



## **Buffalo Creek Gun Club 2017 Midrange Prone Matches**

For 2017, we will be having midrange prone matches at the 600 yard line at Buffalo Creek Gun Club. Please see the match bulletin and the NRA High Power Rifle Rules book (link is at the end of this document) for detailed rules. This document is intended to familiarize the new shooter with high power rifle competition in general, and the midrange prone course of fire specifically. If anything is unclear after reading this document, the NRA rulebook, and the match bulletin, please get in touch with the match director, Jason Roosa, BCGCHighpower@gmail.com, 303-638-7597.

**What is high-power rifle shooting?** High power rifle shooting as a discipline incorporates several different types of matches, different kinds of rifles, various shooting positions, and ranges from 100 yards to 1000 yards. High power rifle targets are bull's-eye style targets with circular scoring rings and a round aiming black. Competitors shoot from prescribed shooting positions which include offhand standing, sitting/kneeling, and prone. A high power rifle match consists of several strings of fire, with each string consisting of a set number of shots fired from a particular position at a particular range. The midrange prone match is a specific type of high power match.

**What is a midrange prone match?** High power match ranges are defined as short range (200-300 yards), midrange (500-600 yards), and long range (700-1000 yards). A typical high power "across the course" match will consist of a 200 yard standing offhand slow fire string, a 200 yard sitting/kneeling rapid fire string, a 300 yard rapid fire prone string, and a 600 yard slow fire prone string. These are usually shot with one half of the competitors in the first relay shooting, and the other half of the competitors marking and scoring targets in the target pits. Competitors switch roles for the second relay. A midrange prone match simply focuses on slow fire prone shooting from the 500 or 600 yard line. The Buffalo Creek Gun Club Midrange prone match will consist of three strings with unlimited sighting shots and 20 rounds for record shot prone over 22 minutes at the 600 yard line with breaks between strings. We intend to have three relays of up to 15 shooters per relay. The match will likely run from morning until around lunchtime if all goes well.

**What can I expect on the day of the match?** The match will start at 8 AM. This means that the first shots will be fired at 8 AM. High power competitors are expected to arrive at the match at least one hour prior to the start time in order to sign in, pay match fees if they have not signed up ahead of time, be assigned a firing point and a relay, help with setup, and to attend the safety briefing. After the safety briefing, the second relay will go to the target pits, and prepare to mark targets score for the first relay, who will prepare to shoot. Any new shooters who are unfamiliar with high power matches should expect to arrive even earlier so that the match director can provide a short orientation.

Marking and scoring targets is an essential task for all competitors. A high power rifle range has target frames that can be raised and lowered from behind a protective berm. During slow fire, the target is pulled down after each shot and a spotter and scoring disk are placed to allow the shooter to see where his shot struck the target, and what score was given. When only two relays are shooting, scorecards will be filled out in the shooting pits. When three relays shoot, a scorer keeps score from the firing line behind each shooter.

Placement of scoring disks:



**8**                      **9**                      **10/5** (Duplicated from NRA High Power Rifle Rules, 2013)

After the match, scores will be tabulated, and winners will be announced for each division (Service Rifle, Match Rifle, Match Rifle Optics, F-Open, and F-TR), as well as for the winners of each classification (Master/High Master, Expert, Sharpshooter, Marksman).

**What kind of rifle can I use?** Almost any safe center fire rifle can be used to shoot in a midrange prone match. There will be four classes, and each class has a specific allowed type of rifle. The NRA rulebook has specifics on what is and is not allowed in each division.

*Service rifle:* This class includes modern semi automatic rifles issued for military service since WWII. Unfortunately M4 style carbines, M1 carbines, or AR 15/M-16 style rifles with external modifications, or M14 DMR style rifles are not allowed. These rifles however are allowed in the match rifle class with iron sights, and the F-Class with scopes. If you have an M1 Garand, M1A/M14 in its traditional configuration, an AR15 in its traditional configuration, or an M-110, you may shoot in this class. Each shot must be single loaded into the rifle. Iron sights are required (M16 style for the AR and M-110). Match conditioning is allowed as long as the rifle retains its external appearance. A military style leather or web rifle sling is used for support in the prone position; no other supports are allowed. New rules allow an AR-15/M-16 style service rifle to be scoped. If you intend to use a scoped service rifle, please review the rulebook in detail on the requirements, as there are very strict weight and other requirements for this class.

