

**AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION:** High Power Rifle is contested in many countries around the world. It was only ever going to be a matter of time before Australian shooters wanted to join the world shooting leagues one on one. We all want to know where we stand in our chosen sport, and competing in a world wide event is the best challenge for any sporting shooter.

Any licensed or temporary shooter can join the action. The only choice to make is your level of participation. You might only shoot club level, or you may broaden to regional, state, national or international events (the ultimate).

AIHPA help manage HPR in Australia, to ensure consistency and credibility between all activities. AIHPA boasts credible governance and practices in the best interests of its members, shooters and the sport as a whole.

**Events:** Sanctioned regional, state and national championship events are run annually. These offer championship titles, rewards and classification. Results from sanctioned tournaments typically contribute towards a League, such as the AIHPA Grand Tour (GT) series. Results from all sanctioned events are recorded for historical purposes, where each champion joins the AIHPA Hall Of Champions. There are many perpetual trophies for state and national events.

**Leagues:** AIHPA manage leagues for the main 4 core courses of fire. Results from sanctioned events count towards the annual Grand Tour (GT) series. A final aggregate, meeting the relevant criteria, ranks all shooters to crown a champion who then also join the AIHPA Hall Of Champions.

**QUALIFICATION:** This is a program to help recognise improvements in shooter marksmanship, proficiency and achievement in the International Match Course (IMC) at registered matches only. This program is open to all rifle specifications. All shooters, after joining AIHPA and completing their first registered IMC, start at the Basic Practical level. Each subsequent qualification level, up to Distinguished High Master (DHM), is progressively earned after successfully achieving the minimum score and frequency requirements. There is no fast tracking the program. All shooters start at lowest level and work up level by level, taking a minimum of 39 registered matches to reach DHM.

Qualification (Proficiency) Program (Open to all Spec rifles) Based on IMC only		
Attainment	Required %	Repeat
Basic Practical (BP)	After first full completion of National Match, no matter what the result was.	
Provisional Marksman (PM)	40% ( 200) or better	2 times
Marksman (MK)	50% (250) or better	2 times
Marksman 1st Class (MK1)	66% (330) or better	3 times
Sharpshooter (SH)	75% (375) or better	3 times
Expert (EX)	80% (400) or better	3 times
Distinguished Expert (DE)	88% (440) or better	10 times
Distinguished Master (DM)	94% (470) or better	10 times
Distinguished High Master (DHM)	97% (485) or better	5 times

For further and current information, rules or event details:  
Web: [www.aihpa.com](http://www.aihpa.com)

**Qualification Patches:** Available after achieving required scores in the "International Match Course". Available to AIHPA members only.



Each membership comes with the Qualification header patch. As a member achieves each qualification level of the "International Match Course" (IMC), the member will receive the corresponding qualification rocker patch per records on grade card. Patches are iron on. Additional patches available at a small fee. This program is available for AIHPA members only, and memberships ignore historical results.

## An AIHPA Getting Started Guide to "ACROSS THE COURSE" Centrefire Rifle Shooting



**Keep 'em in the "X"!**

**This is one of the most exciting and challenging multi distance, multi position, multi course rifle shooting formats in the world.**

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Whilst the information in this brief flyer has been created with all due care, no warranty is given that this flyer is free from error or omission or that the information is the most up-to-date available. Full rules, processes and administrative guide are available from the AIHPA website, and NRA High Power Rifle rulebook. Readers must rely on their own enquiries and research only.

## Australian High Power Rifle “Across the Course” Welcome to the Game!

High Power Rifle is a term that represents a type of rifle cartridge Australians typically know as a Centrefire Rifle. A high power rifle calibre, by definition, is calibre and rifle combination that is capable of propelling a projectile at velocities greater than the speed of sound. This is what “high power” actually means, so it is safe to say that all High Power Rifles are Centrefire Rifles.

