

# National Rifle Association of New Zealand

## Markers Code of Conduct and Marking Procedures

**Procedures:** Every time you see “**Rule!**” it is really important.

Please read these procedures before doing anything else. If you don't understand anything in here please ask the question.

1. These procedures have been developed to ensure the marking operation is safe, controlled and will give the result the shooters deserve. Please follow these procedures to the best of your ability. If you need help or guidance please ask for assistance.
2. The NRANZ value your assistance to make competitive shooting an enjoyable sport. Marking the targets efficiently and correctly will help to ensure this will happen.
3. You will be given the responsibility for marking one target. Once shooting begins and marking starts, you will be expected to pay attention to your assigned target throughout each shooting session.
4. ***You will be asked to turn your phone off while a shooting session is in progress. Rule!***
5. We expect you to mark efficiently, as quickly as you can and to mark correctly. The success of any shooting competition depends an awful lot on the efficiency of the Butts and its Markers.
6. The Butts Officer (or BO) and shooters will appreciate your efforts during your time here when you give them your undivided attention.

## **Safety: *It's the Rule!***

***You must listen and follow the instructions given by the Butts Officers. The BO is more important than your Mum or Dad, Partner, Husband or Wife while you are here.***

- If you break any rule once we accept that you will learn from it.
  - If you do it again you will be given an abrupt and important reminder on the fragility of your life when live bullets are flying around and what is expected of you in the future.
  - The third time we will have no choice but to ask you to pack up and go home. There will be a small opportunity for you to continue. ***Rule! (Appeal info is at end)***
1. You must stay under the roof on the Butts side of the trench until the Red Flag/Board is raised and you have been told the Butts are safe to leave. ***Rule!***
  2. Shooting is LOUD. You **will** wear the hearing protection provided. ***Rule!***
  3. Safety Specs: Wear safety specs that fit or your own prescription glasses. ***Rule!***

### **Medical:**

If you are injured please tell the BO. Make sure you can find the First Aid Kit. There is one allocated to each of the 10 target bays. See your Deputy BO.

### **Toilet Facilities:**                    ***Go to the Loo before each shooting session begins!***

Toilets are available in the Marking Shed. The spiders get sprayed regularly.

If you need to go to the Loo urgently during shooting, arrange another marker who is not marking at the time to cover for you BEFORE you leave your target, or contact the BO. Be quick!

### **Important Personal Requirements:**

1. You must wear suitable sturdy footwear to ensure good grip and to provide protection. Jandals, light canvas topped shoes or slip-on shoes are out. (See examples later). ***Rule!***
2. Bring wet weather clothing, warm sweatshirt, sun-hat, sunscreen and sun-glasses every day. Weather conditions in the Butts vary.
3. You need to bring your own lunch, snacks and drink bottle. Water will be available in the Butts. Drink regularly as keeping hydrated assists you from getting tired during the day.
4. To ensure your toes remain attached to your feet, take care on the concrete where the target frame comes down close to your feet. Keep your feet off the WHITE painted Danger Area. Ensure you stand at the middle of the target frame when lifting and lowering the target. Please use the duck boards to cross the trench. Take care when the target is up as there is no fence under the target.
5. Wear the hearing protection provided. This means you will have electronic earmuffs turned on at all times or you will have to listen hard and carefully. If you have hearing problems please let us know and we will try and assist you. ***Rule!***
6. Markers may use personal music players. **BUT!** If these devices interfere with your ability to do your job, i.e. mark in a prompt and efficient manner or follow verbal instructions, the BO will require you to turn it off and put away the device. ***Rule!***
7. Keep your conversation and chit chat with your neighbour to a minimum so that distractions are kept under control. Help your neighbour out if you think they have missed a shot. If you have a second or two, help them search for a missing shot hole.
8. Keep your cell phone turned off during each shooting session. Extra electronic noises of phones going off interfere with the efficient running of the butts. ***Rule!***

9. Please arrive early, awake and ready to go at the Butts at least **30 minutes before** the start time. We will let you know each day what time to be at the range for the next morning and who needs to turn up.
10. We will try and keep you well informed when finishing time is expected so that you can arrange transport home and Mum or Dad don't have to hang around too long.
11. You will be paid for each day you work. Sometimes it will be raining or blowing too hard and shooting will be postponed or cancelled for the day. You will be paid a reduced rate for "turning up" and ruining your day. 😊

