



SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA (ACT) INC

MILITARY FIREARMS CLUB (MFC)

OPERATIONS MANUAL

Approved by MFC Committee 24 Feb 26

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Military Firearms Club Overview

Reference: MFC ACT Club Rule Book as adopted by SSAA ACT MFC at AGM 26 June 2022 and endorsed by SSAA ACT Council 5 July 2022

1. The ACT Military Firearms Club (MFC) caters for the interests of fostering the use of original Military type firearms and calibres for competitive shooting within the SSAA Combined Services Discipline (CSD). The club has been operating since 1990.
2. The aims and objectives of the Club shall be to:
 - a. Foster the use of original historical traditional military firearms and calibres for competitive traditional and historical military style shooting within the SSAA ACT. The CSD rulebook currently lists approximately 600 firearms that are approved for local, State and National competition.
 - b. Encourage organised competitive shooting, with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and the proper care of historical military firearms.
 - c. Provide a set of standard shooting rules which will guide competitors and assist competition staff in the orderly, safe, and consistent management of historical service firearms shooting in the SSAA ACT.
 - d. Provide members with economical shooting matches that stress back to basics style and skills at arms competitions.
 - e. Assist and educate younger shooters in safety and skill at arms with historical military firearms, including the safe and proper care and handling of such firearms.
 - f. Relate the firearms laws to service shooting disciplines and the collection of historical firearms.
 - g. Promulgate, in the interests of safety, knowledge and information of historical military firearms and ammunition as well as providing a living historical military firearms resource in the community.
 - h. Provide a Club sporting environment for all the family and do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above aims and objectives.
 - i. Promote and encourage the collection of historical firearms and commercial variants, and corresponding ammunition, of the types and calibres used by military and police.

Approved Firearms

Reference: SSAA Combined Services Rulebook No.5 Revised 2022

3. Firearms approved for use in MFC matches are listed in the following section. Note that it is the member's responsibility to adhere to their relevant State legislation with respect to maximum firearm numbers, storage and transport.

Service Pistol Matches

4. Normally held on the 1st Sunday of the month, 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings of the month, competitors may use the following classes of pistol:
 - a. Pre-46: As Issued Service Pistols made prior to 1946 or Faithful Reproductions in their Original Calibre. Note that MFC is unable to use Pre-46 pistols in calibres larger than 9mm/.38, so MFC will not endorse use of pistols chambered for .44 Russian, .45 ACP, .455 Webley etc. For convenience, Pre-46 firearms will normally be listed in Class 1 results due to the relatively small number in use. Pre-46 firearms are usually required at Nationals to take part in a special event known as the Chairman's Challenge.
 - b. Class 1– Defence: An original issue or faithful reproduction centrefire service handgun (modified barrel length or calibre only, to comply with national and state laws), either a revolver or self-loading, which is, or has been, on regular issue to an army, navy or air-force. Pistols shot in Class 1 may not be fitted with optical or laser attachments.
 - c. Class 2 – Law Enforcement Agency / Police: An original issue or faithful reproduction centrefire service handgun (modified barrel length or calibre only, to comply with national and state laws), either a revolver or self-loading, which is, or has been, on general issue to defence / law enforcement organisations. Pistols shot in Class 2 may not be fitted with optical or laser attachments.
 - d. Class 3 –Modified Open: Any Class 1 or 2 service issue centrefire handgun or faithful reproduction that has been modified from its original specification, either postproduction or at the factory, e.g. target shooting adjustable sights, hand customised grips, barrels, triggers systems and trigger saddles, compensators, etc.
 - e. Class 4 – Rimfire: Any rimfire handgun that substantially replicates the functions of a class 1, 2 or 3 handgun.
 - f. Class 6 – Tactical Pistol (Defence / Law Enforcement Agency / Police): An original issue or faithful reproduction centrefire service handgun (modified barrel length or calibre only, to comply with national and state laws), either a revolver or self-loading, which is, or has been, on regular issue to an army, navy, air-force, or law enforcement organisations that was issued with an optic or laser attachment. Attachments must be original or a faithful reproduction of the issued version.
5. Note that although some pistol types may meet both Class 1 and 2 requirements they may only be used in one Class in any competition as per CSD rules.
6. MFC does not normally use Class 5 (Black Powder) firearms at regular matches due to the time needed to reload as well as the inherent visibility issue often caused by the use of black powder. The club will occasionally run a dedicated Class 5 event using one or more approved CSD rulebook matches. Where a Class 5 match is held, firearms will be in accordance with the definition in the CSD rulebook.

