

# **SOUTH AFRICAN BISLEY UNION RULES AND REGULATIONS DECEMBER 2018**

## **RULES FOR F-CLASS**

### **FOREWORD**

These rules were revised to line up with the rules of the International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations (ICFRA) as far as possible, per the wishes of the SABU F-Class Club and agreement in principle by the SABU Council. These rules came into effect from 1 January 2010. They are to be read in conjunction with the approved SABU Rules for Target Rifle Shooting in all respects where applicable. This is particularly relevant with respect to the SA Open Championships. F-Class entrants must acquaint themselves with all the rules governing meeting entries, the role of the SABU Executive Committee and all the various general definitions and rules covering the conduct of shooting on the range. For reference, the SABU Rulebook is posted to the Union's Website.

### **FC1 DEFINITIONS**

- FC1.1 These rules govern the conduct of all F-Class discipline shooting throughout South Africa with particular reference to the SA Open Championships, which are held in conjunction with those for Target Rifle (TR) and .303 shooting.
- FC1.2 For all International Team Matches, the ICFRA Rules will usually be strictly applied unless there are minor deviations for safety or other domestic reasons.
- FC1.3 SABU recognises both international classes (F-Open & F/TR), as well as two F Sporting Rifle classes for standard commercially available rifles, as defined under Technical Specifications FC2.1. At the SA Open Championships they will have equal status.
- FC1.4 No competitor may use equipment or shooting methods that provide him with an unfair advantage or put any other competitor at an unfair disadvantage.
- FC1.5 The spirit of the F-Class Rules is to encourage innovation. Range and Match Committees and Referees will bear this philosophy in mind when ruling on issues not covered by these rules.

**NB: Other definitions, common to all three disciplines (Target Rifle, F-Class and .303) are spelt out in the TR Rules.**

### **RANGE REGULATIONS**

#### **FC2 RIFLES, AMMUNITION AND OTHER EQUIPMENT**

**It is the personal responsibility of each competitor to ensure that his rifles, ammunition and other equipment comply with the specifications laid out in these rules. He is also responsible for ensuring that his rifles are safe with the ammunition he will use and will not endanger himself or any other person or property. He may be required to indicate in writing that his ammunition has been tested and found safe in the rifle/s to be used. He will, on entry, be required to indemnify SABU against responsibility and claims arising from any occurrence caused by his equipment or ammunition (or the combination thereof).**

#### **FC2.1 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF RIFLES AND AMMUNITION**

- FC2.1.1 Four separate rifle classes are recognised under SABU F-Class rules, F-Open, F/TR, F Sporting Rifle Open and F Sporting Rifle Standard. The differences are in calibre, rifle maximum weight and rests, and in the case of F Sporting Rifle, also in the barrel length, allowed.
- FC2.1.2 An F-Open rifle may be of any calibre up to and including 8mm and 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 including 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 clamped, magnetically or viscously held, or in any other way joined to the rifle for each shot, or which even slightly rises with the rifle when vertically lifting the latter from its rest(s). This includes rain protection material as described at FC3.2.

- FC2.1.2.1 An F Sporting Rifle Standard may be of any calibre up to and including 8mm and the overall weight must not exceed 8.25kg including all attachments (such as, but not limited to, its sights and bipod, if any). F Sporting Rifle Standard class barrel length should be less than 65 cm (26 inches) measured from the front of the action to the muzzle.
- FC2.1.2.2 An F Sporting Rifle Open may be of any calibre up to and including 8mm and the overall weight must not exceed 10kg including all attachments (such as, but not limited to, its sights and bipod, if any). No barrel length limit is set for F Sporting Rifle Open.
- FC2.1.2.3 NB: For both F Sporting Rifle classes, an 'attachment' is defined as in Rule FC2.1.2.
- FC2.1.2.4 For both F Sporting Rifle classes, ammunition may be commercially made or hand-loaded as defined in Rule FC2.1.24. There is no restriction on bullet weight. The Sporting Rifle classes are limited to the use of an attached bipod and/or a sling as front supports, optionally together with a rear bag, which provides no positive mechanical means of returning the rifle to its precise point of aim for the next shot. All other Technical Rules apply.
- FC2.1.3 An F/TR rifle is limited to .223 Remington or .308 Winchester calibre chambers or their commercial metrification equivalents. Chamber dimensions must conform to SAAMI or CIP dimensions. Bore, Groove and Throat dimensions may be selected to suit bullets used. Ammunition may be commercially made or hand-loaded as defined in Rule FC2.1.24. There is no restriction on bullet weight. The F/TR rifle class is limited to the use of an attached bipod and/or a sling as front supports, optionally together with a rear bag, which provides no positive mechanical means of returning the rifle to its precise point of aim for the next shot. The overall weight must not exceed 8.25kg including all attachments (such as, but not limited to, its sights and bipod, if any). NB: An 'attachment' is defined as in Rule FC2.1.2. All other Technical Rules apply.
- FC2.1.4 If an F-Open rifle is used with a separate front rest/bag, the fore-end width may not exceed 76mm.
- FC2.1.5 Triggers shall be manually operated: electronic, set or "release" triggers are not permitted.
- FC2.1.6 The weight of the trigger pull is unregulated, but must be safe and conform to the requirements of rules FC2.1.5 and FC2.1.7.
- FC2.1.7 A trigger shall be deemed "safe" if the sear engages on each occasion when the bolt is slowly and gently closed three times in succession with the barrel pointing upwards. Any failure will lead to the trigger being deemed "unsafe" and the rifle may not be used pending rectification.
- FC2.1.8 Any Range Officer may at his absolute discretion, or on instruction from the Chief Range Officer, test any trigger prior to a shoot.
- FC2.1.9 Any sights may be used (including telescopic sights).
- FC2.1.10 Barrel extensions of any length may be fitted to mount a foresight or act as counterweight, but will be weighed as part of the rifle.
- FC2.1.11 Magazine: A magazine - if fitted - will not be used except as a loading platform for single rounds.
- FC2.1.12 Muzzle compensators or muzzle brakes are not permitted.  
Chronographs: not allowed in competition.