### **Marking Preparation**

1. You will need to regularly change targets. There are three sizes of target face for short, mid or long range targets. Work in pairs and change them with assistance from your next-door marker. Make sure the target frames are secured in the lifting frame. Check each other's target regularly during shooting and especially when it is windy. The pegs can work loose. The target faces for the Mids and Longs are held in place with 10 nylon bolts and washers. The 300 yd target face is held on with the 4 centre bolts and washers only. They should screw in with the lightest of force. If they seem to jam, they are most likely cross-threaded. Check the direction of the threaded hole as sometimes they are not quite straight in the frame. Take your time. It is not a race. Note there are "spare" holes in the faces. These are used if a bolt gets shot out. Put white tape over the damaged hole and peel back the tape from the other hole and carry on. Once the target faces are fitted, take time to check the whole target for shot holes and make sure they are all patched securely.
2. Check you have the marking gear you need before each shooting session starts. You will be given a Marking Box with stickers and spare indicators for bullet hits and value indication. You are responsible to make sure you don't run out of patches and spotting disks.
3. Your **BIG** job is to find the shot, mark each shot, cover the previous shot and indicate the value on the target assigned to you. **Rule!**
4. The target carrier has a back catch or latch that locks and holds the target in the up position. This must be used all the time. It keeps the target from waving around in the wind. Shooters find it difficult enough to shoot a bull's-eye without the target moving around a few centimetres in the wind. The target also needs to be kept at the right height so that the range shooting rules are not broken. The back latch must never be deactivated. **Rule!**
5. **Windy Conditions:** Occasionally, in high winds, targets are affected by the wind. Make sure all the pegs are installed firmly so that they keep the target in place. Should you see a target is in danger of being dislodged from the frames, call for assistance from the BO and keep away from it. Don't be a hero and try and catch it from falling. It is not good for your arms, legs and heads. **Rule!**
6. Please keep the butts clean. Use the bins.

## Marking Method:

### **One shot will be fired on the target at a time:**

1. You must keep your eyes on the bullet catcher strike zone directly behind your target for shots that are fired on your target.
2. While waiting, it is best to stand under the Butts roof to watch the bullet catcher area, this reduces the noise level of the shot and you are out of the way should a bullet hit the timber of the frame and dislodge pieces of wood that might fly around.
3. After a while you will be able to figure out the approximate position of the shot on the target from where the bullet hits the bullet catcher.

### **When a shot arrives on your target:**

1. Unlatch the Back Latch and lower the target as soon as you can. Before removing the spotting disc, be certain you have located the new shot hole. Insert the spotting disc in the new hole(s) that appear anywhere on the target - including shots that score "0". Use the smallest disc for 300yds, the middle size disc for 500 and 600yds and the large one for 800, 900 and 100yds
2. Patch out the previous shot hole with the right coloured sticker. Black for the black area, white for the rest of the target. Press the patch firmly and completely. Go over the target face regularly and secure each patch that looks dodgy.
3. Indicate the value of the shot using the Indicator Square Disc around the edge of the target frame. Remember to use the Orange for the "X". Align the Indicator Square Disc Velcro along the Velcro on the frame. Give it a little bit of a twist when it is windy to lock the Velcro.
4. Raise and latch the target as soon as you can.