Some of the most popular styles of shooting anywhere in the world involve skills to contest matches across multi-positions, multi-distances and multi-firing methods. All these factors mentioned attracted the colloquial term of shooting “Across the Course” (meaning, it covers all possible rifle types and shooting styles). As usual with many shooting terms, “Across the Course” is known in short as “XC”. AIHPA manages XC for Australia to cater for service base rifles up to state of the art match rifles using iron or optical sights over distances from 100m out to 600m. The largest High Power Rifle XC event in the world is the “US National Matches” held annually at Camp Perry, in Port Clinton Ohio, USA. Shooters from many countries, civilians, military and services, assemble at this event to vie for many various High Power championship titles. Australians have had some good success at this, and similar, events, and AIHPA helps Australian shooters to continue attending this prestigious international event, or any other event in a similar field.

### AIHPA MATCH COURSES

#### International Match Course: (50 match rounds) (The core administrative match)

- 200 10 shots Standing, Slow Fire - 10min.
- 200 10 shots Sitting, Rapid Fire (60s) - from standing.
- 300 10 shots Prone, Rapid Fire (70s) - from standing.
- 600 20 shots Prone, Application Slow Fire - 20min.

Note: 2x spotted sighters may be permitted before each string - 2min.

#### Australian Match Course: (60 match rounds total)

- 300 10 shots Prone, Slow Fire - 10min.
- 300 10 shots Prone, Rapid Fire in 2 exposures of 30 seconds (60 seconds).
- 300 10 shots Prone, Snap Fire in 10 exposures of 3 seconds.
- 200 10 shots Sitting, Rapid Fire in 2 exposures of 30 seconds (60 seconds).
- 200 10 shots Sitting, Snap Fire in 10 exposures of 3 seconds.
- 100 10 shots Standing, Snap Fire in 10 exposures of 3 seconds.

Note: 2x spotted sighters may be permitted before each string - 2min.

#### Vintage Match Course: (40 match rounds) (For Spec 1 (vintage service) rifles)

- 200 10 shots Prone, Application Slow Fire - 10min.
- 200 10 shots Prone, Rapid Fire (70s) - from standing.
- 200 10 shots Sitting, Rapid Fire (70s) - from standing.
- 200 10 shots Standing, Slow Fire - 10min.

Note: 5x spotted sighters are permitted before the match only - 5min.

#### Tactical Match Course: (20 match rounds total) (front rest permitted)

- 400+ 10 shots Prone, Deliberate - 3min.
- 10 shots Prone, Snap Fire in 5 exposures of 6 seconds.

Note: 5x spotted sighters are permitted before the match only - 5min.

- Notes: - Sighters permitted only when a change of target, distance or position.  
- Distances may vary using scaled targets. Eg. A smaller target may be used at shorter distances to simulate required proportions etc.  
- some events may double-up or increase number of strings for a match.  
- all strings are unsupported (no rests) unless specified as allowed.

### DEFINITIONS:

**“Preparation Period”:** Each shooter is given 2 minutes notice to approach the firing line with equipment, and the start of 3 minutes preparation time. During prep time, shooters must organise themselves, and make ready to fire the coming string. They may remove the ECI, and dry fire, etc, while checking all equipment.

**“Slow Fire”:** The shooter is permitted a time limit calculated by 1 shot per minute (string minutes = # shots). Slow fire is single round loading only.

**“Rapid Fire”** The shooter, on command, will load the prescribed number of rounds into the rifle. When targets appear, or after the command is given, the shooter adopts the string firing position and engages the target. At completion of a rapid fire string, the shooter will be given a “firers view” to see the fall of shots.

**“Snap Fire”:** Similar procedure to Rapid Fire, but the shooter will be given limited multiple target exposures to fire a prescribed number of rounds.

**“Warm Up”:** Slow fire shots fired in any position with any supports permitted.

**“Sighters”** are “slow fire” shots fired in the course firing position. Each shot is marked to give to the shooter an indication of where the shots are impacting. This is used to check equipment and sighting, but also understand the atmospheric and range conditions. Each single shot on target is marked by the aid of a bright “spotting disc” to increase visibility for the shooter at the firing line. Subsequent string sighters are only awarded when there is a change of distance, target or position. A single sighter may be awarded after an official “cease fire”.

