



2022 Rulebook

The Modern American Rimfire Series (MARS) is an annual cumulative points competition for practical 22LR precision rifle shooters. MARS's goal is to promote the shooting sports and defend the 2nd Amendment. MARS is designed to give back to the firearms community by providing: affordable, competitive outlets for practical style rimfire enthusiasts; practice opportunities for precision centerfire competitors; and to be an accessible, beginner friendly options for new and junior shooters.

SECTION 1: Safety

A. General Rifle Safety

1. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded.
2. Always point the rifle in a safe direction.
3. Always keep the rifle unloaded until ready to fire.
4. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to fire.
5. Know your target and what is beyond.
6. Eye and ear protection are mandatory for participants, spectators, and officials at the event.
7. Never use alcohol or cognitive altering drugs (including over the counter or prescription drugs) while shooting.
8. Individual club/match/range safety rules always supersede MARS rules.

B. Rifle Safety While at a MARS Match

9. MARS competitions are always conducted on cold ranges. All rifles are to remain unloaded, with magazines removed and actions open, except when being run through a course of fire, or with permission of the RO.
10. Use of chamber flags is required. Chamber flags shall remain in the action until the RO verbally indicates removal is permitted. Rifles shall only be loaded, or magazines inserted, when directed by the RO.
11. Ground rifles in a proper rifle rack, or wherever the RO designates as a safe location and direction.
12. Rifles with removable magazines are required. Rifles with fixed tubular magazines are prohibited, as they are difficult to make safe.
13. When moving between stages, always ensure the rifle is cased or pointed in a safe direction.

C. Rifle Safety During Stage

14. Always wait for the RO's command before removing the chamber flag and inserting the magazine.
15. Stages usually begin with an empty chamber unless specifically directed by the stage brief and/or the RO.
16. Any movement or barricade transition must be performed with the action open and an empty chamber on a bolt action rifle, or with the safety engaged on a semi-automatic rifle. For semi-automatic rifles, the shooter must engage the safety, and yell "SAFE" loud enough for the RO to hear while wearing ear protection.
17. During movement, the 180 rule must always be adhered to. The 180 rule dictates that the rifle should only be pointed within 90 degrees to the left and right of straight down range in order to prevent muzzling. There may be stages when a RO sets the arc to less than 180 degrees, to ensure safety. Always follow directions and be aware muzzle direction.

D. Safety Violations and Penalties

18. *Violation of the cold range rule:* Violating the cold range rule results in a match disqualification (DQ).
19. *Violating the 180 rule:* Violating the 180 rule with a loaded firearm results in a match DQ.
20. *Muzzling:* Muzzling with a loaded firearm results in a match DQ. Muzzling is pointing or sweeping any part of any person's body with the muzzle of a rifle.
21. *Unsafe transitioning:* If a shooter fails to open the action during movements within a stage, such as transitions on a barricade, the RO will first have the shooter correct the situation. The shooter will then be permitted to move back to the previous firing position and continue the course of fire. A second violation will result in a zero on the stage. A third will result in a match DQ. The same applies to semi-automatic rifles that move with a closed bolt with the safety engaged, if the shooter does not either engage the safety and/or yell "SAFE".
22. *Negligent Discharge:* A negligent discharge is defined as any round unintentionally discharged from a firearm during a transition, movement, and/or firearm manipulation; or a round intentionally discharged during a cease fire period. The competitor shall automatically receive a match DQ.
23. *Mechanical Failure:* A mechanical failure is defined as any round unintentionally discharged from a firearm due to a mechanical failure. The participant will be removed from the event until he or she can repair the rifle to safe working order. All stages and points will be forfeited during this down time.
24. *False Starts:* Intentional firing before the start signal will result in a zero for the stage.
25. *Intoxication:* If an MD judges a shooter to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during competition, the shooter will receive a match DQ and be removed from competition. The shooter will not be allowed to drive from the competition while still intoxicated.
26. MDs reserve the right to amend penalties as they see fit, including warnings, stage zeroes and match DQs for any unsafe gun handling issues or safety violations. MDs will strive to be as fair as possible. MDs' rulings are final.

