



2017 Rules and Guidelines

2017 Rifleman's Team Challenge

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1.0 Mission Statement

The Rifleman's Team Challenge (RTC) has been established to offer a unique and one-of-a-kind experience to shooters, on a National platform. The RTC format is that of a 2-person team competing in an environment with realistic scenarios designed to test and enhance a shooter's ability to successfully engage targets. Participation in the RTC for 2017 will be at no cost to the competitor.

The team format of this series allows shooters to hone their skills in long range marksmanship by using a partner to assist in wind calls, corrections, observed impacts down range, and so on.

The RTC is working in conjunction with *Long Range Reality* (as seen on Sportsman Channel) and select matches will be filmed as part of that show. The ultimate goal of the RTC is to grow the shooting sports industry and encourage new shooter participation.

2.0 Code of Conduct

1. Safety is paramount. Shooters shall at all times conduct themselves in the safest manner possible at RTC scheduled events. Everyone has the right and obligation to call a cease-fire if they see an unsafe situation.
2. All personnel involved with RTC events, Shooters, Range Officers, Match Directors, and so on, shall conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner.
3. Cheating and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Offenses include but are not limited to: viewing or watching shooters on a blind/concealed stage, using rangefinder equipment on reticle-ranging stage, cross-talk between teams to gain an unfair advantage, violating match set muzzle velocities, falsifying scorecards, arguing with other competitors, range officers, match affiliated personnel, etc.
4. Respect the land. Whether public or private, do not deface or intentionally damage facilities or property, and pick up after yourself.
5. Be an ambassador to the sport. Promote and/or encourage people to get involved.

By registering for the RTC, all shooters agree to, and are bound by the code of conduct. Disregard for any principles in the code of conduct, or rules established in this document is grounds for disqualification from a match and ultimately from the RTC.

3.0 Safety

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Always keep firearms pointed in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off of the trigger until you are ready to engage your target.
4. Know your target and target environment.
5. Firearms are to remain unloaded until instructed otherwise.
6. Ensure the gun is safe to operate.
7. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
8. Alcohol or prescription medication that may affect cognitive function shall be not be tolerated during the course of fire.

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3.1 Safety During the Course of Fire

Match Directors and ROs have the ultimate responsibility to ensure shooter safety during the course of fire. This includes range setup and ensuring that rounds will not impact beyond the desired impact area.

1. Magazines shall only be inserted into rifles upon direction from the RO.
2. Negligent/ Accidental discharges are grounds for disqualification from a match and at a minimum will result in a DQ on the stage for which the incident occurred.
3. During all stage movements, bolts shall be opened or locked to the rear (semi-automatics).
4. MDs have discretion on the condition of the rifle prior to starting the COF under the following premises:
 - a. If a magazine is inserted the bolt must be unlocked or back; or
 - b. If a live round is chambered the bolt must be unlocked (preferred method) or the safety "on".
5. Eye and hearing protection shall be used when necessary, as determined by the MD/RO.
6. Eye protection shall be used during all pistol engagements in which the target is 25 meters or less.
7. Empty Chamber Indicators (chamber flags) are not required by the RTC, however, MDs are strongly encouraged to require them.

4.0 General Guidelines

The RTC season is not defined but based on match schedules and the calendar of events, the season will roughly follow the calendar year (January through December). The RTC Nationals will be scheduled to follow the last match of the season to the extent possible.

There is no prescribed manner for the Course of Fire (COF). MDs have the discretion to use a traditional format such as both shooters engage the same targets, shooter/spotter format, long rifle/carbine, primary/secondary shooter, etc.

All stages shall be set up in a manner that is safe, practical, and realistic. Stages shall be proofed by ROs/MDs to ensure that they meet these requirements. MDs are encouraged to utilize the RTC Match Director Resources thread on Snipershide when creating a COF.

Communication/cross-talk between teams who have completed stages or the COF and those waiting to shoot **will not be allowed**. Examples of prohibited communication include, but are not limited to: wind conditions, shooting methods for stage props, target location or ranges (if not given as part of the stage brief), etc. Violating this rule will result in the following:

- 1st offense- stage DQ for all teams involved
- 2nd offense- match DQ.

All teams that are disqualified from a stage and/or match for cross-talk shall be reported to the RTC by Match Director(s). Teams who are reported for violating this rule from 2 different matches will be disqualified from the RTC. This rule will be strictly enforced.

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4.1 Juniors and Inexperienced Competitors

As stated throughout this document, the goal of the RTC is to promote growth of shooting sports. Junior (under the age of 18) or inexperienced competitors may not possess the knowledge or necessary equipment to be “competitive”, or have the strength to carry said gear for the duration of a physically demanding match. For this reason, junior/inexperienced shooters will be able to:

1. Have a squad coach(s) to provide technical assistance, however the “coach” must go first on all engagements and cannot use the juniors/inexperienced shooters as their “test subjects” for stage technique.
2. Junior/inexperienced shooters may share gear provided they are in the same squad.