- FC2.1.13 Sound moderators are not permitted in the F-Open and F/TR classes. Their usage in the F Sporting Rifle classes is optional.
- FC2.1.14 The F-Open rifle may be supported by front and rear rests, or on bags (front and rear), which provide no positive mechanical method for returning the rifle to its point of aim for the previous shot, nor may the rear bag be placed on or in a mechanically adjustable base. The area of contact between the front bag and the rifle fore-end shall not exceed 76mm x 76mm. No more than two rests may be used to support the rifle. If two rests are employed, they may not be attached to each other.
- FC2.1.15 The F-Open front rest may be employed for either the rifle's fore-end or for the shooter's forward hand. If attached, clamped or held onto the rifle in any way, a front rest must be included in the rifle's overall weight.
- FC2.1.16 The F/TR rifle may be supported by an attached bipod and rear bag which provide no positive mechanical method for returning the rifle to its point of aim for the previous shot, nor may the rear bag be placed on or in a mechanically adjustable base. No more than two artificial supports may be used to support the rifle. If two supports are employed, they may not be attached to each other. A sling may be used in addition to the above. This rule also applies to both F Sporting Rifle classes.
- FC2.1.17 The rifle or the front and rear rests (or bipod) may, however, incorporate an integral mechanism for raising and lowering either its butt or fore-end provided that it does not contravene rule FC2.1.2 above. The front rest may also be adjustable laterally. This rule also applies to both F Sporting Rifle classes.
- FC2.1.18 No portion of the rifle's butt or pistol grip shall rest on the ground or on any hard surface. Any rear rest employed shall not be attached, clamped or held onto the rifle in any way. The rear rest may not be joined to the front rest/bipod, nor may it be spiked to the ground.
- FC2.1.19 The contents of front and rear bags shall be a dry, finely (< 5 mm) divided substance such as, but not limited to sand, gravel, or grain, packed loosely enough so that the bag must be visibly deformable on sides and top by pressure of the range officer's fingers.
- FC2.1.20 Any number and type of object(s) (of any material) may be placed beneath each rest to compensate for variations in the height, slope or surface of the firing point, also beneath and around any rear sandbag or beanbag to reduce its rolling, but such objects may not touch the rifle fore-end or butt.
- FC2.1.21 The F-Open rest(s) or base(s) for each front rest may have up to three "feet". Each such "foot" may terminate in a single spike, which may be pressed into the ground by up to 50mm (about 2") provided this causes no significant permanent harm or indentation to the firing point.
- FC2.1.21.1 The F/TR bipod may have up to two "feet". Each such "foot" may terminate in a spike, which may be pressed into the ground by up to 50mm (about 2") provided this causes no significant permanent harm or indentation to the firing point. A "ski" facilitating free recoil is also permitted. This rule also applies to both F Sporting Rifle classes.
- FC2.1.22 Rests may be adjusted after any shot, in order to change the point of aim and/or to compensate for the rifle's recoil having caused such things as rest movement and/or sandbag/beanbag settling.
- FC2.1.23 The use of 'tables' i.e. a single flat solid surface extending under both front rest and rear bag is prohibited. Carpet, matting or separate flat boards or plates not exceeding the dimensions of the individual rests by 50mm (two inches) are allowed to be placed under the front rest and rear bag. In the case of a bipod, the board or plate may be as wide as necessary but not be more than 300mm (12") front to rear. It is not permitted to provide tracks for the guidance of bipod feet or allow the feet to create them. No levelling screws or protrusions are allowed on these boards or plates. They must be flat at the top and bottom.

FC2.1.24 Ammunition may be commercial or handloaded but loaded in a manner consistent with the ammunition industry's accepted standards; must be safe to fire in the rifle for which it is intended and must meet in all respects the limitations of any range regulations (e.g. calibre, velocity, muzzle energy etc.).

FC2.1.24.1 Ammunition, once chambered, must be capable of being extracted without separation of bullet from case. In the event of a round of ammunition separating, the matter will be treated as a malfunction and will be subject to the provisions of rule FC8.4.

FC2.1.25 SABU may on application permit such modification to the rifle, clothing or equipment of a physically disabled competitor as may assist him to compete on equal terms with other competitors. See also Rule FC6.1.

### **FC3 DRESS AND AIDS TO SHOOTING**

FC3.1 Equipment boxes/bags may be taken onto the firing point provided they do not inconvenience other competitors and are not placed so as to shield the competitor, or his rifle, from wind or rain or sun. The maximum permitted height of such shooting box/bag is 300mm.

FC3.2 Screening. A barrel mirage band is permitted and black or coloured adhesive tape may be applied to the top surface of the barrel. A flexible or rigid cover may be used to prevent dust or rain from getting into the action. More general cover may be provided by a piece of transparent material not exceeding 1 metre square over the scope and action which:-

FC3.2.1 does not interfere with the RO's visibility over whether the bolt is open or not;

FC3.2.2 is attached to the rifle in such a way as to ensure that the material cannot be blown away by wind or muzzle blast (its weight is included with that of the rifle at FC2.1.2 and FC2.1.3); and

FC3.2.3 does not interfere with the shooter's partner or his equipment.

FC3.2.4 Personal shooting 'tents' are not permitted, nor are transparent tunnels unattached to the rifle for cover against the weather.

All items mentioned immediately above will be included in the rifle weight.

