

NOTE FROM THE SABU CONSTITUTION AND RULES COMMITTEE.

SOME TECHNICAL RULES FOR COMPETITORS TO BEAR IN MIND:

A: CODE MESSAGES: The list published in the SA Championship Programme Book is incorrect as it refers to the previous SABU Rules. Here is the correct set, which is consistent with the ICFRA Rules:

18. CODE MESSAGES

Other than the CRO's communication with the Chief Butt Officer, the only means of contact between the butts and the firing point is that formally used between Range and Butt 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 those within 20 metres of the firing point.

18.1 The following Code Messages will be used for communication between Range Officers and the Butts by radio. The target number will be given, followed by the message number. To avoid confusion for overseas visitors, or when SA shooters compete abroad, these code messages are identical to those in the ICFRA Rules and similar to those used by the British NRA, with the exception of Message numbers 6 and 8, which numbers are used for service rifle shooting in Britain.

Message 1 : Firing about to commence.

Message 2 : No spotting disc visible.

Message 3 : Spotting disc disagrees unmistakably with signalled value. Check that spotting disc shows LAST hit and signal its correct value (see Rule 19.9).

Message 4 : A shot has been fired but no signal has been made. Examine the target *and spotting disc* carefully and signal the hit, if found. If there is no hit, signal a miss.

Message 5 : The firer or his Register Keeper has challenged the value of the current shot. Recheck the shot hole (using a gauge if necessary) and signal correct value.

Message 6 : It is suspected that there is a second shot on the target. Clear and patch out the existing shot hole, mark and signal any further shot found, failing which send the target up clear

Message 7 : A miss has been signalled but firer has challenged for a hit. Re-examine the target carefully and signal the hit if found. If not, re-signal the miss.

Message 8 : **(Was # 11)** Shot appears to be in the same position as the previous one. It is suspected that the wrong shot hole has been patched out. Please check and either rectify error or confirm that the two shots were very close to one another.

NB. If the marker has changed the **value** indicator for the second shot, this fact must be communicated to the Butt Officer, as it is then almost certain that the wrong hole has been patched.

Message 9 : Marking appears to be unduly slow. Butt Officer to investigate and, if justified, have marker speed up.

Message 10: Shooting finished on this target.

Message 11: Stand easy. Lower target, patch out and put target back up.

For Messages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 the results must also be confirmed by radio.

Please note:

- 1 The restriction on use of mobiles/cellphones in the butts or within 20 metres of the firing point.
- 2 The distinction between messages 3, 5 & 7 – the latter two being subject to a challenge fee.
- 3 If a shooter “disowns” a marked shot and uses Message 6 to challenge for another hit on the target and no further shot is found the original value is forfeit.

B: REGISTER KEEPING: Here again the illustration in the SA Championship Programme Book is incorrect. The following is the correct method (Appendix F Point 6):

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 blocks (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 shot values in the scoring blocks will be counted.

Examples are:-

V	V	V	V	5	5	4	V	V	5	4	5	48.4
4	V	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

In the top example, both sighters have been converted.

In the middle example, only the second sighter has been converted.

In the bottom example, neither sighter has been converted.

Please note:

Sighters that are not converted must **not**, repeat **not**, be crossed out – only those that have been converted.

C: SIGHTING SHOTS:

As a generalisation, all initial sighting shots, including the single sighter in a tie shoot, are **convertible**, whilst additional sighters, permitted under certain circumstances, are **optional** and **non-convertible**.

Attention is however drawn to the following rules:

24.2: A competitor who cannot tell the position of a convertible sighting shot, owing to the display of two (or more) spotting discs, may elect to accept the one of higher value or, alternatively, may request permission from the RO to repeat the shot, which remains convertible. If he does so, the RO will declare the previous shots on the target null and void. If any other shot is known to be a shot out of turn by another competitor squadded on the same target, that competitor will have no relief and the value of his shot will be as in Rule 19.4.

24.3: After a competitor has fired his second sighter, he may elect to count the second sighting shot, or both, in his score. He must declare his intention to his register keeper before he fires a further shot. In the absence of such a declaration, he shall be presumed NOT to have converted his sighting shots. The register keeper must acknowledge any conversions.

24.4: Except as provided in Rule 24.2 above, all extra sighting shots provided for in these rules are optional and non-convertible (See Rules 19.4, 21.2.7.2, 22.1.2, 22.1.3, and 23.26). Unless a competitor declares, before firing his shot, that he is taking a permitted extra sighter, he will be deemed to have fired 'on score'.