4.2 Concealed Stages

Concealed stages are those that are not visible to shooters waiting to shoot the stage. A concealed stage is not a blind stage- one in which shooters do not get to see the COF, target array, stage props, etc. until their allotted time begins. The intent of a concealed stage is to prevent teams from gaming or strategizing the engagement prior to their turn on the firing line.

Every effort shall be made on concealed stages to prevent waiting teams from viewing targets, other teams engaging the COF, stage props, etc.

No less than 25% of all stages at each match shall be concealed. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Concealed stage format:

1. Teams will be given the brief as individual teams or as a squad at the firing line (Match Director discretion).
2. Teams will return to the waiting area where the view of the firing line and targets are obscured. Obscuration will preferably be achieved by using terrain features, vegetation, etc., however, vehicles, tents, tarps, or other material may be used to block the view.
3. Teams will be called forward to engage the target and once complete, they will move to a different location than that of those waiting to shoot. This is done to prevent cross talk between teams.

Positioning teams in a staging area where the firing point and/or targets are visible with instructions for teams not to look at the firing point or down range is not considered a concealed stage.

4.2 Squads

Ideally squads will be kept to 4 teams or less.

It is strongly recommended that squads be organized so that like sponsored shooters on different teams are not in the same squad together. An alternative to this method of squad organization is doing a 100% random squad assignment process.

*MDs may relax restrictions on team communication or squad organization for new shooters or juniors. Our goal is to promote growth in this sport.

5.0 Scoring

There are 2 mandatory rules for scoring at each match:

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1. The stage with the highest total point value shall not exceed 2 times as many points as the stage with the lowest point value.
2. 75% of all stages shall be scored on a successive point value (points based on number of rounds to attain an impact). The point values shall be the same at each RTC match to assist in tracking scores across the regions.

1st Round Impact = 3 points

2nd Round Impact= 2 points

3rd Round Impact= 1 point

4th Round Impact= 1 point

This scoring outline does not apply to stages such as bonus engagements (extremely challenging shots), know-your-limits (KYL), mover stages where competitors may be required to engage target(s) with more than 4 rounds, stages with a single target and multiple firing positions, targets with a single round for the engagement, etc. MDs shall have discretion when determining a point value for these scenarios.

Scores shall be forwarded to RTC directors/administrators within 7 days of match completion, absent scores of those teams who participated in the match but are not members of the RTC. Scores and RTC points for the match shall be calculated prior to submission.

The scores will be tracked and updated on the RTC website. Once scores are submitted to the RTC for posting, they cannot be changed or amended but for the following exceptions:

1. RTC Directors/Administrators have numerous concerns/complaints in regards to the same issue.
2. Post-match shooter disqualification.

Under both circumstances, discussions shall take place between the MDs, RTC Directors, and shooter(s) (if applicable) to determine the appropriate course of action.

5.1 Match Scoring

In order to keep the scores on an even basis from across the RTC, the winning team of each match will earn 100 points. The remainder of the teams will be scored based on a percentage of the winning team's points. For example:

If the top team scored 200 points at a match they are awarded 100 RTC points. If they next lower scoring team earns 180 match points they would earn 90 RTC points (180 is 90% of 200 = 90 points).

All team's scores will be calculated based on the winning team's score, regardless of RTC membership. Again, match directors shall forward the RTC points earned to RTC administrators for only those teams who are registered.

6.0 Divisions

The RTC is comprised of 2 divisions:

1. Open Division- Any caliber of rifle provided it does not exceed a match's caliber restriction and at no time shall a muzzle velocity exceed 3200 fps, regardless of individual match allowance.

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2. Limited Division- .308 or .223/5.56. This division is designed to keep the “arms race” out of the event. Both team members must utilize a caliber restricted to this division.
 - The .308 is restricted to a 175 grain bullet only (any manufacturer), with a maximum velocity of 2750 fps.
 - The .223/5.56 is limited to a 77gr bullet only (any manufacturer), with a maximum velocity of 2950 fps. No wildcat cartridges are allowed (e.g. .223 AI).

At each match, shooters from the limited division will be required to submit 1 round to the MD on a random basis, to verify bullet weight. The round shall be randomly selected during the course of fire throughout the match. Shooters will not be able to “offer” a round for verification at any time.

If any shooter is found to violate the bullet or velocity restriction within their division, they will be disqualified from the RTC entirely, without exception.

For RTC purposes, teams may only compete in the Division in which they are registered.

Match Directors are encouraged to randomly chronograph competitors loads to verify velocity restrictions for all divisions.

7.0 Regions

There RTC is divided into 6 regions (pictured below).

Scores must be posted from the same region.

Teams do not have to compete in events in the region in which they live, however, upon registration a region must be selected and only scores from that region will be recorded for RTC standings purpose.

