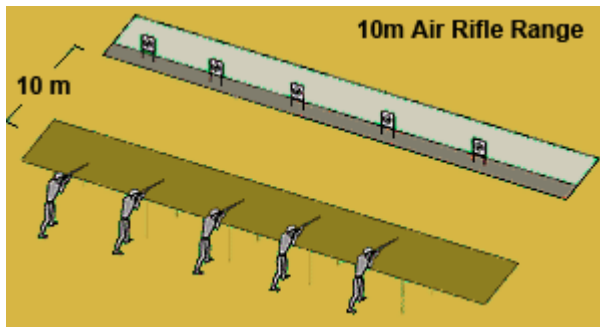


INTRODUCTION



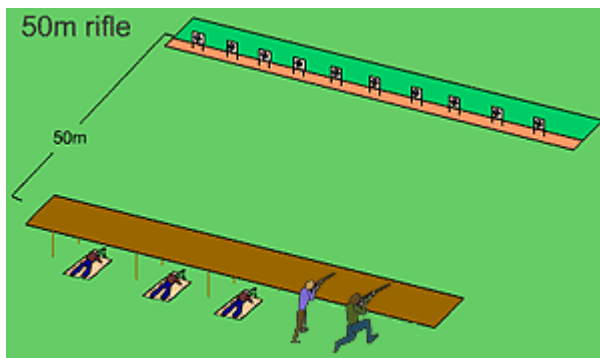
10m Air Rifle Range

Air Rifle

Air rifle is shot over a distance of 10m in a standing position at a target about the size of a 50 cent piece. The "bull" is half a millimetre in size.

The women's match consists of 40 scoring shots while the men's match consists of 60 scoring shots.

This event is shot at an indoor range and can take up to an hour and three quarters to complete.



50m Rifle Range

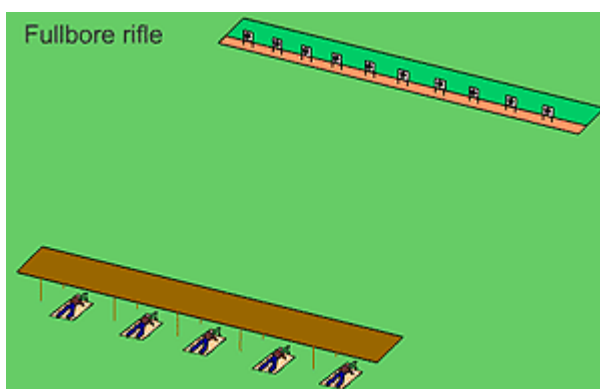
Smallbore Rifle

The smallbore prone event is shot over a 50m distance lying down. Athletes fire at a 10 ring target that is 11cm in diameter.

The event consists of 60 scoring shots and can take up to an hour and a half to complete. 50m events are shot on outdoor ranges.

3 Position Rifle

The 3 position event is also shot over 50m. Each event is shot in 3 segments of 20 or 40 shots from the prone, standing and kneeling positions respectively.



Fullbore Rifle

The basic principle is to shoot a piece of lead covered in copper, weighing about 10g, which leaves the rifle at over 3 000 kilometres per hour, to hit a target almost a kilometre away, which has a bullseye the size of a dustbin lid.

The individual event consists of three "stages":

1. Seven counting shots at each distance - 274m, 457m and 548m). Each shot has a possible highest value of five points.
2. Ten counting shots at each distance - 274m, 457m and 548m).
3. This is a long-range stage over 823m and 914m, firing fifteen shots at each distance.

HISTORY OF RIFLE SHOOTING



The History of Full Bore Target Rifle Competition in Victoria

The Association was formed in 1860 and held its first individual competition at the end of that year. The first intercolonial teams match, Vic vs NSW, was held at Sandridge Range (Port Melbourne) in 1862.

The first "Queen's Trophy" competition was held in 1881 on a range at Emerald Hill in the Albert-Middle Park area.

