



# ASSOCIATION OF ARMS COLLECTORS & TARGET SHOOTERS

P.O. BOX 36, ST. JULIANS STJ 01, MALTA

## *Rules & Regulations Governing All Black Powder Shooting Activities & Competitions*

*(Sanctioned by Commander AFM & Approved by College of RCOs 2002)*

### INDEX

	Para/
<b>General Rules &amp; Regulations</b>	
Rules.....	1.0
Range Management .....	2.0
<b>Shooting Regulations</b>	
Regulations Governing Safety .....	3.0
Other Regulations - Common to all Shooting Disciplines.....	4.0
<b>Regulations - Rifle Section</b>	
Rifle Range Regulations .....	5.0
Rifle Competitions - General Rules.....	6.0
MLAIC Rifle Matches .....	7.0
Regulations - Matchlocks.....	8.0
<b>Regulations - Pistol Section</b>	
Pistol Range Regulations.....	9.0
Notes on MLAIC Regulations for Pistol Competitions.....	10.0
MLAIC International Pistol Competitions.....	11.0
<b>Regulations - Clay Pigeon Section</b>	
Clay Pigeon Range Regulations .....	12.0
Clay Target - Range Layout & Launcher.....	13.0
Clay Target Competition Rules .....	14.0
Clay Target Shooting Events - Other Considerations .....	15.0
MLAIC Clay Target Competitions .....	16.0
Claims & Penalties.....	17.0
<b>Rules &amp; Regulations for Prospective Shooters' 'Taster' Sessions &amp; Training Requirements for 'License to Carry'</b> .....	18.0
 APPENDIX I - MLAIC International Rifle Competitions.....	 Page 25
APPENDIX II - MLAIC International Pistol Competitions .....	Page 27
APPENDIX III - AFM Range Orders	

# General Rules & Regulations

## 1.0 Rules

1.1 All shooting activities of the Association of Arms Collectors & Target Shooters hereinafter referred to as the AACTS, shall be run in accordance with the appropriate regulations for the weapon used as set out in these Rules and Regulations. All AACTS shooters will comply not only with the letter of the regulations, but with the spirit of sportsmanship in which they are written.

1.2 These Rules & Regulations have been drawn up in conformity with established local and international practices. Great care has been taken to ensure that these do not in any way infringe or contravene the law. Nevertheless, any legislation, enacted at any point in time, which will affect muzzle loading activities in Malta and Gozo, and which will not concur with any section or all of these Rules & Regulations, will overrule and automatically supersede them.

1.3 For each AFM range which the AACTS is authorized to use, shooting activities must conform to all the regulations and parameters as set out by the Commander of the AFM.<sup>1</sup> Where Clay Target black powder disciplines are concerned, AACTS members must also conform to regulations of the Shooting Federation or other relevant club or association, for any clay target layout put at our disposal. For all other ranges<sup>2</sup>, the ruling body on matters of range management shall be an AACTS Executive Committee which will be made up of a minimum of any three members of the main AACTS Committee and a minimum of any two members of the AACTS Shooters Committee.

1.4 The use of any self-contained cartridge, or of any propellant other than commercially manufactured black powder and commercially manufactured black powder substitutes<sup>3</sup>, or any other than commercially manufactured percussion caps is expressly forbidden.

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<sup>1</sup> *These regulations, also referred to as 'Range Orders' by the AFM, include among others: Planning the Range; Safety Rules and Procedures; Use of Flags; Inspection of Weapons; Records & Range Log; Rules to be observed around the Ammunition Point; Hearing/Sight Protection and Medical Support (vide Appendix III).*

<sup>2</sup> *'Other ranges' may include any sites which would be allocated to the AACTS for shooting purposes by the relevant authorities and over which the AACTS would have executive control.*

<sup>3</sup> *Under MLAIC Regulations, only factory made black powder may be used. Black powder substitutes may not be used (Reg No. 356/1, 520). In Britain, the MLAGB allow the use of black powder substitutes not only in competitions but also other shooting events. Only persons in possession of a Ministry of Defence license, or equivalent, are allowed to buy, keep and transport black powder and black powder substitutes. License holders, however, are restricted in their ability to transfer explosives (like black powder) to non-license holders and this restriction applies to even the smallest amount. A similar restriction is not imposed on certain substitutes whose chemical composition and burning characteristics*

1.5 Only registered or licensed weapons shall be used. Weapons must be carried, to and from ranges, unloaded and suitably cased. Participants to all shooting activities must be in possession of a Police license 'to carry' and must also be covered by adequate insurance.

1.6 The Shooters Committee is authorized to arrange for any firearm to be inspected by a competent person prior to its use at any shooting function sponsored by the AACTS, and to prohibit the use of any firearm that is considered to be unfit for use.

## 2.0 Range Management

2.1 All shooting activities must be under the direct control and supervision of a qualified Range Conducting Officer. His lawful instructions must be obeyed. The Range Conducting Officer, or his assistant, must be on the firing line at all times and may not shoot while on duty.

2.2 Range etiquette and discipline will be rigorously enforced due to the nature of the weapons being used and the greatly increased possibility of serious accidents through even the slightest carelessness. Any two AACTS Officers may stop from shooting activities any member whose conduct is, in their opinion, likely to bring discredit upon our Association. Such actions are subject to subsequent review by the AACTS Committee.

2.3 The Range Conducting Officer in charge of the shooting event may request any shooter to leave the range or to cease firing for the day if he feels that the individual is behaving in an unsafe or careless manner, or is handling or loading his weapon in such a manner as to risk his own safety and that of other shooters.

2.4 It will be the duty of the Range Conducting Officer to forbid the firing of any weapon or ammunition which he considers unsafe due to construction and/or condition.

2.5 Shooting will not be permitted during any 'official' intervals. Therefore all firearms must be unloaded during these intervals.

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*are more closely related to propellants. A controversy developed in the UK, on this point, over the legality of handing over a loaded black powder weapon to non-licensed persons in 'taster' sessions. At first this was overcome by making use of substitutes as these technically fell under a completely different legal category. This has now been resolved in favour of allowing the practice to continue, but the wording of the law had to be amended to accommodate this provision.*

*It should be noted that in many countries (if not all) that practice black powder shooting, there is a significant legal distinction between explosives and propellants which may, or may not, affect its availability. It is the duty and responsibility of individual shooters, who may have an interest and the ability to participate in international MLAIC competitions, to ensure that the black powder they favour is acceptable and available in those countries where the MLAIC holds competitions.*

# Shooting Regulations

## 3.0 Regulations Governing Safety

3.1 Shooters have a great responsibility. Every AACTS shooter must bear in mind that he/she is solely responsible for his/her actions and that he/she will be held personally liable for any misconduct, irresponsible action or negligence on his/her part that may lead to injury or other mishap to himself/herself and/or to third parties. The AACTS will not, under any circumstances, accept liability or responsibility for any misconduct, irresponsible action or negligence by one or more of its members.

3.2 Smoking is absolutely forbidden during any blackpowder shooting activity not only within the immediate confines of a range, in particular; the firing line, the loading bay and any designated cleaning zone, but also in the vicinity of these sites. A definition of 'vicinity' is, *per se*, generic but will depend on the configuration, condition and the 'fire-hazard' potential of the particular range in use. It is the responsibility of the duty Range Conducting Officer to recognize, determine and supervise the extent of this area.

