

.22 RIMFIRE CHALLENGE - AN INTRODUCTION

.22 Rimfire Challenge is an enjoyable shooting sport which is intended to introduce shooters, both young and old, to the world of competitive shooting. The sport emphasizes firearm safety while allowing for maximum fun for the shooter.

Local matches are low key events which are designed in such a way as to make successful engagement of the steel targets possible for shooters of every experience level. The sport is intended to be a family-oriented one, and shooters are encouraged to include their children in match participation.

Shooters are divided into Divisions depending upon whether their firearms are equipped with "iron" sights or optical aiming devices. They are further divided into various Special Recognition Categories which include Youth, Junior, Lady, Cowboy/Cowgirl, Senior and Super Senior. Shooters compete against other shooters within their Division and Special Recognition Category. There is also competition among all participating shooters for the title of overall match winner (the shooter who has achieved the best score of the match).

For a full set of rules and information, please go to www.rimfirechallenge.org .

While local .22 Rimfire Challenge matches are generally run as fun events for the whole family, shooters who become committed to the competitive aspects of the sport can work to hone their skills at the local level and strive to qualify to participate in sanctioned competitive events at the regional, state, national and international levels.

Competitors in a Rimfire Challenge match shoot the match with both a .22 LR pistol and a .22 LR rifle. There are no set courses of fire in the Rimfire Challenge. Match Directors create their own courses of fire using steel targets for each stage according the guidelines set forth in the rulebook.

Each shooter shoots the course of fire in each stage five times in what are called "strings." The strings of fire are timed, and the shooter's time for each string (plus any penalties incurred) is recorded. At the end of the stage, the shooter's worst string score (time plus penalties) is discarded. The shooter's score for that stage is then calculated by adding the times for the remaining four strings plus any penalties incurred.

Competitors shoot each stage, which consists of from five to seven steel targets, while standing in a "shooting box" in one shooting position. For pistol stages, targets are set at a minimum of seven yards from the shooting box and a maximum of 20 yards. For rifle stages, the targets may be set at a maximum distance of 60 yards.

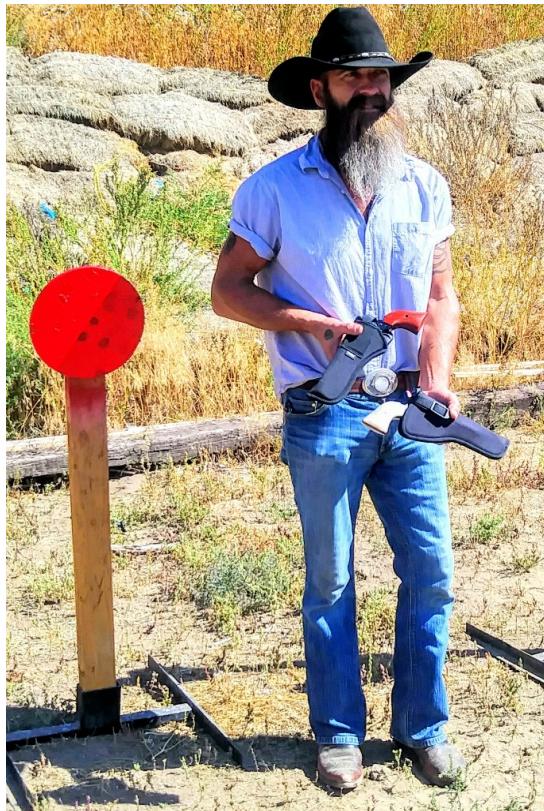


At the end of the match, the scores of all shooters are compared, and the overall match winner will be the shooter who turned in the lowest score. Winners are determined in each Division and Special Recognition Category by comparing the scores of the shooters in each Division and Category against those of fellow competitors in that Division/Category.

The rifles which work well for Rimfire Challenge are the Ruger 10/22, Mossberg Plinkster, and AR based .22 rimfire rifles. Semi-automatic .22 LR pistols such as the Browning Buckmark, Smith & Wesson Victory and the Ruger Mk. Series are a few of the favorites.



Shooters in the Cowboy/Cowgirl division must wear a cowboy hat while shooting and must shoot single action revolvers and lever or pump action rifles in .22 LR caliber. Since a stage can consist of as many as seven targets, Cowboy/Cowgirl shooters who are equipped with six-shooters are well advised to bring two such guns to the match so that they can complete a seven-round string of fire (should the match include one) by changing guns.



The well-equipped semi-automatic firearm shooter will arrive with 5 magazines each for his/her pistol and rifle. S/he can then move to the firing line with the appropriate firearm and 5 pre-loaded magazines so that strings of fire can be run efficiently and without undue delay for reloading magazines.



Beginner shooters who wish to try the sport before investing in multiple extra magazines will find that fellow shooters who are shooting the same make/model firearm are very generous in lending spare magazines to other shooters.

Because Rimfire Challenge uses .22LR ammunition, just one brick of ammunition will be more than enough to shoot several matches. (Five strings times 2 guns = 10 strings per match; each string with up to an allowable maximum of 10 shots x 10 strings = a maximum possible total of 100 rounds per shooter per match.)