

Document Title:

# **UKAHFT Rules and Course Setting Guidelines**

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**UKAHFT**

# Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. SAFETY OVERVIEW</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 CEASE FIRES	5
3.2 UKAHFT MARSHALS	5
3.3 MUZZLE DISCIPLINE AND RIFLE HANDLING	5
3.4 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS	6
3.4.1 Junior Competitors	6
3.4.2 Other Personnel	6
3.5 CONDUCT	6
3.5.1 Safety Violations	6
<b>4. COURSE FORMAT OVERVIEW</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 RIFLE	7
5.2 SCOPES	9
5.3 EQUIPMENT: FURTHER NOTES	9
<b>6. SCORING</b>	<b>10</b>
6.1 SCORECARDS	10
6.2 SCORING	10
6.3 TARGET FAILURE AND VERIFICATION OF FUNCTION	11
<b>8. TIMING</b>	<b>12</b>
8.1 TIMING BETWEEN LANES	12
<b>9. CLASSES</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>Open</i>	13
<i>Ladies</i>	13
<i>Veteran</i>	13
<i>Junior</i>	13
<i>Recoil</i>	13
<i>.22</i>	13
<b>10. SHOOTING PEGS AND SUPPORTS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>11. TARGETS: SELECTION, POSITIONING AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<b>14</b>
11.1 INCLINE (ELEVATED) AND DECLINE TARGETS	14
11.1.2 INCLINE (ELEVATED) SHOTS (SPECIFIC POINTS)	14
11.1.3 DECLINE SHOTS (SPECIFIC POINTS)	16
<b>12. SHOOTING POSITIONS</b>	<b>17</b>
12.1 PRONE	17
12.2 PRONE ONLY	17
12.3 UNSUPPORTED STANDING	18
12.4 UNSUPPORTED KNEELING	18
12.5 SUPPORTED POSITIONAL SHOTS	21
12.5.1 Supported Standing Shots	21
12.5.2 Supported Kneeling Shots	21

<b>13.</b>	<b>TARGET DISTANCE IN RELATION TO HIT ZONE SIZE .....</b>	<b>24</b>
13.1	TARGET DISTANCES IN RELATION TO HIT ZONE SIZE (PRONE).....	25
13.2	TARGET DISTANCES IN RELATION TO HIT ZONE SIZE (UNSUPPORTED POSITIONAL SHOTS) .....	27
13.3	TARGET DISTANCES IN RELATION TO HIT ZONE SIZE (SUPPORTED POSITIONAL SHOTS).....	28
<b>14.</b>	<b>COURSE VETTING .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>EVENT PLACINGS.....</b>	<b>30</b>
15.1	SHOOT OFFS .....	31
<b>16.</b>	<b>NATIONAL LEAGUES.....</b>	<b>32</b>
	<b>REVISION HISTORY .....</b>	<b>33</b>



# 1. Introduction

Hunter Field Target (HFT) is an outdoor airgun target shooting discipline designed to encourage, promote and educate the safe use of airguns within a formatted, controlled environment. UKAHFT (United Kingdom Association of Hunter Field Target) is the overall body responsible for the platform in which this document relates to.

UKAHFT was formed in 2002 to create events and a national standardised platform for HFT shooters to compete in. The events are shot to UKAHFT rules and are attended by Competitors of all levels and abilities including some of the world's finest HFT shooters.

UKAHFT's mission is to promote the safe, responsible, and educational use of airguns by organising the UK's premier HFT shooting events. This is undertaken with assistance from both the airgun community and the shooting industry, including support from the world's leading manufacturers.

## 2. Objective

The overall objective of this document is to provide clear, unambiguous communication of UKAHFT rules and format. The intent is to allow those organising and competing in events set to UKAHFT rules a document in that they can easily reference for direction on the current UKAHFT rules.

The layout of this document has been designed to allow ease of navigation by the end user. There are several headed sections that have also been sub divided into further sub sections with a respective heading. Where possible all relevant information to a section or sub section has been placed together.

## 3. Safety Overview

**All UKAHFT affiliated shooting activities must be carried out in accordance with UKAHFT rules. This is without exception**

*Any air rifle can be used so long as it complies with current UK Airgun legislation and UKAHFT equipment rules. A requirement of which is that the muzzle energy must not exceed 12 ft lbs (16 Joules). Rifles can and will be subject to random and/or compulsory chronograph testing at each event to ensure that UKAHFT operates within current UK Airgun legislation.*

*All Competitors must be at least 9 years old and must not be banned from any form of shooting under Section 21 of the Firearms Act.*

It is compulsory for all Competitors to attend the pre shoot Safety Briefing held at each event. This will be held immediately prior to the session in which they are shooting. Any Competitor not attending the Safety Briefing will not be permitted to shoot in that event. It is imperative that all Competitors both new and experienced understand the content of the Safety Briefing, it is actively encouraged by UKAHFT that any Competitor not understanding the content seek guidance from a UKAHFT Representative. These Representatives will be identified at the Safety Briefing.



### 3.1 Cease Fires

A cease fire is when ALL Competitors must safely STOP shooting.

When a single blast of a whistle or hooter is heard all shooting must immediately stop. Competitors with loaded or cocked rifles must then discharge their rifles into the ground, in the general direction of the target and at a safe distance. Targets must not be sighted, nor shall the gun be shouldered at any point during a cease fire. Any targets shot by any Competitor during a cease fire will count as a safety violation and the Competitor will be issued a formal warning by a UKAHFT Marshall. In addition, 0 points will be awarded to the Competitor for that shot.

Upon hearing two blasts of the whistle or hooter the competition may re-commence. Competitors must visually identify that it is safe to commence shooting after the competition is restarted. This is the final control measure to ensure that it is safe to commence shooting again.

UKAHFT Marshals are the only personnel allowed to halt or commence firing.

### 3.2 UKAHFT Marshals

UKAHFT Marshals are responsible for competition management. Including but not limited to; confirming safety elements are adhered to, ensuring adherence to UKAHFT rules, alteration of score cards, chronograph testing, concluding disputes and providing answers to any Competitor queries. UKAHFT Marshals can be identified as those wearing UKAHFT high visibility clothing.

Marshals are to always be treated respectfully and politely. They are volunteers that ensure that everyone can compete safely and fairly. If approached by a Marshal for any reason, please ensure you do as they ask. In the case of a dispute requiring a definitive resolution the UKAHFT Chief Marshal will be called upon and their decision is final. In some cases, the UKAHFT Chief Marshal may consult with UKAHFT Organisers to aid in a decision being successfully reached. Therefore, in some instances a final decision may not be immediately reached.

### 3.3 Muzzle discipline and rifle handling

Safe muzzle discipline and rifle handling is the primary mechanism which ensures the safety of all those involved in UKAHFT events. The following must be adhered to when taking part in a UKAHFT event;

- Rifles will always be kept unloaded and un-cocked when not in use. Rifles shall only be loaded when it is a Competitors turn to shoot. Do not cock your rifle until you are ready to engage a target over a designated firing line. Rifles shall not be cocked and loaded between lanes
- Rifles must only be sighted, shouldered and discharged over designated firing lines
- When approaching shooting lanes and adopting shooting positions the rifles muzzle must be kept muzzle down and where practicable pointing over a designated firing line

**This must always be adhered to. If in order to carry out the above assistance is required, then Competitors can ask their shooting partner(s) for help in transitioning to and from shooting positions**

- Rifles when not in use, must always be carried muzzle pointing down. This includes rifles carried on a sling



- When a rifle case or bean bag is used to stow a rifle, Competitors are to ensure that their rifles muzzle is pointing over a designated firing line where possible
- Never rest the muzzle of your rifle on your foot
- Competitors using multi-shot rifles that have a removable magazine system must have their magazine removed and their rifle in a visibly safe condition between lanes
- Competitors using rifles with an integral magazine system must only load a single pellet at a time

### 3.4 Additional Considerations

#### 3.4.1 Junior Competitors

All Junior Competitors must always be under direct supervision of their parent or guardian during the event. Other minors that are not participating are not permitted to enter any of the shooting areas. The conduct of Junior Competitors is the responsibility of their respective parent or guardian. If the conduct of a Junior Competitor is deemed unsafe by UKAHFT Marshal Team on more than one occasion both the Junior Competitor and their respective parent/guardian will be asked to leave the course. Junior Competitors must always shoot after to their designated parent or guardian.