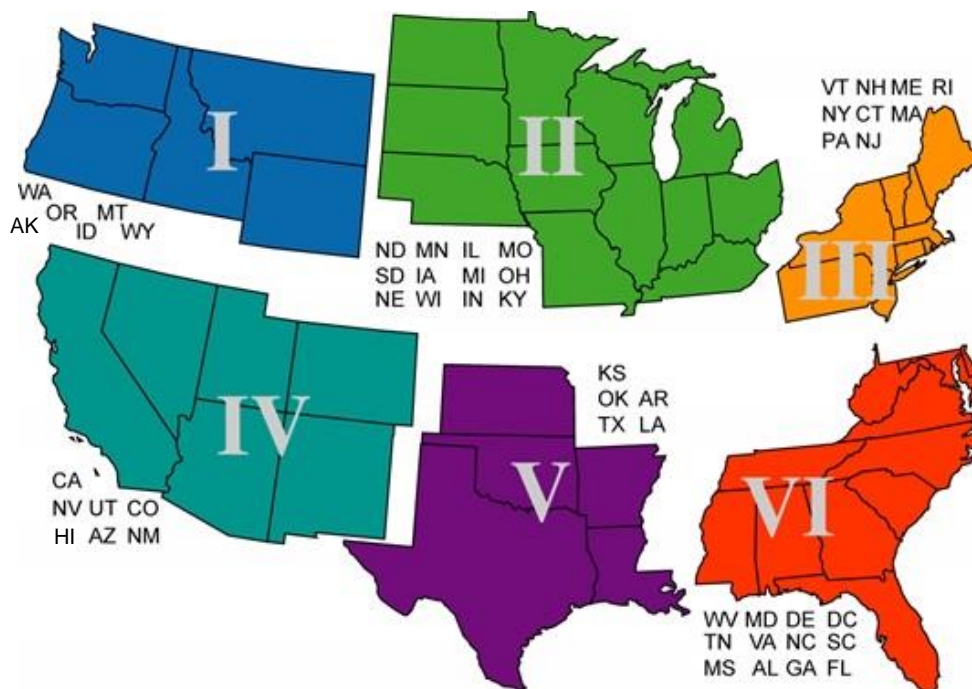
Foreign competitors may compete in any region that is most convenient to them. Once a region is established, participants may only compete within that region for RTC points. Foreign shooters must meet favorable nation status.

7.1 Regional Qualifiers

Regional qualifiers are a “one shot” chance at earning an opportunity to the RTC Nationals. The regional qualifier shall also act as a points match for the region.

The top team from both divisions at each regional qualifier will be given a slot for the Nationals. The regional qualifier slot will not apply to teams that have earned a slot for Nationals by finishing in the top of their division/region, but instead will be given to the next lower finishing team who has not otherwise qualified.

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Teams who plan on attending Nationals are encouraged to compete in the Regional Qualifier. Working in conjunction with *Long Range Reality*, film crews will be following the top teams at this match as well as at the Nationals event.

*As regional competitors and the number of matches grow, a district qualifier may be added.

**Based on the number of competitions within a region, the regional qualifier may be the only match offered within that region.

***As this is a new endeavor, matches may be added to regions at any time.

8.0 RTC Nationals

The RTC Nationals will be held annually at the completion of the season.

MDs participating in the championship shall not be new or inexperienced in conducting/hosting matches. Inexperienced ROs shall only be paired with someone who has previously performed RO duties.

The Nationals match will be capable of hosting a minimum of 42 teams based on regional qualifiers and regional standings, as well as 8 sponsor slots.

Eligibility for Nationals will be based on the average of a team's 3 highest scores for their region. If a region offers less than 3 matches, teams will be selected based on the top scoring teams for those matches offered. If a region is short on matches compared to other regions, the number of teams selected may be less than that of the region(s) offering more matches.

9.0 Long Range Reality

The 2017 filming (airing 2018) of *Long Range Reality* will occur at each Regional Qualifier and the RTC Nationals. This opportunity will allow participants to appear on the Sportsman Channel in the 2018 airing of the show. The film crew will primarily follow the top teams from each region

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for each of these events. As part of the media coverage for the RTC, it is strongly encouraged that the top teams from each region attend the regional qualifier.

*Show producer(s) have the option to modify, amend, or change filming locations and/or events based on their discretion.

10.0 Recommended Best Practices

Although not required, the following items are recommended when conducting an RTC scheduled event (some listed below may have been previously stated within this document).

1. Paint targets flat primer grey and fence posts black. This will reduce competitor concern of others shooters having a freshly painted target at the onset of the match. The black post will allow for a visual indicator of target location.
2. 100% random squad organization, or separate like sponsored shooters. This is a team competition, not a squad competition. Teams are not allowed to share information with other teams or face stage/match DQ. Organizing squads in this manner will keep honest shooters honest.

*MDs may relax restrictions on team communication or squad organization for new shooters or juniors. Our goal is to promote growth in this sport.

3. Do not design stages that are virtually impossible to complete, whether it is due to ridiculously short time constraints or impractical shooting positions. Keep fundamental marksmanship in mind.
4. Design the COF with all stages having a similar time constraint.
5. Keep squads to 4 teams or less to minimize down time.
6. Utilize a form of digital scoring (and paper backup).
7. Utilize experienced ROs.

This is a working document and may be modified or amended to meet the needs of the Rifleman's Team Challenge participants. All changes will be communicated by email to registered members of the RTC.

All administrators of the RTC are performing their tasks on a voluntary basis without wages or compensation.

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