



# Murwillumbah Rifle Club Inc.

## Shotgun

Prepared by the Murwillumbah Rifle Club Shotgun Committee July 2017.

### **SHOTGUN EVENTS AT THE MURWILLUMBAH RIFLE CLUB**

Shotgun clay target shooting events are held at the Murwillumbah Rifle Club range adjacent to the clubhouse fortnightly on a Saturday at 1pm. Shotgun events utilise 2 auto throwers and up to 2 manual throwers to provide periodic practice and friendly competition in the sport of clay target shooting in a style similar to sporting clays. The Murwillumbah Rifle Club, whilst an approved shooting range and affiliated with the QRA, is not an official shotgun club and does not host official shotgun competitions such as those held at SSAA affiliated shotgun clubs.

**LOCATION:** Murwillumbah Rifle Club range adjacent to the clubhouse.

**COSTS:** Range fees: Members \$25, Visitors \$35.  
Ammunition: \$10 (25 rounds).

**SCHEDULE:** Shotgun clay target shooting events are held fortnightly on a Saturday at 1pm (please be there by 12.45pm). Refer to the club calendar on the club website for specific dates. If a new shooter and coming along with a group of four or more, please make contact with **Alan Price – 0438 592 076** prior to event date.

**COMPETITORS:** Competitors may be club members, licensed visitors or unlicensed visitors.

All unlicensed visitors or participants inexperienced with shotgun shooting sports are to ensure that they have signed on, completed their P650 obligations, paid fees and are ready for the safety briefing before 12:45pm.

Notwithstanding, all shooters need to be signed on and have fees paid before 10:55am or otherwise advised by the range officer.

Late arrivals risk being turned away unless they have made prior arrangements with the range officer.

**EQUIPMENT:** Shotgun (club gun can be provided upon request); compulsory hearing protection (ear muffs or ear plugs); covered footwear (compulsory), eye protection (glasses); weather protection (sun /cold / rain), drinking water.

### **SHOTGUN COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:**

Alan Price (Shotgun Captain)	Zoe Immisch	Paul Weeks
Peter Gill	Jon Pollard	Tim Pollard

# **SHOTGUN CLUB RULES**

## **SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

These club specific *Shotgun Club Rules* have been prepared by the Murwillumbah Rifle Club's Shotgun Committee to guide competitors and assist shooting event organisers in the orderly and consistent management of shotgun events held at the Murwillumbah Rifle Club range.

Note that competitors may be club members, licensed visitors or unlicensed visitors (subject to successful completion of P650 form).

## **SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES**

The Murwillumbah Rifle Club range is affiliated with the Queensland Rifle Association and approved to host several shooting disciplines including shotgun; however is not an official (Sporting Shooters Association of Australia) SSAA affiliated shotgun club. As such, these rules have been developed specifically for shotgun events held at the club; in close consultation of the SSAA Shotgun Official National Rules and the Standard Shooting Rules (SSRs). All shotgun events hosted at the Murwillumbah Rifle Club will adhere to the competitor requirements stated within the SSAA's SSRs as follows (note that sub section numbering deviates from the SSRs).

### **2.1 Sportsmanship**

Competitors shall behave in a sportsmanlike manner as befitting membership of the SSAA.

### **2.2 Behaviour**

Competitors should refrain from boisterous conduct on the firing range during the conduct of an event. A competitor failing to observe this fact will be disciplined by the Range Officer. In the event of boisterous or unsportsmanlike behaviour by a competitor the Range Officer shall caution the offender once, and, if there is any repetition of the conduct, the competitor may be asked to immediately leave the firing line and may also be disqualified / asked to leave the range.

### **2.3 Range Safety Rules**

All competitors should familiarise themselves with the usual safety precautions observed on SSAA ranges as well as any Rules specific to the range prior to shooting. Unsafe practices by a competitor on a SSAA range can be grounds for disqualification / requirement to leave the range.

## **2.4 Safety Equipment**

It is strongly recommended that ear and eye protection be worn at all times by persons who are in the vicinity of the firing line whilst shooting is underway.

It is recommended that suitable clothing be worn at all times by a competitor whilst engaged in the competition and in the vicinity of the firing line. Enclosed shoes are compulsory.

## **2.5 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE**

In the event of a malfunction which results in a stuck live round which cannot be simply removed from the breech end of the barrel, the firearm is to be made safe and removed from the range to a competent person for repairs. Under no circumstance is an attempt to be made to remove the round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar object from the muzzle end of the firearm.

## **2.6 RULE INFRINGEMENTS**

A competitor found to be infringing the Standard Rules will be given a warning by the Range Officer. If the infringement continues the competitor may be suspended or disqualified from the competition and asked to leave the range.

