

GB F Class League Shooter's Handbook

A guide to the rules and practices of the GB F-Class Association National League

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Revision History

Date	Revision	Description	Author
11/2/16	1	First Issued	Paul Harkins
11/2/16	1A	Updated	Paul Harkins

Aims

This handbook has been written to achieve the following:

1. To detail the rules that will be used in the running of the GB F-Class League.
2. To document the rules so there is no ambiguity going forward.
3. To give shooters a point of reference should they have any questions about the rules and practices of the league.

Definitions

Any rules detailed below will use the following wording:

“May” is to be construed as being permissive

“Should” is to be construed as being desirable

“Must” and “Shall” are to be construed as being mandatory

Overview

F Class is split into two categories, Open and FTR. The GB F-Class Association has League supports both categories at all competitions.

The GB F-Class Association runs League shoots at several ranges throughout the UK. Each of these shoots is run as a competition and with the exception of the Europeans, are two days duration over a weekend.

Each shoot has several stand alone stages and an overall grand aggregate. The shooter's position in the grand aggregate gets them points that are used to determine their League standing.

The F Class Association has a committee made up of members of the Association. This committee determines the rules and practices used throughout League events, as such, any competitor can address any issues they have with the rules and practices to them.

Equipment

In order to compete in the GB F-Class Association League a shooters equipment must conform to the current ICFRA rules.

These can be found on the ICFRA website:

<http://www.icfra.co.uk/page5.htm>

The rules on the ICFRA website take precedence but below is a summary of the main rules:

- Note: moderators are permissible at GBFCA League matches, but not at ICFRA sanctioned matches.

Rule	Open	FTR
Calibre	Any up to 8mm	.223"REM or .308" WIN
Chamber	n/a	SAAMI/ CIP dimensions but throat and lead to suit bullet choice
Front Support	Rest, max 3 feet	Bipod
Rear Support	Bag	Bag
Trigger	Manual, safe weight, no set or release triggers	Manual, safe weight, no set or release triggers
Sights	Any	Any
Muzzle Brake / Moderators*	No	No
Weight	10Kg, not inc' rest	8.25Kg inc' bipod
Ammunition	Commercial or Hand loaded	Commercial or Hand loaded
Use of Electronic Equipment on the Firing Point	No	No

League Events

Events are published on the GB F-Class Association website and details are given on there as to where the event is, what it entails, round count and cost etc. Application to enter the competition can then be made by the competitor, entries are accepted on a first come basis with priority being given to Association members. Your place is not guaranteed until you have paid your entry fees.

Events have a committee member that is the event organizer and the Match Director for that event.

Any questions about rules, procedures or the event organization shall be directed to the Match Director. If the Match Director feels it is necessary they will involve the committee to assist in the resolution of a matter.

If a League event starts and reaches a point where all competitors have shot the same amount of stages (at least 50% of the total shots that make up the event) and the Match Director then cancels the event for whatever reason, that event will qualify for the allocation of League points with positions based on the aggregate of the scores achieved up to the point of cancellation.

The Match Director's decision on any matter, be it changes to the event structure due to unforeseen circumstances or any adjudication on the rules, is final.

Range Duties

There are several jobs that need doing in order for these events to occur. *If the Match Director requests a competitor to carry out a duty, then the competitor shall carry this out to the best of their ability.*

Failure to carry out a requested duty may, at the discretion of the Match Director, result in the competitor's scores being withdrawn from the competition, The Match Director may also instigate an investigation by the F Class Association committee which may result in the loss of League points.

Safety

Safety is paramount. Listen to what is being said and do not be offended if someone asks you a safety related question or points out to you something you are doing wrong.

If you see something that is not safe it is your duty to address it, you must bring it up with the individual or RCO, don't just leave it.

Hearing protection is mandatory on the firing point and is recommended behind the firing point during shooting.

The use of safety eyewear is not compulsory but is recommended for all competitors.

If your ammunition is displaying signs of over pressure, hard extraction, blown primers or stuck cases then you must stop. If you are scoring for someone whose ammunition is showing these signs and they show no signs of stopping, then you must bring this up with them / RCO.

