



UNIVERSAL RULES FOR HUNTING DERIVED SHOOTING EXERCISES

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1. **General**

This document (Universal Rules for Shooting Exercise) applies to all SAHGCA hunting derived shooting exercises.

2. **Range Safety Rules and Standard Commands**

Please refer to “Range Safety rules for Participants” and “Standard Commands on the Shooting Range” document J006.35.03E – for loading, unloading and safety procedures.

3. **Protection, support and shooting aids**

3.1 **Ear and eye protection**

- 3.1.1 **Ear protection** is compulsory for shottists on the firing line and for spectators as well within 15 m from the firing line;

- 3.1.2 **Eye protection (shooting glasses)** is compulsory for shottists at the firing line from 1 January 2016 and the shottist have to look through the glasses and the glasses should fully protect the shottist's eyes – the practice of looking over or underneath the glasses is not allowed.
- 3.2 **Shooting sticks** must be collapsible, able to be carried comfortably in the field and to stand independently on three legs for stability. Shooting sticks that can be used for shooting in the standing position (may be used for prone, sitting and kneeling as well) are confined to a maximum weight of **2.4kg**, those which can only be used for sitting/kneeling (may be used for prone as well) to **1.4kg** and those which can only be used for prone exercises, to **0.4kg**. A hook or bulge whereupon the firearm may be rested may only be used on one of the legs of the shooting stick. A channel or any other type of support which is capable of supporting the firearm independently on one leg or over the shooting stick is not allowed. Collapsible Harris-type bipods may be used regardless of their weight and may be attached or removed between various ranges of the same shooting exercise. The shooting stick that the exercise is started with is the shooting stick that the exercise has to be completed with (eg. all 9 or 12 shots at the Bushveld shooting exercise). If more than one set of shooting sticks are used for different heights during a shooting competition where shooting sticks are weighed, every set of shooting sticks have to be weighed (eg. one set for the Bushveld and one set for the Plains shooting exercise).
- 3.3 **Shooting chair** – the use of a shooting chair as alternative are allowed for all shottists that cannot (because of medical or physical reasons) are do not want to (because of preference) sit on the ground. The shooting chair have to be collapsible and easy to carry without arm- or backrests.
- Refer to alternative sitting positions with a shooting chair elsewhere in this document.
- 3.4 **Shooting tables (benches)** – the use of shooting tables (benches) are not allowed, except where the shooting exercises specifically allow it eg. for impaired persons and precision (*benchrest*) shooting exercises.
- 3.5 **Rifle slings** - rifle slings may be used for support and have to be fixed to the rifle at two points – one point in front of and one point behind the trigger guard on the rifle stock, with the rifle sling positioned to enable the rifle to be carried in the traditional way over the shoulder. The sling may be placed round one arm and/or wrist but not round any other part of the competitor's body and may for example not be supported round the shoulder/back or pressed down between a shoe and the ground. The only exception is the Big Bore exercise where the use of a rifle sling is not allowed.
- 3.6 **Shooting jackets and shooting gloves**
- 3.6.1 **Light hunting/shooting jackets** are allowed. Tight target shooting jackets like Bisley jackets, which have hooks and straps that can be tightened around the body and impractical for hunting, are not allowed; a 100mm Diameter pipe should be able to fit inside the jacket – if not, the jacket is too tight and is not allowed.
- 3.6.2 **Shooting gloves** have to be light and flexible and may not in any way give support to the hand and/or wrist.
- 3.6.3 The general principle for both shooting jackets and gloves are that it should only provide protection to the shottist against cold, coarse surfaces etc. and in the case of shooting gloves a better grip where necessary as well, but may not provide support to the hand or wrist in any way.
- 3.7 **The use of "spotting scopes" and/or binoculars** by the shottist or spectators is not allowed.

3.8 **Range finders** - at field shooting competitions where the distances are unknown on purpose – the use of range finders are not allowed. On shooting range with known distances, range finders are superfluous.

3.9 **Wind meters** are allowed;

3.10 **Ballistic programmes** on smartphones or laptops/tablets are allowed.

4. **Firearms**

Full- and semi-automatic rifles may not be used in hunting derived shooting exercises.

5. **Silencers** are allowed.