FC3.3 Personal wind indicating or measuring devices of any description are forbidden on, or visible from, the firing point. "Wind Correction Tables" in printed form, or as "slide rules" are permitted. National or Team flags, flown at the back of the Team Area are not considered a contravention of this rule.

FC3.4 Any person within the butts, or close enough to the firing range to risk damage to their hearing, must use adequate ear protection (such as ear defenders or ear plugs) at all times when shooting is taking place.

### **FC4 SQUADDING**

FC 4.1 For the SA Open Championships, all F-Class shooters will be squadded on a separate butt or butts from the TR competitors (this is necessitated by the different targets).

FC4.2 For individual matches, squadding will be computer generated, following the pattern of that for TR. Normally this will be "Bisley style" with three competitors to a target, firing single shots in rotation.

FC4.3 There will normally be two details. A competitor will be squadded in the same detail for all the matches on Day 1 and the details will alternate on subsequent days. Timing of the details will be based on the generally slower TR details.

FC4.4 Refer to Rule 8 in the TR Rules for full details of the squadding procedure.

FC4.5 An alternative Single String squadding system is detailed in Appendix G. This system is permissible

at Provincial and Club level, particularly in the hot Summer months. It could be considered by the SABU Council for the SA Championships if fired on a smaller range, which cannot accommodate the whole field in two details.

## **FC5 TARGETS**

- FC5.1 For International Long Range Matches under full ICFRA jurisdiction, the target is the ICFRA F-Class International Target (IIFT). Dimension details are shown in Annex FC/A. This is in fact the ICFRA (Palma) TR Target, scored one ring tighter. A new 128mm (5") V-Bull is centred in the TR 254mm (10") V-Bull, which becomes the F-Class Bull. For all other long range matches in South Africa, the target will be as per SABU TR Targets, again scored one ring tighter, with a new V-Bull as for the IIFT. (This is a deviation from ICFRA rules.)
- FC5.2 For Short Range, targets will be as per SABU TR Targets, again scored one ring tighter, with a new V-Bull, half the diameter of the TR V-Bull. For International Matches under full ICFRA jurisdiction, the ICFRA 300m target will be used. This has an additional scoring zone in the black aiming mark. (The SABU 500/600m target is identical to the ICFRA one for 600m).
- FC5.3 F Sporting Rifle will use F-Class targets or animal targets with rings with the same dimensions as for F- Class (depending on which is allowed by the range). If animal targets are used the rings will be included in such a way that the V bull will be in the center of the vital organ area, and the following is proposed:
- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 300m/yards    | Jackal with F Class 300m/yard rings           |
| 500m/yards    | Springbuck with F Class 500m/yard rings       |
| 600m/yards    | Blesbuck with F Class 600m/yard rings         |
| 700m/800yards | Bluwildebeest with F Class 800m/900yard rings |

DESCRIPTION AND DIMENSIONS OF THE SABU TR TARGETS ARE DETAILED IN APPENDIX D.

## **FC6 CONDUCT OF SHOOTING**

**The following rules are similar to those for TR Shooting in most respects.**

- FC6.1 The prone or supine (back) position may be used with the barrel protruding over the front of the mound, unless special provisions exist in the match conditions for disabled competitors and range safety regulations so permit. While the shooter must present himself to the rifle when shooting in the normal prone position, it is not a requirement for the butt plate to be placed firmly in the shoulder.
- FC6.2 A competitor may not screen himself or his rifle from the sun or weather while shooting, except as provided in rules FC3.1 and FC3.2. See also TR Rule 27.16 in respect of team matches.
- FC6.3 When on the firing point a competitor must comply with all orders given by the CRO or by any assistant acting under his orders.
- FC6.4 No competitor may move himself or his equipment forward onto the firing point until authorised to do so by the CRO. In all competitions the CRO will allow a minimum of five minutes between calling competitors forward and giving the order to commence firing.
- FC6.5 Firing may be suspended temporarily by order of the Chief Range Officer, if in his opinion the weather makes such suspension desirable; or for safety reasons. (Shooting *MUST* be suspended in the case of lightning). Firing will be resumed as soon as possible, at the CRO's discretion. Rule FC6.6. applies.
- FC6.6 If a competitor's firing, through no fault of his own, has been interrupted in the opinion of the CRO for five minutes or more, the competitor may, after notifying the register keeper, fire one optional non-convertible sighting shot before resuming. In the event of a break in shooting taking place after a shooter has fired his first convertible sighter of two, his non-convertible extra sighter remains non-convertible, but the original sighter retains its convertible status. In Team shooting the sighting shot is NOT transferable to another Team Member.

