



SHOOTING EXERCISE FOR MUZZLE LOADERS

1. Introduction

This purpose of this exercise is to simulate hunting with muzzle loading firearms in a bushveld environment. Muzzle loading rifles are applied very successfully for hunting. The capability of the shooter will play a big role in the achievement of high scores. The scoring areas on the target are relatively large but the competition is challenging. The challenge lies in the participants' knowledge of his/her rifle and the bullet trajectory of muzzle loading firearms.

An additional objective of the exercise is to level the playing fields in terms of accessories and to allow hunters to learn to also use his/her equipment optimally in the hunting field.

2. Target

The Zebra target of the SAHGCA will be used. Other targets may be introduced by the Shooting Committee from time to time. The head of the animal may point either to the left or to the right.

3. Universal rules for shooting exercises

See separate document "Universal Rules for Shooting Exercises" – document: J006.34.06E – for description of general (universal) items.

4. Shooting Range Safety Rules and Standard Commands

See "Shooting Range Safety Rules for Participants" and "Standard Commands on the Shooting Range" - document: J006.35.03E – for loading, unloading and safety procedures.

5. Exercise (item references refer to the document "Universal Rules for Shooting Exercises")

Before commencement of the exercise, participants must be allowed to first fire a percussion cap and/or fouling shot to ensure that the nipple and touchhole (also referred to as vent) are open and dry before proceeding to load. Fouling shots are not compulsory.

5.1 From **100 m 3 (three) shots** are fired in **4 minutes** from the prone position with limited support front and back (refer to item 18.1.3)

5.2 From **75 m 3 (three) shots** are fired in **4 minutes** from any of the following three positions:

5.1 Sitting with unlimited support (refer to item 18.2.3)

5.2 kneeling position with unlimited support (refer to item 18.3.2)

5.3 standing position with unlimited support (refer to item 18.4.4)

5.3 From **50 m 3 (three) shots** are fired in **3 minutes** from the offhand standing position (refer to item 18.4.1)

6. Rules

6.1 Calibers are restricted to **.45 and larger** in the spirit of the exercise.

6.2 Minimum bullet weight is **325 gr**.

6.3 Telescopes are restricted to a maximum magnification of 4x for the whole exercise (9 shots).

6.4 The participant must carry all his/her shooting accessories (bullets, powder and other accessories) with him/her. No helpers will be allowed.

6.5 The participant is allowed to complete the loading for the first shot before the exercise starts at each distance.

7. Scoring

In the event that a participant must leave the shooting point due to a misfire he will receive only the score for the shots on the target up to that point. The participant may however request to repeat the whole exercise.

8. Recognition

Only the first effort of the day will qualify for awards with cut-off points for bronze, silver and gold at **160**, **190** and **220** respectively. Maximum score is **270**.

