

Introduction to Smallbore F-Class (F-SBR)



INTRODUCTION

The goal of the following presentation is to provide a basic introduction to the sport of F-Class smallbore, commonly referred to as F-SBR.



BACKGROUND

F-SBR is a derivative of the centerfire rifle version of “F-Class” utilizing the .22 rimfire cartridge. It is fired from the prone position at distances between 50 and 100 yards and is one of the fastest growing precision shooting disciplines in the United States.

New shooters can enter the sport at a minimal cost by using an inexpensive rest and almost any rifle chambered in .22 LR. As their interests and skill advance, they can invest in more specialized equipment.

F-SBR is also a natural transition for smallbore prone “sling” shooters to extend their careers. The use of supports and optics allows our seasoned shooters to rediscover the joy of smallbore competition.



GETTING STARTED – THE BASICS LIST

The following is a list of items to get started in F-SBR. In many instances, clubs will have some equipment available for use during competitions (i.e. shooting mats, etc.). Contact the Match Director or sponsoring club in advance and inquire on equipment.

F-SBR Basic Equipment:

- Rifle & scope
- Ammunition (standard velocity target grade is highly recommended)
- Shooting mat or section of carpet
- Hearing & vision protection
- Some type of front support or rest
- Target clips (minimum of 12 – used to secure your target to a frame)
- Watch or timer



F-SBR RIFLES - OVERVIEW

General

- Rifles chambered in .22 LR caliber only
- Scopes are allowed with no restriction on magnification
- Single loading required
 - magazine fed rifles can only be single loaded
 - Semi-auto rifles are allowed but can only be single loaded
 - Rifles with “tube fed magazines” are not allowed
- Maximum rifle forearm width is 2.992” / 76 mm
- A rear support – not attached to the rifle - is allowed under the rifle butt. (i.e. “rabbit ear” bag, gloved hand, sand or bean bag that is not mechanically adjustable)

“TR Rifle” Target Rifle Category

- Maximum weight for TR category rifle is 18.18 lbs / 8.25 kg (includes rifle, scope & all accessories that recoil with the rifle)
- Uses a bipod as the front support

“FO Rifle” - Open Category

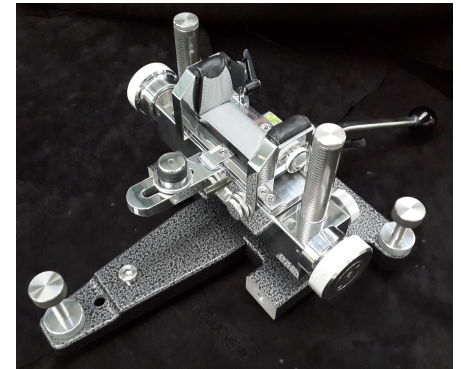
- Maximum weight for FO category rifle is 22.0 lbs / 10.0 kg (includes rifle, scope & all accessories that recoil with the rifle)
- Uses a mechanical rest or bags for front support but are not attached to the rifle



RESTS & SUPPORTS

The type of front rest determines the F-SBR class:
“Open” or “Target Rifle”

- For “Open”, front rests can be intricate mechanical engineering marvels or as simple as a sand bag
- Bi-pods for “TR” must be attached to the rifle
- The rear bag typically has “ears” to capture the stock by the buttplate - however it cannot be attached to the rifle or be a mechanical type
- Set up the front rest height for comfort and best possible support



AMMUNITION

There is a wide variety of .22 rimfire ammunition used by F-SBR competitors for both training and match purposes.

It is best to use STANDARD VELOCITY TARGET GRADE ammunition. While it may cost more, standard velocity resists the effects of wind better than high velocity. Target grade ammunition is manufactured to much tighter tolerances and will be more accurate.

The cost of top grade ammunition may be shocking, however beginner shooters can use lower grades while they further develop their skills.



EQUIPMENT – SET UP



The photos depict typical set ups for “TR” (top) and “FO” (bottom). The main difference is the type of front support – bipod vs mechanical rest.

Fired from the prone position, having a shooting mat or sizable piece of carpet keeps competitors clean, dry and comfortable.



