

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

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CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM MATCHES AND NRA HIGH POWER RIFLE MATCHES

CMP and NRA High Power Rifle matches are contests of marksmanship skill where competitors shoot at paper targets from standing, sitting or kneeling, and prone positions. The NRA and CMP matches are very similar and both follow the same fundamental rules and match procedures.

The following pages are a brief summary of the NRA and CMP High Power Rifle matches as they are conducted at the Lincoln Izaak Walton League Range. The actual rulebooks may be purchased directly from the National Rifle Association at www.nrahq.org or from the Civilian Marksmanship Program at www.odcmp.com

In a Conventional High Power Rifle match, also known as "across the course", the Standing and Rapid Fire Sitting stages are fired at 200 yards on an SR target, the Rapid Fire Prone stage is shot at 300 yards on an SR-3 target and the Slow Fire Prone stage is shot at 600 Yards. At the Lincoln IKES, we use a reduced MR-63 target placed at 300 yards in lieu of the 600 yard standard target for the Slow Fire Prone stage.

At the Lincoln IKES 300 yard rifle range, we have 20 firing points. Targets are mounted on fixed wooden frames with one bank of targets set at 200 yards and a second bank of targets set at 300 yards. All firing is done from the covered firing line. Competitors are rotated by "relay". While one relay is shooting, a second relay logs the scores (at the firing line since we do not have pits). During the sighting shots phase, once the shooters have completed their sighting shots, they will make their rifles safe and a few shooters on the scoring relay will make their way to the targets and place bright orange pasters or golf tees on the sighting shot holes on each target so that the shooters can mark the shots easier and make needed sight adjustments. They will return to the firing line and the shooting for record phase will commence. After the string of fire for record is completed and rifles are made safe, the scorers' relay will make their way to the targets from the firing line and score the targets. After the targets have been scored and pasted, they will return to the firing line and prepare to shoot the next stage.

A Slow Fire stage requires competitors to load each round individually and to fire one shot at a time. Shooters have as many minutes to fire that stage as there are shots to fire. For example, a ten-shot slow fire string will have a time limit of ten minutes.

A service rifle Rapid Fire stage consists of firing a ten-round string within a very short time limit. At the start of the stage, shooters are in a standing position. When the commence fire command is given, competitors get into a Sitting or Prone position (depending on the stage being fired), fire 2 rounds, change magazines, and fire the final 8 rounds. The time limit is 60 seconds per string for Sitting and 70 seconds for Prone.

NRA High Power Rifle competition is broken down into Service Rifle, Match Rifle, and Sporter Rifle categories. CMP High Power Competition is only service rifles, but is broken down into separate classes for each type of rifle. The NRA tracks scores for sanctioned matches and awards marksmanship classifications as a person's scores improve. The NRA matches are set up so that shooters of the same classification compete against each other and awards are given for the top shooters in each class. The CMP does not track individual classifications like the NRA. Shooters of all levels compete together in the CMP matches, but awards achievement medals and/or pins for all competitors whose scores meet the cut off level for the particular medal. In an NRA match, only the top few shooters in each class may receive an award. In a CMP match, it is possible that every shooter in the match could receive an award.

Service Rifles are actual military or civilian versions of military rifles that are, or were, standard issue rifles for our armed forces. Examples of Service Rifles are the M-1 Garand, M-14 (M-1A), M-16 (AR-15), 1903 and 1903A3 Springfield rifles, M1 Carbines as well as

the rarely seen Krag and Johnson rifles. There are also dozens of foreign service rifles allowed to compete in the matches. Only metallic sights are permitted regardless of the rifle class. Typically the garands, carbines and bolt action rifles shoot in separate matches from the others or in separate relays within a match.

NRA High Power Sporter Rifles are your average hunting rifle with a scope. The equipment allowed is limited to what you would normally wear while hunting.

Match Rifles are custom built rifles that are limited by few rules. Match rifles are made to conform to a specific shooter and their style of shooting. An NRA Match Rifle must have metallic sights and be capable of holding at least five rounds in the magazine. Match Rifles can shoot any safe ammunition up to .35 caliber.