### **The Value of Shots:**

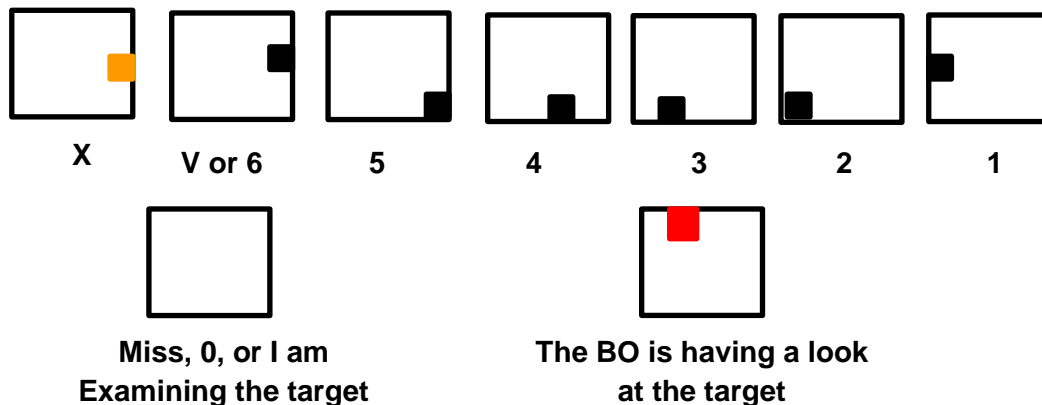
Values are indicated using the **BLACK** on one side and **ORANGE** on the other side Square Disc:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| The centre ring is an X                | Indicated by using the <b>ORANGE</b> indicator |
| The next ring out is a V or 6          | Indicated by using the <b>BLACK</b> Indicator  |
| The next ring out is a 5               | <b>BLACK</b>                                   |
| The next ring out is a 4               | <b>BLACK</b>                                   |
| The next ring out is a 3               | <b>BLACK</b>                                   |
| The next ring out is a 2               | <b>BLACK</b>                                   |
| (nearly) The rest of the target is a 1 | <b>BLACK</b> <b>(See note)</b>                 |

**Note:** Outside the square on the short-range target and outside the line on the mid-range target score 0. Signal as a miss after checking with the CRO or RO.

## Indicating the value:

The shot values are indicated by placing the value indicator in the following positions:



## Shots that cut the line:

1. If a shot touches or cuts into a line the shot is always awarded the higher value. This includes the square (short-range) and lines (mid-range).
2. If a shot is close to the line and you are not sure if it is touching, do not waste a lot of time thinking. If in doubt, call the Butts Officer. The BO will use a special gauge.
3. If the lines get patched out and it is difficult to see if a shot is touching it, remove the patches close to the shot hole until the line is visible. Re-patch ALL holes afterwards!

## Challenges:

Sometimes the shooter may want to check the value or position of the shot. This is called a challenge and it is normal and happens regularly. A competitor may challenge what he sees or doesn't see on their target. This might include:

**An ICFRA Radio Message will be sent from the firing line. The list of messages are on the Butts Wall. It is worth putting them in your memory banks. The list is in the Appendix of this document.**

1. When the indicated value of the shot does not agree with the position of the spotter disc, or if it is close enough to the line that they might think there is some doubt to the value signalled.
2. When a miss is signalled and the shooter thinks they should have hit the target.
3. The shooter may disclaim the shot if they think it is not theirs. The shot hole is patched out and the target is examined for another shot. If no shot hole is found a miss is signalled.

### **If your target is challenged:**

1. Lower the target halfway into the butts immediately. Do not touch anything on the target until the BO arrives.
2. Check to make sure the BO knows there has been a challenge on your target and wait for them to arrive.
3. The BO puts his Red Disc on the target and raises the target so that the shooter knows the Butts Officer is in attendance at the target
4. The target is then checked; the value confirmed and is signalled in the normal way.

### **Examinations:**

1. Sometimes a request will come to "*Examine Target X*" (Message 4). This could mean you have missed a shot or a shooter believes they shot on your target but shot next door instead. The BO may come and check the target with you when this happens. Call the BO if no shot is found.
2. The result of marking the target is signalled in the normal way.

### **If you check the target and do not find a new shot hole:**

#### **Make sure you leave the spotter disk in the existing shot hole until you find the new one.**

That way you won't "get lost" if you can't find another shot hole. This is also important if a shot has gone through the spotting disk and you have missed it. In this case if you take the spotter out you may end up patching two holes by mistake.