6. **Muzzle brakes and muzzle brake/silencer combinations on rifles are not allowed** unless the rules of the shooting exercise allow this.

6.1 Muzzle brakes and muzzle brake/silencer combinations attached to firearms create a problem (it causes high levels of discomfort in terms of noise, muzzle blast and dust) for neighbouring shottists. The use of muzzle brakes and muzzle brake/silencer combinations will not be allowed on shooting ranges where organised branch-, regional- or national shooting exercises/competitions are hosted by the branches of SAHGCA.

Exception: On branch shooting days and with fun shoots the Branch Management may use their judgement to allow the use of muzzle brakes and muzzle brake/silencer combinations on the condition that it will be arranged for a minimum of 5 m between shottist's and that it will be ensured that the shottists' shooting alongside the muzzle brakes and muzzle brake/silencer combinations will not be prejudiced or inconvenienced regarding sound, muzzle blast, dust etc.

7. **Assumption of a higher shooting position and medical or physical impairment**

In the event that a shottist **cannot** assume a prescribed position (as a result of a medical or physical condition) or **do not want to** (because of preference), he/she may assume a higher position, where the higher position does not enjoy better support than the lower position. The shooting positions range from the lowest (prone) through sitting, and kneeling to the highest (standing).

The Range Officer should accommodate such shottists as well as handicapped shottists, according to circumstances, without giving them an unfair advantage and without jeopardising safety. Such a shottist should report to the Range Officer before the detail starts shooting, who in turn will make a decision and inform the other shottists in the detail of the nature of the concessions that have been made.

Example: A shottist cannot or do not want to assume the prone position with limited support (i.e., only one support point) and prefers the sitting position. The shottist may only assume a higher position (e.g. the sitting position) with a similar single support point. Refer to item 3.3 regarding the use of a shooting chair and the alternative shooting positions with a shooting chair.

8. **Time limit on the firing line for shooters “to prepare”**

After the command “take up your shooting position and adjust your sights/scopes” was given, shottist's have a maximum of 2 minutes to prepare for the command “load and make ready”. The time limit can be shortened provided that all the shottist's have indicated that they are ready, eg. the Big Bore shooting exercise where it usually does not take shottist's that long to get ready. This rule is intended to prevent unnecessary wasting of time by shottist's on the firing line.

9. **Sharing of firearms during regional or national shooting competitions**

9.1 The following general requirements apply when firearms are shared:

- 9.1.1 The persons sharing a firearm will participate in separate details to prevent inconvenience to the other shottists in the detail;
- 9.1.2 The practice to allow one shottist to complete an exercise at a specific distance and then to allow another shottist to shoot at the same distance with the same firearm while the rest of the detail wait for the second shottist to finish the exercise is not allowed;
- 9.1.3. The licenceholder of the firearm has to be present and like other spectators have to be at least 10m behind the firing line with the licenceholder in attendance while the non-licenceholder is shooting;
- 9.1.4 Only supervision is allowed by the licenceholder, coaching is not allowed;
- 9.1.5 It is the responsibility of the shottists sharing a firearm to ensure that they inform the organisers already during pre-registration which persons will be sharing a firearm to ensure that the organisers of the competition can allocate the shottists in time in different details.
- 9.2 Additional specific requirements for the sharing of centerfire hunting rifles:**
- 9.2.1 It is allowed between any two persons;
- 9.2.2 A maximum of two persons may share a firearm on the same day at the same competition;
- 9.3 Additional specific requirements for the sharing of air rifles or 22 rimfire rifles**
- 9.3.1 More than two persons may share an air rifle or firearm if the number of details can accommodate this.
- 10. Cooling down of firearms between shooting exercises**
- 10.1 If more than one shooting exercise is shot at the same distance with centerfire firearms with three or more shots per shooting exercise, a cooling down period of up to five minutes may be granted between shooting exercises;
- 10.2 The Range Officer ask the shottists if they would like to utilize a cooling down period and a unanimous decision by all the shottists in a detail is necessary to waive the cooling down period. If one or more of the shottists require a cooling down period, their request will take preference and a cooling down period shall be granted.
- 11. Procedure for dealing with an unserviceable firearm**
- A shooting exercise must be completed with one firearm. No participant may swap his/her firearm during a shooting exercise, unless the firearm becomes unserviceable as a result of a part breakage or other malfunction not deliberately caused by the shottist. The Range Officer must confirm that the firearm is in fact unserviceable before the shottist is allowed to use another firearm.
- An unserviceable firearm is a firearm which cannot be loaded, unloaded or fired in a normal fashion and which potentially could be dangerous to the competitor or to bystanders. A firearm which has fallen or been bumped and where the sights or telescope have been damaged to the extent that the damage is visually obvious to the Range Officer can also be classified as unserviceable. Other examples of unserviceable firearms are: where a case has lodged or broken off in the chamber or a firearm where the sear does not engage properly and the rifle slam-fires when the bolt is closed.
- Trigger pull:** there are no limitation on trigger pull, but it is the responsibility of the shottist to ensure that the trigger pull of the firearm is safe. Negligent, early and late discharges and action against shottists is addressed in item 15.4
- The shottist must ask for and obtain the permission of the Range Officer to use a second firearm. For example, if during the Bushveld exercise, a shottist experiences a case head separation on the second shot at the 100m standing exercise. The shottist draws the attention of the Range Officer to the problem, who confirms the unserviceability of the firearm. The shottist will be allowed to use another rifle for the 50m exercise.