#### 3.4.2 Other Personnel

No persons other than the Competitors that are taking part in that session will be permitted to be on to the course, unless they have permission from the Chief Marshal. This is except for Marshals, Organisers, Press Photographers and VIP guests - who all must obtain and wear UKAHFT high visibility clothing prior to entering the shooting area. These can only be acquired from and issued by UKAHFT Officials.

### 3.5 Conduct

It is expected that all those involved in UKAHFT events are to conduct themselves in a safe and respectful manner. Any Competitor who is behaving disrespectfully to other Competitors, UKAHFT Organisers, Marshals etc. will be asked to leave the event.

#### 3.5.1 Safety Violations

A safety violation is defined as;

***An act that, as a direct consequence there is the potential to cause harm to persons.***

It is the responsibility of all Competitors to ensure that they conduct themselves in line with UKAHFT rules and display the required levels of safe rifle handling. Any Competitor warned by UKAHFT Marshals for TWO safety violations will be asked to leave the course and will be disqualified from the event. UKAHFT has an obligation to ensure as far as reasonably practicable that all shooting activities are carried out safely.

Examples of Safety Violations include but are not limited to;

- Not discharging their rifle promptly in the event of a cease fire
- Loading their rifle when it is not their turn to shoot
- Discharging their rifle during a cease fire
- Not carrying their rifle with the muzzle pointing down when it is not cased



## 4. Course Format Overview

A UKAHFT specification course will consist of 30 Knockover style targets that either fall flat or rotate out of view when correctly hit. Hit Zone sizes for targets will range from 15mm-45mm. Further detail on target distances, Hit Zone sizes and other rules can be found in **Section 10 & 12**. Targets will be shot from either the Prone, Kneeling or Standing positions and will be shot from an individually designated peg or support.

## 5. Equipment

### 5.1 Rifle

Most rifle and stock designs can be successfully used within UKAHFT competitions providing that they generate a muzzle energy not exceeding 12ft/lbs (16J) and comply with the following rules;

- Fore-end depth is limited to a maximum of 150mm, this measurement is from the centre of the barrel to the lowest part of the rifle forward of the pistol grip
- Butt pads must be simplistic in their design. FT style butt hooks are not allowed, although paddle style butt pads can be used. The individual component part making up each paddle must not measure more than 56mm (2.25") and shall not form a hook over or under the Competitors shoulder (as shown in Figure 3). No other part of the butt pad must be in contact with the Competitors shoulder or bicep area. See **Figures 1 thru 3** below
- No device may be added or designed into a stock/rifle to specifically support the stock/rifle on the peg or support. This includes parts of the windicator, brackets, ledges, spikes, straps etc.
- The use of a single windicator is allowed in UKAHFT events. UKAHFT's definition of a windicator is;

***A combination of wool/string/feather of no longer than 300mm (12") which is attached to the rifles barrel/action/stock or scope and is designed to move in the wind to give an indication of wind direction and strength.***

A windicator may be attached to a 'swing arm' that can be folded in and out of position by the Competitor.

Electronic or mechanical wind indication devices are not allowed

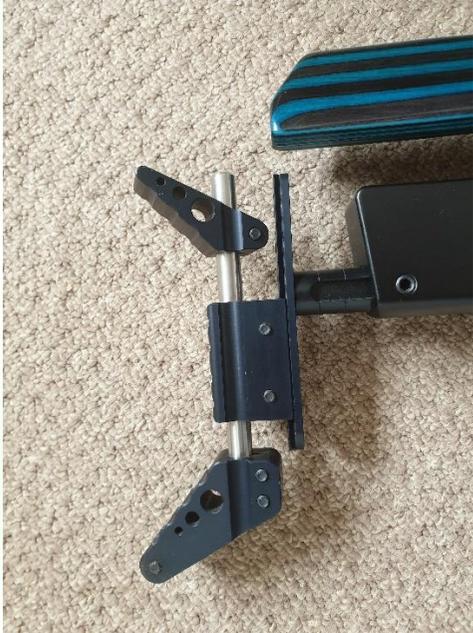
- A standard rifle sling may be fitted to the rifle. A rifle sling can only be used to carry the rifle, it cannot be used as a supporting aid. A rifle sling is not to be considered a part of the rifle with regards to maintaining contact with a shooting peg or support. A rifle sling can only be used to carry the rifle
- Rifles cannot be adjusted after the first shot is taken unless an ancillary repair is required eg. Butt pad works loose during the event and requires securing. In the event of this occurring those within the Competitors shooting group must be made aware. Additionally, a Marshall must be notified of this repair. The repair must be witnessed by either those in the Competitors shooting group or a Marshal

**Figures 1 and 2** shows acceptable style butt pads of a simplistic design. **Figure 3** shows an “FT Style” butt hook which cannot be used at UKAHFT events. Note **Figure 3** has additional ancillary components as part of the design that provide additional support by hooking under and around the shoulder. Whereas the butt pads in **Figures 1 and 2** are simplistic in their design and do not provide support by hooking under and around the shoulder

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



## 5.2 Scopes

Any single conventional style rifle scope and settings may be used at UKAHFT events. However, scopes and their use must comply with the following;

- Scope settings including magnification, parallax adjustment, ocular settings, turret settings and illumination settings (if applicable) must remain unchanged throughout the event
- No adjustments may be made from the original settings chosen once the first shot has been fired. These settings (where applicable) must be marked on a Competitors scorecard, see **Section 6.1**
- If a scope is unintentionally changed from the original settings as identified on the Score Card the Competitor must return the scope to these settings. Once it has been identified by the Competitor that the settings have changed, they must inform those within their shooting group. With agreement from those within their shooting group. The Competitor must revert the scope settings back to those marked on their score card. This is to be verified by those within the shooting group
- If an illuminated reticule is fitted to the scope that contains an internal auto shut off timer, that after a set period automatically turns off the illuminated reticule then the Competitor must notify all within their shooting group that this device is fitted prior to them starting shooting. Once the auto shut off has occurred the Competitor must notify those within their shooting group that this has happened. The Competitor may then reactivate the illumination setting. The Competitor must turn the illumination back to its original settings
- The objective and ocular aperture of the scope must be as it was manufactured, and no modifications can have been made. Including the addition of external lenses. Either aperture cannot be reduced in any way. This includes using scope accessories such as sunshades and flip up scope covers to reduce aperture dimensions:
- Flip up scope covers must always be in the “open” position when the Competitor is shooting targets on the course, any holes within the main body of the scope cover must be taped up
- Scopes containing automatic range finding functions cannot be used at UKAHFT unless this function has been verified as disabled prior the start of the shoot
- Any Competitor verified as carrying out alterations to their scopes that are not in line with the above will be asked to leave the event and will be disqualified
- The use of Spirit levels is prohibited

## 5.3 Equipment: Further Notes

- The use of any range finding device is not permitted by Competitors during the event
- No other optical aid such as Binoculars can be used by Competitors during the event
- Any lasers fitted to a rifle must be disabled and verified as such prior to starting the shoot
- The use of bean bags, shooting wedges and shooting mats is permitted. However, they can only be used as per **Section 11.4**
- The use of Olympic style shooting jackets is not allowed in any circumstances
- The use of dedicated shooting gloves is allowed

If you are in any doubt as to whether your equipment is allowed in a UKAHFT competition, please contact a UKAHFT official who will be happy to provide the correct guidance.