*Match rifle:* This class will allow almost any non-scoped rifle. At 600 yards, match aperture sites are strongly recommended. Bolt-action service rifles shoot in the match rifle class. Shooters in the match rifle class traditionally use custom-built bolt-action rifles or highly

modified AR 15 style rifles with match quality aperture sights. A rifle sling is used for support in the prone position, no other supports are allowed.

*Match Rifle with Optics:* This class allows any rifle fitting the Match Rifle criteria above, but a scope is allowed. The rifle may be shot with a sling for support, but other forms of support will require the rifle shoot in F-Class as described below.

*F Class TR:* This class allows "target rifles" or "tactical rifles" chambered in 7.62 mm NATO/308 Winchester or 5.56 x 45mm NATO. Either slings or bipods are allowed for support. A scope is allowed. F class targets are similar to the high power targets, but a center with smaller scoring rings is pasted to the target.

*F Class Open:* This is the broadest class. Almost any rifle that does not fit the above three classes can likely be shot in this class. Any caliber up to .35" is allowed. The rifle has a weight limit, but otherwise there are few restrictions. Rests may be used, but refer to the NRA rulebook for what is and is not allowed. For example, if you have a .30-06 hunting rifle and you wish to shoot off of the sandbag or other front rest, you fit into this class. F-class target centers will be used with smaller scoring rings.

After discussion with club leadership, we will also allow on a case-by-case basis for shooters to shoot from a bench who would otherwise be unable to compete. These scores will not be submitted for record. These shooters may shoot the MR-1 or 600 yard F-class target as they please.

**Muzzle brakes are not allowed**, as they are disturbing to other competitors on the line. **NRA Rules currently do not allow suppressors during matches.** If you want to shoot suppressed, you may but your scores will not be submitted.

**Isn't 600 yards kind of far?** Yes and no. The targets are really big. The MR-1 target has a 60" 5-point ring, the aiming black is 36", and the 10 ring is 12" across. The targets are easily visible from the firing line. You will be able to see the spotter that marks your hit and the scoring disk with even the lowest power spotting scope or binoculars. If you are used to shooting 100 or 200 yards, you will find the effects of wind and changing light to be considerably greater than you are used to. Also, you should use one of the online ballistics programs to estimate appropriate sight adjustments to get on paper at 600 yards. If you do not own a chronograph, you will have to estimate muzzle velocity, and this may make your 600 yard sight adjustments somewhat off. Because of this, we allow unlimited sighters in the first string to get everybody on paper. Each string begins with two unscored sighting shots to fine-tune your wind call & adjustments before you take your 20 shots for record.

**So, why should I shoot in your midrange prone match?** There are several reasons:

-If you shoot in the F-Class, you can compete with equipment you probably already own. This makes it a nice introduction to high-power shooting. You can see if you like the sport before you invest a lot of money in a new rifle and other accessories.

-Shooting in a formal competition is a prerequisite for purchasing a surplus M1 Garand from the Civilian Marksmanship Program, and can also help you qualify for your concealed carry permit in Colorado.

-Shooting at 600 yards by yourself is not pleasant because it is almost impossible to see bullet holes at that range. When you shoot in a prone match, each of your shots is marked, and you get immediate feedback on shot execution, wind call, and the quality of your equipment and ammunition. Many shooters brag about their “Sub-MOA” rifles, but this is usually based on their best three-shot group shot from a concrete bench at 100 yards in calm conditions. Very few shooters can hold the six-inch X-ring or the three-inch F-Class X-ring at 600 yards shot after shot in real world conditions with changing light and changing wind. With three strings, you can even try out three different loads to find exactly which load performs best in your rifle at this range.

-High-power rifle matches draw shooters with a broad range of experience from juniors and beginners to some of the top shooters in the country. A high-power match is a great place to get to know other shooters, to get advice, coaching, and to see equipment first hand that you may only otherwise be able to see in a catalog or online.

Try shooting a match...you'll be hooked!

NRA High Power Rifle Rules:

<http://competitions.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/RuleBooks/HPR/hpr-book.pdf>

Jason Roosa MD  
Buffalo Creek Gun Club  
Midrange Prone Match Director  
Highpower Division Director  
BCGCHighpower@gmail.com  
(303) 638-7597