- FC6.7 The CRO may, if desirable, transfer a competitor to another target in the same detail, either before he begins to shoot or if the target breaks down. If the competitor has fired one or more shots (whether sighting or to count), he will be entitled to an optional, non-convertible sighter before resuming exactly where he left off. Squads shooting 'single string' may be redistributed to other targets at the RO's discretion.
- FC6.8 In individual competitions, competitors whilst on the firing point, may spot for each other but must NOT give or willingly receive any information or advice in the nature of coaching. It is also permitted for a competitor, on his first sighting shot, or after a miss, to request the others on his target to watch for the strike. Information on the whereabouts of the "dust" on this shot will not constitute coaching, provided no specific advice is given on sight correction. It is NOT regarded as coaching to assist a competitor to obtain his first hit on the target nor to spot for a strike for a shot following a 'miss', though NO advice may be given after the first hit has been obtained. It is permissible, providing only minimal delay is incurred, to make enquiry of a target marker as to the position of a strike on the butt stop, but this is at the shooter's own risk. Other than the above, the giving or receiving of any information or advice in the nature of wind coaching is not permitted, whether from a fellow shooter on the same target or from any third party. No personal electronic device(s) may be taken to the firing point except timers and electronic earmuffs (which must NOT be able to receive wireless transmissions). Electronic equipment provided by the organisers, or explicitly permitted by them, for the purposes of electronic targetry or spectator information systems are permitted, as are implanted medical devices. (See TR Rules 20.1.7 and 35.5) Where wireless personal devices are explicitly permitted for the receipt and display of electronic target information, the screens of such devices are liable to view by the Register Keeper or a Range Officer on demand and at any time. See also Rule FC12.10.
- FC6.8.1 If an allegation of receipt of unauthorised coaching is made during a shoot, and is contested, the CRO or Referee will allow the individual (or team) to continue 'under protest' until the Executive Committee can meet to adjudicate the matter. This Meeting must take place at the first possible opportunity.
- FC6.9 The following only are allowed both within the CRO's Restricted Area (See TR Rule 20.1) or on the firing points:
- FC6.9.1 Staff on range duty
- FC6.9.2 Competitors required for firing or otherwise taking part in the competition
- FC6.9.3 Persons authorised to assist in the conduct of the competition
- FC6.9.4 Officially accredited team members and reserves in accordance with the conditions of the match being shot
- The following are allowed within the Competitors' Area but are not allowed onto the firing point without the prior permission of the CRO:
- FC6.9.5 VIPs and others with 'Field of Play' accreditation, escorted on behalf of the CRO
- FC6.9.6 Officially accredited Media Representatives, who will be subject to rule FC6.10 and all appropriate safety limitations
- FC6.10 No person is allowed to make any noise or disturbance likely to affect a competitor. The RO may have any person infringing this regulation removed from the vicinity of the firing point.
- FC6.11 "Retirement". A competitor 'retires' when he voluntarily ceases to fire before being required to do so by the rules or conditions of the competition. When a competitor retires he will not be allowed to resume firing at that distance but will be allowed to count the score that he has actually made. Retirement at one distance of the competition does not debar a competitor from firing at any subsequent distance(s). The competitor must notify the RO of his intention, and must hand in his scorecard suitably endorsed. Unless retiring due to some unforeseen emergency, the competitor

must discharge his register keeping duties or, if squadded in threes, he may, with RO's approval, switch scorecards so that the other two can act as register keeper for one another.

- FC6.12 It is expressly forbidden for a competitor to change from a rifle of one calibre to one of another calibre during the firing at either short or long range of a match, either individual or team. If a match comprises both short range (up to 600m) and long range distances (700m or greater), it is permitted to change calibres between short and long range.
- FC6.13 It is permissible for organisers to provide temporary or (if range conformation allows) permanent shelter for firers. This may only be provided if ALL shooters receive shelter for all details at the distance in question; and provided that there are no adverse implications for range or shooter safety. Whether or not shelter is provided, Rule FC6.2 continues to apply. In providing such shelter organisers should ensure as far as possible that an artificial 'wind break' for downwind shooters is not created. Individual shooters or teams may not take up objects, such as umbrellas, onto the firing point for the provision of shelter for shooters.

## **FC7 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

**Although covered in the TR Section under the same heading, the procedures in these rules are vitally important and are reproduced here directly from the ICFRA F-Class Rules.**

- FC7.1 Competitors MUST ensure the safety of their Rifle and ammunition. The CRO or his staff must investigate the cause of difficult opening of the bolt or cartridge extraction, blown primers, blow-back, case separation or splitting or any other signs of excess pressure.
- FC7.2 A competitor MUST:-
- FC7.2.1 stop firing immediately if he suspects that the ammunition he is using is producing dangerous pressures in his firearm; and
- FC7.2.2 draw the attention of the Range Officer to the continued use of apparently dangerous ammunition by any competitor including himself. The cumulative effect of cartridges producing excessive pressures can lead to firearm failure even in cases where one or more rounds have been discharged without apparent damage or danger.
- FC7.3 At all times, the RO MUST, if he sees or has brought to his attention a competitor having difficulty because his ammunition is producing signs of excessive pressure or for any other reason, order the firer to cease firing temporarily and immediately report the matter to the Chief Range Officer. The CRO, or the RO at his direction, will:-
- FC7.3.1 ensure that the competitor does not inconvenience others, by making him wait until others on his target (if any) have completed their shoots; and
- FC7.3.2 examine the competitor's fired cartridge cases for signs of high pressures. If the cases show the signs of excessive pressure, the CRO must not allow the competitor to fire again unless he changes his ammunition. This does not preclude the CRO authorising completion of the shoot with safe equipment or ammunition. Changes of rifle are also governed by Rule FC8.1.
- FC7.4 All rifles, whether in bags/cases or not, must at all times and in all places on the range be carried in "safe condition". This can either be with bolt removed or by displaying an 'Empty Chamber Indicator' ("ECI", often a breech flag) inserted (or both). An ECI MUST be of sufficient length to penetrate at least 20mm into the chamber and of overall length appropriate to the action.
- FC7.5 No rifle may be loaded or fired until the CRO has given the order "LOAD and CARRY ON". Any RO may give an order to cease firing at any time for any safety-related reason. If a competitor observes a safety hazard, which has not been noted by the range staff, he is to unload and immediately warn the RO and competitors in his vicinity.
- FC7.6 Neither aiming nor dry firing an unloaded rifle is allowed except when in the firing position on the firing point, and then only, with (C)RO permission, if it would be in all respects safe actually to fire,

and provided it causes no delay.