## 6. Scoring

### 6.1 Scorecards

Score cards are obtained from the Booking In location at each event. Competitors must complete the following sections on their Score Cards prior to starting their allocated session. This information includes;

1. Full name that is legible
2. Manufacturer and model of rifle
3. Manufacturer, model and specification of scope used eg. Optisan EVX 4-12 x 44
4. Magnification and parallax setting used by the Competitor eg. x10 22 Yards
5. Manufacturer and range of pellet eg. JSB Exact
6. Intensity level of illuminated reticle if used
7. Verify Class eg. Open, Junior etc.

### 6.2 Scoring

Scoring is as follows;

- 2 points is awarded for a “hit”. A hit is when a target is correctly struck within its Hit Zone and the target fully falls or rotates out of sight
- 1 point is awarded for a “plate”. A plate is when the target is struck on the faceplate and does not fall
- 0 points are awarded for completely missing a target

0 points will be awarded if the rifle is accidentally discharged. A rifle being discharged is defined as;

***Air being actively released with or without a pellet loaded***

This is regardless of circumstances. Including; forgetting to load a pellet, not fully closing the bolt of the rifle or accidentally engaging the trigger prematurely. If the rifle is discharged, then the shot is considered to have been taken by the Competitor and they shall be scored accordingly. If the rifle is discharged with the bolt not fully engaged the Competitor is to ensure that the pellet has left the barrel, this is to be confirmed by the Competitor re-cocking the rifle and then the Competitor firing into the ground over a designated firing line and at a safe distance.

Under no circumstances must a target be shot by a Competitor more than once. No form of sighting can be taken during the session.

When a target has been “Hit” by a Competitor this must be verified by one of the Competitors shooting partners. Only a member of the Competitors shooting group may mark their scorecard. Where a parent/guardian & junior are shooting together, the third member of the shooting group must mark their scorecards. If an error is made on a score card one of the shooting group must approach a Marshal to get the amendment both verified and countersigned. This will be recorded on the rear of the scorecard.



Upon completion of shooting the course a Competitors shooting partner must sign their scorecard. This is to verify that they agree with both final cumulative score and that the Competitor has complied with all UKAHFT rules throughout. It is advised that the Competitor ensures that their score is correct, and no unverified irregularities are present on the scorecard before it is handed in.

Scorecards that are incomplete, have unverified irregularities or no shooting partner signature present will either have the score adjusted accordingly or the Competitors scorecard will be removed from the competition.

UKAHFT Organisers reserve the right to amend and adjust any shooters scorecard at any time during the series if infringements of the rules or evidence of cheating is subsequently discovered during or after the scheduled events.

### 6.3 Target failure and verification of function

Target failure will occasionally occur and may be identified by Competitors either prior to them taking their shot where it is easily apparent that a failure or partial failure of a target has occurred eg. Target has partially reset, or a target will not reset. Or target failure/malfunction may become apparent to a Competitor after they have taken their shot.

In the first case a Competitor may request a Marshal frees the target from its obstruction target before they take their shot.

If a Competitor feels that a target is faulty after they have taken their shot, such as they feel they have correctly struck the target in its Hit Zone, but it has failed to fall. Competitors have the right to "call" that target to be checked by a Marshal. The following procedure will be followed;

1. DO NOT PULL THE STRING
2. Competitor "calls" a target to be checked by a Marshal. The Marshal discusses with the Competitor the target that is being "called". Discussions could include where within the Hit Zone the Competitor feels they have struck
3. Marshal calls for a cease fire as per **Section 3.1**. The Marshal proceeds to check the target ensuring that the target is not disturbed in any way prior to the target being checked. The string must not be touched by neither the Marshal or any Competitors prior to the target being checked for functionality
4. The target is first visually inspected by the Marshal for any potential obstructions before they carry out a function check of the target with a UKAHFT Target Checker which forms part of the UKAHFT Marshals kit
5. The target must be correctly struck within the Hit Zone with the Target Checker. Correct function is verified if the target falls, however if the target is correctly struck within the Hit Zone and it fails to fall the target is deemed to be faulty and further investigation is required (see bullet points below)
6. If the target falls when correctly struck with the Target Checker the Competitor who called the target is not awarded 2 points. If the target is verified as being faulty the Competitor is awarded 2 points
7. Target is put back into service and under the Marshals instruction shooting recommences

Other points to be followed are;

- Only UKAHFT Marshals overseeing the respective shooting session may check the target
- The Marshals decision is final

- If whilst checking a target the Marshal incorrectly operates the Target Checker resulting in an incorrect strike of the target, they must inform Competitors immediately that this has occurred, and they are to then correctly check the target as per point 4
- Targets may not be re-shot
- If a target requires repair, the target is to be returned to service to its original position
- If a target is to be replaced a suitable replacement is to be used ensuring that the replacement target has the same size Hit Zone size as the target it is replacing. The replacement target does not need to be an exact replica of the faulty target however it must; as far as practicable be of a similar shape and profile

## 8. Timing

Competitors are allocated 2 minutes to shoot each target. The time for this starts when the Competitor approaches the peg. Under normal circumstances a Competitor is not timed. However, if it is identified that a shooting group is potentially causing delays of the competition Competitors may be timed by a Marshal. Competitors do not have to be told that they are being timed, this is done to ascertain if there is a timing infringement occurring.

If a Marshal decides to formally time a Competitor, the Competitor will be informed that they are going to be timed. The Competitor has 2 minutes to shoot the target. They will be told when the timing has been started and when it has expired. If a Competitor shoots a target outside of the 2 minute time limit they are awarded 0 points. If a cease fire is called during the timing of a Competitor, the clock will be stopped and then re started again once the cease fire has finished. An additional 10 seconds will be added to the total allowable time in this instance.

### 8.1 Timing between lanes

A large contributory factor to delays within the competition is the amount of time shooting groups take to transition between sequential pegs. This includes the amount of time Competitors take to vacate a peg once they have shot the target. We politely request that once Competitors have shot a target that they move swiftly from the peg to allow either the next Competitor within their shooting group or the next shooting group to move on to the peg. Good time management and consideration for other Competitors allow events to flow both smoothly, naturally and create a more enjoyable experience for all those involved.

## 9. Classes

There are several classes in which Competitors can compete in UKAHFT events. Competitors can compete within these classes throughout the UKAHFT series in a National League to gain an overall placing. This is explained in further detail in **Section 15**. The classes are listed and described below;

### Open

Any rifle can be used to compete in this class. Typically, rifles are .177 calibre PCP (pre-charge pneumatics)

### Ladies

Class specifically for any Lady Competitor using any rifle type.