In 1876 an Australian Rifle Team, consisting of shooters from NSW and Victoria, was the first team ever to officially represent Australia in any sport in international competition. They toured Britain and the USA competing in various shooting competitions including the USA Centenary Celebrations and the inaugural Palma trophy. This tour was so successful that it was decided to send an official cricket team overseas the following year.

By 1876 the early Melbourne ranges at Emerald Hill, Sandridge and elsewhere had been closed and a new range at Williamstown was opened in July 1876. This became the focal point for target rifle competition in Victoria for over a hundred years.



Percussion Carbine Rifle from the American Civil War (1861-1865)

In 1885, the first civilian Rifle Club (Melbourne R.C.) was formed with the blessing of the VRA. Many others soon followed. After Federation in 1901, Rifle Clubs came under army control, but in 1921 they were reconstituted as a purely civilian organisation, where they have remained ever since.

In 1901 a new range at Port Melbourne was opened particularly for the use of civilian Rifle Clubs. It functioned until 1937, when all activity concentrated on the 220-target range at Williamstown.

The Age of 17 August 1914 reports:

"Although the ordinary course of rifle shooting competitions has been suspended for the time being, members of rifle clubs are kept busy in one way or another in connection with matters associated with the war. The latest, and perhaps the most important function they are called upon to perform is the giving of instruction in rifle shooting to the many members of the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force, who are recruits or neophytes, in the use of the service weapon.


The Williamstown ranges will practically be a school of musketry instruction as long as the Expeditionary Force is in camp. As near as possible there should be an instructor to each man, so that no one of the force who requires initiating shall go away without being given a well-defined and well-grounded idea of how to use his rifle to the best advantage whenever it comes to being face to face with the enemy."

After the Great War, a system of national training was embodied in the Defence Act and the Rifle Clubs reverted to their purely sporting role. Nevertheless by 1939 Victoria had 313 Rifle Clubs and 12 232 members.



A military Mauser rifle
from the 1940s

Until 1933 the standard competition rifle was the standard military issue (long Magazine Lee Enfield). As military requirements changed, the target rifle diverged from the Lee Enfield, first with "heavy" barrels and vernier sights, evolving to today's single shot, Mauser (bolt) action, precision barrel, custom stock which eliminates the element of luck.

 More information can be found on www.vra.asn.au

Rifle Shooting at the Commonwealth Games

Shooting was first introduced at the 1966 Commonwealth Games. There were three Pistol and two Rifle events which were dominated by Canada and England.

Australia has fared well in Fullbore rifle over the years, with five Australians holding gold medals for this event. They are:

- Geoffrey Ayling (Tasmania) - Brisbane 1982
- Keith Affleck (Queensland) - Brisbane 1982
- Stan Golinski (New South Wales) - Edinburgh 1986
- Geoffrey Grenfell (Victoria) - Victoria Canada 1994
- Bert Bowden (Queensland) - Victoria Canada 1994

ABOUT RIFLE SHOOTING



Air rifle

Rifle

In the rifle events athletes are given particular timeframes in which to complete their event. Targets used in rifle events have scores allocated for each of the descending rings.

Air Rifle

Air rifle is shot over a distance of 10m in a standing position at a target about the size of a 50 cent piece. The "bull" is half a millimetre in size.

The women's match consists of 40 scoring shots while the men's match consists of 60 scoring shots. This event is shot at an indoor range and can take up to an hour and three quarters to complete.



Smallbore Rifle

Smallbore Rifle

The smallbore prone event is shot over a 50m distance lying down. Athletes fire at a 10 ring target that is 110mm in diameter.

The event consists of 60 scoring shots and can take up to an hour and a half to complete. 50m events are shot on outdoor ranges.



Shooting from a kneeling position



Shooting from a standing position



The rear sights on a rifle



Fullbore ammunition



View of targets from 300 yards



Shooting is from the prone position

3 Position Rifle

The 3 position event, also shot over 50m, and consists of 60 scoring shots in the women's event and 120 scoring shots in the men's event.