SECTION 2: Responsibilities

A. MARS Responsibilities

MARS will oversee and administrate the series and ensure founding principles are maintained.

1. MARS will gather and publish match scores from all participating clubs.
2. MARS will generate and track series points from the match scores.
3. MARS will publish series points for all registered MARS members.
4. MARS will generate membership numbers for all registered MARS members.
5. MARS will distribute prizes donated to the series.
6. MARS will support and assist participating clubs.
7. MARS President will establish and oversee a committee comprised of all board members and current Area directors to vote on MARS issues, including rules.
8. Each participating Area Director will receive one vote for decision making purposes. A simple majority will carry motions.

B. Shooter Responsibilities

27. Shooters should treat MDs and ROs with respect at all times. From time to time, disagreements arise between shooters and match officials. This is fine, so long as mutual respect and calm communication occurs. The Match Director(s)'s ruling is always final.
28. All participants in MARS matches are looked upon as Safety Officers. Any participant who witnesses an unsafe act should call for a cease fire and stop the unsafe act. The witness should then inform the closest RO of the act.
29. It is the shooters responsibility to know the MARS Rulebook prior to a competition.
30. Shooters should actively try to move the competition along quickly and smoothly by participating in the stage briefing, helping reset, score or spot during the stage, knowing their position in the shooting order and being ready to shoot when their name is called.
31. At the beginning of each stage, participants will be asked by the RO, "Shooter do you understand the course of fire?". This is the shooters last opportunity to ask for clarification about the stage or course of fire. After providing an affirmative answer, indicating there are no remaining questions, a shooter may not argue that the instructions were unclear or that they misunderstood the course or targets. Any such arguments will be considered invalid.
32. Shooters should be good squad mates by helping police brass, helping ROs when directed, and providing coaching to other shooters after their stage is complete. Volunteering to assist with set up and take down of the match is a big help to the club and MDs, and greatly appreciated.
33. A competitor may not stop themselves during the course of fire due to lost targets, disagreement with the RO, etc.
34. The competitor **MUST** engage targets in the order specified in the stage brief, otherwise the spotter will not be observing the shots on the intended target. Shooting targets out of order is not grounds for a reshoot.
35. If the competitor has choice of engagement order (per the stage brief), the chosen order must be communicated to the RO and Spotter(s) before beginning course of fire.

C. Match Director (MD) Responsibilities

36. MDs are responsible for the overall operation of a match. He or she is the person in charge at that event.
37. All MDs' match rulings are final.
38. Submit match score's in a timely manner, in proper format to series President.

D. Range Officer (RO) Responsibilities

39. ROs are any person assisting the MD with running a competition. They can be the person running a stage, a spotter, the registration staff, or anyone that the MD acknowledged, as working the match.
40. ROs should understand all rules and regulations prior to the start of the competition to ensure the safety off all participants. Any RO witnessing unsafe acts must call cease fire and correct the unsafe act as soon as possible.
41. ROs that are running a stage shall have complete knowledge of the stage that they are responsible for. They should conduct a stage briefing for all shooters prior to each stage and assist in target location on stages that allow for prior target knowledge. After stage briefing, the squad will have 5 minutes to prep before the first shooter is called. Once the stage begins, the RO shall run every shooter though that stage as close to the same as humanly possible. Encouraged commands are as follows. "Shooter do you understand the course of fire?" If no questions are asked, then "Shooter, load and make ready". Once the shooter makes his or her rifle ready, "Shooter Ready?" Once an affirmative is obtained, the start tone should follow.
42. ROs that are supervising the shooter are responsible for the safety of the shooter, bystanders and the overall stage. Time keeping and scoring are secondary responsibilities that should not supersede the primary function of stage safety. Ideally, each stage will have also have ROs for timing, scoring, and spotting.
43. ROs that are serving as spotters are responsible for calling hits on targets. Utilization of standard calls is encouraged. Standard calls would include: IMPACT, RE-ENGAGE, WRONG TARGET, STRAP, or STAND. Spotters should use loud clear voices when calling stages. Calling corrections during the stage (coaching) is prohibited. Feedback to the shooter is encouraged AFTER the stage is complete.
44. Assistance to juniors (firearm manipulation, support equipment, spotting) is permitted.
45. The use of click counters by spotters is recommended.
46. Anytime a RO is unable to settle a grievance presented by a shooter, he or she shall request the MD to make the final decision.
47. Although discouraged, reshoots of stages may be required due to a cease fire being called, prop malfunction, or target breakage. Reshoots are only complete reshoots of the entire stage. The score on the reshoot will be the final score.
48. ROs are responsible to ensure that the firearm's chamber is empty prior to inserting their ECI into the rifle. Failure to properly clear a rifle, will result in both the shooter and RO receiving a match DQ.