Practical Pistol Matches

7. Normally held on the 2nd Sunday of the month, competitors may use the same pistols as the Service Pistol matches above, however pistols are classified in a different way to CSD matches in the results.

Tactical Rifle Matches

8. Normally held on the 2nd Sunday of the month, competitors may use the following rifle classes:

- a. Class F1: Vintage Sniper Rifles (genuine unmodified “as issued” and faithful reproductions as before 1 Jan 1946).
- b. Class F2: Sniper Rifles (genuine unmodified “as issued” and faithful reproductions as after 2 Jan 1946 up to 1 Jan 1991)
- c. Class T/J: Tactical rifles are rifles of Service calibre fitted with a telescope sight equipped with a range finding reticle, as may be employed by the combined services, intended for precision shooting between 25 and 600 meters. Such rifles may be genuine sniper rifles as issued or may be a rifle built up to meet these requirements from 1 Jan 1991.

.22 Tactical Matches

9. Normally held in the morning on the 3rd Sunday of the month, competitors may use any legal .22LR rifle, with a telescopic sight providing a distinct advantage. Other rimfire calibres such as .17HMR and .22WMR are not allowed at this match. An alternative or introduction to Tactical Rifle matches, sometimes shooting the same matches at reduced ranges.

Trainer Rifle Matches

10. Normally held in the afternoon on the 3rd Sunday of the month, competitors may use the following:

- a. Class TR .22 Training Rifles: rifles on the list of approved Training Rifles on CSD web site.
- b. Class TR 2: Training rifles meeting the Class TR requirements above, that were first approved for service use after 1 January 1970.
- c. Class TR .310 Martini Cadet: rifles on the list of approved Training Rifles on CSD web site.

11. Although .22 and .310 rifles are both in the same Class, they are held as separate competitions to maintain fairness, in keeping with National championship practice. Thus, members may choose to shoot both .22 and .310 rifles as separate sub classes within TR.

Service Rifle Matches

12. Normally held on the 4th Sunday of the month, competitors may use the following:
 - a. Standard Rifles. Original or faithful reproduction firearms. Any Class A, B, C, D, E rifle as listed in the Approved Bolt Action Rifle, Pump Action Rifle or Lever Action Rifle lists on the CSD web site.
 - b. Modified/ Accurised. Any rifles of service origin in the original calibre – comprising modification beyond service specifications, e.g. different sights, plastic stock, floating barrel; or modification to enhance accuracy beyond the specification of the original regular service issue rifle.
 - c. Class IO: International Optic Class is any Bolt action rifle meeting the specification on the CSD website, equipped with low magnification optics, up to 4 power.
13. Class OS: Optical Standard Class (any A, B, C, D or E rifle with a 4.5 power maximum scope fitted) may be used for monthly matches but will not be offered at Territorials unless it starts being offered at Nationals.

Practical Rifle

14. Although MFC occasionally shoots Practical Rifle matches, competitors may use the same rifles as for Service Rifle matches even though they may be classified in a different way to CSD matches.

Carbine Match

15. MFC holds an annual Carbine Challenge for rifles with barrel lengths less than 21 inches. There are separate classes military style (e.g. Class A service rifles), lever action rifles or modern rifles.

Shotgun Matches

16. On the occasion that MFC conducts a shotgun match on a fifth Sunday using an approved SSAA rulebook match, any legal shotgun may be used.

Number of Firearms Required

17. The absolute minimum number of firearms required to compete in MFC matches is one per section/class that the member participates in, as MFC does not provide club firearms or ammunition for licenced members (we hold club firearms only for training new shooters and to assist newly licenced members waiting for a PTA for their first firearm). The total number of firearms required to participate in CSD thus depends on the depth of a member's involvement in the discipline.