### Veteran

Competitor must be 60 years or older on the date of the first round of the UKAHFT series to compete in this class

### Junior

Competitors must be aged 9- 16 years on the date of the first round of the UKAHFT series to compete in this class

### Recoil

Any recoiling rifle can be used, semi recoiling rifles are not permitted in this class. Typically, rifles are .177 spring rifles. If you are unsure of which type of rifle you have, please seek clarification from a UKAHFT Official

### .22

Any rifle in .22 or .25 calibre can be used. Typically, rifles used are .22 calibre PCP

## 10. Shooting Pegs and Supports

Shooting pegs must;

- Be of solid construction and the material used must be selected considering the demands which will be placed upon it throughout the competition eg. Material will not fail, material is overly slippery when wet
- Be installed in a way in which they can continue to be fit for purpose throughout the competition
- Not have elements that can cause to damage to Competitors or equipment eg. Splinters, protruding nails/screws
- Have a diameter of between 30mm-60mm
- Be installed so that at least 300mm protrudes from the ground level at the base of the peg for unelevated shots and for shots that are elevated the peg shall extend at least 450mm from the ground level at the base of the peg

Elevated (Incline) shots are considered to be shots where; Competitors have to raise their rifle at an **angle greater than 15°** from the parallel plain from a conventional prone position. This is discussed in further detail **Section 11.1.2**



## 11. Targets: selection, positioning and general considerations

Targets used at UKAHFT affiliated events must be Knock over style targets that either fall or rotate out of view when the Hit Zone is correctly struck. They must be resettable by the use of a suitably robust reset string or cord. Targets must be mechanically reliable and well maintained. Targets when placed, must be securely fastened and shall squarely face the respective peg and must not be angled away from the peg reducing the aperture of the targets Hit Zone. Targets that do not form part of the course are not to be visible through a Competitors scope when they are addressing their respective target.

A number of different sized Hit Zones can be used, ranging from 15mm up to 45mm in diameter. The maximum number of permissible Hit Zones and how they can be utilised within a UKAHFT specification course is explained in more detail later in this document. Hit Zone sizes are not required to be circular. They can be any other shape providing that a circular rod with an overall diameter of the respective Hit Zone diameter can be placed within the Hit Zone.

Targets must not have 'false' Hit Zones that give the illusion of an alternative Hit Zone.

Targets when used for shots where the primary position that they will be shot in is Prone, will have a minimum of 10mm of faceplate around the entire circumference of the Hit Zone. Targets used for Positional shots such as Unsupported Standing or Supported Kneeling shots targets will have a minimum of 20 mm of faceplate around the entire circumference of the Hit Zone.

Targets shall be painted with yellow faceplates and black Hit Zones only - no other colour combinations are to be used. Targets must be repainted between shooting sessions. Targets must be able to be checked by Marshals by the use of practical access equipment. Targets must be placed and fixed in positions where they are not susceptible to movement by external influences eg. Excessive wind. Course setters must take this into consideration when setting targets.

### 11.1 Incline (Elevated) and Decline Targets

A way in which a wider variety of testing shots can be achieved is for course setters to place targets in positions that changes the shooting angle away from the horizontal plain. This means that shots can be taken in incline and decline positions.

Shots which are placed in incline (elevated) or decline positions must be placed, to allow as far as reasonably practicable the Competitor to take the shot comfortably.

#### 11.1.2 Incline (Elevated) shots (specific points)

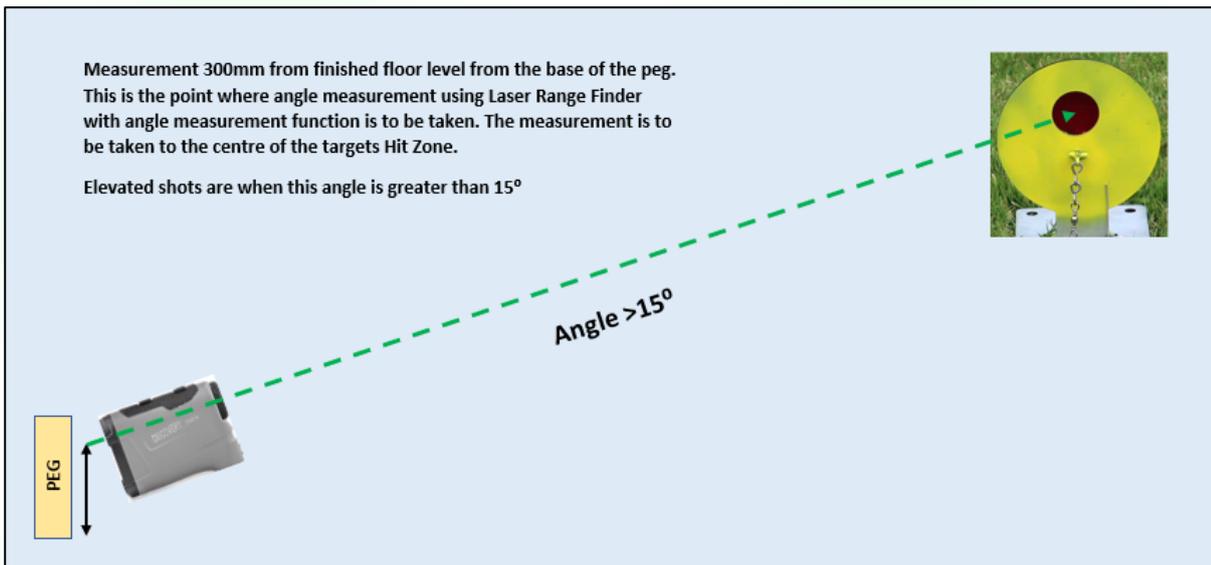
Elevated shots are shots where targets are placed at angles **greater than 15°** from the horizontal plane **or** where the target is placed **higher than 12ft (3.66m)**. The latter method is to be utilised for targets placed at 25 yards and closer only, for targets placed further than 25 yards the angle measurement method is to be used. Targets discussed in this section **are for prone positions only**, target placement for positional shots is discussed elsewhere.



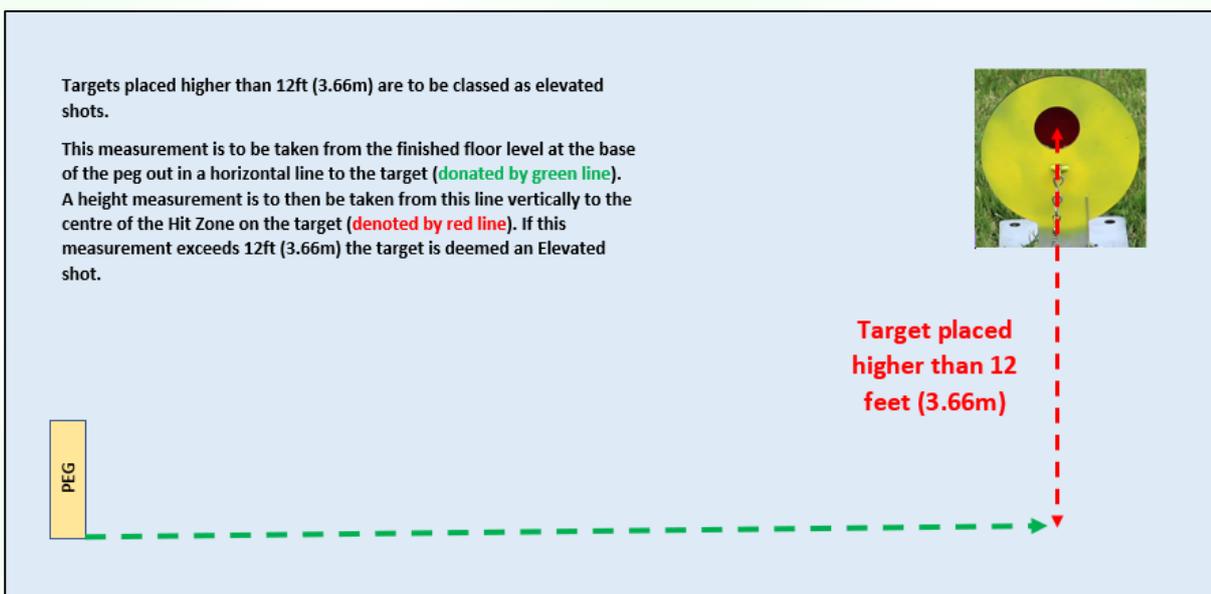
In the case of angle measurement, this measurement will be taken from 300mm from the finished floor level directly vertical above the peg to the centre of the targets Hit Zone (see **Figure 4**). This will be done using a rangefinder which has an angle measurement function. If the angle measured **greater than 15°** this will be classed as an elevated shot.

