

CASTLETON FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

BULLSEYE- WHAT IS IT?

Among the shooting sports, conventional Bullseye target shooting is one of the oldest and most popular. As with all of the various types of shooting, it has a series of rules and conventions that many may not be familiar with. This therefore, attempts to identify some of these items to make it an easy transition for those being exposed for the first time or for those needing a refresher.

Bullseye is conducted both indoors (Fall & Winter) and outdoors (Spring & Summer). Indoor is performed on the clubs multi-position indoor facility at a range of 50 feet with turning targets. Slow Fire is fired on a slow fire target, Timed & Rapid Fire are fired on a timed/rapid fire target. The course of fire is normally referred to as the NRA National Match Course and is fired in 3 stages. Slow Fire is 10 rounds in 10 minutes. This is followed by Timed Fire which is 2 strings of 5 rounds each in 20 seconds. The final course of fire is Rapid Fire which is 2 strings of 5 rounds each in 10 seconds each. The shot value is a maximum of 10 points per shot with a possible perfect total of 300 points.

Special matches are held routinely and are somewhat more demanding. An 1800 match would consist of 90 rounds or 900 points of .22 and an additional 90 rounds fired with any centerfire .32 cal or above. A 2700 match would add 90 rounds of .45 caliber to that fired in the 1800 match making a total of 270 shots. If all of this isn't confusing enough a new ruling allows for an entire 2700 match to be fired with .22 only. Great news for people with only one gun.

Outdoor matches are fired in the same manner except that Slow Fire is conducted at 50 yards and Timed & Rapid are fired on turning targets at 25 yards. The time intervals remain the same.

Competitors may utilize either pistols or revolvers and use either metallic,telescopic or red dot sights. All firing is done from the standing one hand position with no artificial support to the arm or body permitted.

Once at the range the foremost issue is safety. Loaded guns should never be carried in or out. No guns may be loaded until directed to do so by the Range Officer. In fact, once in the range and at the line, no one should handle any guns, in any manner, until commanded to do so by the Range Officer.

The Range Officer will call each relay to the firing line. The competition will start with a 3-minute preparation period. The competition starts when the Range Officer begins the countdown for the slow fire portion of the match. "Shooters, this will be the slow fire portion of the national match course, 10 rounds in 10 minutes. With 10 rounds, load". He will continue. "Is the line ready?" (If not ready, the shooter should raise his hand so that the Range Officer can hold his countdown until ready.) "The line is ready. Ready on the right, ready on the left, ready on the firing line." "Fire". Where turning targets are used the targets will be facing away during the command sequence and will turn to face the shooter 3 seconds after the command, "ready on the firing line." This is consistent practice for indoor and outdoor competition and is identical for slow, timed and rapid fire phases.

Slow, Timed and Rapid strings may be arranged in various sequences depending upon the type of match being conducted. However all bullseye competition is based on the NRA Conventional National Match, 30 round course. Bullseye Pistol shooting is universally acknowledged to be the best way to develop basic shooting skills. It is accessible to most shooters and while challenging is a rewarding activity that can last a lifetime.