



NRANZ Spring Newsletter 2016 August 2016

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. There are a number of points in this newsletter.

1. Health and Safety
2. Shooting Rule Changes
3. Incorporated Societies Act changes coming.
4. Remits on team structures and a new Sporting Rifle class
5. Electronic Targets
6. Subscriptions
7. On-line Range Officer course
8. 2019 LRWC Championships
9. 2017 Nationals
10. Ammunition checking
11. The 2019 Palma training weekends
12. Training weekends
13. Commonwealth Games 2018
14. Obituaries

1. Health and Safety and new Shooting Rules

NRANZ will be undertaking a review and development of our Health and Safety Policy. All our Shooting Rules, Range Standing Orders and Procedures are intimately linked to ensure shooting is carried out safely. These will form the basis of this policy development. The rules changes outlined below have highlighted a need to ensure NRANZ has an effective H&S Policy that is readily available and fully understood by the Association, Clubs and Individual members.

2. Shooting Rule Changes

Our Health and Safety policy will form a multilayered approach to safety. This is reflected in the changes to our rules around the clearing of the rifle prior to removal from the firing point.

The recent NRANZ Council meeting made these changes as a result of an incident at the end of last season. During the teams match on the Kaituna Rifle Range near Blenheim, a rifle had supposedly been cleared prior to leaving the firing point. Sometime later, after working on the trigger of the rifle, the bolt was inserted, and the trigger pulled. The rifle discharged into the ground a short distance from the person concerned. No one was injured as a result of the discharge.

Investigation of the incident revealed there were a number of basic safety rules not followed along with systematic errors and non-observance of Team Shooting Rules leading ultimately to the discharge. These included:

- A live round was not removed from the rifle.
- Steps to ensure that the rifle was cleared prior to leaving the firing point had not been properly followed.
- Work was carried out testing a rifle and trigger and a bolt inserted while the rifle was not on the firing point and under the control of a Range Officer.
- Team shooting rules of assigning a person to check rifles were not implemented.

It is most fortunate that the person involved did follow Rule 2 of the NZ Arms Code: "Always point a rifle in a safe direction". If anyone requires an example for the inclusion and insistence for following Rule 2, no clearer example can be demonstrated.

There appears to be a misconception that the only person required to look down the barrel is the register keeper (official scorer). Whereas Rule T10.7 also states: "*If a competitor leaves the firing point with an "unsafe" rifle, both he and his register keeper are liable to be penalised*". This implies that in reality both competitor and register keeper are expected to check the rifle. The rule change now clearly states this requirement when checking the rifle.

A rule, sometimes not correctly followed, is that the register keeper is to: "*look down the barrel from the breech end,*" (NRANZ Shooting Rule T10.7). Merely looking into the loading port and checking the chamber cannot confirm a rifle is empty and safe.

Another similar rule not followed was highlighted during the team matches. During team matches and according to Shooting Rule T14.15: "*The safety check of a competitors rifle on the completion of his shoot is to be conducted by the competitors coach or a team member nominated by the team captain for the purpose.*" Note that in this case it is **not necessarily** the register keeper who is responsible for clearing a rifle before it leaves the firing point.

As a result of the incident and the subsequent investigation, a full report was completed. Our Chief Range Officer, Rob Morgan, has reviewed the report and made recommendations for changes to some rules. These were agreed to by Council.

The following replaces the **first two** sentences in NRANZ Shooting Rule T10.7:

"On completion of shooting the rifle is to remain pointing towards the target, the bolt is then to be removed from the rifle. The competitor is to check that the rifle is clear. The register keeper must verify and confirm that the rifle is clear by looking down the barrel from the breech end. The empty chamber indicator is then to be inserted prior to the rifle leaving the firing point."

The following replaces the **last two** sentences of NRANZ Shooting Rule T14.15.

"On completion of shooting the rifle is to remain pointing towards the target, the bolt is to be removed from the rifle. The competitor is to check that the rifle is clear. The coach, Team Captain or person nominated by the Team Captain must verify and confirm that the rifle is

clear by looking down the barrel from the breech end. An empty chamber indicator is then to be inserted prior to the rifle leaving the firing point."

The use of Chamber flags, or Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI), will be a requirement in the near future. Once these have been distributed, the rule regarding their use will come into effect. NRANZ will be supplying to each club two ECIs for each of their last year's affiliated club members. NRANZ will have additional ECIs for sale after this date for a small cost. There will also be one in the entry pack at the National Championships each year.