For the measurement method, a height measurement is to be taken from the finished floor level at the base of the peg out in a horizontal line to the target (**denoted by green line in Figure 5**). A height measurement is to then be taken from this line vertically to the centre of the Hit Zone on the target (**denoted by red line in Figure 5**). If this measurement exceeds 12ft (3.66m) the target is deemed an Elevated shot. Note that this method is to be utilised for targets placed no further than 25 yards only.

**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**



Any target placed below this height or angle measurement will **not** be considered an Elevated shot and therefore the points within **Section 11.1.2** are not relevant.

For Elevated shots course setters can utilise any Hit Zone as specified in **Section 13**. In order to utilise the full range of Hit Zone sizes available, these targets **must not be placed closer than 20 yards (18.29m)**. However, if a course setter still wishes to place a **target closer than 20 yards (18.29m)** and utilise an elevated target position they can providing that, a minimum Hit Zone size of 35mm is used.

It is advised that where possible targets can be shot from the prone position using a closed fist in contact with the ground as a support with the rifle butt grounded. However, shots requiring the Competitor to move their supporting hand up the peg into a more conventional prone position are permitted providing that consideration is given to;

- Competitors using rifles with fore-ends that are shallower than the maximum permissible measurement as mentioned in **Section 5.1**
- Junior Competitors and Competitors with a smaller physical stature
- That the position of the target placement does not place undue physical stress on Competitors when they are in the required position for short periods of time
- That the maximum permissible angle is not exceeded (as described in more detail below)

### 11.1.3 Decline shots (specific points)

A Decline shot is where a target is placed below the horizontal plain from the shooting position and the Competitor is essentially shooting 'downhill' from their shooting position.

Targets are to be placed where the Competitor, when in the prone position can shoot the target in a position where they are not forced to move their rifle butt excessively out of their shoulder to shoot a target. Competitors are encouraged to try variations of their usual prone position to allow them to shoot these types of targets.

For Decline shots course setters can utilise any Hit Zone and target distance as specified in **Section 13**

When placing decline targets the course setter must take into consideration the following;

- The shooting position does not compromise safety i.e placing a Competitor unnecessarily close to the edge of a steep drop away of terrain
- Competitors using rifles with fore-ends that are towards the maximum permissible measurement as mentioned in **Section 5.1**
- Junior Competitors and Competitors with a smaller physical stature
- That the position of the target placement does not place undue physical stress on Competitors when they are in the required position for short periods of time

## 12. Shooting Positions

There are 5 shooting positions that can be used within UKAHFT events. These are;

1. Prone
2. Unsupported Standing
3. Unsupported Kneeling
4. Supported Standing
5. Supported Kneeling

These positions are described in more detail below.

Any other shooting positions other than those listed above are not allowed to be adopted when competing in UKAHFT events. Sitting and crouching shots cannot be adopted. In addition, the following stipulations must be observed irrespective of shooting position adopted;

- The shooting peg or support must be touched by part of the Competitors body or part of the Competitors rifle
- Alteration to any part of the course fixture is not allowed. These include the peg, shooting support(s), firing line and terrain. Any Competitor found deliberately making alterations to any part of the course fixture will be disqualified from the event
- The trigger finger must always be behind the firing line when a shot is taken
- The rifle butt must be outside of a Competitors clothing and must not be supported any other external mechanisms such as straps or pockets

### 12.1 Prone

The only part of the rifle that can be in contact with the ground is the bottom edge of the butt pad. No other parts of the rifle may come in to contact with the ground when taking a shot. If any part of the rifle extends past the profile of the bottom edge of the rifle butt, then the rifle must not be grounded at all when taking a shot. Objects within the immediate vicinity of the shooting peg or support may not be used to further support the rifle eg. Use of a shooting string reel placed under the rear of the rifle to add support to the rifle. Shooting mats can be used but when used they must be laid flat and not folded to allow the competitor to gain additional height when taking a shot.

All shots that **can** be taken in the prone position must be comparably visible from either side of the peg. This is to ensure that as far as reasonably practicable that all shots are comparably similar for both left and right-handed shooters.

### 12.2 Prone Only

Prone Only shots are to align with all points discussed in **Section 12.1** above. Prone Only shots cannot be taken from any other shooting position so there is no requirement for them to be visible from any position other than Prone. Prone Only shots will be clearly designated by signage easily visible from the shooting peg.

## 12.3 Unsupported Standing

Unsupported standing shots are identified by both shooting position designation signage and by the use of a 100mm (4") shooting peg placed into the ground. When taking unsupported standing shots both feet must be in contact with the ground. No additional supports may be used to assist in shooting the target.

Incline and decline target positions can be used for Unsupported Standing shots. This is providing that the angle to the target, does not exceed 30°. To measure this angle, a measurement will be taken from 800mm from the finished floor level directly vertical above the peg to the centre of the targets Hit Zone (see **Figures 6 & 7**). This will be done using a rangefinder which has an angle measurement function.

Refer to **Section 13.2** for additional rules for Unsupported Standing shots.

## 12.4 Unsupported Kneeling

An unsupported kneeling shot position relies on the shooters musculoskeletal system to provide the only means of natural support to the rifle. The shooting position shall provide support to the rifle by means of the Competitor having 4 points of contact with the rifle; the shoulder, trigger hand, cheek and leading supporting hand.

**Figures 8 thru 11** show the acceptable Unsupported Kneeling positions.

A bean bag may be used to provide support or protection to the supporting knee (see **Figure 8**) or placed under the shin providing the rear foot is upright and the knee maintains contact with the ground. A knee roll may substitute a bean bag in the latter case.

The leading supporting hand must not be directly supported by the leading supporting knee or thigh. The wrist of the supporting hand must be located forward of the supporting knee allowing the wrist to be flexed downwards without impingement from any element of the supporting leg

Incline and decline target positions can be used for Unsupported Kneeling shots. This is providing that the angle to the target does not exceed 30°. To measure this angle, a measurement will be taken from 800mm from the finished floor level directly vertical above the peg to the centre of the targets Hit Zone (see **Figures 6 & 7**). This will be done using a rangefinder which has an angle measurement function.

Refer to **Section 13.2** for additional rules for Unsupported Kneeling shots.