3.3 All firearms, whether loaded or unloaded, must always be pointed in a safe direction. Firearms may only be capped or primed with the barrel pointing down-range. The flashing of caps or the flashing of pans before the 'open fire' signal is not permitted by MLAIC Rules, indeed competitors will be penalized for not observing this rule (*MLAIC Rules Nos. 307 & 502*). This practice, therefore, must be observed for all shooting competitions that conform to MLAIC Regulations.

For training sessions, however, and for those competitions which do not conform with MLAIC Regulations this practice may not be deemed practical. In these events, the now accepted practice of flashing of caps before the 'open fire' signal is given, is allowed, provided that permission is first obtained from the duty RCO and preferably well before the commencement of any shooting activity.

3.4 During any 'Temporary Cease Fire' firearms are to be put down in a safe place and pointing in the direction of the target area .<sup>4</sup>

3.5 No weapon may be handled whenever anyone is forward of the firing point as, for instance, during a target change or for any other reason. No one may go forward of the firing point before the Range Conducting Officer has given the 'all clear'. The RCO, or assistant RO, must ensure that all firearms are empty/unloaded before shooters are allowed to retire from the firing line (*MLAIC Rule No 504*).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *For the benefit of those who may have the opportunity to take part in MLAIC Championships, regulation No.7 differs from this practice. This regulation states that during MLAIC competitions all firearms are to be uncapped or unprimed and placed in a safe position during any 'Temporary Cease Fire' (MLAIC Rules Nos 308 & 504).*

<sup>5</sup> *During MLAIC competitions all firearms are to be unloaded upon the 'Cease fire' signal and before retiring from the firing line. This may entail the use of suitable tools to unload*

3.6 Powder in bulk is not allowed on the firing point. Powder charges must be in pre-measured single charge containers. Priming flasks containing no more than 16.2 grams (250 US grains) of powder may be used. Powder should be kept away from direct sunlight (*MLAIC Rule No 505*) and must be removed from the area of muzzle and breech flashes before commencing fire.

3.7 Percussion caps, being sensitive and dangerous, should be protected from accidental ignition by heat or sparks. Only a minimal quantity should be taken to the firing point. Percussion cap containers should be kept closed and removed from the area of muzzle and breech flashes when firing is in progress (*MLAIC Rule No 506*).

3.8 Care should be taken when loading to ensure that the projectile is firmly seated on to the powder charge to prevent damage to the barrel (*MLAIC Rule No. 507*).

3.9 The use of safety spectacles, tinted or otherwise, is mandatory. Corrective shooting lenses are permitted (*MLAIC Rule No 508*). All safety spectacles must be constructed with adequate side protection. In the event that side protection is not considered adequate by RCOs additional 'side-guards' must be worn.

3.10 The use of hearing protection by shooters and Range Officers is mandatory (*MLAIC Rule No 509*). Observers, guests, non-shooters, shooters waiting in line, must remain at least 5 (five) meters away from the firing line.

3.11 All firearms, whether originals or replicas, must be of reliable construction and safe shooting condition (*MLAIC Rules Nos. 510 & 511*).

3.12 Loads must never exceed the normal service loads applicable to modern black powder (*MLAIC Rule No 512*). Overloading is not allowed and will not be tolerated. The object is to obtain maximum accuracy under target conditions.

3.13 In the event of a misfire the competitor must keep the firearm pointing towards the target for at least thirty seconds.<sup>6</sup> After that it should be kept pointing in the direction of the target as much as possible and never turned towards another shooter or spectator.

3.14 If an incident or malfunction cannot be cleared by a competitor, he/she must inform the Range Conducting Officer before taking further action (*MLAIC Rule No 514*).

3.15 In flintlocks and matchlock events, the organizers should ensure that protection from vent flashes is installed between shooters (*MLAIC Rule No 515*).

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*any live chambers or barrels, in the event that not all available shots have been fired within the stipulated time. MLAIC Officials will not allow competitors (with the exception of clay target events) to discharge any remaining rounds in the direction of the back-stop at the end of a shooting relay.*

<sup>6</sup> *It should be noted here, that the MLAIC ( Rule No 513) specifies that in the case of misfires the firearm is to be kept pointing at the target for at least **one** minute.*

### 3.16 Matchlocks:

- a) During loading, the lighted end of the match must be kept in a safe container.
- b) When shooting, the match should be secured so that it does not fly about on firing (*MLAIC Rule No 516*).

3.17 In the event of a loading incident (e.g. bullet without powder, two bullets loaded etc.) the shooter must seek the permission of the Range Conducting Officer before clearing the firearm (*MLAIC Rule No 518*).

3.18 Each shooter is responsible for the proper functioning of his/her firearm and equipment (*MLAIC Rule No 519*).

3.19 It is mandatory that the half-cock position, if present, be in a safe working condition.<sup>7</sup> (*MLAIC Rule No 351/d*).

3.20 All shooting events to have readily available a suitably equipped First-Aid kit, a jerrycan with water, and a bucket. This kit to be put under the control of any member holding a First-Aid certification.

## OTHER REGULATIONS - Common to all Shooting Disciplines

### 4.0 Other Regulations - Common to all Shooting Disciplines

4.1 For all shooting competitions that conform to MLAIC Rules, no weapon to be loaded until the signal to '**open fire**' is given. The AACTS organizes also other shooting activities that do not conform completely to MLAIC Regulations. Where these are concerned, weapons may be loaded, on 'loading' tables some distance away from the firing line, but may not be capped or primed until the order to '**prime weapons**' is given and, then again, no shooting is allowed to commence until all shooters have capped or primed their weapons and have assumed a 'ready' position. At this point the RCO can give the order to '**open fire**'. All weapons to be unloaded on '**cease fire**'.

4.2 Acoustic Signals - '**Open fire**' - 2 whistles or 2 siren blasts,  
'**Cease fire**' - 1 whistle or 1 siren blast,  
'**Temporary cease fire**' - a series of short blasts.

4.3 Whenever necessary, the Range Conducting Officer may appoint **Line Officers** who shall verify that competitors are in their correct positions before competition details begin and check for infractions of rules during competitions.

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<sup>7</sup> *Additional MLAIC firearm requisites for international competitions are: (i) any firearm to be used only once in each event; (ii) all firearms must be privately owned; (iii) No colours, other than black or white, may be used on the foresight.*

4.4 Additional to Regulation 4.3 above, the Range Conducting Officer may also appoint **Verification Officers**, who shall be assigned to specific targets to verify the number of shots fired by each competitor and to record fouling shots, crossfires, and firearm breakages.

4.5 If, during a competition, a relay has to be stopped due to inclement weather or any other reason, it will be resumed where it was stopped and continued for the unexpired time. If, however, the targets are no longer in a usable condition, they shall be replaced and the relay shot again (*MLAIC Rule No 334*).

4.6 The duties and responsibilities of every competitor during a competition are:

- a) to fully understand and to comply at all times with all competition rules and regulations.
- b) to be at the correct firing point, at the designated time for the competition.
- c) to practice good sportsmanship at all times and to promote the aims of the Association.
- d) to correctly maintain his or her firearm and equipment (*MLAIC Rule No 336*).<sup>8</sup>

4.7 Telescopes may be used for spotting shots, but no coaching or assistance from others is permitted during competitions (*MLAIC Rule No 304*).

4.8 It is mandatory that the half-cock position, if present, be in a safe working condition.<sup>9</sup> (*MLAIC Rule No 351/d*).