Note regarding additional sighters:

1. These additional sighters are optional, not compulsory.
2. When electing to fire an optional additional sighter, the competitor must take it immediately and not wait for his next rotational turn.
3. Rule 19.4 covers the situation where a competitor cannot tell the position of his shot through two strikes on the target during one exposure. He is entitled to claim the higher value and **also** request a non-convertible sighter.
4. Rule 21.2.7.2 covers the situation where a Range Officer instructs a competitor to stop shooting immediately and either change his ammunition or his rifle as the combination in use is showing signs of dangerously excessive pressure. If the competitor changes to another rifle he will be allowed an additional non-convertible sighter. However, if he merely switches to another safe batch of ammunition, no additional sighter will be permitted. (This rule has an incorrect cross-reference to Rule 21.1.2, which should be to 22.1.2)
5. Rule 22.1.2 covers the situation where a rifle becomes unserviceable during the firing at any single distance. If satisfied that this is the case, the Range Officer will permit the change to another rifle and allow an additional non-convertible sighter.
6. Rule 22.1.3 permits a competitor, with Range Officer permission, to temporarily quit the firing point to rectify a rifle fault. If he rejoins during that detail he will **not** be allowed an additional sighter. However, at the sole discretion of the CRO, the competitor may be allowed to finish his shoot in a subsequent detail (if there is one). In this case he will be permitted a non-convertible sighter.
7. Rule 23.26: This is a typo in the rules document. It should be 23.25, which allows a competitor an optional non-convertible sighter whenever his shoot is interrupted for longer than five minutes (NB: this is a change from the previous ten minute rule) through no fault of the competitor.
8. Rule 23.26 covers the situation where a competitor misses the target with four successive shots. He is obliged to stop shooting until his target companions have finished. He may then complete his shoot but will not be permitted an additional sighter. It will not be construed as "coaching" if his target companions then assist him until he gets his first shot onto the target.

D. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

Competitors are warned that the safety rules regarding bolt removal or insertion of an Empty Chamber Indicator (Breech Flag) will be strictly applied.

E. TIME LIMIT:

Range Officers have been instructed to be strict in “policing” the time limit per shot of 45 seconds when there are three shooters on a target and 60 seconds with two shooters. This will also apply in tie shoots.

F. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SABU AND ICFRA RULES:

There are two significant differences. Under SABU Rules a ricochet counts and tie-shoots with five or fewer contestants will consist of one convertible sighter plus 3 counters (5 counters if more than five shooters).

G. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Competitors’ attention is drawn to the type of protests that must be handled on the range, as opposed to those that can be handled afterwards. The former cannot be resolved by lodging a protest at the SABU office afterwards. *Extracts* from the relevant rules (our emphasis added in **bold**) are as follows:

- 26.2 Any claim or complaint by a competitor or team **arising on the firing point** must be made **at once** by way of protest to the **Range Officer**. If his decision is disputed, or if the protest is not disposed of on the spot, the matter must immediately be referred to the Chief Range Officer, or his Deputy. The CRO will, if necessary, seek advice from the Referee (if one has been appointed), or members of the Range Committee.
- 26.3 The CRO has **absolute discretion** to deal with matters involving **safety or security** in accordance with Rule 2B.1.
- 26.4 The ruling by the **CRO** as to **outcomes on the range** will be **final**. In the event that a ruling cannot be given on the spot, or immediately on the completion of the competitor’s (or team’s) shoot, the circumstances must be put in writing by the competitor or team captain concerned and handed to the CRO or the secretarial office **within 30 minutes of the end of the match**, for subsequent ruling by the Executive Committee.
- 26.5 Protests **not directly related to occurrences on the firing point**, must be made, **in writing**, to the Executive Officer for resolution by the Executive Committee.
- 26.6 An appeal against disallowance of score or any other penalty (or lack thereof) imposed by the CRO must be made in writing to the Executive Officer, **within 2 hours of the end of the match**, accompanied by any relevant appeal fee as set by the Executive Committee. This fee will be returned if the appeal is upheld. The Executive Committee will deal with the appeal as promptly as possible, consistent always with the principles of fair hearing under “due process.”
- 26.7 Should an appellant not be satisfied with a ruling of the Executive Committee, he has the right to request a review by the SABU Dispute Resolution Committee. (See Appendix K)