

## 300 Yard Matches for New Competitors

**Intro** - For many years Forbes Rifle and Pistol Club has hosted high power rifle matches at distances from 200 to 1000 yards on its ranges. The Club's focus is on rifle competition and it generally requires prospective members to show evidence of competition experience. The Club is structuring its 300 yard matches to provide new shooters with a way to gain competition experience, meet Club members, obtain sponsorship and move on to membership.

**The Match** – As the name implies, these matches are fired at 300 yards with centerfire rifles from the prone position (more on this later). The match consists of 60 record shots, broken into three, twenty-shot strings. Five unscored sighting shots are allowed on the first string and two are permitted for each of the second and third strings. Time limits are 25 minutes for the first string and 22 minutes for the second and third. All firing is single-load only.

**The Shooting Positions** – The matches allow several shooting disciplines to compete at the same time. First up would be conventional match rifle shooting where the shooter wears a shooting coat and glove. A sling is attached to the forend of the rifle and the shooter's upper arm (left arm for a right-handed shooter and vice versa) to help support the rifle. Iron sights or scopes may be used.



Conventional prone

Next up is F-class. This discipline allows front and rear rests and scopes, but is still fired from the prone position on the ground. F-class is further broken into F-T/R and F-OPEN. F-T/R rifles must be chambered in either .308 Winchester or .223 Remington (or 5.56 NATO). In F-T/R a front bipod is attached to the rifle. A rear sandbag rest is permitted. Weight limit is 18.18 pounds including scope, bipod and anything else attached to the rifle.



An F-T/R Rifle (shown without a scope)

In F-OPEN any cartridge may be used as long as the bore does not exceed .35 caliber. Weight limit is 22 pounds. Scopes, front rests and rear bags are permitted.

F-Class is probably the best way for a new competitor to get started. If you use a bipod attached to a 223 Remington or 308 Winchester rifle that would qualify as F-T/R. If you use a rifle in any other caliber with any type of front rest that would be considered F-Open.



An F-OPEN setup

**The Rules** – The competition rule books may be found at <https://competitions.nra.org>. Conventional shooting is covered by the High Power rule book and F-class shooting is covered by the F-Class rule book. Competitors are urged to go to the NRA Competitions website and download both rule books.

**Targets** – Round bullseye targets are used. For conventional shooters the target is NRA MR-63 which has a 17.85" aiming black. For F-class the target is NRA MR63FC which also has an aiming black of 17.85", however the scoring rings are smaller. Target details may be found in Section 4 of the rule books.

**Electronic Targets** – Forbes uses electronic target systems provided by ShotMarker. See [www.autotricker.com](http://www.autotricker.com). These systems allow the competitor and scorekeeper to view shots as they are fired on a tablet or smart phone without the need for old fashioned target pits and

target pullers. There are good videos on the ShotMarker (autotricker) website and on YouTube. Competitors should look at both prior to match day to get an idea of how the system works. The Club has tablets to lend, but most competitors bring their own. The Match Director or fellow shooters can help newcomers get up to speed with the ShotMarker system. Note that paper score cards, filled out shot-by-shot, are the official record for the match.

**What to Bring** – As in any sport, serious experienced shooting competitors use all sorts of sophisticated (and expensive!) equipment in competition. However, the 300-yard matches can be fired with some basic equipment that someone interested in competition probably already owns.

- Rifles – Any safe centerfire rifle up to 35 caliber may be used. A bolt-action varmint or deer rifle with a scope would be ideal. Larger magnum-type cartridges are not required, and would unnecessarily beat up the shooter in a 60 shot match. Cartridges such as 223 Remington, 243 Winchester, 6mm or 6.5mm Creedmoor, 308 Winchester or 30-06 Springfield are more than adequate. Any scope is allowed, with higher magnification preferred.
- Ammunition – Seventy rounds of ammunition for your rifle are required. You should have a good 100 yard zero with this ammo and know the velocity and ballistic coefficient of the bullet. With that information a ballistic calculator can be used to get on target at 300 yards.
- Rests – Simple tripod front rests or bipods attached to the rifle may be used. Rear bags are permitted and help with steadying the rifle.
- Shooting mat – A shooting mat or ground cloth for comfort and to keep you dry if the ground is wet (a distinct possibility).
- Hearing and eye protection
- A folding chair – you will alternate between shooting and scoring. A simple folding chair makes scoring more comfortable
- Smartphone, tablet or laptop with a fully charged battery. The Match Director or an assistant will help you get connected to the ShotMarker system.

**How to Enter** – The 300 yard matches do not require advance entry. Plan to arrive about 1-1/2 hours prior to the start time shown on the match program. Bring a completed copy of the Forbes SR-1 card found on the website. Find the Match Director and introduce yourself. It would be helpful to contact the Match Director ahead of the match to discuss the equipment you will use and to select the appropriate discipline (F-T/R, F-Open) that you will shoot. Competitors that have no competition history will be entered as Unclassified Masters. For general questions email [info@forbesrifleandpistolclub.org](mailto:info@forbesrifleandpistolclub.org)

**Next Steps** – Once the match is completed all scores are submitted to the NRA. The scores will be used to establish a competition classification. See Section 19 of the Rule Book for an explanation of the classification process. Prior to receiving a classification card from the NRA the score recorded at your first match may be used as a Temporary Classification for entry in subsequent matches.