Figure 6

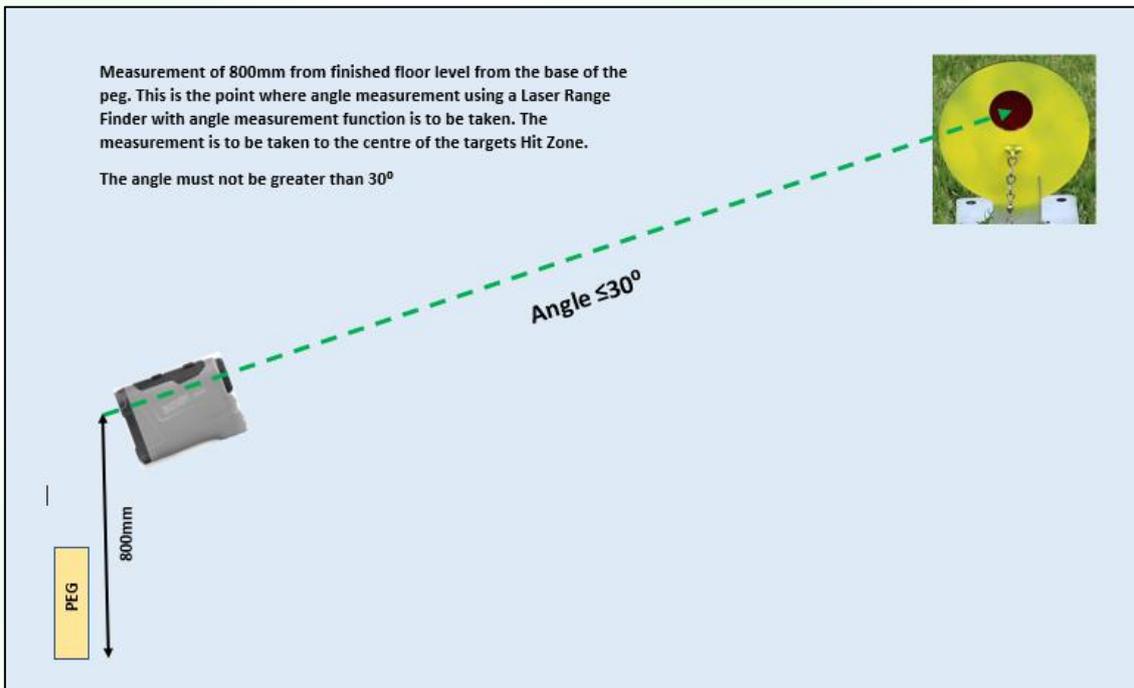
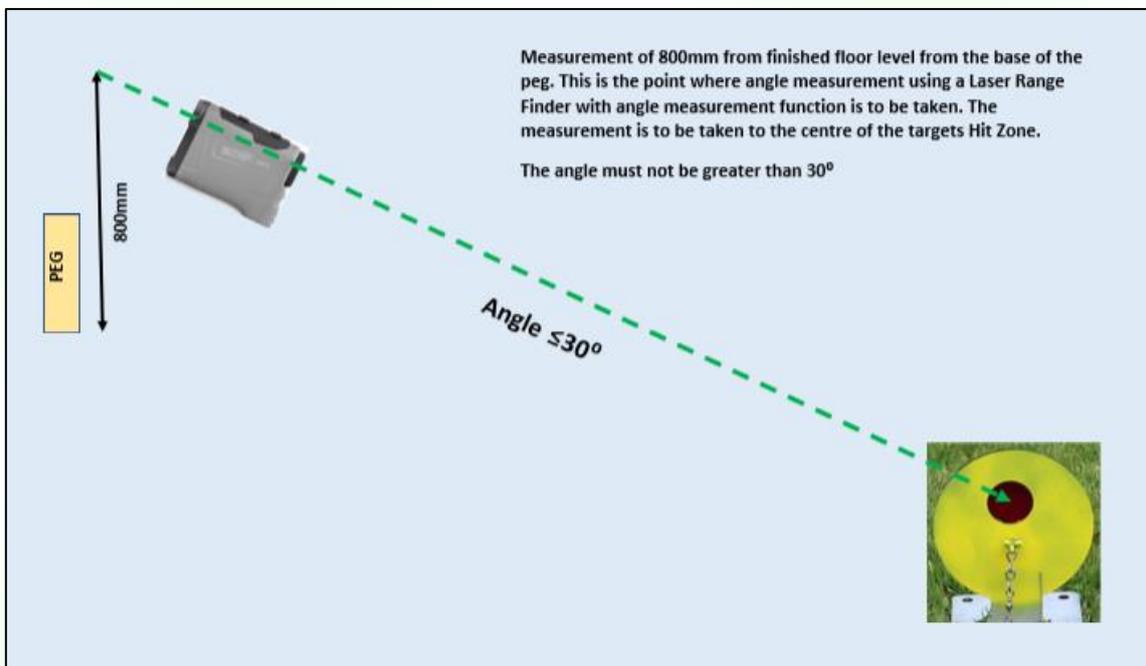


Figure 7



The following illustrations show both the acceptable Unsupported Kneeling positions that can be used at UKAHFT events. See **Figures 8 thru 11**.

**Figure 8**



**Figure 9**



**Figure 10**



**Figure 11**



1. The foot shown in the acceptable “flat” position, note that the Competitor is **NOT** sat on a turned foot
2. Bean bag used to provide support/protection to the Competitors leading knee
3. The wrist of the leading supporting hand is forward of the supporting knee
4. The foot shown in the “upright” position, this is the only other position the foot may be in when a Competitor is taking an Unsupported Kneeling shot

## 12.5 Supported Positional Shots

Competitors may make use of the designated support to aid in taking their shot. A support will be identified using the respective peg number that will be fixed in an easily visible location on the support, as well as having shooting position designation signage located close to the support. A support is defined as;

***A single object, or several physically joined parts that form a solid platform in which a Competitor can either rest or brace themselves against in the designated shooting position***

Supports must not be susceptible to undue movement by atmospheric conditions eg. Excessively strong winds. As far as reasonably practicable adequate selection and erection methods of supports shall be exercised in order to alleviate undue movement from external influences.

### 12.5.1 Supported Standing Shots

When taking Supported Standing shots both feet must be in contact with the ground and a part of the Competitors body must be in contact with the support. Multiple points of contact with the support are allowed. If the Competitor does not wish to make use of the support provided and take their shot from an Unsupported Standing position a part of their body must still be in contact with the support.

***The Supported Standing shooting position (as described above) shall provide support to the rifle by means of the Competitor having a point(s) of contact with the support. Plus 4 points of contact with the rifle; the shoulder, trigger hand, cheek and leading supporting hand/forearm/wrist (or combination of the latter three).***

For clarification the Competitor can choose to brace against the support with their hand and rest the rifle across their forearm as shown in **Figure 13**.

### 12.5.2 Supported Kneeling Shots

Supported Kneeling Shots allow the Competitor to make use of the support to aid in the stability of the shooting position. The points with **Section 12.4** are to be adhered to with the addition of that, the shots can be taken in a 'reverse kneeling stance', shown in **Figure 15**. When taking Unsupported Kneeling shots, a part of the Competitor's body must be in contact with the designated support. Multiple points of contact with the support are allowed.

A Competitor may opt to take Supported Kneeling shots from; the Supported Standing position as per **Section 12.5.1**, the Unsupported Standing position as per **Section 12.3** or Unsupported Kneeling position as per **Section 12.4**. For all the shooting positions the Competitor must be in contact with the support.

A bean bag may be used to provide support or protection to the supporting knee (see **Figure 8**) or placed under the shin providing the rear foot is upright. A knee roll may substitute a bean bag in the latter case.

**Note 1** - The leading supporting hand must not be directly supported by the leading supporting knee or thigh. The wrist of the supporting hand must be located forward of the supporting knee allowing the wrist to be flexed downwards without impingement from any element of the supporting leg

Two types of Supported Kneeling position are acceptable. These are a conventional kneeling position and a reverse kneeling position. These are shown in **Figures 12 & 14** below. All forementioned points in **Section 12.5.2** are relevant to both positions. The exception being that **Note 1** (above) is not relevant to the reverse kneeling position.

**Figure 12 – Example of a conventional Supported Kneeling position**



In **Figure 12** the Competitor has adopted a conventional Supported Kneeling position. As mentioned above the use of a bean bag has been implemented to protect the knee and the Competitor has opted to use their hand as the final element of contact with the rifle against the support. Other combinations of hand/arm contact can be utilised, as discussed previously.

For clarification the Competitor can choose to brace against the support with their hand and rest the rifle across their forearm as shown in **Figure 13** below.

**Figure 13 – Rifle across a braced forearm**



The Rifle has been rested across a braced forearm. This is acceptable for ALL supported positional shots.

**Figure 14 – Example of a correct Reverse Supported Kneeling position**



**Figure 14** the Competitor has adopted a reverse Supported Kneeling position. The Competitor has opted to use the back side of their hand as the final element of contact with the rifle. Other combinations of hand/arm contact can be utilised, as discussed previously.