The two shots not fired at the 100m is forfeited by the shottist for scoring purposes. Any shot which is discharged in a safe direction during the shooting exercise, even if the shot was discharged as a result of a firearm malfunction, will be classified as a qualifying shot and will be scored.

Two shottists may not use the same firearm during the same detail if a firearm becomes unserviceable – this is a practical solution to prevent other shottists being disrupted.

12. **Assistance and/or coaching during regional or national competitions**

Coaching during regional or national competitions is not allowed. The only exceptions are the following:

12.1 **The shottist's on the firing line may communicate with each other but the communication may not disturb other shottists. Shottist's may not communicate with non-shottist's in any way.**

12.2 During junior competitions (airrifle and 22 Rimfire rifles), where a junior, with the permission of the Range Officer in his/her sole discretion, is allowed to be physically assisted by an adult, but no coaching is allowed. When a junior competes at regional or national level, it is generally accepted that he/she should be experienced enough to complete the exercise without any physical help. It is also, moreover, important that the firearm is suitable for the junior and is, for example, not too heavy or in **some other way unsuited for the junior**.

12.3 A physically disabled competitor may be assisted physically to get onto the firing point, and may further be assisted during the shooting exercise if deemed necessary by the Range Officer in his sole discretion, but coaching are not allowed.

13. **Scoring**

13.1 **Shots touching the line** - In the event of a shot touching the line between two adjoining scoring areas on a target, the shottist gets the advantage of the higher score. If the shot touches the line between a minus and a zero, the shot gets scored as a minus as the animal would have been wounded. The line only needs to be touched and not broken. No bullets or other objects may be inserted into the bullet hole.

13.2 **Caliber gauge** - If there is any doubt, the standard SAHGCA caliber gauge should be used to determine if a shot touched the line or not. The lines of the circles on the caliber gauge are exact caliber dimensions and if these lines, when centred on a bullet hole, touch the line on the target, then the shot is scored as a line-touching shot.

13.3 **Cellular phone photo** – if there are any doubt about two, three or more shots through the same hole on the target, the use of a cellphone photo that can be enlarged is recommended as assistance to make a decision.

13.4 **Shot discharged late** - In the event of a competitor discharging a shot after the time limit, he/she loses the highest scoring shot on the target.

13.5 **Too many shots on the target** - In the event of there being too many shots on the target, the Range Officer must, in the first instance, determine whether or not there are any shots missing from adjoining targets. If so, an attempt need to be made to distinguish between the shots on the basis of caliber:

13.5.1 There are shots missing from adjoining targets and it is possible to distinguish on the basis of caliber: The score of the target with the extra shots is calculated after the extra shot/s is/are ignored. The transgressor shooting on the wrong target forfeits the score for these shots on his/her own target.

13.5.2 There are shots missing from adjoining targets and it is not possible to distinguish on the basis of caliber: If it is not possible to distinguish on the basis of caliber where there are too many shots on the target, the lowest scoring shot is discarded first, where after the highest scoring shot is discarded and then the next lowest until all the extra shots are discarded.