# **SECTION 3: COMPETITOR SAFETY**

**3.1** All firearms carried on or about the shotgun range must be held in a position of safety, with breech open and unloaded at all times unless within the designated stand (firing point) whilst the range is open.

**3.2** Shooting on the grounds at any place other than the firing point is prohibited except where a pattern plate is available and then only with permission of an authorised official.

**3.3** Shooting a firearm in any position other than from the shoulder is prohibited (with the exception of persons with a disability). Persons intentionally discharging a firearm in a dangerous manner other than described above, will be immediately disqualified and requested to leave the range.

**3.4** The competitor must immediately open the firearm upon having completed firing at the target/s, and must not attempt to turn around or move back from the firing point until the firearm has been unloaded and visually inspected by the remote control operator, range officer or other club member designated by the Shotgun Committee.

**3.5** Competitors experiencing a misfire or malfunction must remain with the gun pointed downrange until the range officer arrives to inspect.

**3.6** During an event, competitors must remove all cartridges from the firearm immediately upon the waving or exposure of a red flag /signal or under official direction (i.e. the proclamation of 'cease fire' or 'range closed').

**3.7** Triggers which function on release are not allowed.

**3.8** Before the competitor calls for a target, the ready position must be adopted and the competitor's feet shall be positioned within the limits of the stand.

**3.9** A competitor must fire in turn and at their target only. Where there is a likelihood of a competitor pointing his firearm towards club facilities or another competitor the event organisers must erect pegs or barriers to ensure that these persons are protected at all times.

**3.10** A penalty of disqualification / request to leave the range shall be imposed for intentionally shooting at fauna on the shotgun range/s.

**3.11** A competitor must not move to a stand before the preceding competitor has completed their turn.

**3.12** Unlicensed shooters must be accompanied by a range officer when in possession of a firearm at all times and must not be in possession of ammunition unless at the firing stand.

## **SECTION 4: SHOOTING ETIQUETTE**

**4.1** Each competitor must be ready when called to the stand. The competitor must take sufficient ammunition and equipment to complete the round.

**4.2** For Sporting Clays competition, sighter targets must be thrown for the first competitor at the first visit to each stand, and during subsequent rounds where the targets have been changed.

**4.3** When the competitor is ready to call for a competition target, the competitor shall give a distinctive call 'pull' for the release of the target.

**4.4** If a competitor acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner, the range officer may disqualify the person from the competition and request that person to leave the range.

**4.6** A copy of these Rules shall be available at the Murwillumbah Rifle Club house.

## **SECTION 5: COURSE OF FIRE**

### **5.1 SPORTING CLAYS AT MRC**

The Murwillumbah Rifle Club aims to provide a shotgun event akin to a Sporting Clay event which is shot over a layout of 2 - 4 clay target traps that are set up in a farmland setting. The traps present competitors with clay targets that simulate field shooting a variety of game such as ducks, rabbits, quail and pheasants. Targets can be standard, midi or mini in size or battues and rabbits. Single targets or a variety of pairs can be used, including report double, simultaneous or rafale pairs. The club utilises two auto throwers as well as manual throwers on occasion. The layout of throwers is at the discretion of the Shotgun Committee. The 25 target round is generally divided into 3 sub-rounds with 8, 8 and 9 targets, with either changes to the target and/or stand position between each of the sub-rounds.

## **SECTION 6: FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION**

**6.1** All smooth bore shotguns are allowed providing their gauge does not exceed 12 gauge and the barrel / overall length shall comply with State and Territory laws.

**6.2** Shot size shall be no larger than number 6 for steel shot (shotgun lead shot is currently not permitted on the range). The weight of the shot shall not be more than 32 grams (1 & 1/8 ounces).

**6.3** Black powder cartridges are not permitted.

**6.4** A maximum of two cartridges is allowed in the firearm at any one time.

## **SECTION 7: RANGE SETTING AND TARGETS**

**7.1** The targets to be used may include standard targets as well as a mixture of exotic targets.

**7.2** All targets should be set within the effective range of a 12 gauge shotgun, when loaded with the maximum permissible load / shot size. All targets must be set to be shootable within 40 metres of the competitor's position and be visible for sufficient time for a competitor to fire up to two aimed shots at each one.

**7.3** Targets are to be set so that they are clearly visible against the background. Careful consideration needs to be given to the colour of the clay target used, the shooting background and expected light conditions. Where possible, the colour of the targets should contrast with the background. Traps should be set so that clay targets show sufficient face to competitors to make them readily visible. Targets that remain side on to competitors should be avoided.

**7.4** Targets should not be set to end their flight in trees.

**7.5** When establishing a layout, traps are to be positioned, and targets presented in such a way, that they afford maximum safety to the trapper, competitor, referee/scorers and any spectators. Targets and fragments should fall well clear of all participants.

