

My First Bullseye Match

Competitor's Resources

By Rich Tullo

About Bullseye

- NRA has 42,000 classified bullseye shooters nationwide,
- An NRA-sanctioned 2700 bullseye match is three stages requiring you to shoot identical 90 shot courses of fire with revolver or pistol. Gun one must be a .22 LR, gun number two must be a centerfire pistol (.32 Cal or greater), and gun number three must be .45 ACP.
- Most competitors use two guns for an entire match: a .22 LR. and a 1911-style .45 ACP. Also, there is now a separate 22lr 2700 match which is designed to encourage new shooters.
- Optical (1x power) sights are allowed, including conventional scopes and red dot sights, although many shooters still use open sights. Lasers are not allowed.

Courses of Fire - 2700

- **Slow Fire** The standard 20-shot course of fire begins slow fire. In the slow-fire stage we are given **10 minutes to fire 10 shots**. The targets are scored and repaired after each string of 10 shots.
- **National Match Course (NMC)** Slow Fire, Timed Fire and Rapid Fire. After the 3rd Slow Fire String (or 1ST NMC String) the target is replaced with Timed and Rapid Targets. Then we shoot on 4 strings of 5 shots. 2 strings of **timed fire** and 2 strings of **rapid fire**.
- **Timed Fire** After the NMC course is complete. Then 20 shots are fired in five-shot strings, **10 shots to a target, with 20 seconds** allowed for each five-shot string.
- **Rapid Fire is the third and final stage** . It's identical to timed fire: same target as timed fire only **10 seconds** allowed for each five-shot string.

Range Commands

- You will be given a 3 minute pre period before the 1st Slow fire match to prepare your equipment, and your mind
- The Range Officer having made sure that the range is clear **“WITH 5 ROUNDS LOAD”** The Range Officer then asks, **“IS THE LINE READY?”** and the line is ready, he then calls, **“THE LINE IS READY.”** The Range Officer then commands, **“READY ON THE RIGHT. READY ON THE LEFT.”** Competitors may point their guns toward the target after the command, “Ready on the right.” The Range Officer will then command, **“READY ON THE FIRING LINE.”** In approximately 3 seconds the targets will be turned, or the signal to commence firing will be given. **“CEASE FIRING”** is the command given by the Range Officer at the end of time limit for each string or at any other time all firing is to cease. **FIRING MUST CEASE IMMEDIATELY.** Failure to immediately obey this command is one of the worst infractions of range discipline. On this command **cylinders shall be opened or slides locked back, empty chamber indicator inserted, and all guns placed on the shooting stand and not handled until the next command** of the Range Officer. (Source NRA)
- **CEASE FIRING - ARE THERE ANY REFIRES?** (IF A SHOOTER EXPERIENCES A MALFUNCTION, THE SHOOTER SHALL RAISE NON-SHOOTING HAND AND NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAR PISTOL UNTIL IT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY A RANGE OFFICIAL) - UNLOAD - CYLINDERS OPEN - MAGAZINES OUT - SLIDES BACK - EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATORS IN PLACE - GUNS ON THE TABLE.” The Range Officer then asks **“IS THE LINE SAFE ON THE RIGHT? IS THE LINE SAFE ON THE LEFT?”** On this command all Assistant Range Officers and scorers check their competitors to make sure each one obeys the command before signaling the Range Officer that their portion of the firing line is safe. When all Assistant Range Officers and scorers have given a signal that the range is safe, the Range Officer commands **“THE LINE IS SAFE, GO FORWARD, SCORE TARGETS AND PASTE” (or “CHANGE”).** (Source NRA)
- Once the string is completed we place an **Empty Chamber Indicator** in our pistol, and reload our magazines in this order. If there is something wrong we call out **not safe!**
- **Make sure you only load 5 rounds not 4 not 6, 5 rounds.**