4.9 No plastic wads are permitted in any competition. Wads may be made from paper, fiber or felt materials.

4.10 Barrels may not be bent to alter their point of aim (*MLAIC Rule No 352/6*).

4.11 Competitions in which the UIT 50 metre Pistol Target (C50) is used and which conform to MLAIC Regulations, will be shot using a pair of targets set side-by-side at the same level, for each competitor. Six shots are to be fired on one target and seven on the other. Competitions in which the French Military 200 metres target (C200) is used, will be shot using a single target for all thirteen shots for all competitors.

4.12 On shooting ranges, members will wear clothing of contemporary design. Gunbelts, knives etc., and costume clothing are prohibited.

4.13 During competitions, and whenever the presence of spectators is permitted, these must remain at least five meters behind the firing point and remain quiet

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<sup>8</sup> *Additional duties and responsibilities required by MLAIC for their competitions from prospective competitors are: (i) to present his or her firearm to the Firearms Control Committee for inspection and approval prior to competing; (ii) to provide proof, if required by the Firearms Control Committee, of the authenticity of his or her firearm.*

<sup>9</sup> *Additional MLAIC firearm requisites for international competitions are: (i) any firearm to be used only once in each event; (ii) all firearms must be privately owned; (iii) No colours, other than black or white, may be used on the foresight.*

when shooting is in progress. No-one except Range Officers, AACTS Officials and competitors shall be allowed to go forward of this area.

4.14 No-one other than Range Officers, shall be permitted to speak to competitors during competitions. Spectators must remain quiet while shooting is in progress (*MLAIC Rule No 517*).

4.15 Members of the Association are responsible for their family members and guests. Children and dogs are not allowed on the firing point or at the targets while a shooting event is in progress even during official intervals in shooting.

## **REGULATIONS - RIFLE SECTION**

### **5.0 Rifle Range Regulations**

5.1 The following Rifle Range Regulations must be read in conjunction with rules and regulations Nos. 1.0 to 4.15 found in these '*Rules & Regulations Governing all Black Powder Shooting Activities & Competitions*', which rules apply to all types of black powder disciplines.

5.2 The bore diameter of smooth-bore muskets must be in excess of 13.5 mm (0.5314").<sup>10</sup>

5.3 Once a rifle has been loaded it must not be left unattended by its owner or user until it has been discharged; or in the event of a choked barrel, until it has been unloaded by a competent person.

5.4 Rifles shall be loaded on the firing point only.

5.5 Reproduction firearms are those of modern manufacture. Competition conditions will specify when certain classes of firearms are eligible. Any restoration, e.g. barrel and sights, must be in the spirit of the original.

5.6 It is the duty of Score Keepers (those who complete another shooter's score sheet) to ensure that the weapon characteristics of the person whose results they are marking conform to the Rules of the Competition.

## **RIFLE COMPETITIONS - GENERAL RULES**

### **6.0 Rifle Competitions - General Rules**

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<sup>10</sup> *The MLAIC hold rifle competitions also for other calibres, for instance: Military rifles (not smooth-bore) of a calibre of less than 13.5mm (.5315") may be used in competitions Nos 4 and 20, and those of any bore diameter may be used in competitions Nos 2,8,17 and 24 (See Appendix I).*

6.1 The following regulations are common to all Rifle Matches organized by the AACTS.

- 6.2 Eligible Rifle Categories: Originals: (a) Military Rifles.<sup>11</sup>  
 (b) Free Rifles.<sup>12</sup>  
Replicas: (a) Replica Military Rifles.<sup>13</sup>  
 (b) Replica Free Rifles.<sup>14</sup>

6.3 All distances will be expressed and generally shot in metres.

6.4 Where targets are specified they shall be understood to be as follows:-

- (a) “**50**” - ISSF 50 metre 10 Ring Pistol Target also known as PL7. Unless specified otherwise shots must be 50% over the line to score upwards.<sup>15</sup>
- (b) “**Musket**” - The French 200 metre 10 Ring Rifle Target. The normal distance at which this is used is 50 metres.<sup>16</sup>
- (c) “**200**”, “**300**”, “**500**”, “**600**” - The current NRA full bore targets for these distances. Unless otherwise specified NRA scoring and rules for count back will apply.
- (d) “**LR**” - The standard NRA Long Range Target used for all distances from 800 to 1200 metres. Scoring and rules as (c).

6.5 The number of shots where specified shall be in the following form:-

- (a) **10/13** - 13 shots at the target, best 10 to score within a thirty (30) minute relay.<sup>17</sup>
- (b) **10** - 10 shots only, all to count.
- (c) **x/y** - where ‘x’ the number of sighters and ‘y’ the number of shots to be taken following the sighters. Sighters under this rule are convertible.

<sup>11</sup> Original Service issue rifles and muskets eligible for use in MLAIC competitions Nos 1, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 15 (See Appendix I).

<sup>12</sup> Any original muzzle loading rifle not qualifying as a Military rifle, having contemporary sights (excluding telescopic or optical) eligible for use in MLAIC competitions Nos 2, 4, 8, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 24 (See Appendix I).

<sup>13</sup> Replicas of Service issue rifles and muskets eligible for use in MLAIC competitions Nos 1, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 15 (See Appendix I).

<sup>14</sup> Any replica muzzle loading rifle not qualifying as a replica Military rifle, having contemporary sights (excluding telescopic or optical) eligible for use in replica classes of MLAIC competitions Nos 2, 4, 8, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 24 (See Appendix I).

<sup>15</sup> Competitions in which the UIT 50 metre Pistol Target (C50) is used, will be shot using a pair of targets set side-by-side at the same level, for each competitor. Six shots are to be fired on one target and seven on the other. A maximum of 7 shots on either target is allowed and any additional shots will be counted as misses.

<sup>16</sup> Competitions in which the French Military 200 metres target (C200) is used, will be shot using a single target for all thirteen shots for all competitors.

<sup>17</sup> **This is the only system adopted by MLAIC for their precision competitions (vide Rule 332 - MLAIC).** Other variations are only shot at national level in various countries.

Intention to convert must be stated after the sighting shots have been fired. Any number may be converted but they must be in sequence with the whole series, i.e. 3 sighters scoring 5,5,2, could only be converted including the 2. On the other hand 3 sighters scoring 2,5,5, could be converted ignoring the 2. Where sighters are converted, the total number of shots fired are reduced accordingly, so that the scoring shots are limited to the number applicable to the competition, normally 10 or 15.

6.6 In timed competitions one warming shot is permitted provided that the Range Officer is first notified and that it takes place within the time limit of the competition, and is directed into the stop butt well clear of other people's targets. At mid and long ranges, if it is necessary to clear a rifle of a load for any reason, the intention to do so must be stated to the Score Keeper otherwise a 'miss' will be registered.

6.7 The terms prone, kneeling and standing shall be as defined by UIT Rules. At distances above 600 metres the use of hand or wrist rests in accordance with NRA Match Rifle Rules are permitted.

6.8 Accessories: (i) SLINGS: The use of a carrying sling is permitted for all positions provided it conforms with MLAIC Regulation No 357/A.<sup>18</sup> (ii) PALM SUPPORTS: These must be original or a reproduction of an original type and only used on firearms designed to have this attachment. (iii) FUNNELS & LOADING TUBES: These may be used in all competitions except those that conform to MLAIC Rifle Competitions Nos. 1, 3, 9, and 10 (*See Appendix I*) which are allowed a short funnel (10cm maximum spout length) to avoid spillage of powder. (iv) CLEANING/WIPING RODS: These may be used in all competitions except those that conform to MLAIC Rifle Competitions Nos. 1, 3, 9, and 10 (*See Appendix I*).