For clarification the Competitor can choose to brace against the support with their hand and rest the rifle across their forearm as shown in **Figure 13** above.

### 13. Target distance in relation to Hit Zone size

A variety of combinations of Hit Zone sizes in relation to target distance can be used. This allows a good balance of difficulty and variety when it comes to target placement. Course setters are encouraged to make the most of the permissible combinations whilst also utilising the given terrain. The overall intention must be to maintain Competitor interest whilst ensuring as much parity as is reasonably practicable is considered.

All points in **Section 13** show the permissible combinations as well as additional relevant points applicable to specific shot types.



### 13.1 Target Distances in Relation to Hit Zone Size (Prone)

The distances, Hit Zone sizes and permissible numbers of these targets within a UKAHFT course are discussed within **Section 13**. This sub section and **Table 1** relates to shots that are intended to be taken from the **Prone position**.

Target distances and respective Hit Zone sizes for Positional shots are discussed in **Section 13.2 and 13.3**.

**Table 1**

Item	Hit Zone size	Minimum & Maximum Distance (Yards/Meters)	Minimum & Maximum number of specified targets allowed	Further Comments
1	15mm-19mm	13-25/11.88-22.86	4-6	
2	20mm-24mm	8-30/7.32-27.43	2 (3)	One of these targets <b>can</b> be substituted with Item <b>Number 4</b> meaning there will be <b>3 x 20-24mm</b> targets placed on a course and <b>3 x 25-34mm</b> targets at distances <b>35.01-40y(32-36.58m)</b> See <b>Table 1A</b> for permissible combination of targets
3	25mm-34mm	8-35/7.32-32	4	
4	25mm-34mm	35.01-40/32.01-36.58	4 (3)	One of these targets <b>can</b> be substituted with Item <b>Number 2</b> meaning there will be <b>3 x 25-34mm</b> targets at distances <b>35.01-40(32.01-36.58m)</b> placed on a course and <b>3 x 20-24mm</b> See <b>Table 1A</b> for permissible combination of targets
5	35mm-45mm	8-45/7.32-41.15	See Further Comments	Remainder of shots that are not Reduced Hit Zone sizes or specific Positional Shots are to be made up of targets with these Hit Zone sizes

*Note: All measurements are to be taken from the leading edge of the peg to the faceplate of the target when it is in the upright position*



**Table 1A** shows the permissible combinations and quantities of targets with Hit Zones 20-24mm and 25-34mm and respective distances

**Table 1A**

Option	Number of targets with Hit Zone size 20-24mm placed between distances (8-30y/7.32-36.58m)	Number of targets with Hit Zone size 25-34mm placed between distances (8-35y/7.32-32m)	Number of targets with Hit Zone size 25-34mm placed between distances (35-40/32.01-36.58m)
1	2	4	4
2	3	4	3

Additional rules associated with these targets include;

- There **must** be 3 x Prone Only shots within a UKAHFT course. Prone Only shots can be any target with any Hit Zone size
- 10mm of Target Faceplate metal must be visible by the Competitor around the entire circumference of the Targets Hit Zone irrespective of which side of the peg the shot is taken from. The conditions in which this is determined against are that; the Competitor must be in direct contact with the peg and the centre of their rifles barrel must not be any more than 120mm from the corresponding edge of the peg
- For Elevated and Decline shots refer to **Section 11**
  - It is advised that where possible targets can be shot from the prone position using a closed fist in contact with the ground as a support with the rifle butt grounded. However, shots requiring the Competitor to move their supporting hand on the peg into a more conventional prone position are permitted providing that consideration is given to; Competitors using rifles with fore-ends that are shallower than the maximum permissible measurement as mentioned in **Section 5.1**
  - Junior Competitors and Competitors with a smaller physical stature
  - That the position of the target placement does not place undue physical stress on Competitors when they are in the required position for short periods of
  - That the maximum permissible angle is not exceeded (as described in more detail below)
- Shots which are placed in elevated positions must be placed, to allow as far as reasonably practicable the Competitor to take the shot comfortably. It is advised that for these types of shots that the Competitors rifle butt can maintain contact with the ground. Elevated shots are discussed in depth in **Section 11.1.1**
- Target placement will be assessed for suitability of use by UKAHFT designated course Vetter(s) prior to the shoot as per **Section 14** during the vetting process. The course Vetter's decision is final and any requests for alterations will take into account the above elements as well as any additional contributing factors that they feel negatively impacts all Competitors.



## 13.2 Target Distances in Relation to Hit Zone Size (Unsupported Positional Shots)

There must be 1 x Unsupported Standing Shot within a UKAHFT course. See **Table 2** for correct Hit Zone and correct distance placement.

There must be 1 x Unsupported Kneeling Shot within a UKAHFT course. See **Table 2** for correct Hit Zone and correct distance placement.

**Table 2**

Item	Hit Zone size	Minimum & Maximum Distance (Yards/Meters)/	Minimum & Maximum number of specified targets allowed
1	35-45mm	8-35/7.32-32	1 per discipline

*Note: All measurements are to be taken from the leading edge of the peg to the faceplate of the target when it is in the upright position*

Additional rules associated with these targets include;

- The immediate area around the peg must provide a stable and level platform in which a Competitor can take their shot. There must not be any excessive ground undulations that negatively impact the Competitors shooting position
- The full faceplate of the target must be visible to the Competitor from the respective peg
- For Elevated and Decline positional shots refer to **Section 12.3 & 12.4**

### 13.3 Target Distances in Relation to Hit Zone Size (Supported Positional Shots)

There must be two Supported Standing shots per UKAHFT course. These must have either Hit Zone sizes of 35-45mm placed at a distance between 8-35 yards (7.32-32m) or a Hit Zone size of 25-34mm placed at a distance between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m). The quota of Supported Standing shots can be a combination of the two types or from the same allocation eg. 2 x 25-34mm placed at a distance between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m) **OR** 1 x 25-34mm placed at a distance between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m) **AND** 1 x 35-45mm placed at a distance between 8-35 yards (7.32-32m). See **Table 3** for permissible options.

**Table 3 – Supported Standing Hit Zone & distance allocation**

Option	Number of 25-34mm Hit Zone between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m)	Number of 35-45mm Hit Zone between 8-35 yards (7.32-32m)
1	2	0
2	1	1
3	0	2

There must be two Supported Kneeling shots per UKAHFT course. These must have Hit Zone sizes of 35mm-45mm placed at a distance between 8-40 yards (7.32-36.58m) or a Hit Zone size of 25-34mm placed at a distance between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m).

Similarly, to Supported Standing the quota can be made up of targets from the same allocation, however if this is the case no target with a Hit Zone of 35-45mm may be placed at a distance in excess of 35 yards (32m) eg. 2 x 25-34mm placed at a distance between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m) **OR** 1 x 25-34mm placed at a distance between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m) **AND** 1 x 35-45mm placed at a distance between 8-35 yards (7.32-32m). However, an additional option is available to course setters where;

Either 1 x target with a Hit Zone size of 25-34mm placed at a distance between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m) **OR** 1 x 35-45mm placed at a distance between 8-35 yards (7.32-32m) can be used so long as the second Supported Kneeling shot has a target with a Hit Zone of 35-45mm placed at a distance between 35-40 yards (32-36.58m). **Table 4** shows the allowable options below;



**Table 4 – Supported Kneeling Hit Zone & distance allocation**

Option	Number of 25-34mm Hit Zone between 8-30 yards (7.32-27.43m)	Number of 35-45mm Hit Zone between 8-35 yards (7.32-32m)	Number of 35-45mm Hit Zone between 8-35.01 yards (32.01-36.58m)
1	2	0	0
2	1	1	0
3	0	2	0
4	1	0	1
5	0	1	1

Additional Rules associated with these targets are;

- The immediate area around the peg must provide a stable and moderately level platform in which a Competitor can take their shot. Unlike Unsupported Positional shots there are far more ways in which a stable shooting position can be obtained so therefore the same emphasis is not placed on ensuring undulations are not present, however engineering judgement and common sense should be exercised when selecting suitable ground for these types of shot
- The full target faceplate must be visible from any part of the support in which a legal shooting position can be adopted
- The support for Supported Standing Shots must accommodate Competitors of smaller and larger statures, the recommendation by UKAHFT is to accommodate for heights of Competitors is 1.2m-2.2m
- Where a Supported Kneeling shot has been selected that has a target placed in excess of 35 yards (32m) as per **Table 4 (Options 4 & 5)** the support must allow Competitors the ability to take the shot standing in the same manner in which they would take a Supported Standing shot. This does NOT have to be in place for any other Supported Kneeling Shots
- Supported Kneeling shots can be chosen to be taken by Competitors in the Supported Standing position however this does not need to be catered for when placing the relevant supports except for the previous bullet point. Although it is a recommendation that where possible this is accommodated for. Course setters must ensure that the target is visible from the Standing Position.