If the shottist on whose target the extra shots appear feels that he/she has been prejudiced, he/she can insist on shooting the exercise again. In all cases, the shottist who has shot on the wrong target forfeits those shots.

- 13.5.3 If there are too many shots on the target and no-one is missing shots on the adjoining targets and the calibers cannot be distinguished, then, the highest scoring shots are discarded until the correct number of shots remain on the target. In this case the shottist does not get the option of shooting the exercise again.
- 13.6 **Determining the winner when there are equal scores during shooting competitions**
- 13.6.1 step 1 – use the number of V-bulls per shooting exercise to determine the winner, thereafter
- 13.6.2 step 2 - give preference to the value of the shooting exercise at the longer distance if there are equal total competition scores, thereafter
- 13.6.3 step 3 – if the winner can still not be determined, see which shottist have the least line shots (any shot touching a line)
- 13.6.4 Item 13.6.1 and 13.6.2 is built into the SAHGCA computer programme for the shooting results. If the programme can still not determine the winner, the line shots should be counted by hand for the specific target/s and the shottist with the least line shots will be the winner.

14. **Recognition**

Only the first shooting exercise on any given day qualifies as an acknowledged score for registration (on the branch tablet or otherwise) and possible shooting award (badge) – a second and any consequent attempts results are not valid. The use of a sub-caliber to shoot an exercise first and then use a qualifying caliber to shoot the same exercise for awards is also prohibited. An example of this would be the use of a 308 Win in a practice session and the subsequent use of a Heavy caliber rifle to shoot the Big Bore exercise.

- 15. **Behaviour, equipment, techniques or anything else which in the opinion of the Range Officer, is not in the spirit of a specific exercise** - Any behavior, equipment, techniques or anything else which in the opinion of the Range Officer, is not in the spirit of a specific exercise, is unsafe or which inconveniences other shottists may be prohibited by the Range Officer and his decision is final. When in doubt regarding the above, clarify with the Shooting Committee.
- 15.1 **Cellphone protocol on the firing line** – the cellphones of all shottists and Range Officers/assistant range officers will be in the “silent mode” during shooting activities. Shottists may not talk on their cellphones. Range Officers/assistant range officers may only use their cellphones for official duties eg. taking of photos or recording the time of an exercise. No other uses of cellphones by Range Officers/ assistant range officers that distract them from their duties/responsibilities will be allowed.
- 15.2 **Non smoking areas** – the firing line up to 10m behind the firing line and safety areas is non smoking areas during shooting activities.
- 15.3 **Clothing** – the clothing of shottists should be of such a nature that it does not create an embarrassment for other shottists, spectators and Range Officers/assistant range officers and the judgement of the Chief Range Officer in this regard is final. The shottist will be requested by the Chief Range Officer to correct the clothing before the shooting exercise start or to leave the shooting range. If the shottist choose to leave the shooting range, it will be recorded as a disqualification.
- 15.4 **Fouling shots** just prior to the shooting exercise are not allowed! When the shottist approach the firing line to start with his/her shooting exercise only the specified number of scoring shots for the shooting exercise are allowed to be fired directly onto the target.