SECTION 3: Details

A. Rifle Rules

1. Rifles must be chambered in .22 Long Rifle only.
2. Any rimfire rifle chambered in .22 LR may be used. However, rifles with removable magazines are strongly recommended. Rifles with fixed tubular magazines are prohibited as they are difficult to make safe.
3. Any scope, iron sights, or electronic sights may be used. However, magnified rifle scopes with externally adjustable turrets and reticles designed to assist in holdover and measurement are highly recommended.
4. Competitor may only use one rifle for the event. If the competitor's rifle ~~goes down~~ becomes inoperable, they must get permission from the MD to switch and continue the match.

B. Equipment

1. All equipment must be in hand(s) before starting a stage
2. Any range property such as tables, chairs, stools, etc., may not be used during the stage unless explicitly allowed in the stage brief.
3. Any equipment like tripods or the like must be fully collapsed and closed.
4. A stage brief may explicitly prohibit or limit the allowed equipment used for a particular stage.

C. Match Design

1. Stage design, including props, should accommodate competitors of various heights and physical build.
2. No stage should require questionable or unsafe firearm manipulation by a competitor.
3. Reasonable modifications to a stage may be made by the MD to accommodate a competitor's physical disability or age.
4. Every match will incorporate a tie breaker stage. Time will be used to break all ties.
5. The use of electronic shot timers for all stages is encouraged. Use of a timer is mandatory for tie breaker stage.
6. Any shot occurring within .30 seconds of the ending beep is considered within the time limit of the stage. A shot occurring at xx.31 seconds is overtime and will not be counted.
7. In the event a suppressor is in use, every effort must be made to position the timer to record the last shot fired. RO may be required to tap the timer after final shot to attempt to get a time. The competitor forfeits any last shot grievances by choosing to run suppressed.
8. PractiScore should be used to post notices of upcoming matches, facilitate sign ups, collecting scores during the match. All match scores will be posted on PractiScore upon match completion, and scores properly submitted to MARS.
9. No MARS events will allow the use of a mulligan to reshoot a stage. You earn what you got.

D. Divisions

49. There are three scoring divisions:
- a) Bolt Action Rifles [BOLT]
 - b) Semi-Automatic Action Rifles [SEMI]
 - c) Junior (15 years old and younger) [JR]

E. Series Points

50. Competitors will get a match score for each match. Match scores will be converted to series points, based on the percentage of their match score compared to the overall match winner.

$$\text{Series Points} = \text{Your Match Score} / \text{Match Winner's Score} \times 100$$

2. Series Points will be tracked by your MARS membership number.
3. A match must have a minimum of 15 competitors to count for series points.
4. Shooters must shoot 4 matches in ANY region.
5. All shooters will shoot in their designated region, for Regional Championships. Special permissions, will be made for clubs that don't have an active region, so that they can participate.
6. Shooters will qualify for the MARS Finale based on their yearend points and regional points combined. Each region will earn a percentage of finale spots based off the number of active MARS competitors in that region.

F. Match Schedule

51. The MARS schedule will be posted on the MARS website, www.modernamericanrimfireseries.com. The season will run from Jan 1st thru Sept 30th of each year.
52. October 15 & 16: All Regional Championships will be held for eligible shooters.
53. The top shooters based off a floating percentage based on region participation will be INVITED to the finale based off order of finish in their region.
54. The 2022 Series Finale Match location will be at Shadow Hawk in WV on October 29th and 30th. We are still debating if this will be a 1 or 2 day event. More to come.
55. The Series Finale Match book should be published 72 hours in advance.
56. Two weeks before the finale all remaining open spots will be issued to any shooter, that would like to attend. These shooters are not eligible for any awards or prizes.