**“Cease Fire”** is a process to close the range, requiring all firing to cease immediately, targets to be pulled into the pits and all rifles and range to be cleared safe.

**“Standing, Sitting/Kneeling, Prone”** are firing positions the shooter adopts to engage the target for sighter and scoring shots. Each course of fire should be referred to the rules for specifics of the course firing position and any exceptions.

**RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS:** are aligned with NRA High Power Rifle and Civilian Marksmanship Program rules with changes that meet the requirements of Australian national and state firearms laws/legislations. Note: ALL rifles, of any spec, must have an operating magazine. Rifles are forwards spec compatible, i.e. Spec 1 can be used in Spec 2, Spec 3 or Spec 5 etc in compliance with the up spec rules. Muzzle brakes are NOT permitted in any spec.

**Spec 1: Service Rifle - Standard Iron** (in some cases called “Vintage”) (Classified/Graded) - Any as-issued iron sights military or service rifle, of a pattern issued prior to 1945, of any manual action, in original as-issued condition with zero modifications or enhancements of any kind - both internally or externally. Sling width must not exceed 40mm (unless issued). Note: If a specific “Vintage” event, it may require bolt action only. The use of specialist shooting coats and/or a specialist shooting glove/mitten that assist with support are not permitted. Coats used must be button or zip type – no straps.

**Sub-Spec 1a: Service Rifle - Standard Iron Commonwealth** (may be referred to as “Commonwealth Vintage”) (Classified/Graded) – Per Spec 1, but restricted to any Commonwealth issued Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) No. 1, No. 4 or No. 5., Lee Metford (MLM) and “Long Lee Enfield” (MLE) rifles of .303 British. This spec is run as mandatory at the Australian National Matches. Rifles competing in Sub-Spec 1a at any match also compete in Spec 1 outright.

**Spec 2: Service Rifle - Modified Iron** Any centrefire rifle type, of any calibre, not weighing more than 5kg with all attachments (magazine, sights, etc) excluding sling. Front sight restricted to a post but other iron sight components unrestricted. The rifle must have no adjustability (stock, weight, counter-weights, grips, sling points, butt plate, cheekpiece, etc) to assist shooter comfort or shootability (adjustable components may be set to a generic position and must not be moved during a match). Sling width must not exceed 40mm. Use of handstops is not permitted. The use of specialist shooting coats are not permitted. Coats used must be button or zip type – no straps. Any shooting glove/mitten permitted.

**Spec 3: Match Rifle - Iron** (Classified/Graded) - Any commercial, factory, service, sporter, field or custom rifle, of any calibre, with iron sights of any type. Any shooting coat and glove/mitten permitted.

**Spec 5: Match Rifle - Optic** (Unclassified/Open) - Any commercial, custom or service rifle of any calibre, fitted with unlimited (any) optical sights. Any shooting coat and glove/mitten permitted.

**Sub-Spec 5a: Sporter Rifle - Optical** (Unclassified/Open) - Any commercially available or ex service issue centrefire rifle, of any manual action, fitted with optical sights, not weighing more than 5kg with all attachments (magazine, scope, etc) excluding sling. The rifle must have no adjustability (stock, weight, counter-weights, grips, sling points, butt plate, cheekpiece, etc) to assist shooter comfort or shootability, and not have tailored ergonomic add-ons. Sling width must not exceed 40mm. Use of handstops is not permitted. Barrel must not exceed a muzzle diameter or 0.6” after a consistent taper, or stepped proportion, of at least one third barrel length from the muzzle. The use of specialist shooting coats are not permitted. Coats used must be button or zip type – no straps. Any shooting glove/mitten permitted. Rifles competing in Sub-Spec 5a also compete in Spec 5 outright.