- FC7.7 A competitor who, whilst on the firing point, accidentally discharges his rifle will not be allowed to repeat his shot and the shot will be recorded as a miss. He may be considered to have acted in a dangerous manner under penalty rule 36.4 in the TR section.
- FC7.8 Any competitor acting in a dangerous manner will be forbidden to fire until the CRO is satisfied that he will no longer act in a dangerous manner.
- FC7.9 The rifle of every competitor must be inspected by the competitor's register keeper immediately after firing at every distance to establish that the breech and barrel are clear and a breech flag has been inserted, or the bolt has been removed from the rifle. A competitor who fails to present his rifle for inspection whether called on to do so or not, may be considered as "acting in a way that might prove dangerous".
- FC7.10 If a live round is jammed in a rifle chamber, but the bolt can be removed, the competitor must leave the rifle pointed towards the butts and call for the RO to arrange for the removal of the cartridge. Under no circumstances should an attempt be made to remove the round with a cleaning rod. After removal of the cartridge, the competitor will be permitted to continue his shoot. If the action locks on a live round and the bolt cannot be removed, the rifle must be left on the firing point, pointed towards the targets, until the range is clear. An armourer must then be called to make the rifle safe. A cartridge extractor, cleaning rod or other means may be used to extract a **spent** cartridge case, with minimum disturbance to neighbouring competitors.
- FC7.11 In the event of more than one failure under rule FC7.1 or a need repeatedly to artificially extract spent cases, the Range Officer must consider the possibility of the use of unsafe ammunition as provided for under Rules FC7.2. and FC7.3.
- FC7.12 If a misfire occurs, the competitor should be aware of the possible danger of a hang-fire. The RO must be called immediately, whilst the rifle remains pointed towards the targets. After waiting at least 30 seconds, the competitor may then turn the rifle on its side, so that the loading port faces the ground, and open the bolt. The competitor must ensure that his fingers and all other parts of his body are not behind the bolt. It is the responsibility of the RO to ensure that no one is standing behind, should the bolt be blown out. On no account must a round that has misfired be reloaded into the rifle.

## **FC8 RIFLES and AMMUNITION – MISHAPS and TESTING**

- FC8.1 Unless otherwise stipulated by a specific match condition, a competitor may not change his rifle during the course of a single Team or Individual Match unless he adheres to rule FC 6.12 regarding change of calibre, or the rifle (or its sight) becomes unsafe or unserviceable and only if the RO or Referee verifies this to be so. Deteriorating grouping ability of the rifle due to barrel fouling or any other non visible cause will not be considered a malfunction. In respect of changes between shots within a shoot: -
- FC8.1.1 In the F-Open class the rifle may be replaced by another of any calibre allowed under rule FC2.1.2, or the same calibre but different chamber. This rule also applies to both F Sporting Rifle classes.
- FC8.1.2 In F/TR a switch to a different calibre is **prohibited**.
- FC8.1.3 If the switch occurs after the first shot to count in a string of shots, a further sighter is NOT permitted.
- FC8.1.4 A reserve, if called upon to shoot, may use his own rifle (of whatever calibre). A reserve may ONLY be called on to shoot in circumstances personally affecting a Team Member and not in respect of his equipment failing.
- FC8.2 A shot has not been fired until the striker has functioned and the bullet has left the barrel. If a bullet exits the muzzle, it will, for scoring purposes, be considered as a shot properly fired, unless the shot



has been discharged deliberately for safety reasons at the request of the RO or other Range official.

- FC8.3 The CRO or RO, if satisfied that it can be done with safety, may permit a competitor to leave the firing point to rectify a mishap to his rifle, or to change his ammunition in accordance with rule FC7.3.2 and complete his shoot within the period of his detail or time allocation, once the other competitors on his target have completed their shoot. An additional sighter will not be permitted.
- FC8.4 A competitor who suffers a malfunction to his rifle which cannot be rectified on or behind the firing point may, if timings and target availability permit, be re-squadded. This is at the absolute discretion of the CRO. The competitor's score to date will stand, and he will be permitted one optional non-convertible sighter.
- FC8.5 A RO may at his sole discretion (or in accordance with the CRO's direction) test any trigger of any competitor immediately prior to him shooting under rule FC2.1.8, or following a rectification under rule FC8.3 above, or following a shoot before the scorecard has been accepted.
- FC8.6 Before testing, both the competitor and the RO must check to see that the rifle is unloaded. A 'snap cap' may be inserted in the chamber under supervision.
- FC8.7 All trigger tests are to be made by a RO or, under his supervision, by the competitor or some other person delegated by the RO or requested by the competitor. The format of the test is given at rule FC2.1.7. A shooter must be permitted to conduct the test under supervision if he so requests, but the RO has the subsequent right himself also to test if not satisfied.

## **FC9 SIGHTING SHOTS & CONVERTIBLE SIGHTING SHOTS**

**The following F-Class rules for sighting shots are identical to those for Target Rifle (Rule 24 in the TR Section) but are repeated here for ease of reference.**

- FC9.1 A competitor who cannot tell the position of an initial 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 will be as in Rule FC11.3. In respect of a non-convertible sighter, the shooter may carry on regardless or request permission from the RO to repeat the shot.
- FC9.2 After a competitor has fired his second sighting shot, he may elect to count the second sighting shot, or both in his score. He must declare his intention to his register keeper BEFORE any further shot is fired by him. In the absence of such declaration, he will be deemed NOT to have converted his sighting shots. The register keeper is to acknowledge any conversions.
- FC9.3 The two sighting shots in a tie shoot are convertible.
- FC9.4 Except as provided at FC9.1 above or FC11.1 below, all extra sighting shots provided for in these rules are optional and non-convertible. Unless a competitor declares *before* shooting his shot, that he is taking a permitted extra sighter, he will be deemed to have fired 'on score'.
- FC9.5 If 'blow-off' shots are called for under match conditions and can safely be provided, they are to be fired as aimed shots into the stop butt, the rifle having previously been safely loaded and the range declared safe. They will be conducted under control of the (C)RO. On the main range(s), such shots may only be allowed at the start of the day's shooting.