1. Inspect the spotter disc while it remains in the previous shot hole and check that there is not another shot hole through or under it.  
**Note:** Make sure that any holes on the spotting disc are covered, or, if it is too damaged, replace the spotter. This ensures you don't miss a shot that hits the spotter.
2. Run your fingers and eyes around the white scoring rings and the edge of the black aiming mark to feel for a shot hole. The line and the edge of the black/white area are places where shots can be difficult to find. This is a good trick to remember!!
3. Check the edges of the target frame looking for signs of a new bullet crease. This means you need to know where creases already have occurred so that you know if a new one has occurred. In other words, keep an eye on all the marks on your target. Cover any shots in the wood with about 50mm of the white tape.
4. When no new shot hole is located, call the Butts Officer. It is important that you do not remove the spotter disc or patch out the old shot hole so that the Butts Officer can also check that a second shot has not gone close to the spotter peg.

5. A miss is indicated by half raising the target, lowering it and then raising it fully with no spotter or score indicator. A "0" is raised as normal but with no score indicator.

### **Two or more shots found:**

If you find two or more new shot holes in the target, a spotter disc must be inserted in each. Patch the hole the spotter was in and then signal the highest scoring shot only.

### **Final Comment**

We will take note if you're marking needs improving and we will give you the opportunity to improve. We should not need to ask you more than two or three times. If the same problems keep reoccurring, we will have to remove you from the Marking Team. We need to keep the marking to a high standard. **Rule!**

1. Competitors really appreciate a marker who responds promptly to their shot at your target. Any more than 5 seconds waiting for the target to move and 10 seconds for it to come up seems like an eternity to a shooter.
2. The quicker you respond, mark and signal the target, the quicker the shooting session will be completed and the quicker you can have a rest. It is advantageous to Markers and Shooters to complete shooting as efficiently as possible.

We can assure you that prompt and efficient efforts will be much appreciated and shooters will ask the Range Officer to compliment you on your good effort.

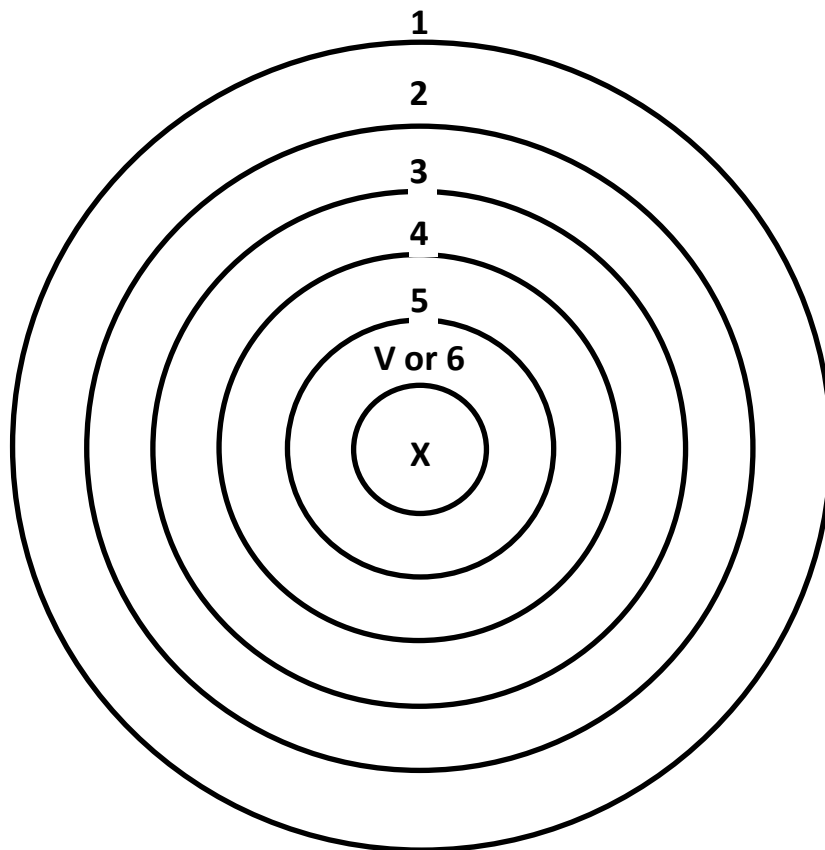
***There are a number of Trophies for the Best Markers. They will be presented at the end of the event.***

