

# METALLIC SILHOUETTE

## a description

*Bob and Carol Ann Winters*

The sport of metallic silhouette is a visually interesting shooting sport in that the targets must be knocked off stands, providing instant feedback to the shooter and/or spectator. No need to wait to see where a hole in paper is, or what the scoring value is.

The factor common to each of the silhouette categories is the target layout and the scoring. Targets are metal cutouts (silhouettes) of four animals; chickens, pigs, turkeys, and rams (sheep), which are placed on stands (or rails) in banks of five. During competition, five shots are taken, one shot at each of the five targets, in sequence - shot 1 at target 1, shot 2 at target 2, etc. Scoring is brutally simple: If the target falls off the stand as a result of your shot, it's a hit and an 'X' is scored. If it remains on the stand, even if hit, it's a miss and an '0' is marked on the score card.

Target sizes differ as follows: Smallbore Rifle and Smallbore Hunting Rifle targets are roughly one fifth life size (the ram will fit in the palm of your hand); Hunter's Pistol, Smallbore Hunter's Pistol, and Smallbore Cowboy Rifle targets are roughly one half size. The one fifth target distances are: Chickens are 40 meters distant, Pigs are 60 meters distant, Turkeys are at 77 meters, and Rams are 100 at meters. The half size target distances are: Chickens at 40 yards, Pigs at 50 yards, Turkeys at 75 yards, and Rams at 100 yards. At DCWC, the distance are as above, but NRA rules allow for a range to be set in either yards or meters, as long as ALL targets are set at meters or yards.

Most "Club" matches consist of 40 shots, ten shots at each of the target banks. The State Games Match is a sixty shot match, 15 shots at each distance. North Carolina State Championship Matches have traditionally been eighty shot matches, two forty shot matches on the same day.

To clarify the above, let me describe how a typical club match with Hunter's Pistol would be shot by one shooter.

At the command of the Range Officer (RO), you would move your equipment and take your position to fire on the first bank of five chicken targets. At the RO's "ready" command, you have 30 seconds to prepare for the first shot. At the RO's "fire" command, you then have two minutes to shoot five shots, one each at each of the chicken targets, in sequence. At the "cease fire" command, you "ground" your firearm. After a short pause, at the RO's "ready" command, you have 30 seconds to prepare for the first shot on the second bank of five chicken targets. At the RO's "fire" command, you then have two minutes to shoot five more shots, one each at each of the remaining five chicken targets, in sequence. At the "cease fire" command, you "ground" your firearm and show it is safe by inserting an "open bolt indicator" or "open action indicator".

The targets are reset when the firing line is safe, and after all targets are reset, the RO would give the command to rotate position. You would then move your equipment to the position designated to engage the pig targets, and the sequence is repeated for the pig targets, the turkey targets, and the ram targets. In actual practice, you don't always begin on the chicken targets, as (usually) all firing positions have a shooter at the beginning of the match. You could, for example, begin shooting the turkey targets, then "rotate" to rams, chickens, and finish with the pig targets.

Some fine points of the rules are:

- (1) You can only "handle" your firearm between the "ready" command and the "cease fire" command.
- (2) Firearms are not considered "safe" until an "Open Bolt Indicator" or "Open Action Indicator" is in place, making it readily apparent that the firearm is unloaded and cannot be fired.
- (3) Targets shot and hit out of sequence cannot be scored as a hit.
- (4) Timing for the rifles, except Cowboy Rifle, is fifteen seconds to "make ready" (instead of thirty) and two and one half minutes (instead of two minutes)

to fire on the bank of five targets. Cowboy Rifle and all handguns shoot with the timing used in the illustration.

Firearms allowed are described as follows:

### **Smallbore Rifle**

- (a) Maximum weight 10 pounds, 2 ounces, including sights.
- (b) Any sights, telescopic or metallic may be used. Scopes may not be more than 2 inches above the rifle, and may not be “offset”.
- (c) Any trigger not subject to accidental discharge. Triggers which function on release are not allowed.
- (d) Stock: The rules governing stocks are complex and spelled out in detail in the NRA rule book, but in general, it can be said that the stock can be a “target” style stock but bent stocks are not allowed. Additionally, the barrel may not exceed 30 inches.

### **Smallbore Hunting Rifle**

- (a) The rifle must be or have been a catalog item readily available to the general public.
- (b) Maximum weight 8 pounds 8 ounces, including sights.
- (c) Any sights, telescopic or metallic may be used. Scopes may not be more than 1.5 inches above the rifle, and may not be “offset”.
- (d) Trigger may be adjusted but not replaced with a custom trigger. Trigger pull may be no less than 2 pounds.
- (e) Stock must be the factory stock as sold with the rifle, but refinishing the stock is allowed.
- (f) Barrel: The barrel must be that of a hunting style rifle, tapered. No heavy or varmint style barrels allowed. Any replacement barrel must conform to the dimensions of the factory original.