6.9 For individual events, ties will be decided by the highest number of shots in each scoring ring in descending order. If these are the same for each ten scoring shots, then the loser is the one with a scoring shot furthest from the centre. If the tie is still unresolved the next nearest scoring shots are used, and so on. (NB If necessary all ten scoring shots are to be used in this manner to determine ties and the three non scoring shots are only to be considered if a tie then still exists).

In the event of ties in team events, the winning team is determined by the one which has the highest number of shots in each scoring ring in descending order. If these are the same for all the scoring shots, then the losing team is the one with a scoring shot furthest from the centre. If a tie is still unresolved the next nearest scoring shots are used, and so on.

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<sup>18</sup> *Slings must be original or a reproduction of a contemporary type. Modern adjustable target type slings, including single-point slings, are not permitted. For competitions that conform to MLAIC Regulations (See Appendix I - Nos 1, 3, 9, and 10) only Military style slings are permitted. Carrying slings are permitted on original rifles without sling attachments, provided attachment is by strap or string. The addition of sling swivels is not permitted.*

For mid and long range matches (beyond 100 metres), first place will be decided by a tie shoot of one sighter and five to count, thereafter by “sudden death”. Lower places will be decided by counting back in accordance with NRA Rules.

6.10 Any alteration to an original firearm which would spoil its historical value, will render it ineligible for use in AACTS competitions. This rule has been adopted by various associations world-wide among which the MLAGB and the MLAIC (*MLAIC Rule No 352*) and is designed to discourage ‘over-zealous’ competitors from ruining a historic weapon in an effort to gain a winning edge. Eligible Military rifles include service issue rifles and muskets. These must have been manufactured in accordance with military patterns, in unaltered condition and with original pattern sights. Limited alterations to the point of aim is permissible by the use of a replacement blade or sight bearing the same configuration and profile as the original. Alterations to the original sights are not permitted (*MLAIC Rule No 352/2*).

6.11 Original Military smooth-bore flintlock muskets having a fixed (non-detachable) rear sight are not eligible for MLAIC Competitions No 1 or 9 and thus are not allowed to compete in AACTS competitions designed for military muskets without rear sights. The removal of such existing sights is not permitted. Military smooth-bore flintlock muskets with rear sights that can be detached without alteration to the gun, may be used with the rear sight removed<sup>19</sup> (*MLAIC Rule No 352/A/3*).

6.12 Set triggers, butt pads, cheek pads, wiping out between shots, and long loading funnels are not allowed in competitions for original Military Rifles, nor are replica barrels or original barrels which have been sleeved.

6.13 Free rifle events permit the use of any muzzle loading rifle, including capping breech loaders, provided they are loaded at the muzzle and in the case of reproductions are in the spirit of the original. Aperture sights (including modern made replica sights) are permitted providing their design is consistent with the

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<sup>19</sup> *The MLAGB hold various Rifle/Musket competitions. Some of these specify the type of Military Rifle that would be eligible for a particular event. For instance, where Enfields are specified these must be .577 Enfield Rifles, long, short, or carbine. Lancaster’s Oval Bores of Government gauge are permitted. Volunteer rifles are eligible but sights must be issue pattern and unmodified (bead foresights, e.g. are not accepted). Where reproduction Enfields are specified the production models of Messrs. Parker-Hale are acceptable with the exception of that which resembles the Pattern ‘53 Long Rifle Musket but is rifled with a 48” twist. Only 78” three groove rifling is acceptable in this model. The same conditions as originals apply to sights.*

*Muskets, where specified must be smooth bored military arms of any country in unmodified condition, sights (if any) to be original. The use of sporting or ball guns is not permitted. The term Brown Bess shall mean a British .75 or .78 (the sea service calibre) smooth bored flintlock musket or carbine either issued or volunteer provided it conforms to issue type. Where percussion muskets are permitted the Brown Bess shall include any transformed original, as specified above, flintlocks and issue muskets of Patterns 1838, 1839 and 1842 and musket bored percussion carbines of issue pattern. Reproduction muskets, where specified, are permitted but must be genuine attempts to copy original arms and must be in the spirit of the originals.*

period of manufacture and they are appropriate to the type of firearm.<sup>20</sup> This applies to both rear and fore-sights.<sup>21</sup>

6.14 For Original Free Rifle competitions, Military Rifles of a calibre of less than 13.5mm (.5315") may be used in AACTS competitions set on the lines of MLAIC competitions Nos 2, 8, 17 and 24 (See Appendix I).

6.15 Replica barrels or original barrels which have been sleeved are not permitted in competitions for Original Free Rifles (MLAIC Rule No 352/B/4).

6.16 Optical sights, whether original or not, are not permitted.

6.17 The Range Conducting Officer's word shall be final, but in the event of a dispute he should consult, if possible, expert opinion on the classification and authenticity of arms.

6.18 Any malfunctions requiring the assistance of a second party shall not jeopardize the competition provided this is rectified, and any remaining shots taken, within the 30 minutes.<sup>22</sup>

## MLAIC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### 7.0 MLAIC Rifle Matches

7.1 A concise but comprehensive version of the International Match Competition Schedule is listed in Appendix I as a guide to enable AACTS shooters decide to practice under the right conditions.

## REGULATIONS - MATCHLOCKS

### 8.0 Matchlocks - General Rules (Originals and Replicas)

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<sup>20</sup> For MLAIC Replica Free Rifle Competitions the following shall apply: (i) The rifling pitch and number of grooves should replicate the appropriate original pattern but the depth of the rifling grooves may be different. (ii) Replica Military Rifles of a calibre of less than 13.5mm (.5315") may be used in competitions Nos 4 and 20, and those of any bore diameter may be used in competitions Nos 2,8,14,15,16,17,19 and 24 (See Appendix I).

<sup>21</sup> The periods of manufacture in relation to the pattern of sights are: 1750 for matchlocks, up to 1850 for flintlocks, and up to 1890 for percussion.

<sup>22</sup> This is a divergence from MLAIC Regulations. MLAIC regulations specify that any malfunctions requiring the assistance of a second party shall terminate any further shooting by the competitor in that event. Any necessary repairs to firearms during events must be carried out by the competitor only, and completed with the 30 minute relay. Under no circumstances will the competitor be allowed to substitute a different firearm or granted additional time to effect repairs.

8.1 The following Matchlock regulations must be read in conjunction with the rules and regulations which are found in the beginning of these same *Rules & Regulations Governing all Black Powder Shooting Activities & Competitions*, from paragraph Nos. 1.1 to 4.15 and which are applicable to all types of black powder firearms.

8.2 Matchlock Muskets eligible for AACTS competitions. These to have the same characteristics of muzzle loading smooth-bore matchlock muskets also eligible for use in MLAIC competitions Nos. 14, 15, 16, 19 and 24 (*See Appendix I*) and must be in accordance with either of the following two designs:

- (i) Of early Portuguese or Japanese style, with an attenuated butt similar to a pistol grip and designed to be held against the cheek and not against the shoulder. The rear sight block to have a narrow aiming slot and the foresight to be in the form of a pyramid or vertical wedge. Replacements or replica sights should be of these forms.
- (ii) Of European style, with a shoulder stock and, in original military form, often used with a forked rest. This rest is not permitted for use in both AACTS and MLAIC competitions. Adjustable dioptic sights are not permitted but contemporary style fixed rear peep-sights or tube-sights attached to the barrel are allowed.

