

## **Mini-Palma: Guidance for Tournament Directors and Competitors**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are three important aspects to this new course of fire that will insure Mini-Palma's future as a challenging discipline for Smallbore competitors: Target, Time and the Two-sighter rule. The combination of these three differences from the standard, outdoor-Smallbore prone course of fire will benefit both the new and experienced competitor by increasing his/her expertise toward reading the wind. Thomas Ed Cole (MP Rules Committee Member, Ft. Worth, TX) said it best, "In this game, you turn the knobs and you turn them often." In other words, competitors of this new discipline must make *aggressive* sight adjustments based on the current conditions. There is not enough time to wait on ideal conditions to return. Until the wind stops blowing, Ed, Bryan Knight (MP Rules Committee Member, Chattanooga, TN) and myself believe that MP will continue to grow in acceptance and popularity. We welcome all inquiries regarding any aspect of this new discipline from future/present Tournament Directors and competitors alike.

### **MP Rules Integration Within Current NRA Smallbore Rifle Rules**

Mini-Palma parallels conventional Smallbore prone competition so much so that the MP Rules were developed as amendments to the current NRA Smallbore Rifle Rules book. It would be quite redundant to construct a stand-alone rulebook for this type of tournament. Please see the second sentence contained within the initial paragraph of the posted rules, "Unless otherwise stated in the following rules, current NRA Smallbore Rifle Rules will apply." This merger, in support of simplicity, should take care of all penalties and procedures associated with cross-fires, excessive shots, etc. as well as equipment requirements, position descriptions and supporting administrative details. Finally, as stated within the MP Rules, the MP Tournament Directors' discretion and judgment will be respected.

### **TARGETS**

*(Available from National Target, 1-800-827-7060, \$43.00/100)*

The new MP target (designated LR-S, International Mini-Palma) was designed by Bryan Knight. Bryan calculated the reduction from the long-range Palma target (NRA designation: LR) for each long-range distance (800, 900 and

1000 yards) to 100 yards. As you may or may not know, in long-range Palma the target dimensions are the same for all distances. Mr. Knight took this into consideration when developing the new 100-yard, Smallbore (reduced) target. Consequently, the size of the black and the respective rings are considerably smaller than a standard 100 yard Smallbore target. Compare [LR-S vs. A-25]: (*see MP Rules for complete dimensions*)

<b>800 Yard, X-6 rings black, Black-5.75"</b>	<b>100 Yard, A-25, X-7 rings black, Black-8.0"</b>
<b>900 Yard, X-6 rings black, Black-5.108"</b>	<b>100 Yard, A-25, X-7 rings black, Black-8.0"</b>
<b>1000 Yard, X-6 rings black, Black-4.60"</b>	<b>100 Yard, A-25, X-7 rings black, Black-8.0"</b>

Obviously, competitors should arrive at the tournament prepared to change aperture sizes for each decreased "bull" size. Tournament Directors are encouraged to suggest this option in their respective tournament programs (*suggested: 3.0-3.1/800, 2.8-2.9/900 & 2.7/1000*). Individual requirements/results may vary.

Additionally, long-range Palma competitors who have fired on the LR-S target advise that their long-range Palma aperture sizes are identical to the reduced version. This initial feedback is very encouraging toward the potential for this reduced course to serve as practice for the "long" course. Atta-boy, Bryan!

### **TIME LIMITS**

The currently posted time limit of (55) minutes per Match/Target breaks down to (15) minutes per stage (MP stage is 1 sighter bull and 1 record bull) with a (5) minute break, *maximum*, between stages. This time limit follows the current Smallbore standard of (1) minute per/record shot; including sighters.

The Tournament Director may choose to call a cease-fire between stages or fire the entire match/target without declared or commanded breaks (block time of 55 minutes max). Due to the fact that MP is undergoing development and is new to most Smallbore competitors, the time limits associated with the course of fire should be specifically described within the official program. The duration of breaks between matches/targets is at the Director's discretion.

Ed Cole has just recently directed the first official MP tournament (Ft. Worth, TX, 3 FEB 01); following the current time restrictions as published in the

rules. Everyone had an adequate amount of time for rest, aperture changes and record/sight-in firing.