18. Ownership of more than one firearm for a single competition is sometimes necessary to best suit different types of matches - for example a revolver and a self-loading pistol may be used in Class 1 in different events as one is more accurate at longer distances and the other is better at shorter distance matches. This is one reason that there are around 600 firearms listed on the National list of Approved CSD firearms.

19. Twice per year MFC members support the neighbouring Canberra Rifle Club in their Anzac Day and Remembrance Day matches. There are only two classes – SMLE No1 MkIII/MkIII*, and everything else. Only SMLE shooters are eligible for the main trophy. Although it might seem reasonable to own just one service rifle, a SMLE is not as accurate as some other rifles, so there is a genuine consideration for owning two standard rifles for some individuals.

20. Under CSD rules 4.8.5 and 7.8.5, a competitor, whose rifle or pistol breaks or ceases to function after scrutineering, may at the discretion of the Range Officer, change to another rifle or pistol approved for the competition. This is another reason why more than one competition firearm may be needed.

21. Parents may need additional firearms for permitted juniors (until they can get their adult licence, and thus own their own firearms), as junior firearms may differ from the hard recoiling, long and heavy firearms used by adults.

22. Firearms requirements for State and National Championships vary from year to year depending on event programmed and governing body rules, the following table reflects recent championships. Note that the table does not take into consideration where multiple firearms may be beneficial for a class or for substitution of a broken firearm as stated above.

Firearm/ Class	MFC Club Matches	ACT State Championship	National Championship
Service Pistol	Members may compete in all 6 Classes Pre-46, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 monthly. Class 5 matches rarely shot. Minimum: 1 per class (7 to shoot all classes)	Members may only compete in Class 1, 2 and 3. Juniors shoot Class 4. Minimum: 1 per class (3 to shoot all classes plus 1 for a junior if applicable)	Members may only compete in Classes Pre-46, 1, 2 and 3. Juniors shoot Class 4. Minimum: 1 per class (4 to shoot all classes plus 1 for a junior if applicable)
Tactical Rifle	Members may compete in all 3 Classes F1, F2, and T/J monthly.	Members may compete in Class F1, F2, and T/J.	Members may compete in Class F1, F2, and T/J.

	Minimum: 1 per class (3 to shoot all classes)	Minimum: 1 per class (3 to shoot all classes)	Minimum: 1 per class (3 to shoot all classes)
.22 Tactical Rifle	Minimum: 1	Not applicable	Not applicable
Trainer Rifle	Member may shoot all 3 of Class TR .22, TR2 and TR .310 Cadet monthly Minimum 1 per class (3 to shoot all classes)	Members may compete in Class TR .310 Cadet and <u>one</u> of TR .22 or TR2 (ie 2 classes). Minimum: 1 per class (2 to shoot allowed classes)	Members may compete in Class TR .310 Cadet and <u>one</u> of TR .22 or TR2 (ie 2 classes). Minimum: 1 per class (2 to shoot allowed classes)
Service Rifle	Members may compete in all 3 classes - Standard Rifle, Modified/ Accurised and IOC monthly. Minimum: 1 per class (3 to shoot all classes)	Members may compete in any 2 of Standard, Modified/ Accurised and IOC Minimum: 1 per class (2 to shoot allowed classes)	Members may compete in any 2 of Standard, Modified/ Accurised and IOC Minimum: 1 per class (2 to shoot allowed classes)
Carbine	Annual class A rifle match. Minimum: 1	Not applicable (Class A shot as Standard Rifle)	Sometimes a separate event (was in 2025) Minimum: 1
Shotgun	Periodic fifth Sunday matches. Minimum: 1	Not applicable	Not applicable
TOTAL (To compete in all classes)	19	10 (Plus one for a junior)	12 (Plus one for a junior)

Table 1 – MFC Firearms Requirements

Basis of Match Approval

23. The SSAA ACT (Inc) Council (henceforth referred as Council) endorsed MFC Rulebook allows MFC to shoot matches from any SSAA approved Rulebook on the SSAA Majura Range Complex.