### EQUIPMENT & AMMUNITION:

**Ammunition:** Factory or self loaded sporting ammunition may be used. No tracer, incendiary or armour piercing bullets are permitted. Careful handloading will yield ammunition less expensive and more accurate than otherwise available commercially. Always consult range rules for any possible restrictions.

**Sling:** A rifle sling is helpful in steadying the positions and controlling rifle recoil. A good leather sling easily adjustable between positions is recommended.

**Spotting Scope:** An optical magnifying device is important for scoring and observing the placement of shot spotters on the target. Spotting scopes should have a minimum magnification of at least 15 to 20 power and up, and an objective of at least 50mm in diameter and a 45deg angled eyepiece for ergonomics.

**Shooting Mat:** The mat offers protection from ground conditions, such as water, mud, stones, weeds or anything else unsuitable to lay or sit on.

**Scorebook:** If the shooter is to learn from experience, they should record the conditions, distance, differing circumstances, sight settings, sling adjustments, wind and light conditions and ammunition used involved in firing each shot.

**Shooting Coat:** Coats are varied, and used for different reasons. In most cases, the coat is to protect the shooter from sling burn, elbow rashes, etc. Some rifle specs restrict the type of coat to be used.

**Shooting Glove:** Gloves are varied, and are restricted by rifle spec. In most cases, the glove is to protect the forward hand of sling tension, sharp stocks, and may offer some increase in support.

**CLASSIFICATION:** This grading system is based on the International Match Course (IMC), for iron sight rifle specs only. Classification addresses the ideal situation of having competitors of similar skills compete amongst other shooters of similar level. A classification system also encourages shooters to practice with the aim of increasing their skills to achieve higher classification.

When a new shooter has initially completed 3x registered IMC results, the shooter is classified based on the average of these 3 results. A shooter is then re-classified upwards equal to the 3x highest IMC results over any period.

A shooter may be classified down after 12 IMC results, only by applying to the AIHPA in writing. This request is reviewed for the shooter considering all possible circumstances to ensure it is based on shooter skills, not equipment limits.

NRA IMC Classification / Grading (based on iron sight spec rifles only)		
Classification	Required %	Score
High Master (HM)	97% plus	485+
Master (M)	94% - 96.99%	470 - 485
Expert (EX)	89% - 93.99%	445 - 469
Sharpshooter (SH)	84% - 88.99%	420 - 444
Marksman (MK)	Below 84%	up to 419

**Classification/Grade card:** This classification card is used by the shooter as a register for results on completion of the International Match Course. Each entry should be recorded and signed off. This card may also be a useful “quick” reference card for the shooter while on the range.

**RULES:** are as per the AIHPA rules, NRA High Power rulebook, local range rules, event rules and match directors bulletin. All shooters participating in events are automatically assumed to be familiar with all relevant rules.

**MERCHANDISE:** Targets, grade cards, patches, pins and other equipment for shooters and clubs are available through AIHPA. Refer to website for full listing.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is a very small fee that opens the door to many different programs, benefits and facilities. Every membership is appreciated by the AIHPA, and all shooters with the right spirit for competitive target rifle shooting are encouraged to join. Simply download a membership application form from the website, complete it, and send to AIHPA with payment.

**REWARDS:** There are many rewards shooting XC with AIHPA. Members are entitled to perpetual trophies, string and match records, event titles, classification, qualification, medallions, plaques, pennants and any other AIHPA program.

**GET STARTED:** Any shooter or any club, member of the AIHPA or not, can shoot, run or host an XC style shoot. Contact AIHPA for the official targets, put them up, and try the course. AIHPA will assist where ever possible if requested.

**TRAINING/PRACTICE:** All shooting is practice. “Breathing, sight picture and trigger control” is common between all shooting styles. Cross training in other matches or courses is a benefit to increase or refine major XC skills. However, XC is a diverse shooting sport. Attendance to as many XC meets possible will yield best results, and be a lot of fun for any centrefire rifle shooting enthusiast.