8.3 Matchlock Pistols - should be a similar, but shorter, form of the Japanese Musket.

8.4 Matches - (i) During loading, the lighted end of the match must be kept in a safe container.  
 (ii) When shooting, the match must be secured so that it does not fly about on firing.

8.5 Relining - The relining of Japanese smooth-bore matchlock barrels is permitted for safety reasons, as long as it does not affect the external appearance and historical characteristics. Relined matchlocks will only be permitted in replica events. Replica matchlock pistols are not permitted in the replica class of the MLAIC Competition No 5 *Cominazzo* (*See Appendix II*).

## **REGULATIONS - PISTOL SECTION**

### **9.0 Pistol Range Regulations**

9.1 The following Pistol Range regulations must be read in conjunction with the rules and regulations which are found in the beginning of these same *Rules & Regulations Governing all Black Powder Shooting Activities & Competitions*, from paragraph Nos 1.1 to 4.15 and which are applicable to all types of black powder disciplines.

9.2 Minimum calibre .30 inch for percussion pistols and .433 for flintlock pistols.

9.3 A shot to be 50% across the line to count high.

9.4 Modern loading presses are not permitted for AACTS Percussion Revolver competitions which conform to MLAIC and MLAGB Postal Competitions Regulations.<sup>23</sup> For all other AACTS Percussion Revolver Competitions and training sessions presses are permitted but their use, which does not conform to international practice, will be discouraged.

9.5 Pistols will be kept in such a condition that they cannot be fired accidentally. Safety devices will be rendered functional.

9.6 It is mandatory to seal the chambers of revolvers with grease after loading the projectiles.

9.7 In the event of a misfire or breakage of a part, the weapon must be decapped or unprimed before it is removed from the firing point, and before repairs are commenced.

9.8 There are no restrictions on the type of weapon (whether original, replica or modern black powder) which the shooter is allowed to use in both training and some of the National competitions. In many of these events, weapons with adjustable sights are allowed to compete alongside originals or perfectly eligible replicas. The Association, however, must work to encourage competitions which are more in line with MLAIC international regulations and accepted international practice. These competitions will, therefore, restrict the shooters to use 'originals' only, or to use 'reproductions in the spirit of the original' only, or a combination of both.<sup>24</sup>

9.9 Holsters may not be worn, and no fancy dress will be permitted except upon certain occasions clearly and previously arranged by the Association Re-enactment Committee.

9.10 All competitions will be shot, wherever possible, from 25 metres using UIT 50 metre pistol target as standard. This, however, does not rule out the continuation of local competitions which do not conform to either MLAIC regulations or to other international regulations. Nor does it rule out the introduction of new innovative layouts which are becoming increasingly established abroad. However, the Executive Committee must first approve innovative layouts.

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<sup>23</sup> *It should be noted here, that neither the MLAGB nor the MLAIC allow the use of modern loading presses.*

<sup>24</sup> *A reproduction firearm is defined as one of modern manufacture such as those made in recent years by various firms, mostly of Italian, German and American origin, and any other arm having been constructed in recent years from old parts. Both the MLAGB and the MLAIC restrict the use of these weapons to competitions specifically allowing reproduction arms. The MLAIC bars from World and Zone Championships any arms which are not originals or, at least, replicas (always within the spirit of the original). Adjustable sights are **not** allowed and profiles must **not** be altered.*

9.11 Where Reproduction arms are specified, these must be in the spirit of the original.

9.12 Where International Standards need to be adhered to, bullets to be spherical for flintlocks and any shape within the spirit of the original for percussion pistols and revolvers.

9.13 Where MLAIC Regulations are specified, the competitions to be governed by such regulations<sup>25</sup>. Where all other matches are concerned, these will be subject to the AACTS Pistol Range Regulations and local accepted practice.

9.14 Members of the AACTS are entitled to participate in Postal Matches organised by the MLAGB. These matches are open to all MLAGB members as also members of MLAGB affiliated clubs. Targets to have the official sticker affixed to the back of the target in the area of the bull before being shot. Competitions available will vary from year to year at the discretion of the MLAGB Postal Competitions Secretary. Targets to be shot within the dates specified and posted to the MLAGB together with the entry fee. All competitions to be shot in accordance with MLAIC and MLAGB rules, as applicable. Medals and/or certificates will be presented to the first three places in each competition by the organisers.

9.15 – All shooters on the firing line are required to have a table or bench in front of them. Ready position, resting and each time a firearm is lowered, must be done by placing/resting firearm on table/bench directly in front of shooter’.

9.16 – Revolver cylinders may not be capped out of the frame’.

9.17 – A muzzle loader revolver calibre 44 may not be loaded with more than 25 grains in volume of any BlackPowder. If the normal service load of a particular BP brand is known and this is less than 25 grains in volume then the lower manufacturer’s recommended service load must be used instead. If the normal service load of a BlackPowder manufacturer spans the Association’s limit of 25 grains, as for instance from ‘20 to 30 grains’, shooters may not exceed the 25 grains upper limit.

A muzzle loader revolver calibre 36 may not be loaded with more than 20 grains in volume of any BlackPowder. If the normal service load of a particular BP brand is known and this is less than 20 grains in volume then the lower manufacturer’s recommended service load must be used instead. More than 20 grains may not be used.

In the case of PNF 2 manufactured by SNPE the following service loads are recommended by the manufacturer for percussion revolvers and therefore must be used:

<i>Calibre 31</i>	<i>0.5 gms by weight</i>
<i>Calibre 36</i>	<i>0.8 gms by weight</i>
<i>Calibre 44/45</i>	<i>0.9/1.1 gms by weight.’</i>

<sup>25</sup> *Dovetailed fore-sights are acceptable by the MLAIC on replica revolvers provided that the ends of the tenon finish flush with the barrel.*

## Notes on MLAIC Regulations for Pistol Competitions

10.0 The following notes on MLAIC Regulations that govern Pistol Competitions are being printed for the assistance and guidance of AACTS shooters who intend practicing under accepted International Standards. However, as MLAIC Rules are subject to change all competitors should ensure they are aware of the latest rules.

10.1 13 shots in 30 minutes, best ten shots to count for score. One warming shot can be fired off the target within the thirty minutes allowed. The shot must be notified to the range staff.

10.2 Telescopes allowed for spotting but no coaching allowed.

10.3 Ties will be decided according to UIT Rules. The winner has the highest number of shots in each scoring ring from the 10 scoring shots in descending order. If there is still no clear winner the tie will be decided by measuring the distance of the scoring shot holes from the centre of the target and the loser will have the shot furthest from the centre.

10.4 Shots to be 50% across the line to count up.

10.5 To prevent using a revolver as a single shot pistol, the cylinder chambers should be loaded **5 + 5 + 3**.

10.6 Powder may only be loaded from containers holding a single charge and flintlock priming flasks may only hold a small quantity.

10.7 Bullets: Round for flintlocks, any type of bullet within the spirit of the original for percussion.

10.8 No smoking is permitted on the firing point.

10.9 Position: Standing - one hand only.

10.10 Safety spectacles tinted or otherwise and ear protection are compulsory and failure to comply can cause disqualification.