If your rifle malfunctions and the malfunction makes the continued use of the rifle unsafe, the shooter must stop and retire from the shoot.

If a competitor has an accidental discharge then this must be recorded as a scoring shot / sighter. The competitor shall not be allowed another shot.

If a competitor is acting in a dangerous manner then the RCO shall forbid them to fire again until the circumstances surrounding the event have been investigated and decided upon.

Before your rifle leaves the firing point it must be cleared by a third party and have a breech flag in / bolt removed. Remember when you sign the score card as a scorer you are signing to say you have cleared the shooter's rifle!

Bisley Bible

In addition to those rules identified in this and ICFRA documents, competitions shall be run in accordance with the appropriate rules as stated in the Bisley Bible. These rules can be found on the NRA website:

<http://www.nra.org.uk/common/asp/general/downloads/asp?site=nra&category=15>

Particular attention should be taken to the following rules in the Bisley Bible:

Section 2, the zeroing procedures for HME (High Muzzle Energy) firearms.

Section 121, misfire procedures

Section 351, 352, Time allowances. This is important and details the penalties that may be imposed on a competitor that exceeds the 45 second time limit for taking a shot.

Conduct

Everyone at League events is there for fun. To that end, there are a few simple rules that will aid the events being a success for all:

1. Be courteous. Abuse to anyone is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
2. Shooting is generally in pairs with each scoring for the other. If you are scoring then call out the score and shot number clearly when it is marked, on hearing this the shooter should confirm this and reply, "thankyou".
3. Talking on the firing point should be business like, coaching the other shooter in your pair is forbidden but helping them get their first shot on target is allowed.

Scoring

As the shoot progresses the scorer shall record the scores as they are marked. The shooter will accept this score or disagree. If the shooter disagrees a score they can request to the RCO for it to be looked at again by the markers but this can only occur before the next shot occurs. The scorer shall only record the score that is displayed on the target.

At the end of the shoot the scores are added up and the shooter signs the score card to agree on its content. The scorer also signs the card the say the scores are as displayed on the target and also that the shooters rifle is clear. *Once the score card is signed, the score agreed and card handed into the match officials the recorded shots are final.* There is no appeal to the recorded shots and the only further action that will be taken by match officials is a check to verify the final score based on the recorded shots.

A shooter is not allowed to record their own scores.

The shoots in the League all consist of two sighters and 15 or 20 to count.

The sighting shots do not count towards the shooters final score. However, a shooter may "convert" to scoring shots either the first and second sighters or only the second sighter if they wish. The scorer should ask the shooter after the second sighter has been shot what they wish to do. If the shooter converts any or all sighters then the scorer will put a diagonal line through the sighter(s) converted and record their scores in the box for shot(s) 1 (& 2).

The shooters in each competition are graded by their scores. In the event of a tie the number of V bulls is used and if several shooters share the same score and v bull count then the winner is determined by count back. Count back is where the score cards of the shooters are compared, starting at the final shot and working backwards, the scores are compared each shot in turn until one shooter has a higher score than the other. The shooter with the highest score is determined the winner.

Each event will also have a Grand Aggregate. This is the sum of all the competitors scores in all the competitions that make up the event. Positions in the Grand Aggregate are graded by scores and as in the individual competitions if there is a tie then the number of V bulls is used to separate competitors, if these are also tied then the result will be determined by count back. Count back will be carried out on the last competition in the event and if necessary will work back through all the competitions, last to first.

League points are awarded for the position in the Grand Aggregate from 20 – 1 with the winner receiving 20.

An example of how count back in event competitions and for the Grand Aggregate is as follows:

	A	B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Shooter 1	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	5	5	5	5	V	V	4	4	5	4	67 v 2
Shooter 2	5	5	5	5	5	3	4	4	4	4	V	V	5	4	5	5	4	67 v 2

Both shooters have the same score and V bull count.

So using count back, starting at the last shot the scores are compared until one shooter has a higher score. In this case its shooter 2 that will win as the two shooters have the same score until shot 13 where their score exceeds that of shooter 1.