**7.6** Menu boards will be positioned in front of each competitor's stand which list the traps from which targets will be presented at each station.

**7.7** Sighter targets will be thrown prior to the commencement of each sub-round or if the targets have been changed or there has been a lengthy delay in competition.

**7.8** At each stand target trajectories shall be the same for each competitor in height, distance and speed.

**7.9** The range must be closed and traps disarmed prior to the reloading of clays or movement of traps.

**7.10** The operation of manual traps must be done so in a manner which ensures the safety of the operator, competitor and spectators.

## **SECTION 8: TARGET ADJUDICATION**

**8.1** A target is considered hit when at least one visible piece has broken off the target. The marker will state “hit” or “one” upon a successful hit and a score of 1 afford on the scoresheet.

**8.2** A target is considered lost (missed) who the target has not been hit; or when the target is only dusted or deflected; or if the competitor does not fire due to human or equipment error.

**8.3** In the event that a single target misfires, the remote control operator will call “no target” and the target will be provided again. In the event that a target misfires as part of a pair, the remote control operator will call “no target” and both targets must be provided again. In the event that the misfire is the later of a double, and the first shot has already been fired, additional ammunition may be provided by the club.

## **SECTION 9: SHOOTING STATION**

**9.1** Competitors will be listed on the score sheet and should be aware of their position in the event to ensure their prompt arrival at the shooting stand immediately following the previous competitor.

**9.2** In preparation for the call, the competitor must be in the stand with the firearm pointing towards the shooting area, before cartridges can be chambered.

**9.3** The action of the firearm can only be closed when it is the competitor’s turn to shoot.

**9.4** All firearms must be broken and empty of cartridges before a competitor turns around within the stand, and prior to walking away from the stand.

**9.5** The range officer or remote control operator must conduct a visual check that the competitors shotgun is broken and that both chambers are empty prior to the competitor walking from the stand.

## **SECTION 10: SHOTGUN COMMITTEE DUTIES**

**10.1** General Range Officer duties: and

**10.2** Preparation of score sheet, sale of club ammunition, provision of club shotgun, designation of competitor shooting order on a club scoresheet.

**10.3** Establishment of trap positions, loading of traps with clay targets, provision of shooting stands, menus, tents, tables/chairs, safety equipment (red flag / witches hats) and other equipment required of the event.

**10.4** Ensure competitors are in their correct positions as nominated by the score sheet.

**10.5** Operation of the traps (remote controlled and manual).

**10.6** Referee and scoring of each target. Note that the scoring and refereeing duties may be designated to non committee members as required.

**10.7** Ensure that the standard shotgun rules and other safety protocols of the range are adhered to.

**10.8** Provision of scores to website manager.

**10.9** Disassembly of traps, shooting stands, menus, tents, safety equipment and other equipment required of the event.

**10.10** Ensure the removal of all locatable plastic shotgun waste (wads) are collected and removed from the range, and large clay fragments placed onto range road.



## DEFINITION OF TARGET TERMS

Simultaneous Pair – Both (two) targets are released simultaneously from either one or two traps. When using an electronic controller in 5-Stand to release simultaneous pairs there may be a slight pause between the release of the initial target and the second one.

Report Pair – The first target is released on the call of the competitor and the second target is released on the report of the first shot. One or two traps can be used.

Rafale Pair – Two targets are thrown from the same trap on the same trajectory. The first target is thrown on the competitor's call while the second target is released immediately after, and as quickly, as the trap will permit. Both targets shall have similar flight paths with the appearance of one target followed by the other. The intention is to view both targets in flight together.

The 'standard' clay target is approximately 110mm in diameter in a variety of colours.

A 'midi' clay target is approximately 90mm in diameter in a variety of colours.

A 'mini' clay target is approximately 75mm in diameter in a variety of colours.

A 'super-mini' clay target is approximately 60mm in diameter in a variety of colours.

A 'battue' is a flat, slender disk approximately 110mm in diameter in a variety of colours. As it leaves the trap it is side on to the competitor but near the top of its trajectory it turns to face the competitor.

A 'rabbit' target is a specially designed clay target, approximately 110mm in diameter that can be thrown or bounced along the ground. It can be in a variety of colours. It can also be thrown as an aerial target.

A 'rocket' target is approximately 110mm in diameter in a variety of colours. It is heavier than a standard target and therefore maintains its velocity over a greater distance.

A 'looper' is a clay target thrown in a curved or arched trajectory.

A 'crow' target is one that is thrown vertically in front of the competitor.

A 'flash' target is a standard target with an additional pouch of powder attached to one side. When hit they disintegrate into a large cloud of dust. They are usually coloured and used mainly for shoot offs or demonstrations.