## 14. Course Vetting

Prior to any UKAHFT event, courses will be checked for compliance with the current UKAHFT rules. The courses will be checked by nominated Course Vettors who will ensure all rules have been adhered to and the UKAHFT format has been followed by the course setters. Once the course has been vetted no formal queries may be raised by anyone with regards to the course compliance with current rules/format. For example; questioning of correct Hit Zone size has been used for distances.

It is the responsibility of the Course Setters and Course Vettors to ensure that the UKAHFT format has been followed.

On a UKAHFT National competition once the course has been vetted by independent course checker(s) catering for both left and right-handed Competitors, no targets will be pulled from the course for a rule violation unless found to be:

- under or over range
- have safety issues
- have a mechanical failure and cannot be repaired / replaced / reinstated without changing the nature of the target or shot.

## 15. Event Placings

At each UKAHFT event or round Competitors can be placed within their respective Class. At a typical UKAHFT affiliated event Competitors can score a maximum of 60 points. Competitors are placed within their respective Class according to their score, the higher the score the higher the placing. Where Competitors score the same score, the placings will be allocated by "Countback". Countback will be carried out **from** Target 1 and the first jointly scoring Competitor to record a 1 or 0 will take the **lower** placing.

Typically, at each UKAHFT National Round, Trophy positions are allocated for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Open Class and 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> in all other Classes. Additionally, 1<sup>st</sup> place Trophies are given to Club Team and Manufacturer Team members.

"Shoot Offs" will always take place in the event of a tied top score for each class and where possible 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in the Open class. If large numbers of Competitors are tied on placed scores UKAHFT Organisers can decide to use Countback to decide these placings.



## 15.1 Shoot Offs

In order to determine UKAHFT round placings in some instances where tied scores occur the overall placing will be decided by a Shoot Off. A Shoot Off will be co-ordinated by a UKAHFT Official or a Nominated person. The Shoot Off will be carried out in the following format;

1. 3 targets will be placed in line with UKAHFT rules as per **Section 13 Table 1**. Targets placed will consist of 1 x 15mm Hit Zone target, 1 x 25mm Hit Zone target and 1 x 35mm Hit Zone target
2. The order in which Competitors are to shoot the targets is at the discretion of the Shoot Off Co-ordinator
3. Targets are to be shot from the Unsupported Kneeling position. However, a Competitor may choose to take their shots from the Unsupported Standing position. This does not mean all participants must adopt the Unsupported Standing position
4. 1 shot is to be taken at each target. Targets are to be shot from closest to furthest. Targets are only scored as "hits", the total number of "hits" will give the Competitors overall score, the maximum score that can be obtained is 3 ex 3, conventional UKAHFT scoring is negated for Shoot Offs. The Competitor with the highest score wins the Shoot Off
5. In the event of Competitors scoring equally, the targets are to be re-shot from the Unsupported Standing position in the same format as described above. If the outcome is that Competitors have scored equally again then the Shoot Off Co-ordinator will nominate a single target for the Competitors to shoot. Competitors will shoot the nominated target from a shooting position as elected by the Shoot Off Co-ordinator. This will be carried out in a sudden death format eg. If Competitor 1 "hits" the target with their shot and Competitor 2 "plates" with their shot, Competitor 1 is the winner. This will continue until a winner is distinguished



## 16. National Leagues

Typically, there are 9 UKAHFT rounds per season. The total number of rounds may be changed by UKAHFT due unforeseen circumstances. All statistics will be adjusted accordingly.

There are several classes in which Competitors can compete within UKAHFT events, these are explained in further detail in **Section 8**. Throughout a UKAHFT season it is possible for Competitors to compete in leagues within their respective class. For Competitors to qualify in a particular league Competitors must compete in a minimum of 6 UKAHFT rounds throughout a season, unless the total number of rounds is changed as noted above. If the total number of rounds is changed the minimum number of qualifying rounds will be adjusted accordingly. For example, if there are 8 total rounds, Competitors must shoot in a minimum of 5 UKAHFT rounds for their total score to count in the respective league.

In a typical UKAHFT season if a Competitor, shoots in more than 6 UKAHFT rounds in that season the highest 6 percentile scores are added together to give an overall total percentage score. This will be adjusted if the total number of rounds is changed.

Each score at an individual UKAHFT round is expressed as a percentage of the total top score from that particular round eg. If the top score from a round was a total score of 59 ex 60 this would be 100% therefore a score of 57 ex 60 would be 96.61%. A cumulative score expressed as a percentage is taken for each qualifying Competitor giving a total season qualifying score also expressed as a percentage.

In addition to individual classes there are both Club Team and Manufacturer Team leagues. These are calculated in the same manner however the highest five scores from individual Competitors are used from each event to give a total Club Team score. For Manufacturers Team scores the top three scores are to be used. The total Team score is then assigned an overall placing and then allocated a number of points based on the placing of the overall score. Higher points are awarded for higher placings.



## Revision History

Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Comments	Issue Date
00	K.Turner	P. Sparkes/C. Peal	For Review	18.02.2020
01	K.Turner	P. Sparkes/C. Peal	For Issue	12.05.2020
01.1	K.Turner	P. Sparkes/C. Peal	For Issue with revised comments	13.05.2020
01.2	K.Turner	P. Sparkes/C. Peal	For issue with changes to Section 9	28.05.2020
01.3	K.Turner	P.Sparkes/C.Peal	For issue with changes to; Change of Background Section 11.2 additional Table added (Table 3). Previous Table 3 repurposed as now Table 4 Section 10.4 Underline of text and rewording Section 10.5 to include Sections 10.5.1 & Section 10.5.2 including additional images	16.10.2021
01.4	K.Turner	P.Sparkes/C.Peal/S.O'Mara	For issue with changes to; Change of background General – rewording of text Section 3.4.1 Juniors to shoot after their parent/guardian Section 5.1 addition of foldable windicator & fixing of windicator to scope Section 5.2 addition of external lens comment Section 10 change of allowable target colours to yellow faceplate and black hit zone only Section 10 no false Hit Zones Sections 11.1, 11.1.1 & 11.1.2 added including Figures 4 & 5. Wording restructured from previous Revisions sections Section 12.3 addition of shooting angle, supersedes previous '250mm rule' Section 12.4 addition of shooting angle and Figures 6 & 7 Section 13 addition of description/introduction Section 13.1 additional bullet point referencing Section 11 Section 13.2 additional bullet point referencing Section 12.3 & 12.4 Section 14 additional wording for responsibilities of Course Vettors and Course Setters Section 16 additional clarification for total number of rounds and associated stats Redesignation of Figure numbers to accommodate additional Figures	21.03.2022