- 15.5 **Specific rules regarding equipment:** The following specific rules apply regarding equipment on the shooting range:
- 15.5.1 Hard surfaces eg. a piece of wood, plastic or metal are not allowed at the firing line to service as a level surface for the shooting sticks, Harris bi-pod or mono-pod. The shooting mat should be pliable and foldable.
- 15.5.2 The shooting mat or rifle bag may be used in the sitting or kneeling position to create a soft surface for protection to sit or kneel on (eg. under the knees), but it may not be used for support or to brace the firearm or any part of the body of the shottist.
- 15.5.3 An able bodied participant should be able to carry all his equipment for one shooting exercise from one firing line to the next. A senior person or a impaired person may be assisted by a helper.
- 15.6 **Disciplinary action against shottists who breach safety, exercise or competition rules or flouts the authority of the Range Officer – refer to item 15 of the Range Officer’s Manual:**
- 15.6.1 Unsafe firearms handling - in the case of breach of safety procedures, the Range Officer’s ruling is final;
- 15.6.2 The following transgressions should be noted by the Range Officer, in his discretion, on the range card as “provisional” with a description of the transgression and referred to the Dispute Committee for a ruling:
- a) Transgression of a shooting exercise- or competition rule and/or
 - b) Transgression of competition rules on purpose by a shottist to benefit him/herself
- 15.7 **Negligent, early and late discharges and action against the shottist.**
- 15.7.1 The following definitions are quoted from the SA Hunters Range Officer’s Manual:
- 15.7.1.1 Item 2.5: **Negligent discharge** – is any discharge of a firearm, whether it results in any injury or not, that occurs while the shooting range is safe or clear, i.e. before the Range Officer has called “*the range is closed*” or after the Range Officer has called “*the range is safe*”;
- 15.7.1.2 **Early discharge** – is any discharge of a firearm which occurs between the Range Officer’s call: “*the range is closed!*” and the command to commence firing, whether it is given by a blast on a whistle or by the order “*fire!*”
- 15.7.1.3 Definition of a new item: **Late discharge of a shot** - – is any discharge of a firearm which occurs after the Range Officer’s command to “stop” and before the command “unload and make safe”
- 15.7.2 **Action against a shottist in the event of:**
- 15.7.2.1 **Negligent discharge** – the shottist is disqualified immediately and ordered by the Range Officer to unload his firearm, make safe and to leave the shooting point. The shottist may not participate in any shooting activities for the rest of the day and no score for any event are registered – this is applicable to branch-, regional- and national activities and the Range Officer have to complete and submit an “Incident Report” .
- 15.7.2.2 **Early discharge** – the Range Officer will decide if this was a safety violation or not. First example: if the shot was discharged after the command “*Everybody is ready – close bolts and stand by*” and the shot was safely discharged into the backstop, the shottist forfeits that shot and the 30 points that it represents. Second example: if the shot was discharged before the command “*Everybody is ready– close bolts and stand by*” the procedure described in item 15.4.2.1 for negligent discharge is followed: the shottist are disqualified immediately and ordered by the Range Officer to unload his firearm and make safe and to leave the shooting point.

The shottist may not participate in any shooting activities for the rest of the day and no score for any event are registered – this is applicable to branch-, regional- and national activities and the Range Officer have to complete and submit an “Incident Report” .

15.7.2.3 **Late discharge** – with the late discharge of a shot fired safely into the backstop, the shottist forfeits that shot and the 30 points that it represents.

16. **A Dispute Committee** consisting of **at least 3 members** should be appointed – refer to the policy for the handling of a dispute at shooting competitions.

17. **Sighting-in range**

At regional or national shooting competitions a 100 meter sighting-in range needs to be made available before the competition starts. Competitors should be allowed at least 10 minutes each for sighting-in for all their rifles. Sighting-in are allowed only at 100m even if the specific range allow for sighting-in at longer distances and no shots may be fired at distances exceeding 100m at eg. targets, stones other objects.

18. **Shooting positions**

18.1 **Prone positions** are used to simulate conditions when hunting where it is possible to go into the prone position and there are no grass or other obstacles in the way :

18.1.1 **Prone position without any artificial support** (eg. shooting sticks) – from this position the support is from the elbows and the rifle, either hand, wrist or forearm may not come into contact with the ground or any other object. A rifle sling may be used. An example of this exercise is: the Impala shooting exercise (without rest) at 200m.



18.1.2 **Prone position with limited support in front only** – Shooting sticks with a single support point or a Harris-type bipod may be used to support the rifle ahead of the trigger guard box. The shottist's non-trigger hand may only support the rifle in front of the trigger guard (the hand and all the fingers must be in front of the trigger guard) and the rifle, either hand, wrist or forearm may not touch the ground or any other object. An example of this exercise is: the Plains shooting exercise with limited support in front only at 200m. **No finger or shooting glove may serve as support underneath the pistol grip.**





Alternative with Harris bipod

- 18.1.3 **Prone position with limited support front and back** – Harris type bipods may be used to support the front of the rifle. A fold away monopod attached to the butt of the rifle or the second leg of shooting sticks may be used to support the rear of the rifle. The supporting hand may hold the butt and the butt may touch the ground. Sand bags or any other equipment are not allowed. An example of this exercise is: the Plains shooting exercise with limited support, front and back, at 300m.