## **FC10 REGISTER KEEPING**

**The procedure for Register Keeping is common to Target Rifle, F-Class and .303, as detailed in Appendix F (and G for Single String Squadding). For F-Class, the marking and scoring will be one ring tighter, but the Register Keeping procedure remains the same.**

## FC11 TARGET IRREGULARITIES

**NB: The rules in this section are common to Target Rifle but are reproduced here as some are separated in the TR Section.**

- FC11.1 If at the moment at which a competitor fires, his target is moved in such a manner as to falsify the result of his shot and this can be evidenced to the satisfaction of the RO, he will cancel this shot and order the competitor to fire another in place of it. A high strike on the target will not, of itself, be evidence that the target moved. If the shot concerned is a convertible sighter, the replacement shot remains convertible.
- FC11.2 In all competitions, a competitor who fires at the wrong target will be credited with a miss for each shot so fired.
- FC11.3 A competitor who fires out of his proper turn at his own target will have one point deducted from the value of the shot, so long as this does not create a negative score for that shot. A V-bull or bull will be scored as an inner, and the V-bull thus loses its V-bull status. This applies both to counting and sighting shots. If in the circumstances of his shot out of turn two (or more) shots strike the target the value credited to him will be one point deducted from the shot of highest value unless the competitor, whose proper turn it was to shoot, has also fired during the same exposure. The deduction will then be from the shot of second highest value.
- FC11.4 Once the value of a shot has been accepted, or any query has been resolved, it remains "final". If the target subsequently goes down and a new shot is signalled without any of the competitors allocated to it having fired, that value will not be credited to any of them, even if a cross-shot from a nearby target cannot be established.

## FC12 MARKING and SCORING

### A. Marking in the Butts

- FC12.1 The SABU system of value signalling is detailed in Rule 17 of the TR Section.
- FC12.2 A shot on the non-scoring area will be signalled as for a miss and by a spotting disc, if possible. If the shot is on the target but a spotting disc cannot be inserted it is permissible for the butts to inform the RO of its position and for the competitor to be informed thereof.
- FC12.3 A spotting disc that has been hit must be patched before it is re-used.
- FC12.4 A shot that misses the target will be signalled by the removal of the value panel and the target sent up "clear" (i.e. previous spotting disc removed and hole patched):
- FC12.4.1 if the marker lowers the target, being sure (whether or not correctly) that a shot has been fired at his target, or
- FC12.4.2 after a radio or telephone message calling for the target to be marked (both target and spotting disc to be examined). The Butt Officer should, if possible, supervise "examinations".
- FC12.5 A ricochet will be regarded as a hit. In the event of an elongated hole the point closest to the centre of the target will determine the point of impact for scoring and marking purposes.

**NB: This is a significant SABU deviation from ICFRA Rules, which stipulate that a ricochet is a miss. We believe that "evidence of throwing sand into the gallery" is not a meaningful determinant of whether a shot has ricocheted or not and will lead to inconsistent rulings by the Butt Officer.**

- FC12.6 If, on lowering the target, two (or more) shot holes are apparent, that having the higher value will be signalled but all shots will be shown by spotting discs.
- FC12.7 When a shot touches the line between two divisions of the target, the competitor will be credited with

the higher value. In case of doubt a gauge of 7.82mm diameter (=0.308 inches) will be used (regardless of the actual calibre in use) to determine the value of the shot. The ruling by a butt officer will be final.

- FC12.8 A competitor may challenge the signalled value of a shot, whether for a hit, a further hit or for higher value, by so indicating to the RO (see also FC12.15 and FC12.16). On a challenge being received the target is to be lowered. The butt officer's disc/flag will be shown above the mantlet by the marker. The butt officer (whose decision is final) will then personally examine the target, gauging the shot hole if necessary, after which:
- FC12.8.1 If a challenge for a hit, the shot (if found) or a miss will be signalled.
- FC12.8.2 If a challenge for a further hit, any further shot found will be marked and signalled. If no additional shot is found the target will be sent up with the original spotting disc and value indicator in place.
- FC12.8.3 If a challenge for a higher value, or a report that the spotting disc disagrees with the signalled value, the correct value will be signalled whether it has been altered or not.

The outcome will also be communicated to the RO who will relay it to the shooter.

- FC12.9 Messages between firing point and butts will be by radio.
- FC12.10 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. Use will be made of Code Messages as detailed in Rule 18 in the TR Section. While firing is actually taking place 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 (or put into 'airline mode') by all personnel in the butts and those within 20 metres of the firing point, except those on the firing point as provided for in the rules in respect of electronic target displays.
- FC12.11 It is permissible for Butt Officers to redistribute markers between targets during a break in shooting.

## **B. Scoring on the firing point**

- FC12.11 If the target shows two (or more) spotting discs the shot having the higher value will be signalled and credited to the competitor who has fired at the target in proper turn. If the shot in question is a convertible sighter, Rule FC9.1 applies. If it is a shot to count or a non-convertible sighter, the competitor will be entitled to an optional non-convertible sighting shot (or repeat as the case may be). In either case, if taken, the shot is to be fired at once and **MUST** be nominated to the register keeper and any other competitors on the target before being fired.
- FC12.12 If the spotting disc disagrees unmistakably with the value signalled, the competitor or register keeper must at once inform the RO (Message 3) who will ascertain the value of the shot. No more shots are to be fired at that target until the value has been ascertained and signalled.
- FC12.13 Anyone who sees such an unmistakable disagreement in the value of a spotting disc, on any target, to which there has been no call for rectification, is obliged to immediately call it to the attention of the RO. It is not permitted for the shooters on the target to agree amongst themselves that it is a marking error and score accordingly.
- FC12.14 If the target is not lowered after a shot is fired at it, the competitor, his register keeper, or the next competitor to fire must ask the RO to have the target marked.
- FC12.15 The signalled value of a shot (or a miss if so signalled or notified) may be challenged once only before any other shot is fired at the same target. The competitor must notify the register keeper and the next competitor due to fire (if not himself) that he intends to challenge, and the register keeper must initial any consequent change in value recorded on the scorecard. An unsuccessful challenge may become liable for a 'Fee' under Rule FC12.19.
- FC12.16 If a competitor believes that the shot marked on the target was not that which he fired he may query

the shot marked and call for the target to be examined for a further hit (SABU Message 6). If a second hit is found of higher value he will receive that value. If no additional hit is found he will receive the value of the original shot marked. If no additional shot is found he may be liable to a challenge fee as in Rule FC 12.19.