## THE TWO-SIGHTER RULE

While unlimited sighters are allowed for the first stage (800-yard) of the match/target, competitors are allowed only (2) sighters at the 900 and 1000-yard stages. Tournament Directors are advised to assess both the record bull and the sighter bull as one stage when faced with excessive hits, crossfires and the penalties associated with each situation. As an example, consider a shooter that fires (3) shots at the 900-yard sight-in bull and (15) shots at the record bull. The score and associated penalties should be assessed in accordance with NRA Smallbore Rifle Rule [14.7 Excessive Hits, (a) On his own target-]. As is well known, the penalties for firing too many shots on one bull are significantly less than firing too many shots on the entire target (stage in conventional Smallbore). Should a shooter discover this mistake (more than 2 shots on the sight-in bull) before firing all shots on the record bull, then he/she should fire correspondingly fewer shots at the record bull. In the above example, the shooter should have fired (14) shots at the record bull to avoid the greatest deduction of penalty points.

As Ed Cole stated, following the first official tournament (near Ft. Worth, TX, 3 FEB 01), "We turned the knobs and we turned them often." This statement reflects the need to accurately judge the wind conditions during all stages of the tournament, but, most specifically, the 900 and 1000 yard, reduced stages. In other words, by allowing only (2) sighters, one must learn to read the wind correctly and stay tuned to its' changes with keen interest. This is not the case when unlimited sighters are allowed. Competitors have become very reliant on the sighter bull during conventional Smallbore tournaments for the purposes of checking the changing wind conditions or "walking the shots in" when the zero is unknown. The (2) sighter rule forces the shooter to become intimately familiar with his/her sight adjustments for the varying wind conditions without the luxury of acquiring a "weather report" from the sight-in bull. Along with maintaining a comparable similarity to LR Palma this is what may be *gained* by competitors of the new Mini-Palma by the Two-Sighter Rule.

*[Tournament Directors are not required to "police" this rule throughout the event. Competitors who choose to break this rule will find that it is not as advantageous as one might initially think, especially from the 1000-yard bull. This fact has been proven in recent practice. The time restrictions and the volume of record shots will more or less "police" this rule. As stated throughout the MP Rules, it is the Tournament Director's*

*discretion as to the appropriate penalty for this violation, if witnessed by the Director, Chief Range Officer or another competitor.]*

## SUMMARY

As an outline, Tournament Directors should maintain the following basic rules within their published, tournament program: The "Any Rifle" category, Metallic Sights [although suggested, the "any" sight category may be included (see: [MP Rule, 3.7 \(c\)](#)) at the discretion of the tournament director], Time Limits, the Two-Sighter Rule and respect for the spirit of competition. Support for the "standard" will allow scores to be compared, world-wide, for decades to come.

Secondly, directors who wish to issue awards for separate classes are suggested to use the NRA Smallbore Classification formula/averages for Outdoor Conventional Prone [19.15, (a)] when evaluating scores in either the "any" sight or metallic "M" rifle category. The **Metric Prone** [19.15, (b)] formula/averages may be more useful for dividing the "S" (sporter) or "B/F" (bipod or forearm-bag) rifle category shooters into classes. This formula can be applied "after the fact" to the fired scores and competitors separated into classes accordingly. However, this is only a suggestion based on the common breakdown in scores.

*These percentages break down into the following scores (MP, full-course, 135 shots):*

Conventional		Metric	
<i>NRA Classification</i>	<i>MP Equivalent</i>	<i>NRA Classification</i>	<i>MP Equivalent</i>
Master	<b>1343 and above</b>	Master	<b>1316 and above</b>
Expert	<b>1330 to 1342</b>	Expert	<b>1282 to 1315</b>
Sharpshooter	<b>1303 to 1329</b>	Sharpshooter	<b>1249 to 1281</b>
Marksman	<b>below 1303</b>	Marksman	<b>below 1249</b>

Finally, Tournament Directors should take careful notes concerning problems and situations not specifically stated in the MP Rules and forward these to the MP Rules Committee so that refinements may be made to insure smooth operation in the future. Thanks to all future participants and Tournament Directors. This initial season should prove to be challenging and, most importantly, very enjoyable. Keep it FUN and the sport will grow.

## NOTE

For scores to be included within the Mini-Palma Records Listing, Tournament Directors should submit **both** an official tournament program (see: example) **and** an official results bulletin via mail or e-mail to: Stacy T. Kunz, 111 Valley CT, LaVergne, TN 37086-4004. [stkunz@comcast.net](mailto:stkunz@comcast.net) . No fees for this service.