Each event is shot in 3 segments of 20 or 40 shots from the prone, standing and kneeling positions respectively.

The women's event can take up to two and half hours to complete. The men's event can take up to about three and half hours to complete.

Fullbore Rifle

Fullbore rifle is so named because it is the larger of rifle calibres. It is one of the oldest international sports, dating back to the 1860s - which is before the "Ashes" began for cricket, and some thirty years before AFL football started.

Fullbore is a long-range event by comparison, with competition in the Commonwealth Games being held over distances of 300, 500, 600, 900 and 1 000 yards, or the equivalent metric distances. A 1 000 yard rifle range is about the length of five AFL football ovals.

All shooting is from the prone position (lying down). The rifles weigh about 6.5 Kg and are about 1.25 metres long. Even though the targets are so far away, the sights are iron aperture sights - they are not telescopic.

A major challenge is the wind. A wind blowing across a rifle range at the speed which you would run when jogging, can deflect a bullet almost two and half metres when it is fired over a distance of 1000 yards.

Shooters have to calculate wind by watching flags, trees, and even the mirage in the air - and allow for the wind before firing the shot. The bullseye at 300 yards is about the size of a saucer, and at 1000 yards is about the size of the wheel on a small family sedan.

The individual event consists of three "stages", with a total highest possible score of 405 points. Sighting shots are allowed to help the shooter adjust his sights towards the centre of the target for his scoring or counting shots.

The first stage consists of seven counting shots at 300, 500 and 600 yards (274m, 457m and 548m). Each shot has a possible highest value of five points, meaning that the highest score for stage one is 105 points (three lots of 35).

SHOOTING

RIFLE



Ready to fire



Preparing to shoot

Stage two is the same as stage one, but ten counting shots. Therefore the highest score for stage two is 150 points (three lots of 50).

Stage three is a long-range stage over 900 and 1000 yards (823m and 914m), firing fifteen shots at each distance for a possible highest score of 150 points (two lots of 75).

There is also a pairs match, where two competitors from the same country shoot together as a pair, and their total score is added together to determine the winning country.

The pairs match is shot over 300 500 and 600 yards (10 shot matches), and 900 and 1000 yards (15 shot matches).

RIFLE SHOOTING EQUIPMENT



Shooter with equipment used in fullbore rifle shooting

Clothing

Competitors frequently wear a cover over their "non-shooting" eye to prevent squinting. Special caps designed to limit the athlete's field of vision are common; ear and eye protection are a necessity.

In rifle events competitors must wear shooting attire made according to regulations and of a specified thickness and toughness of material including:

- shooting jacket
- shooting trousers
- shooting shoes
- shooting gloves

Competitors also usually wear a hat, ear-muffs and enclosed footwear like boots.



Shooter using a spotting scope

Sporting equipment

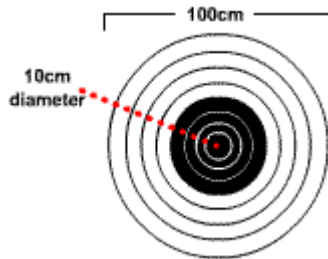
This includes a rifle, ammunition, sights (fore and rear), glove, sling and other optional hardware. There is also cleaning, and reloading equipment which most regular shooters use.



A 308 rifle used in the Fullbore event

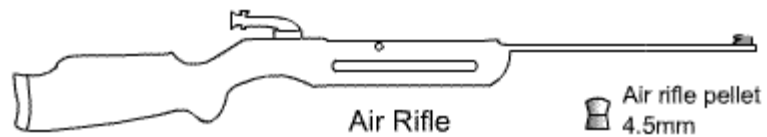
SHOOTING RIFLE

Other equipment includes a shooting mat which has rubber grip padding, and a powerful telescope to see where shots have hit the target.