24. As a SSAA Combined Services Discipline (CSD) Club, MFC conduct matches taken from the SSAA Combined Services Discipline Rulebook (SSAA Combined Services Rulebook No. 5 Revised 2022). This covers the vast majority of our Service Rifle, Service Pistol, Tactical Rifle and Trainer matches.

25. The SSAA Practical Shooting Rulebook (SSAA Practical Shooting Rulebook No. 6 Rev July 2019) is the SSAA rulebook that we use for our practical matches (normally run once a month). We also shoot an annual Christmas match based on elements from this rulebook.

26. We also regularly shoot matches inspired by non-SSAA rulebooks, but the local approval is through the CSD Rulebook via Match 39. Match 39 (Re-Enactment Match) of the CSD Rulebook is written to give clubs the ability to shoot a variety of rifle or pistol matches, as long there is some link to historical military or police activities. Where a match exists under another approved (non-SSAA) rulebook, MFC will seek to use that as a match basis for a Match 39 event, but matches can be designed and risk assessed by the MFC Committee. See Annex A for the Template as listed in the CSD Rulebook.

27. MFC uses the Match 39 construct to provide the approval framework for the following:

- a. .22 Tactical monthly matches – Billy Singh at Gallipoli. This match recreates high end marksmanship skills used in many theatres of war, but in this case the theme is commemorating the precision shooting of Australian WW1 marksman Billy Singh at Gallipoli. We have created a match that is based heavily on the National Rimfire League rules, but is written in a Match 39 Template. See Annex
- b. Urban match – recreating the Australian Advance Into Tobruk using service rifles. See Annex C.
- c. Two-Gun – recreating the Battle of Bardia using short and long arms. See Annex D

28. Fifth Sunday matches, including shotgun, will be based on an appropriate SSAA Rulebook, with modification to comply with MFC safety standards as required (see below for the modification process).

Basis of Approval of Other MFC Activities

29. Training activities (A/B Safety, H Course, Discipline Range Officer Course) use SSAA ACT approved course manuals, are delivered by SSAA ACT Instructors, and are programmed in the range calendar where shooting is conducted. External providers delivering training (e.g. First Aid) will be appropriately qualified to deliver training using their own training materials.

30. Other activities that are in support of MFC shooting activities (such as Committee meetings, working bees, barbeques) have a blanket approval from SSAA, as long as they do

not pose a safety risk or conflict with other approved range activities. Where MFC wants to conduct activities affecting other users, those activities will need to be approved by the SSAA ACT Council – preferably with the agreement of the affected users.

31. These activities may be placed in the range calendar if other activities could be incompatible, or to provide certainty that the range asset will be available for the period of the activity, but do not need to be on the calendar to be approved.

Modification of Rulebook Matches

32. The Club has the discretion to vary the practices shot from the approved competition rules should it so desire for local competitions subject to adherence to the SSAA ACT Inc. Range Complex rules.

33. The MFC Discipline Coordinator is approved to modify any rulebook match for safety reasons. Other changes will be risk assessed and may be approved by the Discipline Coordinator, MFC Committee or SSAA ACT (Inc) Council depending on the assessed level of risk. The Discipline Coordinator is responsible for documenting the risk assessment and submitting it to the appropriate approver.

SSAA ACT (Inc) Governance

34. This Manual and any products related are available for SSAA ACT Council review at any time such that they can assure that MFC activities comply with relevant SSAA ACT policies and procedures.

Hierarchy of Rules

35. Range rules will be applied in the following order of precedence, listed from highest to lowest precedence:

- a. SSAA Standing Rules
- b. SSAA ACT (Inc) Range Complex Range Rules;
- c. SSAA ACT (Inc) Range Complex Standing Orders for the particular range in use;
- d. the approved competition rules; then
- e. MFC range rules.

36. Where a conflict exists, the rule that provides greater safety/ is more conservative is to be followed.

Management of Attendances

37. MFC members are responsible for maintaining their minimum number of attendances based on the firearm type(s) that they own. MFC has a responsibility to report attendances for those members listing MFC as their primary club.