### **Smallbore Cowboy Rifle**

The rifle must be a tube magazine, semi-automatic, pump action, or lever action rifle which is or has been a catalog item readily available to the general public. Only open sights, receiver or tang sights manufactured for the rifle may be used. Aperture or globe front sights may not be used. Only post front sights may be used. Any safe trigger. No external modifications except sights.

Note that all “smallbore” rifles are defined as those chambered for the .22 caliber long rifle, long, or short rimfire cartridges only. The use of “hot loads”, such as the “Stinger”, is not permitted. The same applies to the Smallbore Hunter’s Pistol categories.

### **Hunter’s Pistol**

A Pistol weighing no more than four and one-half pounds complete with all sighting equipment, having a safe trigger, and a barrel no longer than ten and three-quarters inches as measured from breech face to muzzle (revolver barrel measurement will not include the cylinder). The barrel must not rebored or rechambered to accommodate other than that for which it was originally manufactured. The pistol may be of any action type except bolt action. The pistol must be or have been a catalog item generally available to the general public with no visible external modification except as follows:

- (a) External finishes, either protective or decorative, or other non-functional embellishments such as engraving, inlays, or inscriptions.
- (b) Replacement of sights with any sights (including scopes, other optical sights, or metallic sights). Scopes may not be more than one and one-half inches above the pistol as measured from the top of either the receiver or barrel to the underside of the scope tube, nor may the scope be offset from the top centerline of the receiver. Metallic sights that are used in open sight competition must be as furnished by a manufacturer and may not be altered. The original sights (front, rear, or both) may be replaced with sights which are catalog items manufactured to fit the handgun without alteration to the sights, sight assembly or handgun. Replacement sights may not extend the original sight radius by more than one inch as measured from the apex of the front sight to the apex of the rear sight. Front sights or assemblies shall not extend beyond the muzzle. The sighting plane may not be higher than one inch above the receiver or barrel as measured at the midpoint of the sighting plane. Covered rear sights or sight tubes are not allowed.
- (c) Replacement of grips and forend with custom or hand-made grips or forend. No part of grip or accessories may encircle the hand. The heel rest may extend at a right angle to grip only. Upward curvature

of the heel and thumb rest and downward curvature of the side opposite the thumb is prohibited. The rear part of the pistol frame or grip which rests on top of the hand between the thumb and the forefinger must not be longer than one and one-half inch. These grips must be conventional in that they do not allow support of the gun with parts of the body other than the shooter's hand and do not extend behind the shooter's wrist joint. No additional devices may be added, or any modification made to the forend, gun sights, or sight mount which aids in holding, gripping or supporting said gun. Checkering and stippling are allowed.

- (d) "Magnaporting" or similar gas venting.
- (e) Wide "target" style hammers and triggers, and trigger shoes.
- (f) Rebarrelling with any standard factory barrel from the same manufacturer and appropriate to the model.
- (g) Hammer extensions to clear scopes.
- (h) "Crowning" of barrel to depth of no more than one-eighth inch inward from the outside edge of the muzzle. The overall outer length of the barrel may not be reduced by this operation.

**NOTE: EXAMPLES OF MODIFICATIONS WHICH ARE NOT ALLOWED:**

- ◆ Extended slides or barrels on auto pistols.
- ◆ Replacement of barrels with other than the original manufacturer's barrel intended for that model.
- ◆ Lining of barrels.
- ◆ Removal of the forend.

**Hunter's Pistol Open Sights**

Any pistol conforming to the above description except ONLY open sights are allowed. Optical, electronic, and aperture sights are not allowed.

**Hunter's Pistol Cartridges**

Only the following pistol cartridges may be used. .22 rimfire, .22 Hornet, .25-20, .270 REN, .30 Carbine, .32, .32-20, 9mm, .357, .357 Auto Mag, all standard .38, and .380 pistol and revolver cartridges, 10mm, .40 S&W, .42 AE, .41, .44 and .45 caliber identical in exterior case dimensions to unaltered factory pistol cases. Maximum case length for 9mm, .357 (and .38), .41 and .44 and .45 caliber shall be established as that of a 9mm Styer (0.90"); .357 S&W Mag. (1.29");

.41 S&W Mag. (1.28"); .44 Auto Mag. (1.298"); .45 Colt (1.29"); 10mm (1.00"); .41 AE (0.866"); and .40 S&W (0.847") respectively.

**Smallbore Hunter's Pistol**

Identical to the description of the Hunter's Pistol, except that the pistol shall be chambered for only the .22 caliber short, long, or long rifle rimfire cartridge. Hot loads, such as "Stingers" are not permitted.

**Smallbore Hunter's Pistol, Open Sights**

Identical to the description of the Hunter's Pistol Open Sights, except that the pistol shall be chambered for only the .22 caliber short, long, or long rifle rimfire cartridge. Hot loads, such as "Stingers" are not permitted.

The most common pistol used in NRA competition is the Thompson Center Contender single shot, the dominating Cowboy Rifles are the lever action Marlins. Smallbore Rifles (and Hunting Rifles) vary widely.

