



## BISLEY TARGET MARKER POLICY

### STATEMENT OF POLICY

The National Rifle Association (NRA) recognises the contribution butt supervisors and markers make to its success.

We recognise that in order to maintain a committed and competent workforce we need to ensure that there is adequate training and development provided for all those employed as butt supervisors and markers or those working within the vicinity of the butts.

Butt supervisors and markers provided by the National Shooting Centre (NSC) are employees of the NRA. They are required to physically lower and raise a mechanical frame between shooting in order to score the shot. Markers can offer an accurate and reliable reading of the fall of shot on the target. The more experienced markers may even be able to guide you on to the target if they see the fall of shot in the sand.

At the NSC, we employ markers from the age of 15 and above. Due to employment law restrictions, during term time 15 to 16 year olds are only permitted to work on a Saturday. During school holidays they are also permitted to work up to 35 hours a week.

### OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- Butt supervisors and markers are properly trained in the skills they need to carry out the roles for which they are employed, to an acceptable standard.
- Butt supervisors and markers are provided with the skills and resources they may need to carry out their roles safely, effectively and efficiently.
- A periodic review is carried out to ensure that all those employed as butt supervisors and markers receive refresher training if required.

Opportunities for training will be based on the requirements of each individual, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

### MARKER RECRUITMENT

Before a marker can be employed by the NRA they must attend a training session. Training sessions are held during the early months of each calendar year. To book in for a training session, please email [markers@nra.org.uk](mailto:markers@nra.org.uk).



For the Marker Training programme provided at the NSC please refer to Annex A.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS SELF-MARKING

Clubs and groups of individuals are entitled to self-mark their targets. It is the responsibility of the individual/club to ensure the self-marker is aware of the correct procedures for marking, has appropriate PPE, and has been given a safety briefing regarding the marking and accessing the ranges. The Bisley Target Marker Training Programme can be found below in Annex A.

The individual/club will be accountable for any damage and/or loss caused by self-markers.

## MARKER CHARGES

Please see the range hire charges posted on the website for current marker charges (<https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/range-hire>)

Markers that are booked and subsequently cancelled by the user will be charged for in full?, unless there is sufficient notice in line with the cancellation policy to cancel the marker or reallocate.

## INABILITY TO SUPPLY MARKERS

Markers supplied by the NSC cannot be guaranteed and are subject to availability. Due to the nature of the job attracting young and casual workers, coupled with inconsistent work, means at certain periods of the year there is limited availability of markers.

**Note: Priority will be given to competitions and Stickle-down range.**

If the NSC is unable to supply a requested marker, you will be informed no later than the Tuesday prior to your booking. Should you wish to cancel/reduce your booking after this date, there will be no cancellation charges applied.

If an NRA marker fails to show on the day of your booking, we will:

- Inform you as soon as we are aware
- Attempt to supply an electronic target (subject to availability)
- Provide a refund for the cost of the marker

**Note: The range hire fee for the target will still apply**

## COMPLAINTS

If you are unhappy about our services, products or the way your booking has been handled then please tell us. We will strive to resolve problems in a fair and equitable manner.



# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**Patron:** HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
**President:** HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES KG KT GCB  
**Chairman:** DAVID LACEY  
**Secretary General:** ANDREW MERCER

Issues arising during the course of shooting must be notified to the Range Office at the earliest opportunity so we can make all reasonable effort to find a resolution. If you are not satisfied you must register your complaint in writing to the Range Office within 7 working days of shooting. Refunds or credits will be considered on an individual basis following our investigation.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

As the butt supervisors will be working in close proximity with individuals under the age of 18, all prospective NRA employed supervisors will be subject to a clear DBS check before their position is confirmed.

Please refer to the NRA Safeguarding Policy on the NRA website for further information.