10.11 Absolute silence is required whilst shooting is in progress.

10.12 Loading incident - bullet without powder, two bullets, etc. The shooter can call the range officer and shoot away to clear the gun and this shot will not be counted in the 13 shots.

10.13 In competitions where pairs of targets are being used, a maximum of seven shots on either target is allowed and any additional shots will be counted as misses.

# MLAIC INTERNATIONAL PISTOL COMPETITIONS

## 11.0 MLAIC International Pistol Competitions

11.1 A concise but comprehensive version of the MLAIC International Pistol Match Competition Schedule is listed in Appendix II as a guide to enable members to decide if they would like to be considered for selection and to practice under the right conditions.

## REGULATIONS - CLAY PIGEON SECTION

### Clay Pigeon Range Regulations

#### 12.0 Clay Pigeon Range Regulations

12.1 The following AACTS Clay Pigeon Range Regulations must be read in conjunction with the rules and regulations which are found in the beginning of these same *Rules & Regulations Governing all Black Powder Shooting Activities & Competitions*, from paragraph Nos. 1.1 to 4.15 and which are applicable to all types of black powder disciplines.

12.2 No weapon other than muzzle loading smoothbore longarms will be allowed at any Clay Pigeon Shoot organized by or held under the supervision of the AACTS. Guns may be percussion or flintlock, military or civilian, single or double barrelled and of any calibre (Subject to Rule No 12.3).

12.3 No heavy weight wildfowling guns are permitted in this discipline. Maximum bore allowable will be 12 bore.<sup>26</sup>

12.4 All disputes on the firing line shall be decided by the Range Officer or his appointed assistant. If the situation warrants it, the Range Officer or his assistant, may nominate a third party to decide an issue. If the shooter or Team Captain does not agree with a decision taken over a clay, he has the right to lodge a claim by raising an arm and shouting 'protest'. The RCO will suspend shooting and consult his 'arbitrators' to give a final decision.

12.5 A Safety Officer will be appointed for each Clay Pigeon Shoot, who will act in support of the Range Officer, and who will be responsible for the detection and correction of any breach of regulations, and safe gun handling practices. The particular responsibilities of this official will be the condition of guns as to safety with the loads being used and the discouragement or prohibition of heavy loads in guns which both he and the Range Officer do not consider sufficiently sound to stand such heavy loads.

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<sup>26</sup> *MLAIC Competitions No 21, 22 and 23 (See Appendix I) allow **ANY** calibre but Replicas with choked bores are forbidden.*

12.6 Loads must not exceed normal Proof Table Service Loads for the calibre of gun up to a maximum of 6.2 grams (3.5 drams) of blackpowder and 35 grams (1.25 oz) of lead shot. In guns of less than 12 bore this load would, of course, be unsafe and a more suitable load must be used. Shot bigger than 2.5 mm in diameter is not permitted to be used at any AACTS Clay Pigeon Shoot.<sup>27</sup> Loading of powder must be from pre-measured single charge containers.

12.7 Guns may be loaded only at the loading tables when the individual is at his firing position or preparing to step to the line of fire. In no instance should a gun be primed or capped except on the firing point and this must be done with the barrel pointing down-range. Gun muzzles should always be pointed straight up when being carried and when being loaded.

12.8 Only one shot may be taken at each clay target. In accordance with MLAIC Reg. No. 416(b), double-barrelled guns may be used but with only one barrel loaded at a time.<sup>28</sup>

12.9 No loaded gun shall be taken behind a line adjacent to the firing point which line shall be determined and clearly marked before any shoot shall commence, the Range Officer and Safety Officer being responsible for carrying out this operation.

12.10 Should any gun prove faulty through breakage of parts or excessive fouling, it shall be taken down forward of the line referred to in Regulation 12.8 and rendered incapable of firing by separation of the barrel(S) from the stock and/or removal of the nipple(s), before being removed from the area of the firing line. The Range Officer may ban such a faulty gun from further shoots until he is completely satisfied that it has been made safe.

12.11 Trappers will be provided with a visible marker (e.g. a red flag) and as soon as this is raised all shooters will immediately uncap or remove the priming from their guns, which will then be either placed in racks provided for this purpose or maintained with muzzles reasonably perpendicular to the ground. When the marker is lowered and the Range Officer gives permission, guns may be recapped and reprimed and shooting continued.

12.12 A conscious effort should be made to equalize the shooting qualities of all guns present even to the creation of two or more classes for a particular shoot, so that very large bores and heavier loads are not unfairly competing against smaller bores and lighter loads. Subject to the decision of the Range Officer, flintlock guns

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<sup>27</sup> MLAIC Regulation number 419(B).

<sup>28</sup> *In Britain the MLAGB hold also Two Shots Competitions, where both barrels can be discharged on one or double clays. Double barrel guns being reloaded, when one barrel remains unfired, must have the loaded barrel uncapped or the priming thoroughly removed before reloading. Whenever the MLAGB hold competitions defined as Single Shots Only, double barrel guns are permitted and allowed to be loaded in both barrels but only one barrel may be capped or primed. This practice, of course, does not conform to MLAIC regulations.*

may be entered in percussion events, but percussion guns may not compete in flintlock competitions.

12.13 Each round to be 25 clay targets in 60 minutes.

12.14 Targets may be called with gun already mounted.<sup>29</sup>

- 12.15 The following misfires will be allowed, without penalty: -  
 Three misfires per round for flintlock guns,  
 One misfire per round for percussion guns,  
 One misfire in each additional Tie shoot-off round (for both flintlocks  
 and percussion).<sup>30</sup>

The scorer will record the permitted misfires on the firer's scoresheet and when the limit is reached all subsequent misfires will be recorded as lost birds. For each misfire allowed an extra clay target will be launched at the same stand.

12.16 If a gun is incorrectly loaded without powder and is aimed at a target with the result that only the percussion cap explodes this shall be considered as a misfire. If the gun is correctly loaded with powder but the lead shot accidentally omitted and the gun being aimed at the target the powder explodes, then this shall be recorded as a miss and no appeal will be considered.

12.17 In the eventuality of a "Double Clay" competition being organized, should a pair of clays be broken with the first shot, the score is "a pair killed". If the first shot is a miss but the second shot breaks both, then this is recorded as a "miss and a kill".

12.18 Loading of lead shot must be from prepacked single charge containers.

## **CLAY TARGET - RANGE LAYOUT & LAUNCHER**

13.0 Clay Target - Range Layout & Launcher.

- 13.1 When firing shooters must stand within the area marked for the stand.
- (a) Stands should be at the same level as the top of the traphouse.
  - (b) Stands should be marked by a 70cm (approx.) square or circle.
  - (c) For the flintlock 'Manton' No 21 (See Para. 16.1) layout, there shall be three stands at 5 metres behind the point where the flight of the clay target intersects the level of the stands. Stands should be located: 60 degrees left, central, 60 degrees right.
  - (d) For the percussion 'Manton' No 21 (See Para. 16.1) layout, there shall be five stands at eight metres behind the point where the flight of the clay target intersects the level of the stands. Stands shall be located: 70 degrees left, 35 degrees left, central, 35 degrees right, 70 degrees right.
  - (e) Individual loading tables shall be provided a few metres behind each stand.

