

# 3 Military Rifle



## A brief description

Military service rifle shooting initially commenced in the 80s in Victoria and Queensland and now involves most of the states. Unlike some other disciplines, where one or two events are shot, military service rifle has up to 15 events that can be shot, with more events emerging all the time. It is shot mainly with standard military service rifles with iron sights. Since no spotting is allowed during the individual events, shooters need to develop a rapport with their rifle in order to depend on it and their own ability. The event stages are finalised before scoring. The 3P core is the principal event that is shot within the discipline and is shot with a standard rifle to establish a competitor's grade. Several events are shot as graded events, while others are contested as open. There are events for modified and scoped rifles as well.

## Shoot Military Rifle

### Participants

Military/service rifle is suitable for shooters of all ages and abilities. Women and juniors are encouraged to get involved.

### Contact Information

Every state has a military/service discipline chairman and most branches shoot military/service rifle. Even if yours does not, a contact name can be supplied.

### Grades

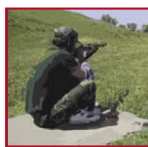
For complete fairness, all competitors shoot in their own grades - either grand master, master, A, B and C. Grades are issued after you shoot three SSAA 3P core events and are maintained on your personal score/grade card. Your grade may then change up or down based on your scores in a given time-frame.

### Competitions

Each year there are state championships and a national championship. There are state and national postal shoots each year as well.



Standing



Sitting/kneeling



Sniper class



Prone

The rules call for a core event, which is a three position event consisting of prone; sitting/kneeling/squatting; and standing, plus optional supplementary events. The core event is shot at ranges of 100, 200, and 300 metres using a large yellow and black target, with only iron sighted rifles. The time for each range varies depending on how many rounds are shot at each range, with the total for the match being 30 shots.

### Wind flags

Wind flags consisting of banner- or strip-type flags are used mainly in state and national shoots.



SMLE (Short Magazine Lee Enfield)

### The rifle

Standard military service rifles are the order of the day for most events. There are separate side events for modified/accursed rifles and sniper rifles. The objective is to allow anyone to get into the sport quite cheaply and have everyone on an equal footing. Most popular of the rifles are SMLEs and Swedish Mausers, with P14s and M17s as well.

## Classes of rifles

Rifles used in military/service rifle competition will fall into one of the following classes:

- Class A:** Close range (100m), short barrel, centrefire, carbine type rifles.
- Class B:** Medium range (200-300m), bolt/lever action, centrefire, manually operated or self-loading, repeating rifles.
- Class C:** Long range (500m+), long barrel, centrefire rifles (includes antique military rifles).
- Class D:** Breech loading cartridge rifles, such as black powder, single shot, centrefire rifles and falling block action, centrefire rifles.
- Class E:** Muzzleloading single-shot and non-cartridge breech loading rifles (antique military rifles).
- Class F:** Military sniping rifles (genuine

unmodified as issued):

- Class F1:** Vintage military sniper rifles (genuine unmodified as issued before January 1, 1946).
- Class F2:** Military sniping rifles (genuine unmodified as issued after January 2, 1946).
- Class G:** Military sniping rifles (replicated), genuine military rifles equipped with built-up optical sights equivalent to magnification power to historical sniper specifications and standards. Desirably such rifles should also have sight mountings of similar design to the original rifles. This class includes iron-sighted rifles recognised as a sniper rifle.
- Class H:** Modified/Accursed rifles. Rifles of military origin and calibre

comprising:

- Modification beyond service specifications (eg, plastic stock, floating barrel, glass bedded barrel, lightened trigger action and so forth); or
- Modification to enhance accuracy beyond the specification of the original regular military issue rifle and adopted or evaluated for use by a military/para-military force for special issue, for purposes other than as a class 'F' rifle.
- Class J:** Modified/Accursed equipped rifles. Class H rifles, which are fitted with telescopic sights.

Note: Class F, G, H and J rifles may only be used in events organised for their class or combination of class.



### Spotting scope

Spotting scopes are used only in practice and sighting in and are not used in actual competition.

## The target

Targets used are mainly the standard 120cm x 120cm SSAA military/service rifle target, a large black aiming mark. The 50m event uses the SSAA 8H 200m centrefire field rifle target.

## Scoring

Scores are taken at target value using a 'V' bull. A shot that touches the target line is given the higher value.

## The range

Events are shot from 50 metres out to 500 metres, with positions including standing, sitting/kneeling and prone. Some events allow sand bags or bi-pods but pedestal bench type rests are not permitted.

## Ammunition

Nothing fancy and no secret recipes. Ammunition used can be military or reloads that are close to military specifications in order to give the recoil effect so that the shooter has to re-acquire the target. All ammo used is relatively cheap and will not affect your scores as much as your ability to handle the firearm.

## The rules

If you have a standard military/service rifle with iron sights, you can shoot most of the events.

## Dress Rules

Participation in military/service events doesn't mean that defence force type clothing must be worn. In fact, most shooters wear everyday regular clothing. Those who choose to wear jungle-type greens do so at their own discretion. The wearing of camouflage clothing is discouraged and is not allowed on some ranges. No matter what type of clothing you choose, the use of shooting coats is allowed but must conform to the rules defined in the rulebook.



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