## ANNEX A

### BISLEY TARGET MARKERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

Range safety regulations require that a Club or Member employing (whether for payment or otherwise) any person to mark targets in the butts on Stickledown, Century or Short Siberia Ranges is responsible for ensuring that that person is trained to carry out the task.

When signing on to the range as the RO, this certifies amongst other things, that the person signing will ensure compliance by persons under their control with NSC Range Safety Regulations.

Markers employed by the NRA are required to attend a training session before employment. This training session will consist of the following:

- 1.1 Welcoming brief
- 1.2 Safety Presentation
- 1.3 Camp Tour
- 1.4 Physical Practice
- 1.5 Assessment

#### 1.1 WELCOMING BRIEF

Upon the markers arrival to camp they are provided with a short brief about what the training day will consist of. This includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- Training times
- Toilet facilities
- Emergency protocols

#### 1.2 SAFETY PRESENTATION

After the welcoming brief, all trainees are provided with a safety presentation conducted by the NRA Range Safety Team before being permitted to go on to the ranges.. This presentation is designed to highlight all safety implications on camp. The presentation can be downloaded from the following link <https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2022-TARGET-MARKERS-SAFETY-AND-ADMINISTRATION-BRIEFING.pptx>

The presentation consists of the following areas:

1. Overview
2. Supervision
3. Safety Signs
4. Live Fire/Danger Areas
5. Access & Egress
6. Bullet Trajectory
7. Splash back, Ricochet & Debris
8. Target Mechanisms



9. Other Hazards
10. Emergencies
11. Marking
12. Radio Communication
13. Vandalism, Drugs & Alcohol
14. PPE

## 1.3 CAMP TOUR

The next phase consists of a brief tour around the site to highlight to the markers the areas where they will be required to work. This includes but is not limited to Stickle-down meeting point at 1000x by target 1, Century and Short Siberia Butts.

Throughout the tour, any safety implications from the presentation will be highlighted.

## 1.4 TARGET MARKING

Once the markers have been escorted to Century butts, the supervisor will provide a practical demonstration on how to mark a target. The brief will include the following areas:

### 1.4.1 How to insert/remove the target from the frame safely

- Care must be given at all times when inserting or removing a target from the frame. You must ensure the frame is fully down and the metal pin on the side of the frame is inserted in the upper hole so that it protrudes between the wheels at the rear of the frame.
- Once the pin is in the correction position, select the appropriate target from those available and line it up on the ground with the frame.
- The target should be lifted from the centre if done individually or evenly from either side if done by two people.
- The top of the target should slide up the frame so that it remains behind the holder at the top of the frame and then dropped down so it fits behind the bottom holders.
- The pin can now be removed from the frame.
- To remove the target, it must be lowered fully and the pin put in the frame. The bottom of the target should be lifted gently from the centre if removing individually or from either side if being done by two people. The target should be lowered to the ground carefully and must not be dropped. It should then be stacked neatly against the wall of the mantlet.
- **Do not remove the pin from the frame once complete.**

### 1.4.2 How to detect a shot has been fired

Behind each target in the sand bank there will be a slight pit for where the shots would normally land for the approximate centre of the target. As seen within the video in the presentation, a splash should appear in this area when you have received a shot on your target. **Note: Depending on the calibre shot, some rounds may not make a significant splash. Black powder rounds will also impact the sand lower than normal.**

### 1.4.3 How to operate the target



Once you are aware a shot has been fired on your target you must now lower the frame. The target frame must be fully under control when being put up or pulled down, and should not be let go and allowed to bounce.

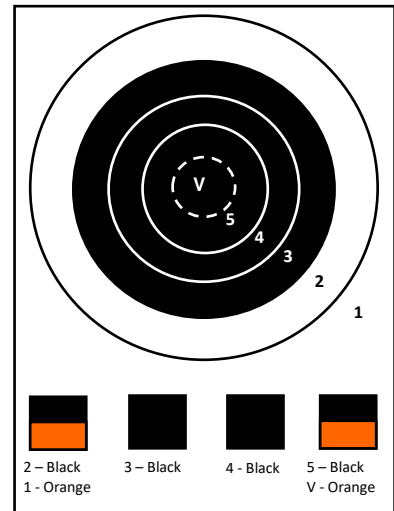
#### 1.4.4 How to find the shot hole on the target

Depending on the bullet calibre, some holes may be bigger than others and thus easier to locate on the target. Make sure you check along the outer edges of the frame as well as the scoring rings.

