

SMLE Match Rules

To be Held at the Butts Range, Ashburton

History of the “Skill at Arms” Shoot

The “Skill at Arms” Practice was introduced into the British Army in 1937 as the standard qualifying requirements for trained soldiers.

It was shot over the range of 200 yards from the Prone, Kneeling and sitting positions. (See “Conduct of the Shoot” below for details.)

The first shot in 1937 was won by a Quartermaster Colour Sergeant, 38 scoring shots in 1 minute. This record has still not been beaten.

Rifles

ONLY SMLE Mk1, Mk1* & Mk1***, SMLE No1 MkIII, MkIII* and No3 Mk1, Mk1* (P14)

As issued in the period. Dated 1904 - 1939

Must be fully wooded, as issued, no modifications (See exceptions)

In other words, as they came from the factory, into the Ordinance depot and into line service.

Exception

BSA, Ishapore and Lithgow SMLE No 1rifles dated post 1937 acceptable as are Post War FTR Marked rifles. Post 1939 Weedons Repair Standard No3 (P14) acceptable.

Heavy barrels acceptable but must have original rear sights attached by way of an original rear sight block.

Barrels may have been bedded, or floated, and nose cap apertures enlarged.

Sights as issued for standard issue line service.

This means.....

- No target sights of any description
- No modified original sights that accept aftermarket sight apertures.
- No aftermarket original pattern sights
- There is no “Open” class for this shoot. (There will be opportunities at future shoots)
- **No Exceptions**

Slings may be used but they must be of original or reproduction to original specifications.

SMLE

- SMLE leather pattern sling of one sliding keeper, No longer than 49 inches OAL and unmodified from the original pattern.
- SMLE Home guard Local Pattern leather sling with one buckle, no longer than 49 inches OAL
- SMLE Canvas/cotton pattern 08 sling, 43 inches OAL (Slight manufacturing variations excluded)

No3 (P14) Rifle

- No3 (P14) leather pattern sling on one sliding keeper, No longer than 49 inches OAL and unmodified from the original pattern.
- No3 (P14) US Pattern M1903 (One piece with one set of claws,)
- Slings can only be attached at original attachment points, butt and fore stock.
- **No Exceptions**

This means.....

- No Single point slings
- No aftermarket sling attachments.
- No Target rifle slings of any type, manufacture and period.
- No US Pattern M1907 slings.
- No LMG or Post War SLR slings over 43 inches in length.

Ammunition

Ammunition should be of a comparable type to the Standard Issue .303 MKVI, MkVII Cordite, MkVIIz (Nitro Cellulose) or MkVIIIz ammunition.

Exception

Because of the scarcity and reluctance to use corrosive original issue ammunition the following exceptions will apply.

1. Any Milsurp .303 ammunition of any manufacturer or date loaded with original 174 grain FMJ projectiles.
2. Any commercial ammunition of 150gr or 180gr, either softpoint or FMJ (eg Highland or S&B) but not of Match Grade.

3. Any Handloaded ammunition using a 150, 174 or 180 grain projectile, softpoint or FMJ. This ammunition must be of a comparable muzzle velocity to original ammunition not exceeding 2500fps. There will be no scrutinizing of ammunition apart from a visual check that it meets the above requirements.

Mark 1 SMLE may use handloaded 215 grain projectiles, softpoint or FMJ.

This means.....

Jacketed projectiles ONLY to original specifications!..... **NO** lead projectiles. **NO** Wildcats.

Conduct of the Shoot (1937 Skill at Arms for SMLE Rifle)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>No. of Rounds</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Zero Confirmation					
• Practice 1	100 yds	zero	10rds Max	NTL	Scored but not recorded If required.
• Practice 2	200 yds	zero	5 rds Max	NTL	Marked, not recorded Compulsory for all shooters, to confirm cone of fire
1937 Skill at Arms Match					
• Practice 1	200 yds	Prone	10 rds	NTL	Off the shoulder, can use sling. (Targets will be marked as to point of im pact. All practices except Practice 4, Rapid)
• Practice 2	200 yds	Sitting	10 Rds	NTL	
• Practice 3	200yds	Kneeling	10 Rds	NTL	
• Practice 4	200 yds	Prone	No Limit <i>Max 60+ rds</i>	1 Minute	As many rounds as can be fired in one minute.

Notes:

1. While Practice 1-3 has no time limit, this will relate to a reasonable time per detail. As the Butts Range can only shoot four per detail, time will be limited to 10 minutes per detail. This is an ample time to shoot 10 rds.
2. We will look at a time extension for Practice 4 for left hand shooters.
3. Shooters will be required to carry out Butts duties.
4. The same target will be used for Practice 1-3, with a fresh target for Practice 4. Shooters will not able to go forward to inspect targets until after they have shot their practice. They will then be required to stay for butts duty.

Marking

By individual pointers with targets up on the Hythe frames.

Targets

Standard NRA 48" x 48" Frames

Future Matches

Skion Kop Match
Chunuk Bair
Somme
"D" Day
Best of British
Red Star Rising
Pacific Theatre
Kapyong
Long Tan
Queens Medal