Alternative sitting position on a shooting chair, **with limited support front and back on shooting sticks with the Plains shooting exercise at 300m.**

18.1.4 **Prone position with unlimited support front and rear** with any rest able to be used to support the rifle, with the front and rear support separate. Fixed shooting frames may not be used. An example of this exercise is the 300m Jackal shooting exercise with unlimited support front and rear.



Allowed: sandbag underneath toe of rifle stock

18.2 **Sitting positions** are used to simulate conditions when hunting where the shottist need to take a higher position to shoot over grass or other obstacles and where the prone position is not suitable:

18.2.1 **Sitting position without any artificial support** (eg. shooting sticks) – the weight of the body is supported on the buttocks. No part of the legs to touch the ground, or any other artificial object. The legs may be apart or crossed, the ankles and calves may be supported on the shoes of the shottist when the legs is crossed and may be in front of the front edge of the firing point. The firearm may be held in any convenient way, provided the butt is in the shoulder or armpit or against the biceps muscle. An example of this exercise is the Impala and plains shooting exercises without support at 100m.



Standard sitting position



Alternative: crossed legs



Alternative: recoil pad against upper arm (*biceps muscle*)

Alternative sitting position on a shooting chair without any artificial support – An example of this exercise is the Impala shooting exercise without support at 100m.



18.2.2 **Sitting position with limited support in front only for hunting handguns** – In this position, the firearm arm may only be supported by the shooting sticks at one point. Bipods attached to the weapon are not permitted. This rule is of specific application to the Hunting Handgun shooting exercise with limited support at 50m



Alternative sitting position on a shooting chair without limited support in front only for hunting handguns – An example of this exercise is the Hunting Handgun shooting exercise with limited support at 50m



18.2.2 (a) **Sitting position with support in front only for hunting rifles** - Shooting sticks with a single support point or a Harris-type bipod may be used to support the rifle ahead of the trigger guard box and no part of the shooter's body, arms or legs may touch the legs of the shooting sticks. An example of this exercise is: the Plains (Black Wildebeest) shooting exercise with limited support in front only at 200m.



Alternative with shooting chair

18.2.3 **Sitting position with limited support** – with this position the shottist may use his shooting sticks or Harris bipod to the best of his/her judgement (more than one leg of the shooting sticks may be used for support) except if, in the opinion of the Range Officer, it is unsafe. it is permissible to rest the elbows on the knees and a rifle sling is also permissible. The elbows, any part of the arms or knees may not touch the ground and the rifle butt must be firmly in the shoulder. An example of this exercise is the Plains shooting exercise with unlimited support at 200m.



Alternative with Harris bipod



Alternative sitting position on a shooting chair, with **limited support front and back** on shooting sticks with the Plains shooting exercise with shooting chair at 200m.

18.3 **Kneeling positions** are used to simulate conditions when hunting when the shottist need to assume a higher position to shoot over grass or other obstacles and the sitting position is not suitable:

18.3.1 **Kneeling position without any artificial support** – no part of the body to touch the ground or any other object except one foot and the other leg from the knee downwards. The foot sat upon may be turned flat as well. The forward elbow may rest on the knee. A shottist may have both knees on the ground as shown in the alternative, but may not sit down on his feet. An example of this position is the kneeling position, without support, which forms one of the three options for the Warthog shooting exercise at 75m.



Alternative - kneeling on both knees may not sit down on feet

18.3.2 **Kneeling position with unlimited support** – the kneeling position as described in 18.3.1 above, but the shottist may use his/her shooting sticks to the best of his/her judgement (more than one leg of the shooting sticks may be used for support) without any restriction, unless the Range Officer regard it as unsafe. An example of this exercise is the Bushveld shooting exercise, kneeling, at 150m with shooting sticks, unlimited support.



Alternative: kneeling on both knees may not sit down on feet

18.4 **Standing positions** are used to simulate conditions when hunting when the shottist need to shoot quickly over relative short distances and/or the shottist need to assume a higher shooting position to shoot over grass, bushes or other obstacles and the prone, sitting or kneeling positions is not suitable:

18.4.1 **Offhand standing position** – no artificial support (eg. shooting sticks) may be used but the shottist may adapt his/her position to suit his /her requirements. A rifle sling may be used. In the offhand standing position, shottists get the command “ *Everyone is ready – close bolts and stand by!*” – shottists must await the “Fire!” command with the trigger finger next to the trigger guard and the barrel pointing towards the ground at approximately 45 degrees to the horizontal and the muzzle of the rifle may not be higher than the belt of the shooter. This shooting position is applicable to all rifle shooting exercises in the offhand standing position except the Big Bore exercise where the use of a rifle sling is not allowed – see item 18.4.2.