Besides your rifle and ammunition, other equipment may include a special shooting jacket. It keeps you tight, especially in the Standing position. There are rubber pads to reduce slipping and buckles to tighten the jacket around you. A sling is used to hold the rifle firmly and when used properly, can greatly improve your scores in the Rapid fire and Slow Prone stages. A glove for the hand that holds the rifle forearm will help pad the forward hand from sling pressure. A mat makes the Prone position more comfortable and can also be used in the Sitting position. Many shooters use a hat to shade light for a better view of the sights. A shooting stool is useful to hold the equipment plus magazines, ammunition, eye protection, data book, etc. and they are handy when you sit and score for another shooter. Safety equipment required includes an open bolt indicator, eye protection and ear protection. The match director will usually have extras to loan out if you need them. A spotting scope or binoculars are helpful to mark your shot value and placement as well as score other shooters. A spotting scope is preferred over binoculars. A spotting scope allows you to be able to see your shots in slow fire and helps you center your groups while remaining in position. A set of binoculars are more cumbersome but they can get a novice started in the sport.

Detailed programs for each Lincoln IKES NRA High Power Rifle match and CMP Match will be made available prior to the match. Match programs list dates and times, entry fee, course of fire, awards, rifles allowed, and any rules which may or may not apply to that specific match or tournament.

New shooters are highly encouraged to come to the IKES range and give the High Power Rifle Matches a try. Don't be intimidated by the long list of equipment and rifles. It takes most shooters several years to acquire everything and there are a lot of less expensive substitutes for most of this equipment that a person can use to get started. There are always plenty of experienced shooters willing to lend rifles and equipment, and give advice and encouragement. The match director often will have surplus ammo for sale, at cost, to use at the match when it is available.

This is the first year Lincoln Ikes has offered High Power Rifle matches. At this time, the matches will not be sanctioned by NRA or CMP until maybe later in the year. Our goal is to encourage new shooters to join us and get an introduction to high power rifle shooting competition. The matches will be a shoot-what-you-bring affair and we will find or create a class to fit whatever rifle you want to use. The match director will also have a selection of rifles and gear available to borrow and CMP ammunition available for purchase to use in the rifles if you are interested in the matches but do not have any of the gear.

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM RIMFIRE SPORTER MATCHES

The CMP rimfire sporter matches are a fun and inexpensive way to spend the day at the rifle range and have a relaxed competition. The Rimfire Sporter course of fire is designed so that every shooter who understands basic gun safety and rifle marksmanship can shoot it.

Nearly any safe .22 LR sporter style rifle of any type of action is allowed to compete in these matches. There is a class for iron sights and another class for telescopic sights.

Equipment needed:

Rifle: Any safe .22 LR rifle capable of holding a minimum of five rounds and weighing no

more than 7-1/2 pounds with a trigger pull of not less than 3 pounds. A sling may be used. Empty Chamber Indicator, Safety Glasses, Hearing Protection. The match director will usually have extras to lend or sell.

Optional Equipment: Spotting scope or binoculars

Shooting mat. Camping cot sleeping pads, sleeping bag, army blankets, moving blankets or even a 2' x 6' strip of carpet or carpet pad also will work. You just need something to give a little cushion and keep you dry so that you can shoot comfortably while lying on the ground. Any other specialty shooting equipment and shooting clothing is not needed and not allowed. A regular unpadded work glove may be worn on the hand that supports the rifle forearm and work boots or hunting boots may be worn.

Matches are shot at 25 yards in the standing position and 50 yards from the prone and sitting positions. Each position has a slow and rapid fire stage or 10 rounds each. A standard CMP Rimfire Sporter Course of Fire is 60 rounds for score and an unlimited number of sighters may be used during the 10 minute sighting stage at the beginning of the match. A copy of the rulebook may be downloaded from the CMP website at:
www.odcmp.com/cmpevents/rimfire.pdf