FC12.17 If there is any uncertainty as to the true value of a shot, the RO will communicate with the butt officer by radio to confirm the true value, and the competitor will be credited with the true value. Where a spotting disc appears not to have moved, a competitor or register keeper may check that this reflects the arrival of a shot extremely close to its predecessor by means of SABU Message 8.

FC12.18 If the circumstances are such that the signalled value of a shot cannot be verified at once, or without considerable delay, the competitor will, unless the RO decides otherwise, be credited with the signalled value.

FC12.19 It is SABU's prerogative to decide whether there should be a challenge fee and, if so, the amount. No fee is payable if the challenge is upheld.

FC12.20 No competitor may, under any circumstances, knowingly claim or accept points which he has not made, or connive at any such conduct by another competitor.

FC12.21 In all competitions all targets will remain fully exposed until the completion of all shooting at that distance. The CRO will then direct the Chief Butt Officer to lower all targets and either:-

FC12.21.1 patch out all targets and keep them lowered or half-masted until Message 1 for a subsequent detail; or

FC12.21.2 change all targets for the next distance; or

FC12.21.3 pack up as shooting has finished for the session/day.

During a detail the CRO may order individual targets to be lowered on completion if the weather is such that the targets need protection.

FC12.22 The CRO or a RO may not go to the butts to inspect a target or allow an assistant or any competitor to do so.

FC12.23 All messages and results to and from the butts will be confirmed by radio.

### **FC13 CONDUCT OF INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**

FC13.1 Two styles of conduct of individual competition are recognised, defined as follows: -

FC13.1.1 Single string. In this, the competitor fires his sighters and counting shots in a string subject only to an overall time limit determined by the number of shots and the distance. How long he takes over each individual shot is a matter for him.

**The full rules for Single String shooting are detailed in Appendix G.**

FC13.1.2 'Bisley' style. In this two or three competitors are detailed to fire at the same target. They fire in rotation (or alternately, as the case may be) starting with the right hand competitor, and register keep for one another. This is the norm for the SA Open Championships. (See Rule FC4 – SQUADDING)

FC13.2 At the SA Open Championships and at Provincial or Club Open Championships advertised as being shot under SABU Rules, when both Target Rifle and F-Class Rifle are being shot concurrently, the style of shooting shall be the same for both disciplines, but with separate and distinct provision for squadding and targets.

FC13.3 Whichever method is in operation, F-Open and F/TR competitors will be randomly squadded together.

**The following extracts from the ICFRA Rules for conduct of “Bisley Style” shooting are similar to those for Target Rifle, but have been modified in accordance with SABU procedures. They are shown here for easy reference. (Rule numbers do not correspond with ICFRA ones.)**

- FC13.4 Squadding for the SA Open Championships will be in accordance with section FC4. For other events, organisers may squad competitors in twos or threes.
- FC13.5 When called forward by the RO, competitors on each target will position themselves on the firing point, with the ‘middle man’ directly over the target number marker.
- FC13.6 ROs will then check for any target on which there is only a single competitor and rectify the situation by moving one or more competitors. Only in exceptional circumstances may a competitor fire on his own, in which event the RO must detail a register keeper to keep score. Every reasonable effort should be made to avoid creating a trio, when pairs squadding is in use.
- FC13.7 The CRO will allow a minimum of five minutes preparation time before the “commence firing” order.
- FC13.8 A competitor who arrives during or after that preparation period, forfeits his right to shoot and may **only** be permitted to shoot if it does not inconvenience the other competitors on his target. No competitor is to be allowed to get down to shoot after the first shot has been fired on the target in question. The CRO (or his Deputy) alone has the absolute discretion to allow a competitor who has missed his detail to shoot in another; and will bear in mind the undesirability of allocating a detail or range position which might be thought to be more favourable to the competitor.
- FC13.9 The time allowance, per shot, is 45 seconds. Timing starts when the target has come to rest at the top of its travel, or the point at which any query as to the shot value, protest or challenge has been disposed of by the RO.
- FC13.10 If the targets have been pre-exposed in terms of TR Rule 23.8.3, to allow sight adjustments etc., timing (in terms of Rule FC13.9) for the first shot will be from the time the target is fully exposed for the first time. If the targets have not been pre-exposed, for a reason approved by the Executive Committee and/or (C)RO, and thus aiming and dry-firing was not permitted before the ‘COMMENCE FIRE’ command, competitors will be allowed sufficient time for sight aperture adjustments etc, but must not waste time with last-minute preparation, or excessive dry-firing. The time limit per shot then applies from the moment the shooters declare themselves ready.
- FC13.11 A competitor, timed by a RO and found to have taken too long, will be given one warning. Thereafter, he will forfeit two points for the first shot which the RO has personally timed and found to have exceeded the time limit. For each subsequent shot outside the time limit he will forfeit the value of the shot in question. These penalties apply to a particular distance only. For any transgression at a subsequent distance the process shall start anew. In the case of a localised disturbance such as a whirlwind or dust storm, a RO may use his discretion in allowing shooters a short relief from the 45 second time limit.
- FC13.12 Competitors on each target will act as register keepers for one another. In each case, a competitor will score for the competitor who fires immediately after him. This means that, with threes, the left and middle competitors will pass their scorecards to the right and the competitor on the right will pass his to the competitor on the left. If there are two competitors, they will just exchange scorecards.
- FC13.13 Competitors on a target will fire single shots alternately, or in rotation, starting with the competitor on the right. If a shooter fires out of turn, he will continue firing in rotation, i.e. not miss a turn to return to an original sequence of scoring.
- FC13.14 In individual competition a competitor who misses the target with four consecutive shots (whether including sighting shots or not) must stop firing until the others on the target have finished. He may then complete his shoot, but will not be allowed an extra sighting shot. The detail will not be extended to facilitate this, however.

