

# Ohio-Penn Rifle League

Date: April 25, 2017

To: All Electronic Target Owners

From: Chuck Rowe, Match Director/O-P President

Re: **Use of E-targets during Ohio-Penn matches - 2017 (revised)**

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**Please note that while these procedures are designed primarily for match usage, many of these rules apply when using SMT targets at ARC during practice sessions, especially point #4: there must be a coordinated plan among all users when multiple SMT targets are to be in use simultaneously.**

Given that more and more members are acquiring SMT electronic targets and will likely wish to use these in Ohio-Penn matches this season, I wanted to take this opportunity to document the procedures in place for these targets' use in our matches. We now have 10 SMT systems owned by 9 ARC members: Rowe, Fortune, Trew, Ricci, Steckmeyer (2), Scocos, Gertz, Frank, and Holtzhauer. The procedures outlined below are essentially the same as we've been using in practice for the last couple of years, but with the growing number of targets, and potential new target owners, these needed to be documented and formally communicated to all SMT owners.

As you know, squadding and running our MR/LR matches at Malvern is quite complex already, given that we run concurrent 600 & 1000 yard matches, with both sling and F-class competitions, requiring four different targets being used on any given day. Adding electronic targets adds another layer of complexity, and these procedures are in place to ensure we have an organized and efficient start-up to our matches and that owners and shooters' expectations are all in line with reality.

- 1) **Notice:** If you as an e-target owner plan to shoot a scheduled O-P match, you must advise either Kim or I by 8pm on the evening prior to the match (via email or phone call) of your intent to shoot and run your target. We plan target layout for the match on the evening before the match, and must know that you will be running your target. If no notification is received the evening prior, you may be required to shoot on a standard paper target and not utilize your e-target for that match.
- 2) **Setup:** If you are going to shoot your SMT in a match, you must arrive early enough to have your target fully set up in the pits and be back on the firing line by 8:15am for safety briefing. We will not hold up safety briefings for people still setting up targets in the pits, and everyone who wishes to shoot must attend the safety briefing.
- 3) **Location:** If you have notified us the night prior of your intent to shoot, we will have pre-squadded (i.e., assigned a target number) to your SMT. Please stop by up at the firing line when you arrive at the range, find Kim or I, and we will provide you with your assigned target number. You can then go immediately downrange and setup your target.

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- 4) **Repeaters:** Using multiple SMT systems on the line simultaneously can create significant communication issues, especially given some owners have line boxes and others have repeaters. Multiple repeaters cannot be used, nor can repeater/line box combinations. It is *imperative* that no one turns on or powers up their line box or repeater until all SMT target owners have been coordinated through the match director. (SMT target boxes in the pits obviously can and must be turned on prior to your leaving the pits after setup.) Not coordinating properly can (and has) shut down all SMT systems on the line, resulting in much frustration and delays. We want to avoid this at all costs.
- 5) **Testing:** It is your responsibility to ensure your target is set up properly and functioning. If shots do not register once the match starts, the match director will attempt to coordinate trouble-shooting of the system, but the match will not be stopped to make any repairs or adjustments, nor will other shooters' target service be disrupted to try to effect repairs. If the target cannot be made operational, the owner may go downrange for a reasonable amount of time during the first pit change to attempt to make corrections. Any matches not fired due to an inoperable target will be scored as "DNF".
- 6) **Equipment:** It is the owner's responsibility to provide his own devices for scoring (iPad, Kindle, etc.). The owner also understands that by choosing to use his system in an O-P match, he agrees to allow other shooters assigned to that target the use of his scoring devices. Two devices are required for each target, one for the shooter and one for the scorer, which should be capable of running for the length of the match without entering sleep mode or requiring recharging.
- 7) **Damage:** While unlikely, there is always the chance that a stray round can impact a microphone, wire, antenna or system box. By using an SMT target in an O-P match, the owner is specifically agreeing to accept this risk. Stray shots may come from shooters squadded on that e-target, or from other targets. Either way, neither the match director nor Ohio-Penn can attempt to hold shooters responsible for unintentional damage to SMT systems. (It would be hoped that if a shooter knowingly damages another's target, that shooter would accept responsibility and do the right thing to compensate the owner - however, O-P cannot require that this occurs as it is outside of its control.) If you are not willing to accept the risk, and potential cost of repairs, to your system when used in a match, then refrain from using it in matches and relegate it solely to your private use in practice.
- 8) **Squadding:** As we currently do for regular matches, squadding requests will try to be honored. The owner of an SMT target system will always be squadded to shoot on his own target. However, the squadding of others on that e-target will be solely at the discretion of the person squadding the match and/or match director, given that numerous other factors come into play and overall match squadding will always take precedence over individual squadding requests. Justification for unaccommodated requests will not be provided. Just let Kim or I know when paying match fees if you have any preference about who shoots on your target and we will try to make that happen. Always realize others may be moved on or off any e-target, just as with paper targets, as seen fit, in the match director's sole discretion.
- 9) **Scoring:** NRA rules require that electronic targets be scored just like any paper target. Therefore, a scorer must always be present and paying attention to each

