

To all team Captains/Managers.

Greetings from New Zealand to all of you.

I am pleased to be able to report that all our planning, for the upcoming World Championships and Palma Matches is going well, and up to schedule.

I know John McLaren, our international liaison man has been keeping in touch where needed, but there are a few things which I wish to explain and clarify so that everyone is aware of what we are planning and that there are no surprises when you all arrive.

Firstly: We will be holding the Under 21 World Teams Match on Monday 28th January. This is to allow shooters who qualify by age to take part in both the U21 and U25 Matches. If those events were held on the same day this would not be possible. The World U25 Match will be held as originally planned on 3rd February along with the Veterans and an informal U21 match for those not shooting World U25.

We realise that this does not allow much practice time for the U21s, but there will be the two practice days 25th & 26th January and the Wellington Rifle Association Championships on 27th.

Deadlines for the naming of members of Teams for the various matches will be as follows:

Under 21& 25: After shooting on 27th January.

Veterans and Under Age teams and Tony Loughnan Memorial Match and Nth V South Island: After shooting on 26th January.

Palma Match: After shooting on 4th February. (I draw attention to the fact that all members up to 25, must be named, plus a nominated armourer, who may not take any other role within the team. This may take the total team to 26 members. Refer to Rule L3.3)

All matches will be held using current ICFRA rules, with one or two minor exceptions listed below.

Any Matches fired at 500 yards will be shot on ICFRA 600 yard targets, as is our local practice. This is to save us making another 50 targets for only our National 500 yard matches.

The following changes are so we conform to Range Standing Orders for the Seddon Range at Trentham. These are set by NZ Defence and Army and are non-negotiable.

- Bolts must be removed from all rifles when not on the firing point and Empty Chamber Indicators must be inserted, before leaving the mound. These will be issued to all competitors in their entry packs.
- Sight elevation settings must be checked by the register keeper, and verified by the shooter before commencing any match.
- All ammunition being used should not have a muzzle velocity exceeding 1000metres/ second nor have muzzle energy exceeding 4500 joules. There will be non-intrusive testing for these specifications as well as projectile weights during the competition.

Those of you who came last year will know that parking space is quite limited especially at 1000 yards. We have been fortunate, that our neighbour, NZ Corrections, is giving us the use of a field at the Rimutaka Prison immediately adjacent to 900 firing point. This is just outside our danger area, so

there will be a relatively short walk involved for most at 900 and 1000. You will be able to go home and say you spent some time in the local prison!

We do intend to make some parking available immediately behind those firing points for only Team vans or mini buses and cars carrying three or more competitors. Identification stickers will be issued to approved vehicles on request.

There will be a zero range available on the following dates and times:

January 25th, 26th, 27th, and 29th. – 9am to 1pm.

February 3rd – 9am to 1pm.

We have identified our rifle security as a major risk at this event. We are adjacent to a major road in a busy city and we cannot afford to be seen as lax in our security. Therefore we ask that rifles are never left anywhere unattended and that when they are in a vehicle, that that vehicle is either attended or locked and rifles are out of sight.

There are people in our community who would love to show any firearms' user in a bad light, and we must do all we can to not give anyone the chance to take a photo or to show us up in any negative way.

On the final day last year there was a drone flying about during the teams match. I have been informed that some found this to be annoying and intrusive. I advise that this time there will be no drones authorised to fly nearby while any Match is in progress.

Finally, there will be a social event held in the Shooting Village following the completion of the Palma Match. There will be food and live music, also our licenced bar area will be open and drinks available to purchase for anyone 18 years or over.

You are all invited to attend this event and we look forward to enjoying it with you.

I trust this helps with your planning. Our range is looking great and the wind still blows from time to time.

We are looking forward to you all coming here and enjoying with us, all that goes with attending such a great event.

Best regards,

Geoff Smith
Match Director