***Have fun and help each other. And THANK YOU! We appreciate your time!***

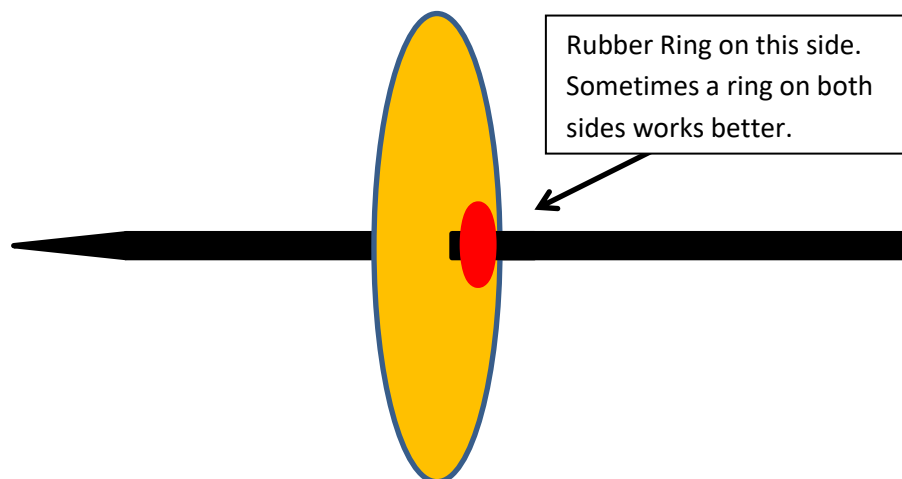
### **Your Appeal Rights if the BO says you cannot continue to be a Target Marker:**

**If you think you were hard done by, you may appeal to the Chief Range Officer and he will listen and consider yours and the BO versions of events leading up to the BO's decision and come to a final decision as to whether you stay or pick up your pay and continue your Holidays at home.**

## Scoring Rings on the Target



## Spotting Disc Assembly



**Keep a couple of made up spotters for instant use when they get a shot through them. Repair holes in the spotter immediately after they occur!! Save the repaired spotter as a spare. Two styles of pegs are supplied. Choose which works for you.**



**Footwear - Good and Not Good**



|   |  |
|---|--|
|    |    |
| <p><b>Real Bad!!!!</b></p>  | <p><b>Spot on!</b></p>   |
|   |   |
| <p><b>Bad!!</b></p>   | <p><b>Good – Imitation Suede or leather top</b></p>                                  |
|  |  |
| <p><b>Bad!!</b></p>   | <p><b>Yup – as long as suede or leather around edge and part of top</b></p>          |
|  |  |
| <p><b>Bad!!</b></p>   | <p><b>Good</b></p>   |

# ICFRA STANDARD RADIO MESSAGES

The ICFRA Standard list of abbreviated messages for communication between butts and firing point that Rule No T12.11. refers, is as follows:

- 1. Firing about to commence.**
- 2. No spotting disc visible.**
- 3. Spotting disc unmistakably disagrees with the signalled value. Check that spotting disc shows LAST shot and signal its correct value.**
- 4. A shot has been fired but no signal has been made. Examine target and spotting disc carefully and signal the shot if found or a miss.**
- 5. Competitor has challenged for a higher value for his shot. Recheck the shot hole (using a gauge if necessary) and signal the correct value.**
- 6. It is suspected that there is a second shot on the target. Inspect the target for a second shot. If found, mark and signal it, if not, leave the spotting disc in the original hole.**
- 7. A miss has been signalled but competitor has challenged for a scoring shot. Re-examine the target carefully and signal the shot if found or a miss.**
- 8. The spotting disc appears not to have moved. Butt Officer is to consult marker and confirm that the spotting disc is in the latest shot hole. If successive shots have been very close to each other, the RO to be advised accordingly.**
- 9. Marking appears to be unduly slow. Butt Officer to check and correct where necessary.**
- 10. Finished with target. Patch the target. Half-mast it, or re-rig for the next distance or put away, as the programme demands.**
- 11. Stand easy. Lower target, patch out and put target back up.**

The results of all challenges and marking queries from the Range Officer are to be confirmed from the Butts by radio or telephone.