3. The Incorporated Societies Act

This Act is currently being updated by parliament and there will be changes required by every incorporated society to their constitution. This will mean that every club, Association and NRANZ are going to have to make changes to their constitution. There is still a while to go yet before the changes are made law, and then there will be a period over which the changes have to be made. Be aware, it is coming. For more information go to the MBIE website.

4. Remits

Remits to the Council Meeting, 16th - 17th July

Remit 1. Match T11-F. After the original remit was amended from "District Associations", to "Regional", and the clause to allow regions to combine was deleted the following remit was considered.

A Coached Regional Teams Match for F Class Teams of 6 at the National Championships. (Friday morning)

This remit was passed.

Remit 2. Proposed Changes to Match T8, Bapty Shield.

Teams in the Bapty Shield to include 2 FTR and one F Open.

This remit was lost

The following motion was then proposed

"A Match T8-F for an F Class Regional Team comprising 4 FTR and 2 F Open be held. This match is concurrent with the Ballinger Belt series."

This motion was carried

Remit 3. Proposing the introduction of a Sporter / Hunter Class. The guidelines/rules for this class were adopted as circulated. This class will not be contested at the National Championships. Implementation of this class on the various ranges around the country is governed by the Range Standing Orders applicable to the range concerned.

This remit was passed

5. Electronic Targets

There are a set of operating guidelines being drawn up for running championships on electronic targets. These will be circulated prior to any championships being held this season. It is hoped to get some standard procedures around shots that do not register as a starting point.

6. Subscriptions

Full subscription is to stay at \$150.00. First year and junior members will be discounted by 50% of the full subscription and Associate members will remain at \$35. For membership after 1 February it is 50% of relevant fee until the end of the present season ie \$37.50 for a 1st year member until 31 May of that year and then full membership the following season.

7. On-Line Range Officer Course

NRANZ have instigated an online Range Officer course. It is in the members' area of the website. It requires that suitable people are nominated by their club president. There is a test paper which is printed off, filled in, and then scanned and emailed, or snail mailed back to the secretary. Every club in the country are required to get a number of people through this course.

8. LRWC Championships

The organising committee for the 2019 Long Range World Championships is now under the chairmanship of Rob Morgan. We now have a very strong group of people that have taken on the challenge of doing the planning and work to run a successful event. The contract with CBL has been terminated.

9. 2017 Nationals

At our National Championships in January we have an Australian Open team of 18 coming, and probably their Veterans team too. They will compete against NZ teams on the Monday. Nominations will be called for these teams early in the season.

10. Ammunition testing and Rifle weighting at Nationals

Our Chief Range Officer, Rob Morgan, has also notified us that he will be carrying out ammunition tests and rifle weighting during the National Championships.

11. NZ 2019 LRWC New Zealand Team

Richard Rowlands has been appointed as the captain of the NZ Palma Team for 2019. He has appointed Chris Kershaw as his adjutant. Richard has produced an outline of his plans for a squad to undertake training leading to the eventual selection of the team.

12. Training Weekends

There is an open training / coaching weekend booked for the Trentham Range on the weekend of October 8th and 9th. This is a chance to improve your shooting skills and get some technical coaching skills too. Time will also be spent on wind skills. There will be a cost sharing where all shooters will pay, within reason, the same costs with travel costs being evened out across all attendees.

13. Commonwealth Games 2018

The qualification criteria are currently with NZOC for their approval. The qualification process that we are seeking is similar to that used for the past two games. A mixture of “Queens” events and “shoulder to shoulder” trials. One change from the past two is that there is a “Minimum Qualifying Score”, or MQS which must be shot twice, with at least one being in a “Queens” event. The MQS is based on the 6th place score at the last games. The selection process will start with our National Queens in January 2017, and end with the Queensland Queens in August 2017.

14. Obituaries.

Morrie Gordon, Okawa and Hawkes Bay. Morrie was arguably our top shooter for the period from 1950 to 1980. He won the Ballinger Belt 3 times, 1951, 1953 and 1970. He was also runner up 4 times. In 1974 he won the Commonwealth Games Individual gold medal in Christchurch. He also won the St Georges Aggregate at Bisley in 1976. He was also a member of many winning teams.

Roly Cammock, Waipukurau and Hawkes Bay. Roly won the Ballinger belt in 1978 and was the holder (top NZer) in 1974.

Peter Newman. Peter was a member of many clubs in Wellington, Canterbury and finally Blenheim. Peter was our Commonwealth Games rep at Kuala Lumpur in 1998 and Captain of the NZ team which won the Australia Match in Perth in 2001.

Malcolm Dodson
President
August 2016