#### 1.4.5 How to score a shot

Once the shot has been identified, place the orange spotting disc in the hole, and patch out the old shot using the appropriate coloured sticker.

Next, identify the score to the shooter using the marking board paddle, as per the diagram.



#### 1.4.6 How to balance the target

The wooden counterbalance weights at the back of the frame must only be added or removed with the pin in the frame. Any additional weights placed on the target frame for balancing must be in the rear of the frame only. **Note: Target frame oil can be provided on request from Range Control.**

In addition to the above operational procedures, a brief will also be provided to each marker, reference how to handle the following scenarios:

#### 1.4.7 The shot missed the target

Patch out the old shot hole and remove the marking board. Inform the shooter via radio that no shot has been identified on the target.

If a splash was identified in the sand bank that looked off centre you can highlight this to the shooter using a clock face metaphor. For example, a shot high right would be described as off the target at 2 o'clock.

#### 1.4.8 There is more than one shot hole

Put a spotting disc in both shot holes and use the marking board to score the highest shot. Inform the shooter via radio that two holes were identified.

#### 1.4.9 The shot is near to the scoring line



If the shot touches the scoring ring, the shot should be automatically given the higher score.

#### 1.4.10 Scoring is difficult because of all the patches

Talk to your supervisor/shooter and ask to change your target face for a new one.

#### 1.4.11 Shot hole is too high to reach

**Do not attempt to stand on anything in the butts to reach the shot hole.**

Instead, use the marking board to identify the score to the shooter. Inform the shooter via radio that you cannot reach the hole, and identify to them the location of the shot on the target, again using a clock face metaphor.

### 1.5 ASSESSMENT

Once significant practical training time has been provided, all markers are to undertake a brief assessment before they can officially pass their training. The assessment will consist of the following areas:

- Minimum of 10 shots marked and timed (approx. timing 15 seconds)
- Matching the radio messages to the correct number
- 3 representative diagrams of a target to allocate the marking board

### 2. Additional Information

In order to assist with marking, on completion of training, each marker is provided with a laminated cue card to assist them when working.

- Ensure correct size target – 300 small, 500 big with white square, 600 same as 500 but no square
- Ensure pin is between wheels
- Slide target up into frame, catching under top board
- Remove the pin to raise the target in the air
- Ensure you have a marking board and appropriate size spotting disc ready (small 300 yards or less, large for 500+)
- Ensure your radio is turned on and on channel 1
- Do not place white stickers on the black, or black stickers on the white
- Ensure the pin is in the frame before you remove the target
- Do not drop the target out of the frame, gently lower
- All rubbish is to go in the bins!!
- **If you are struggling or not sure ask for help from either another marker or a supervisor**

#### Radio Messages

- 0 Raise sighting targets (usually 5's and 0's)
- 1 **Raise target, firing about to commence**
- 2 No spotting disc visible
- 3 Spotting disc disagrees with score board
- 4 **A shot has been fired but no signal made. Examine target**
- 5 Firer has challenged for a higher score. Examine target
- 6 Suspected second shot on target
- 7 A miss has been signalled but firer has challenged for a shot. Examine target
- 8 The spotting disc appears to not have moved. Confirm spotting disc is in the latest shot hole
- 9 Marking appears to be very slow
- 10 **Stand easy (take a break) – half mast target**
- 11 Blow off shots about to be fired. Ensure targets are lowered
- 12 Stand easy (take a break) – lower target, patch out, place back up.