“Ready”



“Fire”

18.4.1 (a) Standard commands on the shooting range for the offhand standing position - 3 snapshots

Note: Because of the pressure placed on shottists during the snapshot exercise, it is important that clear and uniform commands are given by the Range Officers to prevent confusing the shottists. This exercise is meant to be a test of the shottist's skill as well as the reliability of his/her equipment. Failure to operate by a firearm will potentially mean points that may be forfeited since the exercise/detail will not be stopped if the shottist develop a problem with his/her rifle after the first command to "fire" has been given.

1. The commands up to item 6 of the "Standard Commands" are the same and thereafter:
2. **"Load and make ready"** (load magazine with 3 rounds/chamber of a single-shot firearm, bolt stays open). (Note: it is unnecessary to limit shottists with magazines to load one round at a time, but keep the limitations of single shot rifles in mind)
3. **"Is everybody ready?"** – shottists who are not ready to indicate.
4. **"The detail is not ready"** – if appropriate.

5. **First shot:**

- 5.1 From the offhand standing position the shottists receive the command **"Everybody is ready – close bolts and hold rifle at 45 degrees"** – (2 to 4 second pause) – repeat the command **"45 degrees"** - (2 seconds pause) – **"stand by"** – (2 seconds pause) (item 10 of standard commands) – shottists wait for the command "fire" with the trigger finger outside the trigger guard, with the rifle held at approximately 45 degrees to the ground and the muzzle of the rifle may not be higher than the belt of the shottist.

Note: The period between "Everybody is ready – close bolts and hold rifle at 45 degrees" and "Blow whistle" or give command "fire" should not be longer than 2 seconds. Shottists should not be kept in this position for too long, since this is extremely frustrating and tiresome – keep in mind as well that shottists are standing with fully loaded rifles. A Shottist not ready for the second and third shot forfeit the remaining shots. Commands are not interrupted and the second and third shot continue.

- 5.2 **"Blow whistle"** or give command **"fire"**;
- 5.3 After 5 seconds: **"Blow whistle"** or give command **"stop"**;
- 5.4 Shottists may reload immediately after the shot was fired
6. **Second shot** – allow enough time for shottists with single shot rifles to reload (maximum of 12 seconds)
- 6.1 **"Reload and keep rifles at 45 degrees"** – (2 to 4 second pause) – repeat the command **"45 degrees"** – (2 second pause) – **"stand by"** (2 second pause);
- 6.2 **"Blow whistle"** or give command **"fire"**;
- 6.3 After 5 seconds: **"Blow whistle"** or give command **"stop"**;
- 6.4 Shottists may reload immediately after the shot was fired
7. **Third shot** – allow enough time for shottists with single shot rifles to reload (maximum of 12 seconds)
- 7.1 **"Reload and keep rifles at 45 degrees"** – (2 to 4 second pause) – repeat the command **"45 degrees"** – (2 second pause) – **"stand by"** (2 second pause);
- 7.2 **"Blow whistle"** or give command **"fire"**;
- 7.3 After 5 seconds: **"Blow whistle"** or give command **"stop"**;

8. Commands from item 13 of standard commands onwards - **“Unload and make safe”** - are used to complete the exercise

18.4.2 **Offhand standing position** for Big Bore rifles, but rifle slings may not be used. An example of this exercise is the Big Bore shooting exercise in the offhand standing position at 25 and 50m.



“Ready”



alternative “Ready”



“Fire”

18.4.3 **Offhand standing position with a hunting handgun** – no artificial support (eg. shooting sticks) may be used but the shottist may adapt his/her position to suit his /her requirements. Eg. Hunting Handgun shooting exercise in the offhand standing position at 25m.