Scoring

- Do not be intimidated it's easy. In a match we score fellow competitors and we do not physically touch our own target.
- While we are excited to see how we did; we do not review our own target before scoring a competitor in a match. When instructed by the range officer we walk down range directly to the competitors target. This speeds up the match.
- In most cases after ten shots are fired, the range is called safe, and we score the targets. First you count the number of shots on the target. There is likely 10 but there may be 15 (in an alibi) or fewer than 10.
- The scoring system ranges from 10 to 5 with X's, each concentric ring represents a shot value. A shot in the 10 ring is awarded ten points, a shot in the 9 ring nine points and so on. A shot on the border is given the higher shot value.
- Take note, often a shot will be close and we have aides in determining the shot value.
- Do not assume in a match it's a nine if it is close to the next higher ring. In this instance call for an "overlay or plug". Scoring accuracy is good sportsmanship. We are obligated to be courteous and do our best even if two well intentioned people honestly disagree. Your initial opinion does not matter, we all make mistakes, and the shot on the paper should be fully evaluated.
- Use Common sense: if you see 9 shots closely grouped on the target, ask the competitor did you shoot ten. If she affirms 10 shots were fired look for a "double" (two shots in one hole).
- An X is tabulated as a 10 in determining the score and also added separately for use in tie breakers. Each shot value and X's are recorded on the score card and we take the sum of the shot values to tabulate the score and X's. A perfect score is 100-10x. For example: if the individual shots on the target (Shot Values) are: X,X,10,10,10,9,8,7,6,M (a miss) or 0 then the score is 80 2x
- Once a string/match is completed the sum of the scores are recorded on the score sheet and the target. For example, in the NMC if the SF score is 70-1x, the timed fire score is 80-3x, and the rapid fire score is 70-1x then the NMC score is 220 4x.

More Scoring and Misc....

- **Very important** we are required to repair our own target, and failure to repair is not a range alibi and the string will not count in most cases.
- When a gun malfunctions that is called an **alibi**. If we have an **alibi** we raise our hand, take our finger off the trigger and clear of the trigger guard as we continue continuing to point the gun down range in a safe direction. Relax but be extra careful.
 - We should remember how many shots we fired in the string and wait to clear the gun on the range officer's instruction. Failure to load our guns is not an alibi. Touching the pistol or revolver ourselves to clear the malfunction voids the **alibi**.
- **When an alibi** is determined we will be given an opportunity to re shoot the string (only once per match) and the lowest ten shots are counted.
 - For example, if the 12 shots on the target are X,X,X,X,X,10,10,10,10,8 and 7 the score is the lowest 10 shots on the target or 95, 3x .
 - If an alibi is not allowed only the lowest 10 shots are counted even if there are fewer than 10 shots or misses on the target.
 - No alibis are awarded in slow fire match, 1 in NMC, 1 in timed fire, and 1 in the rapid fire match.
- **Cross fire**, on rare occasion we will shoot the wrong target. Then either the worst 10 shots are counted or the target is reshot. The process for scoring a re shoot is as follows:
 - The high 10 shots and the lowest 10 shots are tabulated, the average of the scores are noted, and the target is replaced with a new target.
 - The entire string is reshot
 - The 10 shot re-shot is then scored. The re-shooter cannot score better than the average of the 2 scores on the cross fired target. For example; if the original target is scored as a 100 and as a 90 to average 95 you cannot shoot better than a 95 on the re-shoot.
- If there are 11 holes on the paper then the lowest ten are scored.
- If something goes wrong with the target that is a **range alibi** we stop shooting and reshoot the string. If we continue the score counts.
- **Squibb**: If trigger is pulled and nothing happens do not fire another round until the gun's action and barrel is cleared. Be very cautious if this happens as the round could still be active or a bullet in the barrel could cause a dangerous malfunction.
- **Skidder**, a shot may cross the face of a target as it turns that is scored at the point of entry plus one. For example, if the skidder cuts across the 7,8, and 9 rings it is scored as an 8.

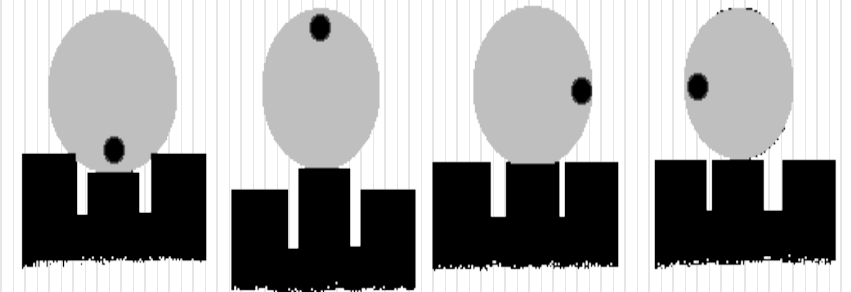
Range Officer, Safety, and Match Conditions

- We always pay attention to the range officer and line officials
- Only load a gun when instructed to do so by the range officer
- Only go down range when instructed to do so
- We do not talk to competitors when others are shooting
- When the Range officer says “Is the line **Ready**” if we are not loaded yell out “**Not Ready**”
- Do not attempt to repair a gun during a string of fire
- If we need to make a repair we ask the range officer for time before the next string and she will instruct the line to “**stand easy**”
- We always make sure an **empty chamber indicator** is in our gun and our neighbors gun after a string of fire
- Always point your gun in a safe direction
- Never handle your firearm while people are down range
- If we have any doubts about what is going on we ask the Range Officer

Tips

RELATIONSHIP OF SIGHTS. It is necessary to be acutely aware of the relationship of the rear sight to the clearly defined front sight. Normal vision is such that the rear sight of the pistol will be as nearly in focus as the front sight. Some shooters may be able to see only the notch of the rear sight in sharp focus; the outer extremities may become slightly blurred.