FC13.15 Competitors must remain in position until all on their target have completed the shoot. They may then retire from the firing point, after completing their register keeping duties and rifle safety checks, provided they do not disturb competitors who are still firing on adjacent targets.

#### **FC14 CONDUCT OF TEAM MATCHES**

**F-Class team matches will be conducted under the same rules as those for Target Rifle, as set out in TR Rule 27.**

FC14.1 Team composition (number of officials relative to number of shooters and targets) will be as per TR rules, unless Match Conditions dictate otherwise.

FC14.2 The time limit for F-Class teams, for **all** distances, will be calculated as per Target Rifle for Short Range (Rule 27.13.1) (i.e. 1 minute and 15 seconds per shot).

FC14.3 A member of a team may change his rifle at any time, subject to Rules FC6.12 and FC8.1, but as a consequence may not fire any extra sighting shots. A team may NOT substitute the shooter concerned by a reserve. No extension will be given to a team's allotted time for the time taken to change a rifle.

#### **FC15 PROTESTS**

#### **FC16 APPEALS**

**Both are dealt with under TR Rule 26 – CHALLENGES, PROTESTS AND APPEALS.**

#### **FC17 BRIBES**

FC17.1 The offer of any money or a bribe of any kind to any match official, register keeper, butt marker (or anyone in a position to affect either true marking or scoring) or other competitor is strictly forbidden.

FC17.2 Any person knowing of any such offer, or of any attempt to defraud the host country or an official or any competitor, must report the same without delay in writing to the CRO, who will arrange for the matter to be dealt with by the SABU Disciplinary Committee. Failure so to do leaves the individual open to sanction under TR Rule 37.8.

#### **FC18 DOPING CONTROL**

The SABU Anti-Doping Regulations are detailed in Appendix C.

#### **FC19 PENALTIES**

The SABU Penalties Rules (identical to those of ICFRA) are in Part Five of the TR Rules (Rules 33 to 37).

#### **FC20 TIES FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

#### **FC21 TIES FOR TEAM EVENTS**

**The SABU Tie Rules are at Part Three of the TR Rules and apply to TR, F-Class and .303. They differ from the ICFRA rules in only one respect. In Individual matches, only ties for a trophy or first place in a competition will be resolved by a tie-shoot. All other ties will be counted out. At the SABU Council Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009, TR Rule 29.3 was amended to fall into line with ICFRA. In future, all tie-shoots will consist of two convertible sighters and five shots to count, irrespective of the number of contestants.**

**NB: ANNEXURE FC/A IS ON A SEPARATE PAGE BELOW**

## ANNEXURE FC/A

### DIMENSIONS OF SABU and ICFRA F-CLASS TARGETS. (Refer Rule FC5)

See also Appendix D for descriptions of the TR Targets on which these are based.

#### A1. Targets: General

A1.1 Form. All targets will consist of a circular black aiming mark centred on a white or off-white background. Scoring rings must be of a thickness and whiteness to be readily visible through a riflescope. A white circle instead of a white ring for the V-Bull is acceptable in domestic competition.

A1.2 Frame Sizes. The standard dimensions are (height x width):  
300yds/m: 1.2 x 1.2 metres (4 x 4 foot)  
500-700yds: 1.8 x 1.8 metres (6 x 6 foot)  
Long Range: The target frame shall not be less than 1.8m square. Target widths of 2.4m or 3.0m (or their imperial equivalents) are permissible.

However, it is permitted to mount the 300y/m target on the 1.8 metre square frame, within a marked 1.2 metre square “box”, designating the scoring area. Similarly, both the 300y/m and the 500/600y/m targets may be mounted on the Long Range frame, with the 1.2 metre square, or a 1.8 metre square, respectively, clearly marked to define the scoring area on each.

A1.3. Target numbering. Each target must be clearly numbered. These numbers must be of such size that they are clearly visible, to the naked eye, at the furthest distance to be shot on the targets in question. Corresponding number markers will be placed on the forward edge of each firing point.

#### A2. The ICFRA International F-Class Target Short Range

A2.1 The ICFRA F-Class targets for short range will be based on the ICFRA TR International targets for the respective distances, with a new V-Bull, half the diameter of the TR V-Bull. Scoring will be one ring tighter, i.e. the TR V-Bull will be the F-Class Bull and so on. (See Appendix D for dimensions). These targets will be used by SABU for all International matches under full ICFRA jurisdiction. For domestic purposes, both short and long range targets will be whatever is being used for TR, with the new half-diameter V-Bull and one ring tighter scoring.

#### A3 The ICFRA International F-Class Target (Long Range)

In mm - Targets printed in Imperial Units are acceptable

Distance	700m – 1000 yds
Black	1118 (44")
V-Bull	128 (5") white ring
Bull	254 (10")
Inner	508 (20")
Magpie	815 (32")
Outer	1118 (44")
Hit	ROT

The bull will always count 5 points under SABU Rules.

NB: The small differences in the metric dimensions compared with those in Appendix D result from rounding off of conversions from the original Imperial dimensions.