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shot fired (especially in the event a shot does not record - see below). Scores can be written on the score cards as they are fired as normal, or all at once at the end of the string by transcribing from the scoring device, but either way, the scorer must be observant of each shot and the score that is registered on the system.

- 10) **Proper targets:** It is the scorer's responsibility to ensure that the proper target face is being displayed on the SMT system. This is especially important in the rare cases where F-class and sling shooters are using the same firing point. Any shots for record fired on the wrong target face will be scored as misses.
- 11) **Noise/distractions:** While shooting matches at O-P clearly has a social aspect to it, these are still NRA sanctioned rifle competitions, and will be treated as such. Historically, most of our "visiting" with fellow competitors took place in the pits, where conversations are not a distraction. However, when using e-targets, all three shooters are always on the line, allowing for significant "dead time" when not shooting or scoring. No talking will be allowed on the firing line for competitors not engaged in shooting or scoring. All chairs and conversations should be moved to the gravel parking lots behind the cars so as to not distract those shooting. This will be enforced.
- 12) **Ghost shots:** From time to time, shots can show on SMT targets that were not actually fired by the shooter. Most of the time these are echoes from shots fired on adjoining targets. A ghost shot can be determined a) if the scorer sees a shot register but did not observe his shooter firing, or b) if the registered shot displays an abnormally high velocity. If either occurs, the scorer should simply ignore the shot and tell the shooter to proceed. The scorer should not delete the shot - leave it on the screen as record of the ghost, but do not record it on the scorecard.
- 13) **Unrecorded shots:** From time to time, the SMT systems do not record a properly aimed shot. These occurrences have become very rare with improvements in the system, but do still occur occasionally. Most of the time, unrecorded shots are determined to be crossfires. Should your shooter fire and a shot not be recorded, the scorer should immediately attempt to determine if a stray shot was received on any nearby targets (call the range officer for assistance with this). If another target has received a shot that its shooter did not fire, then the shot will be recorded a miss. If no other targets received a cross-fire, and all previous shots for record on the target have been 7 or higher, then the shooter will be allowed to re-fire the shot for record with no miss scored.
- 14) **Calibration/Firmware versions:** All SMT users must upgrade firmware to the most current versions available to avoid conflicts with prior versions on other SMT boxes. Proof of calibration and firmware version must be submitted on all systems prior to their use in an O-P match. Mark Trew maintains the database for all Malvern electronic targets. All calibration data, along with current firmware versions (to ensure compatibility among all SMT systems and boxes), must be turned into him, and he will coordinate the entry of everyone's calibration data into the three Line Boxes being used (Fortune, Trew & Ricci). This will allow any SMT G2 to run through the Line Boxes at any time should the need arise. Without calibration pre-stored, this cannot be done, and may result in G2's not being allowed to be used in a match, depending on the SMT target combinations in use that day. Any changes to

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calibration must be immediately updated and communicated to Mark Trew, and correspondingly entered into the Line Boxes.

All electronic target rules and procedures may be updated, amended or changed at any time to accommodate changing circumstances.

I appreciate your cooperation with all the above so as to make our matches run better, faster and more enjoyably.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Charles Rowe  
Ohio-Penn President & Match Director