Angular Shift Error: If the shooter does not observe correct aiming (maintaining the top surface of the centered front sight on a level with the top of the rear sight and equal light space on each side of the front sight) there will be few accurate shots. Most often, he locates the front sight in a different position in the rear notch. This accounts for a greater dispersion of shots on the target, since the bullets will deviate in the direction in which the front sight is positioned in the notch. (Figure 2-2). This aiming error is known as angular shift error. (USAMU)



Tips

- If you are shooting metallic sights and it looks like this you are doing it right, seeing the front sight clearly matters the most.



Tips Stance

- It should look like this more or less (Source: USAMU)



Tips

- Grip should be aligned if shooting metallic sights



Equipment

- 22lr Pistol or revolver
 - Just about any modern 22lr pistol or SA/DA revolver is good for beginners
 - Low cost popular models can grow with the shooter group under 2 inches at 50 yards
 - Ruger Mark II and IV
 - Browning Buck Mark Field Target
 - Advantage Arms Conversion Kit for 45acp M1911s
- Center Fire and 45acp
 - Most any Series 70 type Target Model M1911 45acp with adjustable sights is good to start
 - Springfield Armory Range Officer, Ruger Target, or Colt Competition (Series 70)
 - I suggest Series 70 because it is easier to maintain and get a trigger job.
 - Often the best option is a second hand custom built bullseye gun but try before you buy
 - If you own an M 1911 grouping 4 inches at 50 yards, it may be a good candidate for a rebuild (\$1000 to \$2000)
 - If you bought a new gun; a match bushing and a trigger job may be a good investment after a 500 round break in period. (\$200 to \$300)
 - Rounds such as 9mm and 38 Spl can be used for CF but a 45 ACP in CF keeps it simple and makes bigger holes.
- Many believe a good trigger is as important as potential accuracy, and it is the cheapest place to start. So you do not need a \$3200 match grade 22lr to do well. I know one guy in California that shot an 890/900 with a Ruger Mk II.

Equipment

- Scopes
 - Ultradot and Aimpoint are the most popular, however if you have 20/20 vision there is no need for a red dot scope.
 - May not be greater than 1x power.
- Ammo (bring 100 or more for each 900)
 - 22lr Standard Velocity (SV) is preferred, the reliability and accuracy of brands varies from pistol to pistol. HV is less accurate than SV and can damage some pistols
 - 45ACP **safe** reloads are good to start, expensive match ammo is unnecessary. Safe reloads should be more accurate than hot factory ammo
 - If you do not reload Zero and Atlanta arms manufacture high quality match ammo.
 - People will hate you if you use small primer 45acp brass at a match, do not be that person AKA the SPP, small primer pariah.
- A spotting scope is recommended and you will also need a staple gun and **pencil and eraser for this match**, or working pen to score.
- Magazines: You will need 1 , 2 is better and it is good to have a backup. 3 or 4 are optimal.
- Trigger weights: The minimum trigger weight for a 22lr is 2lbs, for a CF is 2.5 LBS and for a 45ACP is 3.5 LBS.
- Small tools, a screw driver, bore snake, and lube specific to your gun is a good to have on hand. A locked gun box and ammo can are also suggested.
- A copy of a match bulletin and copies of your permits are good to have on hand when traveling.

Online Resources

- NJPistol.com: Matches, Results and Reading Materials
- Bullseyegear.com: Range Boxes, grips, Targets, and Scoring aides
- www.bullseyeforum.net: Discussion group covering; ammo, equipment, and fundamentals
- www.bullseyepistol.com: Materials on fundamentals
- kcskustomcreations.com: Premium custom gunsmith
- www.samscustomgunworksusa.com: Premium custom gunsmith
- www.champchoice.com: Premium target guns, ammo and supplies
- www.brenzovich.com: Premium target guns, ammo and supplies
- www.nelsoncustomguns.com: Match grade 22lr 1 1911 conversions
- www.advantagearms.com: Target Grade 22lr conversions
- www.rozedist.com: Target ammunition and bullet heads
- www.summersenterprisesllc.com quality low cost bullet heads
- www.deeprivercustoms.com : Factory Custom 1911's
- www.accuracyx.com: Premium custom 1911's
- volquartsen.com: Premium 22lr parts and pistols
- www.precisiontargetpistolgrips.com: custom 3d printed target grips

Thanks for Reading

- Now HAVE FUN!!!!
- And get that X Count Up.