“Ready”



“Fire”



Not allowed

18.4.4 **Standing position with unlimited support** – with this position the shottist may use the sticks to the best of his/her judgement (more than one leg of the shooting sticks may be used) without any limitation, except if the Range Officer deems it to be unsafe. An example of this position is the Bushveld shooting exercise, standing, with shooting sticks, unlimited support at 100m.



18.4.5 **Standing position with limited support** in front only – the rifle may only be supported at a single point on the shooting sticks or by the supporting hand as indicated in the alternative underneath and no other part of the shottists body, arms or legs may touch the legs of the shooting sticks. This rule is specifically applicable to the Warthog shooting exercise in the standing position, with shooting sticks at 75m.





Alternative over shooting sticks

19. Briefing sessions to prepare Range Officers/ assistant Range Officers for shooting competitions

Important: If there are any doubt prior to a shooting competition about the detail knowledge of range officers/ assistant range officers about the following rules, the chief range officer should arrange for a training session prior to the shooting competition (not on the day of the shooting competition) to ensure that range officers/assistant range officers have proper knowledge of the rules. Range officers uncertain about rules contribute to confusion and the dissatisfaction of shottists.

- 19.1 Confirm that range officers each have a copy of the following documents in his/her possession and that they have detail knowledge of the content thereof:
 - 19.1.1 Universal Rules for shooting exercises – document: J006.34.04E – Issued: Nov 2018
 - 19.1.2 Shooting competition rules for the day
 - 19.1.2.1 TEAM CHALLENGE shooting competition – SAHGCA League shooting competition – shooting exercise for Interbranch TEAM CHALLENGE shooting competitions - document J006.57.02E – Issued: December 2015
 - 19.1.2.2 Interbranch Team shooting competition and or President shooting competition - SAHGCA League shooting competition - shooting exercise for the Interbranch Team and/or President shooting competition – Document: J006.38.03E – Issued: November 2018
- 19.2 Confirm action to be taken by the Range Officer against shottists who breach rules - refer to item 15 of the Range Officer’s Manual for “Procedural aspects relating to the transgression of competition and/or exercise Rules” and item 15.3 of the Universal Rules for shooting exercises.
 - 19.2.1 The Range Officer **is the responsible person, has the final authority on the shooting range and it is his duty** to act against unsafe and disobedient participants.
 - 19.2.2 The instructions of the Range Officer must be executed unconditionally and immediately;
 - 19.2.3 Naturally Range Officers should act reasonable and professional, but they should not hesitate to act if there is a breach of safety, shooting exercise or shooting competition rules by a shottist.
- 19.3 Discuss typical cases of rules that shottists breach to prepare range officers that they know what to be on the lookout for, but not restricted to only these examples:
 - 19.3.1 Plains shooting exercise: 200m – prone position with limited support in front only
 - 19.3.2 Bushveld shooting exercise – offhand standing - snapshots at 50m with the rifle at the ready at 45 degrees to the ground

19.3.3 More than 3 shots per distance (exercise) where only three are prescribed

20. Briefing sessions to participants prior to the shooting competitions

20.1 Explain the programme of the day and the arrangements regarding completion of indemnity forms, sighting in of rifles, refreshments and where first aid is available if necessary;

20.2 Confirm that participants have knowledge of the following rules and answer any questions in this regard;

20.2.1 Shooting range safety rules;

20.2.2 Shooting exercises and shooting competition rules;

20.2.3 draw attention to the fact that participants should at any stage ask the range officer if in doubt about any of the above;

20.3 Composition of the Dispute Committee (who are the members of the the Dispute Committee) and what will be the procedure for the day in the handling of disputes;

20.4 Confirm action that will be taken by the Range Officer against shottists who breach rules - refer to item 15.3 of the Universal Rules for shooting exercises:

20.4.1 The Range Officer **is the responsible person, has the final authority on the shooting range and it is his duty** to act against unsafe and disobedient participants.

20.4.2 The instructions of the Range Officer must be executed unconditionally and immediately;

20.5 Discuss typical cases of rules that shottists breach to prepare range officers that they know what to be on the lookout for, but not restricted to only these examples:

20.5.1 Plains shooting exercise: 200m – prone position with limited support in front only

20.5.2 Bushveld shooting exercise – offhand standing - snapshots at 50m with the rifle at the ready at 45 degrees to the ground

20.5.3 More than 3 shots per distance (exercise) where only three are prescribed