<sup>29</sup> The MLAGB apply the "Gun Down" rule; i.e. the gun butt must be below the shooter's elbow when the target is called. Under MLAIC Rules, the shooter may mount the gun in the shoulder or start from the gun down position as preferred, before the "pull".

<sup>30</sup> In conformity with MLAIC Regulation No 416 (d).

- (f) Whenever possible, an acoustic release clay target launcher will be used.

### 13.2 Clay Launcher and Clay Target:

- (a) The point of emergence of the clay target from the traphouse and the approximate point of landing are to be clearly marked in a manner that is visible from all stands.
- (b) The clay launcher should be set to throw centrally with the clay target landing at 60 metres (plus or minus 5 metres) from the point at which the flight of the clay target intersects the level of the stands. The height of the clay target should be 2 metres above stand level at 10 metres forward of this point of intersection.
- (c) A malfunction of the clay launcher should be reported to the Range Officer who should decide whether to change the launcher, to continue, or to stop the event.
- (d) The clay target shall be of the standard type used for Olympic Trap Shooting.

## **CLAY TARGET COMPETITION RULES**

### 14.0 Clay Target Competition Rules

14.1 An 'Original' is defined as any original muzzle loading gun in unaltered condition. A 'Replica' is a newly made reproduction of an antique original. Reproduction guns must not have a choke boring.

14.2 25 birds Down-the-Line, sixty minute relay.

14.3 Range Officers and Arbitrators: The Range Officer controls the shooting, with the assistance of three arbitrators for scoring. These officials are the only people allowed to intervene if a shooter is in difficulties. The Arbitrators signal each missed clay target by each raising an arm. The Range Officer observes the Arbitrators signals and, from the majority - if there is disagreement, clearly calls out the result for all to hear.

14.4 If a shooter is not present when his or her name is called prior to the commencement of a round, the Range Officer will call out the shooter's name three times within one minute. If there is no response the round will commence regardless and the missing shooter will only be allowed to shoot later if space permits.

14.5 Percussion guns fire 5 shots from each of the 5 stands. Flintlock guns fire at 8 birds from Stands 1 and 3, and 9 birds from Stand 2.

14.6 The allocation of stands for each round will be made by the shooters drawing lots. Each shooter shall fire his or her first shot in the sequence determined by the draw, but may subsequently fire in any order as soon as ready. After each shot, shooters will proceed to the next stand in an anticlockwise direction.

14.7 The normal number of shooters to be squadded on a round which conforms with MLAIC competition No 21 'Manton' (See *Para. 16.1*) is four and for No 22 'Lorenzoni' (See *Para. 16.2*) is six. Should it be absolutely essential, this may be increased to a maximum of six in No 21 and eight in No 22, but the time for the round has to be increased by ten minutes for each additional shooter above four in No 21 and above six in No 22.

14.8 Prior to the start of each round, one trial clay target will be launched in full view of all the shooters in that round. If a launcher is repaired or replaced, a further trial bird will be launched.

14.9 When the shooter is ready to fire he may, with the permission of the Range Officer, give the order 'pull'. The shooter may also ask 'Ready?' but nothing else.

14.10 The shooter may mount the gun in the shoulder or start from the gun down position as preferred before calling 'pull' (*MLAIC Rule No 420/k*).

14.11 Shooters must have the authorisation of the Range Officer before calling pull.

14.12 If a shooter fires before the command 'pull', it will be scored as a miss.

14.13 If a clay target is not launched immediately on the command 'pull', the shooter may refuse to shoot without incurring a penalty, but he must make his or her actions clear by raising the gun.

14.14 The shooter may only shoot when it is his turn to do so and after the clay target has been released.

14.15 Shooting will proceed without interruption unless disrupted by technical difficulties. The Range Officer may stop the shooting due to inclement weather and resume the round later at the point when it was stopped.

14.16 A clay target will be deemed a 'no bird' and another clay will be granted to the shooter, whether he fired or not if: the clay beaks on launching, the flight is not straight, is irregular or is too slow, two or more birds are launched together, the clay is of a different colour to that of the preceding clays, the clay is launched before the order 'pull', the clay is not launched immediately on the order 'pull' ( provided the shooter indicates an intention no to shoot by raising the gun), if a misfire or default is due to a mechanical breakdown of the gun, the lock or the cock, or if the shooter has obviously been hindered by a third party.

14.17 A clay target is deemed broken when, after being correctly launched and shot according to the rules, at least one visibly part flies away.

14.18 A clay target will be deemed missed as scored a zero, if (i) it is not broken during flight, (ii) the shooter does not fire because he has the gun in the safety or half cock position; forgotten to load; prime; cap or fully cock the gun; lost the priming or cap; not seen the clay target; had a misfire in excess of the permitted

number, or (iii) the shooter touches the lock of the gun before it is checked by the Range Officer following a misfire or technical fault.

14.19 In the event of a severe mechanical breakdown of a gun which cannot be repaired quickly, the shooter must leave his round and may only be allowed to complete the remaining round if space is available on a later round. If the gun can be repaired before the end of the round, the competitor may resume shooting with the permission of the Range Officer, but will forfeit any shot not fired within the time limit of that round.

14.20 If a misfire is due to a mechanical failure of the gun (other than due to ignition problems), an 'allowed extra misfire' will be granted.

14.21 After a misfire, a gun may be unloaded or fired away, subject to the authorisation of the range Officer.

14.22 Ties - (a) Ties for the top three individual places will be determined by shoot-off with the first fault being the loser. Shoot-offs shall comprise: Flintlock - One clay target from each of the three stands. Percussion - One clay target from each of the five stands. Should both shooters miss, they will continue the shoot-off on the next stand. (b) Ties for team scores will be determined by count-back. the winning team is that which has the longest unbroken string of hits from the end, counting back.

## **CLAY TARGET SHOOTING EVENTS - OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **15.0 Clay Target Shooting Events - Other Considerations.**

15.1 Guns shall only be at full cock only when at the shooting stand and ready to fire.

15.2 The use of slings is forbidden.

15.3 When not in use guns must be kept in the racks and must not be touched without the owners permission.

15.4 Aiming and shooting at other shooters' clays is forbidden.

15.5 Slip-on butt pads made of leather or other contemporary material (but not rubber) are permitted. Any other addition to the stock is forbidden.

15.6 Spectators must be at least five metres behind loading tables and may not speak to shooters or assist them in any way.

15.7 For safety reasons, flintlock and percussion guns should not be shot on the same relay.

# MLAIC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

## 16.0 MLAIC Clay Target Competitions

16.1 Clay Target competition No 21 MANTON - Free flintlock guns of any calibre. 15 clay targets over three stands within 60 minute detail. 25th clay target to be shot from centre stand. Originals and Replicas.

16.2 Clay Target competition No 22 LORENZONI - Free percussion guns of any calibre. 25 clay targets over five stands within 60 minute detail. Originals and replicas.

16.3 Clay Target competition No 23 HAWKER - Teams of four shooters comprising two from No 21 and two from No 22. Originals and Replicas mixed.

## 17.0 Claims & Penalties

17.1 Claims:

(a) If the shooter or team Captain does not agree with the Range Officer over a miss, one of them should immediately lodge a claim by raising one arm and shouting 'Protest!' The Range Officer will then suspend shooting, consult with the Arbitrators and give a final decision. The Protest will be entered into the Range report.

(b) It shall not be permissible to recover a clay target to check whether or not it is broken.