The shot scores are compared, highest to lowest, until one shooters score exceeds the other.

For the Grand Aggregate the last competition score card is used and if necessary the score cards of each competition working back from the last to first in the event.

League Table

The League table shall be split, as are all competitions into two classes, Open and FTR.

Scores are awarded to competitors for each League event as detailed above. A competitor’s overall score is determined by their top four scores out of the total number of shoots they compete in.

League points are “banked” from the first shoot the competitor takes part in and scores accrued from first to last, so for example:

If a competitor has four shoots all scores are used to determine their league position.

If this competitor does a fifth shoot and this shoot has the same score as one of the four “banked” scores, then this score is not used, In order for it to be used it’s value must exceed one of the already “banked” scores.

In the event of a tie, where two or more competitors have the same overall score, the winner shall be determined using count back.

The count back shall be from the competitors last “banked” score to their first. *The winner shall be the competitor who had the highest “banked” score at any point, for example:*

Shoot 1	Shoot 2	Shoot 3	Shoot 4	Shoot 5	Shoot 6	Shoot 7	Shoot 8	Score
3	20	18	20	19	9	18	11	77
20	19	9	19	9	8	19	8	77

In this case both shooters have a 19 as their last “bankable” score but the top shooter has a 20 against the bottom shooter’s 19 in the next score, therefore the top shooter wins.

Team Competitions

Teams shall be comprised of either a full 16 man International or 7 man Rutland format depending upon the competition.

Each team shall have a Captain.

Each team shall nominate register keeper(s) as required by the competition.

Once the competition is underway then no outside person shall advise or give instructions.

The time allocated for the competition is for all shooters. How that time is used and in what order the shooters shoot is up to the team, it is the team’s responsibility to ensure the register keeper is aware of who is shooting.

Teams may use firing point communications but these must be hardwired and not use radio technology.

Team Captains shall identify shooters and complete the register prior to the competition start.

In the event of a shooter becoming unfit to shoot (that is unable to continue for a reason other than that which may be resolved by changing the shooter’s rifle out), they may be replaced by a reserve however no extra sighting shots may be taken.

If a shooter’s rifle fails it may be swapped out for another rifle however, no additional sighting shots may be taken.

At the end of the competition the team Captain shall collect the signed registers and pass them to the correct match official.

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Appendix 1 – Event Organisers Notes

Below is some more information regarding specific range rules and “quirks” that apply in addition to the rules and procedures mentioned above.

Diggle

Competitors are reminded that this is a competitor marking range and therefore the following rules are specific to Diggle ranges.

- 1) All competitors are expected to do butt duty and mark targets. Exceptions are only permissible on medical reasons or if a competitor is asked to do another duty by either the comp’ organiser or F Class committee.
- 2) If a competitor refuses to do butt duty or a competitor leaves the range before the end of the days shooting (thereby leaving the butt party under manned) the competitor’s results will be deemed to be null and void. **Subject to an investigation by the F Class Association committee the competitor may also have league points deducted.** If the competitor is a persistent offender at then their entry to subsequent Diggle rounds may be refused.
- 3) In the event of problems with the weather or visibility issues the F Class committee will make a decision as to the safety and practicalities of whether to continue with the shooting on that particular day. Where possible the committee will be made up of both Open and F T/R shooters with input from any PSSA committee member present. A decision will be made as to whether to shoot or not to shoot by 11.00 am at the latest.
- 4) All competitors must be on the range by 8.30 am at the latest as road access to the range will be blocked once the competition commences. Arriving later than this may mean you will not be able to shoot and no refunds will be given on entry fees.

Blair Atholl

Target System

Electronic targets will be used, these are similar in operation to those in use at Bisley. Competitors are urged to familiarise themselves with the system. One monitor per target will be provided.

Misses.

Important: any competitor who misses with their first shot **MUST NOT** shoot again until the RCO has been informed, and their sight settings checked. Any such competitor may be required to fire sighting shots at the red zero target area on the left of the buttstop, before resuming their match.

Driving

Please note the access track to the range is not a public road, it is used by walkers, locals and livestock, please drive slowly.