MFC Reporting System

38. For all activities conducted at the Majura Range Complex, MFC will use sign in data from the SSAA ACT electronic attendance system to generate reports. The SSAA ACT system allows members to sign in for "MFC Pistol", "MFC Rifle" or "MFC General", allowing club officials to separate rifle and pistol attendances. Members are responsible for signing in using the correct sign in to ensure that the breakdown of pistol and rifle attendances is correct.

39. The Club will also maintain a register of pistol attendances, differentiating between centrefire and rimfire to allow officials to correctly report. This register will be compiled from match score data, so if a score is not recorded no attendance will be listed. Note that this register is only for club reporting – members must maintain their own records (in the MFC Membership Card, below).

40. Members using MFC as their primary club who compete in matches with other ACT clubs, or who compete outside the ACT in any capacity are responsible for providing the MFC Discipline Coordinator with notification of attendance(s) and supporting documentation to allow MFC to report attendances correctly. Supporting documentation may be a photo of a paper sign in log, properly completed Membership Card (see below), electronic attendance record or an issued scorecard.

The MFC Membership Card

41. The MFC Membership Card provides members a method of personally recording attendances for rifle, rimfire pistol and centrefire pistol. The MFC Membership Card may be used to resolve discrepancies between electronic records and member data and may be useful if attendance is questioned by the Firearms Registry - especially justifying centrefire vs rimfire attendance numbers.

42. A properly completed Membership Card may be used to record attendance in the ACT or any other state as required.

43. The Membership Card will be examined when members request Permits to Acquire or Licence Renewals to ensure that they are an active club member. Members are responsible for obtaining at least the number of signatures to meet their annual attendance requirements for this purpose. Proof of current SSAA membership (digital membership card or letter) will also be requested prior to signing club endorsements.

44. Members should ideally seek membership card signatures from the section Captain/ Vice Captain present at the match, but any MFC Committee Member and the Range Officers at other clubs are authorised to sign attendances on the club's behalf.

ANNEX A – CSD MATCH 39 TEMPLATE (from SSAA CSD Rulebook)

SUPPLEMENTARY EVENT

MATCH 39: RE-ENACTMENT EVENT

Range: Any combination of distances may be used.

Firearms: Rifles and/or Pistols as advised by the Match Director.

Ammunition: Unlimited, or as directed.

Target: Paper and/or reactive type targets may be used, in keeping with the event theme.

Position: Prone, Sitting / Squatting / Kneeling, Standing – supported and unsupported may be used.

Timings: Any combination of timings may be used.

Procedure: Procedures may be varied by the Match Director, in keeping with the intended theme.

Scoring: As per target type.

Notes:

1. Matches are to be designed and/or named in keeping with the “Theme” of the event, and comply with Range Approvals.
2. Scoring is determined by targets used, or at the discretion of the Match Director. 3. Range commands used may be in keeping with the theme.
3. Competitors are encouraged to dress in accordance with the theme of the event. Full camouflage clothing is not permitted.

ANNEX B – CSD MATCH 39 - .22 TACTICAL

MATCH 39: RE-ENACTMENT EVENT – BILLY SINGH AT GALLIPOLI

Theme: Gallipoli Marksman Battle. This match uses .22LR firearms to reenact marksmanship situations like those possibly encountered at Gallipoli by Billy Singh – a WW1 veteran who was largely forgotten soon after the war ended. The match is shot from a range of improvised shooting positions (such as barricades, boxes, etc), as would have been the case in the trenches at Gallipoli. Where NRL22 procedures are suitable for use, the match may follow or modify this procedure.

Range: 20-100m

Firearms: any Category A .22LR rifles

Ammunition: Any .22LR ammunition, number of rounds as per Match Director instruction

Target: Targets of varying size

Position: Prone, Sitting / Squatting / Kneeling, Standing – supported and unsupported.

Timings: as per Match Director instruction

Procedure:

1. Procedures as per Match Director instructions, in keeping with the intended theme.

Scoring: one point per target hit. Timing may factor into match scores as per NRL22 rules.

Notes:

- a. Matches will be modified to comply with SSAA, SSAA ACT and MFC rules if required.
- b. Competitors are encouraged to dress in accordance with the theme of the event. Full camouflage clothing is not permitted.