(c) If the shooter or team Captain does not agree with the shooter's score, one of them should immediately lodge a complaint with the Range Officer who will consult with the Arbitrators and then give a final decision.

(d) An appeal against a Range Officer's decision can be lodged in writing with the Arbitration Committee but no appeal can be made over whether a clay was broken or not as the Range Officer's decision on this matter is final.

(e) If a shooter, team Captain or competition Official observes something that is contrary to the rules, he/she should point the matter out immediately to the Range Officer who should take immediate steps to stop the violation of the rules. If this is not possible protest may be lodged as above.

17.2 Penalties:

(a) All shooters are deemed to know the rules, and must accept beforehand all penalties that may result from violations thereof, or from disobeying the Range Officer's instructions. (b) A shooter firing a gun before reaching the shooting stand will be committing a severe breach of the safety rules and will be disqualified.

(c) If a shooter uses a gun or ammunition which does not comply with the rules, any target hit with that gun or ammunition will be scored as a miss.

(d) If a violation of the rules is deliberate, the shooter may be disqualified.

(e) If a shooter hinders another by his attitude, conduct or words, the shooter will be warned by the Range Officer. If the offence is repeated the shooter may be penalised by the deduction of one or two points from his/her score, as decided appropriate between the Range Officer and the Arbitration Committee.

## **Rules & Regulations for Prospective Shooters' 'Taster' Sessions & Training Requirements.**

18.0 Whenever time permits, 'taster' sessions of prospective shooters are permitted provided the following rules are met:

- (i) Weapons must be loaded by licensed 'sponsors' only, who throughout this procedure must continually accompany and instill in the newcomer a sense of greatest possible safety awareness. This can be achieved by their own example and by their continuous and methodical explanation of all safety procedures. This 'sponsor' must always be in physical possession of the weapon (except during the actual shooting on the firing point);
- (ii) On the firing line the 'sponsor' will take position behind and slightly to one side of the newcomer in such a way as to, if necessary, intervene immediately should the need arise;
- (iii) No other shooters or prospectives are allowed on the firing point;
- (iv) A Range Officer must be present and in control of shooting;
- (v) Each prospective shooter is allowed only six 'Taster' session of six shots.

18.1 Prospective shooters must undergo proper training in the use of firearms under the supervision of an experienced instructor/sponsor prior to partaking in shooting activities on their own. They may also attend training and instruction courses AACTS may organise from time to time.

18.2 Following 18.1 above, the instructor having been satisfied, or otherwise, with the newly acquired proficiency in safe weapon handling of the prospective shooter will proceed to pass on his recommendations to the AACTS Committee.

### **NOTE**

This set of Rules and Regulations is issued to every shooter of our Association and to all new shooters. Any amendments, alterations or additions will be published in our Association's 'Circular' or any supplementary newsletter. Members should ensure that their copy of the Rules and Regulations is kept up to date. Ignorance of the Rules is no excuse.

# APPENDIX I

## MLAIC INTERNATIONAL RIFLE COMPETITIONS

### Rifle Matches

#### LEGEND

Original = O, Replicas = R.

Firearm = F, Sights = S, Target = T, Position = P, Distance (metres) = D.

No 1 MIQUELET - Individual: (O&R).  
of 4.

Team No 9 Gustav Adolf (O), teams

- F: Military smooth-bore flintlock musket.
- S: Original Pattern sights. No rear sight.
- T: 200 metre French military rifle target
- P: Standing, offhand.
- D: 50 metres.

No 2 MAXMILLIAN - Individual: (O&R).  
3.

Team No 26 Wedgcock (O), teams of

- F: Free flintlock rifle, any calibre.
- S: Contemporary sights, including original style replica sights
- T: UIT 50 metres Pistol target.
- P: Prone.
- D: 100 metres.

No 3 MINIE - Individual: (O&R).

Team: No 10 Pauly (O), teams of 4.

- F: Military percussion rifle over 13.5 mm (.5315") bore.
- S: Original pattern sights (with minor alterations permitted).
- T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.
- P: Prone.
- D: 100 metres.

No 4 WHITWORTH - Individual: (O&R).  
4.

Team: No 20 Rigby (O&R mixed), teams of

- F: Free percussion rifles (not qualifying for No 3 Minie).
- S: Contemporary sights, including original style replica sights. Aperture sights (front and rear permitted if consistent with the period).
- T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.
- P: Prone.
- D: 100 metres.

No 8 WALKYRIE - Ladies Individual: (O&R).  
mixed, teams of 3).

Team: No17 Amazons (O & R

- F: Free or military percussion rifles.
- S: According to Free or Military rifle rules.
- T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.
- P: Prone.
- D: 100 metres.

No 14 TANEGASHIMA - Individual: (O&R).  
teams of 4)  
of 3).

Team: No 19 Nagashino (O&R mixed,  
& Team: No 27 Nobunaga (O, teams

- F: Free smooth-bore matchlock muskets of any calibre.
- S: Contemporary sights including original style replica sights.
- T: 200 metre French military rifle.
- P: Standing.
- D: 50 metres.

No 15 VETTERLI - Individual: (O&R).

Team: No 24 Pforzheim (O&R mixed).

- F: Any matchlock or flintlock musket; any flintlock or percussion rifle.
- S: According to the rules for each class.
- T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.
- P: Standing.
- D: 50 metres.

No 16 HIZADAI - Individual: (O&R)

Team: No team event.

- F: Free smooth-bore matchlock muskets of any calibre
- S: Contemporary sights including original style replica sights.
- T: 200 metre French military rifle.
- P: Kneeling.
- D: 50 metres.

Team matches are concurrent with a number of these competitions. All competitions are shot on the basis of 13 shots best 10 to count in a half hour time limit. Separate reproduction sections in each class are permitted with a limit of six such reproductions or 50% of the total entry for the class, whichever is the greater.

## APPENDIX II

### MLAIC INTERNATIONAL PISTOL COMPETITIONS

#### LEGEND

Original = O, Replicas = R.

Firearm = F, Sights = S, Target = T, Position = P, Distance (metres) = D.

No 5 COMINAZZO - Individual: (O&R). Team: No 25 Wogdon (O&R mixed), teams of 4.

F: Free single shot smooth-bore flintlock or original matchlock.

S: Contemporary sights.

T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.

P: Standing - one hand.

D: 25 metres.

No 6 KUCHENREUTER - Individual: (O&R). Team: No 18 Boutet (O), teams of 4.

F: Free single shot percussion pistol, rifled, any calibre.

S: 19th century contemporary sights.

T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.

P: Standing - one hand.

D: 25 metres.

No 7 COLT - Individual: (O). Team: No team event.

F: Free percussion revolvers, original only.

S: Contemporary sights. Height of fore-sight unlimited, but profile must be original style.

T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.

P: Standing - one hand.

D: 25 metres.

No 12 MARIETTE - Individual (R). Team: No 13 Peterlongo (R).

F: Free percussion revolvers, replicas only.

S: Contemporary sights. Height of fore-sight unlimited, but profile must be original style.

T: UIT 50 metre Pistol target.

P: Standing - one hand.

D: 25 metres.

Two team matches are arranged under Mariette (Peterlongo) and Kuchenreuter (Boutet) conditions. All competitions are shot under MLAIC Regulations printed in the Pistol Section. Separate reproduction sections in the Cominazzo and Kuchenreuter events are permitted with a limit of six such reproductions or 50% of the total entry, whichever is the greater.