A small towel is used to easily collect the spent brass. It is courteous to police your own brass from the range when you are done shooting. *Don't leave a mess!*



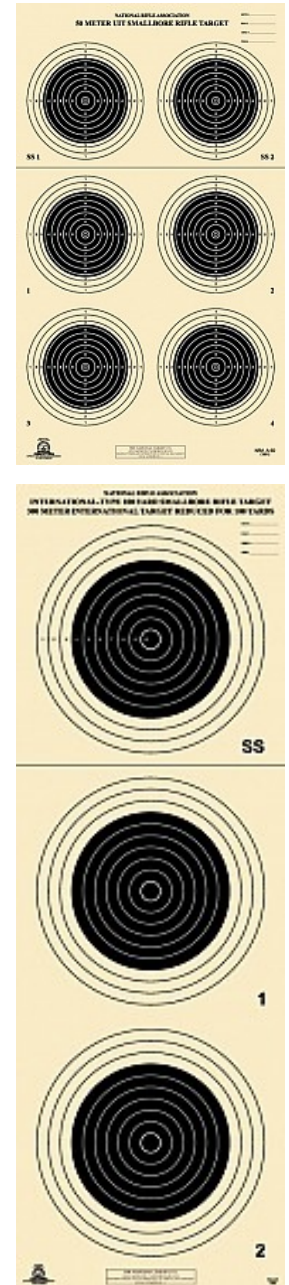
TARGETS

F-SBR is fired at 50 yards, 50 meters (when available) and 100 yards.

A total of twenty (20) record shots are fired on each target for a possible score of 200. "Xs" are also counted for breaking ties.

- 50 yards: A51 target / 50 meters: A50 target (6 bulls)
 - Top two (2) bulls are for unlimited sighting shots
 - Each of the four (4) bottom bulls are "record" score with five (5) total shots in each
 - 10 ring is about the size of a dime
- 100 yards: A33 target (3 bulls)
 - Top bull is for unlimited sighting shots
 - Bottom two (2) bulls are "record" score with ten (10) total shots in each
 - 10 ring is about 1" in diameter

Targets are mounted to a frame down range using standard black or "Bulldog" binder clips.



F-SBR Rules

Every shooting competition is conducted per a set of established rules, and F-SBR is no different.

American Smallbore Shooting Association (ASSA) has generated regulations specific to F-SBR, which are located in Section 17 of the [rule book](#). The rules were generated through direct competitor input and are reviewed and updated as necessary.

In addition to restriction on equipment, the rules also establish classifications, categories, courses of fire and many other aspects specific to smallbore rifle competition.

For every competitor, SAFETY is the FIRST PRIORITY. Their second responsibility is to read and understand the rules for their sport.



SOME “POINTERS”

- When going to your first match, arrive at least 1 to 1-1/2 hours in advance to register, set up your equipment and obtain and targets. Dress for the weather. Read the current F-SBR rules and the sponsor’s match program.
- Contact the Match Director or an experienced competitor in advance. Ask how the match is conducted? What is needed? What is expected? Ask for any general advice for attending your first match.
- When in doubt, ask questions; *everyone was once a new shooter and in the same situation at their first event.* Competitive shooters are always helping each other and new attendees.
- Remember to be courteous and aware of your timing – it is not always best to start asking questions when a competitor is heading to the firing line.
- **HAVE FUN!** Do not be discouraged by how others shoot or the equipment you may see at the range – compete against yourself on every target. Learn and make new friends in the shooting sports!



RESOURCES & REFERENCES

The following are several references and resources for additional information on F-SBR competition, events and general discussion.

- <http://www.americansmallbore.com>
- Rules - <https://www.americansmallbore.com/rules.html>
- Facebook groups:
 - F-Class Smallbore
 - American Smallbore Shooting
- Supplier References
 - SEB Rests
 - Edgewood Shooting Bags
 - Lapua ammunition
 - Eley ammunition
 - RWS ammunition
 - CCI ammunition
 - National Target Company
 - Harris Bipods
 - Caldwell Shooting Bags