ANNEX C – CSD MATCH 39 – URBAN MATCH

MATCH 39: RE-ENACTMENT EVENT – ADVANCE INTO TOBRUK

Theme: Australian advance on Tobruk in WW2. This match uses service firearms to reenact urban battle situations encountered in the WW2 Western Desert, specifically the Australian 6th Division advance on the Italian held port of Tobruk in January 1941. The match is shot from different shooting positions (as would have been used in reactive engagements in an advance on troops in an urban setting).

Range: 25-100m

Firearms: any Standard, Modified/Accurised, or International Optic Class rifle

Ammunition: Ammunition appropriate to the calibre of rifle used, number of rounds as per Match Director instruction

Target: SSAA pistol, Mini Core and/ or Gallery Rifle paper targets

Position: Squatting, Kneeling, Standing – unsupported.

Timings: as per Match Director instruction

Procedure:

1. Procedures as per Match Director instructions, in keeping with the intended theme.

Scoring: Scores depend on the range shot, Match Director will brief

Notes:

- a. Matches will be modified to comply with SSAA, SSAA ACT and MFC rules if required.
- b. Competitors are encouraged to dress in accordance with the theme of the event. Full camouflage clothing is not permitted.

ANNEX D – CSD MATCH 39 – TWO GUN MATCH

MATCH 39: RE-ENACTMENT EVENT – BATTLE OF BARDIA

Theme: Australian advance on Italian fortified positions in the Western Desert campaign. This match uses rifles and pistols to re-enact battle situations encountered in the WW2 Western Desert, specifically the Australian 6th Division advance on Italian positions at Bardia in January 1941. The match is shot from different shooting positions and simulates the need for soldiers to use both primary and secondary firearm types during the attack.

Range: 100m, 50m, 25m and 15m

Firearms: Match classes:

Rimfire (trainer) rifle and rimfire (class 4) pistol,
Centrefire (standard) rifle and centrefire (Class 1 or 2) pistol,
and Scoped/modified/non-standard rifle with any pistol (any calibre...mix and match).
More than one class may be shot on the day depending on numbers and time.

Ammunition: Ammunition appropriate to the calibre of rifle used, 15 rounds rifle and 24 rounds pistol required per class shot

Target: SSAA pistol and SSAA Mini Core (two targets per shooter)

Position: Prone, Sitting, Kneeling, Standing – all unsupported.

Timings: as per Match Director instruction

Procedure:

1. 100m Rifle: (Deliberate) Shooters adopt the prone position and fire 5 rounds in 2 mins on rifle target (rifles are cleared and flagged) under RO supervision shooters move forwards in an extended line to the 50m line with rifle, pistol (holstered or cased/bagged) and all required ammo.
2. 50m Rifle: Shooters fire 5 rounds from the standing position then adopt the sit/kneel position and fire 5 rounds in a total of 2 mins on rifle target (rifles are cleared and with breach flags in are left on the mat or rack at 50m)
3. 50m Pistol: (Deliberate) Shooters adopt the prone position and fire 6 rounds in 2 mins on pistol target, pistols are cleared and holstered or boxed. Under RO supervision shooters move forward in an extended line to the 25m line (pistols only)
4. 25m Pistol: Shooters engage the target with 6 rounds from the standing position then adopt the kneeling position and fire 6 more rounds in 2 mins on pistol target (magazine change/reload required), pistols cleared and holstered or boxed. Under RO supervision shooters move forward in an extended line to the 15m line
5. 15m pistol: (Rapid fire) shooters engage the target with 6 rounds in the time of 5 seconds, pistols cleared and holstered or boxed.

Scoring: Scores as per target face value, Possible scores: Rifle 75.15, Pistol 240.24, Total 315.39

Notes:

- a. Any pistol holstered during the rifle component must be removed from the holster, action open and placed on the mat pointing down range before the rifle event commences. After the rifle event has finished the pistol must be cleared by the RO and re-holstered before moving to the next firing line.
- b. After scoring, the whole detail will return as a group to the 50m mark and under RO supervision retrieve rifles and return back to the 100m line / shed
- c. Competitors are encouraged to dress in accordance with the theme of the event. Full camouflage clothing is not permitted.