

Our Major Scoring Classifications: Sporter, Semi-Auto, and Match/Unlimited

HELPFUL DETAILS BELOW

(Originally sent as an email from Match Director Mike Charness, 17 December 2023)

I've had several folks talk to me this last couple of weeks, including some at yesterday's match, about getting another rifle. After all, it is Christmas time and maybe you want to buy yourself a present! For some -- as it was for me as I've grown into this sport -- it's so that they can have rifles that allow them to participate in all three of our major scoring classifications: Sporter, Semi-Auto, and Match/Unlimited.

In regards to our PRR scoring classifications, let me add a little clarification and expand on what is stated in our RULES. In deciding on our rules, we've looked at the rules for NRL22, PRL/PRS Rimfire, ARA and ABRA organizations, and we're using pieces of all of those that suit our local style, but that in combination give our shooters a lot of flexibility. I'll go through the major classifications in order.

Our SPORTER classification

- This class includes magazine-fed or tube-fed factory bolt-action sport rifles of types typically used for target, hunting and other recreational shooting. However, unlike other organizations' rules, we allow modifications, such as improving the trigger, bedding the action, adding muzzle devices/tuners, etc. Our primary classification element here is that the MSRP of the rifle-plus-scope must be \$1600 or less (ignoring other accessories). Additionally, there are a few brand/model exclusions that are spelled out under the Match/Unlimited classification details.
- Among our shooters, this classification has been dominated by CZ rifles, especially the 457 series. Keep in mind that not all CZs will be classed as "Sporter". You can take a traditional Sporter style CZ (such as a CZ 457 MTR model or below), and add an expensive optic to it, and you've elevated it into Match/Unlimited automatically. Then there's the CZ 457 Varmint Precision Trainer MTR that has an MSRP of over \$1600 even without a scope on it! The new CZ 457 Varmint Precision Trainer (non-MTR) has a current MSRP of \$1315 (older ones were considerably lower), which only leaves you a scope with a maximum MSRP of \$285 to keep it under \$1600... and remember that it's the MSRP of the scope that matters, not the discounted price you may have paid for it. CZ's factory Varmint Precision Chassis models also don't leave you much price room for a quality scope before you end up over that \$1600 limit. Still, if you choose to put a low-end scope on such a rifle to keep it below \$1600 MSRP total and thus keep it from being bumped into Match/Unlimited, that's certainly up to you and is acceptable.
- Another well-known Sporter-style rifle example is the Bergara B14R, but you'll notice that most of the Bergaras among our group compete in *Match/Unlimited*. That's because even their standard version has an MSRP of \$1229 which leaves you a maximum MSRP for your scope of \$371 before it forces that gun to be in Match/Unlimited, and most shooters will put on a "better" scope than that. Still, you could choose to mate it with a Mueller 40x (MSRP \$349) other lower MSRP scope and compete with it in *Sporter*.
- We're strict on the classification rules (except for junior-age shooters just starting out), but knowing what those rules are, feel free to configure your gun to best take advantage

of them. Last week I was discussing with one of our shooters his idea of buying a lower-end CZ (like a CZ Scout or American), putting on a custom aftermarket high-end barrel (like an Arthur Brown, Lothar Walther, or Lilja), an appropriately low-priced scope, and ending up with a "custom" CZ that was still priced and configured to be acceptably ranked within our *Sporter* classification.

- With inflation, we've modified the rifle-plus-scope MSRP dollar limit over time. We started at \$1500, and are now at \$1600. If inflation continues the way it has been, we *might* raise it to \$1650 or \$1700 by the end of 2024.

Our SEMI-AUTO classification

This class is any semi-auto 22, and there are *no* price limits or other restrictions. I had one guy jokingly ask me at the match yesterday something like, "If I spent \$10,000 on a 10/22 style gun, would it really still compete alongside with the other semis?" Absolutely! (Though he's not really planning on doing that.)

Among our shooters, the classification has been dominated by rifles built around the Ruger 10/22 format, including Ruger's own 10/22s, KIDD Innovative Design, Volquartsen, Brownells, Clark Custom, and others.

Our MATCH/UNLIMITED classification

- This class includes bolt action rifles from premium-built brands, such as Anschutz, Grünig-Elmiger, Voodoo, Bleiker, DiOrio Turbo, other 2500x actions, etc., and rifles from more conventional manufacturers such as Winchester or Remington that are/were designed as single-shot competition/training rifles such as the Winchester 52-series and Remington 37 and 40x. Among other things, I've used American Rimfire Association (ARA)'s Factory Class *exclusions* to help determine if a rifle belongs here. This classification also includes any rifle-plus-scope combination (not counting other accessories) that has an MSRP of over \$1600, automatically elevating it out of the *Sporter* classification.
- You can choose to shoot a non-match (*Sporter*) bolt action rifle in MATCH/UNLIMITED simply by stating that's where you want it to be evaluated when you sign in. It's not common, but we have had some folks do that.

Anyway, that's all I can think of for now. I welcome feedback for possible additional notes. I plan to put the above into a PDF available on the website, but thought I'd share the info with our active PRR shooters first.

Mike Charness

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