diagonal line and transferred to the boxes for the first, or first and second, counting shot(s) as the case may be. Any scoring spaces left blank, crossed through or written "C" will count zero: only the shots recorded in the scoring boxes will be counted.

Examples are:-

S1	S2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
<del>V</del>	<del>V</del>	V	V	5	5	4	V	V	5	4	5	48.4
4	<del>V</del>	V	5	V	5	4	V	V	5	4	5	48.4
V	4	V	V	5	5	4	V	V	5	4	5	48.4

- Line 1 Both Sighters are converted
- Line 2 Only second sighter converted
- Line 3 Neither sighter is converted

*Comment The NSW Rifle Assn. sent the NRAA a motion that the we adopt the ICFRA rules for marking sighters on scorecards. This system was used in Brisbane during the World Championships in October 2012. Our present system which it replaces is often used in many different ways by different shooters. The current system often resulted in a totally illogical arrangement of scores on the card which could cause confusion on the mound and in the stats office. This system ensures that all counting shots are always marked on the scorecard in the same places and the same way.*



## **National Rifle Association of Australia Limited**

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**APPENDIX 5** (A new Appendix has been added to refer to the use of Older Military Actions)

Users of certain Military Actions designed for military ammunition (specifically the Lee Enfield actions including the No.4 MkI and MkII and Mauser M93 through to M96), which have been converted to use the 7.62 x 51mm cartridge, are advised that the use of SAAMI specification .308 Winchester ammunition, whether Factory produced or handloaded, may produce pressures well above the design limit of the Actions. This may lead to safety issues.

Accordingly, the NRAA advises that the use of ammunition which produces pressures higher than 47,000 psi CUP in these modified military actions is NOT permitted. Handloaded or Factory ammunition which complies with these pressures may be used. The competitor may be required to submit proof that their ammunition complies.

#### **Rationale**

In regard to the above statement prohibiting the use of SAMMI Spec .308W in certain service rifles, the NRAA consulted with our appointed Armourer, and the following rationale is provided as being the position of the NRAA:

Proof testing does not mean that a tested action should be used with ammunition with pressures above what the action design is rated at. The issue with the military actions in question is a gradual degradation of safety tolerances over time. The alternative to proof testing is crack testing, but there is no standard in place for crack testing and certifying actions in Australia.

It is not appropriate to use certain military actions with SAMMI specification .308W ammunition as opposed to 7.62mm NATO ammunition. The reason is that 7.62mm NATO ammunition is rated at up to 47,000 psi CUP, whilst .308W is rated at up to 55,000 psi CUP. .303 British, for which the actions were originally designed for, is rated up to 45,000 psi CUP. So using .308W ammunition in these rifles is likely to lead to safety issues over time. This is because in operating them at the limit of their safety margin, these actions will stretch over time, unless reduced pressure hand loads are used. The latter is impossible to regulate due to the variations in ammunition components, chamber sizes, distance from the projectiles to the lands and the potential for human error or ignorance of pressure indications on fired cases.

As a result, the NRAA is compelled to put the safety of our members first and users of the Military Rifles specified above, that have been modified to 7.62mm NATO, must comply with this direction. For anyone using the above mentioned actions, the onus will be on them to demonstrate that they are using ammunition that produces maximum pressures of 47,000 psi CUP. Our Armourer advises that hand loaded ammunition with a speed of 2850 fps near the muzzle will produce the desired lower pressures.

Many Thanks  
Catherine Berry  
Executive Officer