9. Safety Measures

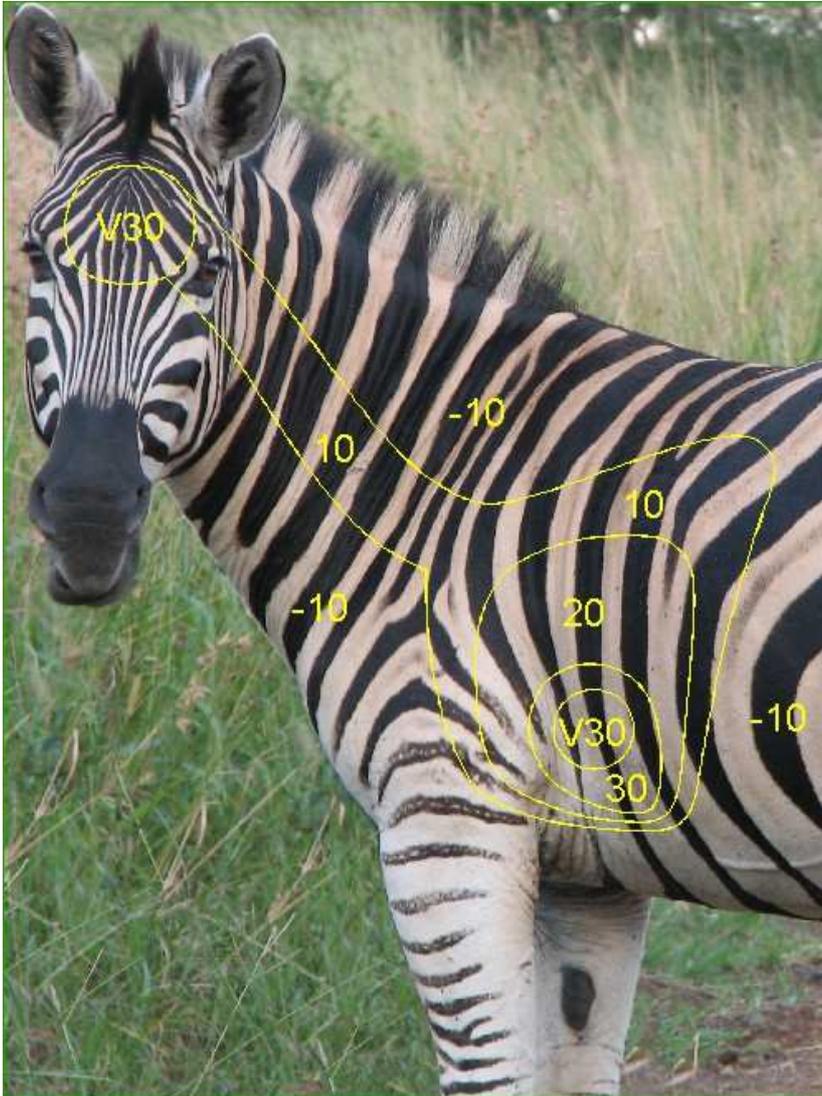
- 9.1 These rules do not replace the "Shooting Range Safety Rules for Participants" and "Standard Commands on the Shooting Range" but must be applied as supplement thereto. Special attention must be given by the range officers to the safety aspects of muzzle loaders.
- 9.2 Carry/transport guns in gun cases/bags. The safe handling of muzzle loaders on the shooting point must be such that it does not give concern to other shooting range users or the public;
- 9.3 No loaded gun may be taken to or from the shooting position. The only exception is when the firearm refused to fire. The firearm may be taken to a safe place after the percussion cap had been removed and the hammer is in a safe position (half-cock position).
- 9.4 Only one firearm per participant is allowed on the shooting point at any one time. Pistols/revolvers are not allowed on the same shooting range as rifles.
- 9.5 Black powder and primers/percussion caps are potentially dangerous and smoking or open fires will not be allowed near or on the shooting points.
- 9.6 Ear protection is compulsory and eye protection is highly recommended.
- 9.7 The use of modern smokeless propellant in muzzle loaders is prohibited. Only powder developed for muzzle loaders will be allowed.
- 9.8 No firearms may be loaded directly from bulk containers.
- 9.9 A maximum of 100 gram powder or medium sized powder flask will be allowed with the participant at the shooting point.
- 9.10 Percussion caps are sensitive and must be protected against exposure to heat, sparks or flames. Only minimum quantities will be allowed on the shooting point.
- 9.11 Percussion caps may only be placed on the firearm when the participant is ready to fire, the hammer is in the half-cock position and the firearm is pointed in the direction of the backstop.
- 9.12 While loading, the barrel of the firearm must be inclined approximately 10 degrees from the vertical and pointed in the direction of the backstop.
- 9.13 Participants must ensure that the hammer is in the half-cock position before loading of the firearm is commenced.

10. Handling of a misfire

- 10.1 In the event of a misfire, the participant must keep the firearm pointed in the direction of the target for at least one minute whereafter it must be kept pointed at the back stop whilst the reason for the misfire is investigated.
- 10.2 After the waiting period, the range officer must be informed of the misfire. The participant may then replace the percussion cap with a fresh/new one and repeat the shot. Flintlock guns must also be kept pointed in the direction of the target for at least 30 seconds before it is reloaded bearing in mind that it is usually only the flint that did not create a spark.

10.3 In the event that a misfire occurs for the second time without being resolved by the participant on the shooting point, he/she must withdraw. The participant must then go through the safety procedures to render the firearm safe. The range officer must ensure that the firearm is safe (percussion cap removed, pan emptied, hammer in half-cock position) before he allows the participant to withdraw from the shooting point and allow the competition to continue.

10.4 The participant may be allowed to try to resolve the problem in a safe area.



Actual size of target: WxH = 750 x 1000mm

Target areas	W x H mm	Area cm2	vs Hart
brain/skull	115 x 105	102	80%
heart	117 x 135	128	--
V-heart	73 dia	42	33%
central heart/lung	200 x 250	440	340%
larger heart/lung	270 x 310	820	640%

Neck vertebra: 70mm wide

Scores are printed on the target.

The actual lines on the target are in thin red lines which are not visible at a distance.