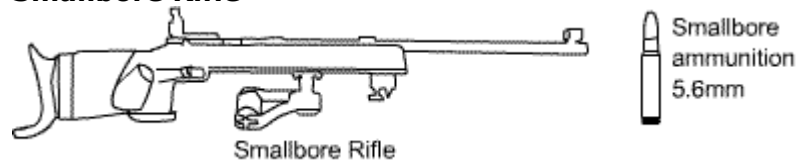


Fullbore Target - the size of the target varies for the different events

Air Rifle



Smallbore Rifle



RIFLE SHOOTING – EVENT INFORMATION

The Pistol and Small Bore Events of the Games will be held at the Melbourne International Shooting Club at Port Melbourne. Located just 15 minutes from the CBD and Games Village, it is an ideal location.

It currently houses an indoor shooting area as well as 25 metre and 50 metre ranges. It is proposed pistol and small bore competition will occur here.

Training will take place at each of the competition venues.

Fullbore shooting will be held at the Wellsford Rifle Range in Bendigo. The Fullbore shooting will be the only medal event outside of metropolitan Melbourne and will be of huge benefit to all Central Victorians.

Wellsford Shooting Range at Bendigo (Full Bore Rifle). This proposed range is currently used as a regular venue for regional and state championships. The Government of Victoria committed funds to a redevelopment program which included a slight realignment of the range and new target mechanisms.



Shooters at the Wellsford Rifle Range in Bendigo

The upgrade has ensured a state-of-the-art facility with all technical equipment meeting the highest standards. As one of Victoria's largest regional centres, Bendigo is looking forward to hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games shooting fraternity who will be accommodated in a Satellite Village.

Events			
Event	Male	Female	Pairs
Small Bore (.22) and Air Rifle (4.5mm)			
10m Air Rifle	✓	✓	✓
50m Rifle 3 Position	✓	✓	✓
50m Rifle Prone	✓	✓	✓
Full Bore Rifle (7.62mm)			
Firing Distance 300 - 1000 yards	Open Competition		

RIFLE SHOOTING - DID YOU KNOW?

- ? The last medals won in Fullbore shooting at a Commonwealth Games event was in 1994 when Bert Bowden & Geoff Grenfell teamed up in Canada to win Gold for Australia.
- ? The bullets used in in Fullbore shooting are produced in Geelong, Victoria. They are manufactured by the famous Winchester company. Each bullet costs about 80 cents, and is a little over seven centimetres long.
- ? When a shot goes off, the projectile leaves the barrel at a speed of about one kilometre per second, spinning at a rate of about 9,000 revolutions per second. The shooter uses a sling to help steady and hold the rifle.
- ? A wind blowing across a rifle range at the speed which you would run when jogging, can deflect a bullet almost two and half metres when it is fired over a distance of 1000 yards.
- ? Unlike most other shooting disciplines in which a bullseye scores 10 points, a bullseye in fullbore only scores 5 points.

JOIN IN RIFLE SHOOTING



Victorian Rifle
Association logo

School children, or people of any age, can become involved by turning up to the local club and asking for a shot. Most clubs shoot every Saturday from 1:30pm, and always welcome interested new people.

Some clubs do have club .223 rifles, which can be used on a regular basis. You do not need a Licence to become a rifle shooter on an approved rifle range, if you are under 18, we do require an adult to accompany you onto and while you're on the range.

Fullbore is very different in terms of gender and age, to other sports. Every participant shoots against people of different age and gender. Women shoot against men, and young against old. Shooters are kept in their grade, but all shooters are looked upon equally.

Programs for disabled athletes

Disabled athletes are welcome to join in the fun of Fullbore shooting. Some clubs do provide a bench for disabled people to shoot off.

To find out more about Competitive Rifle Shooting and where to take part, please contact:

 Victorian Rifle Association www.vra.asn.au
vra@netspace.net.au

 National Rifle Association of Australia Limited www.nraa.com.au/
Email: nraa@bigpond.com