G. Series Champion

57. To qualify for the Series Finale, a competitor's top score from 4 different clubs will added together as well as their regional championship points. Invitations to the Finale will be in order of series points standings at the end of the season.
- a. To *become* Series Champion, series points earned from the shooter's top scores at four (4) different clubs and regional points will be added to the points earned at the regional championship and Finale. The highest total series points will be declared the Champion.
 - b. There will be a Series Champion for each division. (Bolt/Semi/Junior)

H. Awards

A. Monthly events – Clubs are encouraged to, but not required to distribute awards rewards at monthly matches.

B. Regionals

1. Trophies will be awarded to overall division winners for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, as well as predetermined prizes for placing in that regional event.
2. The prize table will be random draw for all *eligible* Regional participants.
3. There will also be separate prize tables for Bolt, Semi, and Junior's.

C. Finale

1. Trophies will be awarded to overall series points winners for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
2. Prize table will be order of finish.
3. There will also be separate prize tables for Bolt, Semi, and Junior's.

All prizes are due to the patronage of the sponsors. All MARS participants are encouraged to both:

- a. Consider the sponsors when purchasing equipment
- b. Contact the sponsors to thank them for their contributions

D. Membership

58. Membership is not necessary to participate in any MARS match.

- c. To participate in the points series, competitors must become MARS members.
- d. All registered members will receive a MARS number, which is how your series points will be tracked.
- e. Dues must be paid for scores to be tracked and posted on the MARS Leaderboard.
- f. Scores earned prior to joining MARS (paid membership) will not be recorded.
- g. Registering as a member of MARS means that the member agrees that they have read the Rulebook and agrees to abide by all rules and clauses therein.

SECTION 4: Sportsmanship

A. Good Sportsmanship

59. Good Sportsmanship is one of the founding principles of MARS. Good sportsmanship helps grow the sport, creates positive role models, and is impressive to the sponsors. It is not something that can be measured, but is easy to recognize by all participants.

B. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

60. Unsportsmanlike conduct is taken very seriously by MARS. Examples of bad sportsmanship include treating participants or range staff with disrespect, abusive behavior, unwarranted complaining, throwing tantrums, or disruptive behavior.

C. Cheating

61. MARS defines cheating as: acting dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage in competition. Examples of cheating are:

- a) Sabotaging another shooters equipment
- b) Altering or destruction of score sheets
- c) Any other act as deemed unfair/cheating by a RO or MD

D. Penalties for Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Cheating

62. A competitor deemed as acting in an unsportsmanlike fashion will be subject to any penalty that the MD deems appropriate including warnings, stage zeroes, match DQs and being removed from the match.

- h. The Series Director may remove the competitor from the series for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- i. The only penalty for cheating shall be match DQ and removal from the series.

SECTION 5: Indemnification

A. Liability

63. All MARS participants including associated clubs and facilities understand that firearms and activities surrounding a running of a competition have inherent risks. All participants agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless MARS, facility, Match Director(s), staff and participants of MARS, from and against any and all claims, leases, injuries, suits or judgments arising from, or in connection with, their presence on the MARS facilities.

- j. All MARS participants agree to this indemnification and save harmless for themselves, their successors, assigns, heirs, executors and administrators, and any other person or entities who/which may have a claim based upon my/our personal injuries and/or property damage. Furthermore, participants agree to abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to participation in MARS and acknowledge receipt of a copy of same.
- k. Participants understand further that they will be held financially responsible for any damage to facilities or equipment which occurs through participation in MARS.
- l. All minors aged 17 years or younger must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian and that adult is responsible for all actions of the minor.
- m. MARS reserves the right to remove any competitor or club/association as it sees fit for any reason.
- n. Participants understand that they may be photographed/recorded at this MARS events and hereby give MARS, its employees, licenses and authorized representatives, permission to photograph/record them and to use and reproduce those image(s), name and identification for standard purposes including, but not limited to the promotion, publicity, social media, website, archives, research, publications, and other materials and presentations. The permission is irrevocable and royalty-free. Participants waive any right to inspect or approve the image in connection with MARS uses as authorized in this release.