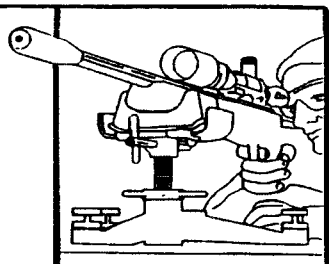


BR-50 *International.*

LARRY W. BROWN - Competition Coordinator
3960 West Point Loma Blvd. # H-435
San Diego, CA. 92110 U.S.A.
Phone & FAX (619) 222-4337

THE REAL BR-50



MATCH DIRECTORS

Thank you for your interest in **THE REAL BR-50**. Enclosed is your requested copy of the 1998 (and final) Rulebook. I sincerely hope that, after reading it, you will have an even greater interest in our sport.

In the past, at various times, it has become painfully clear that about 95% of the shooters have never even seen a BR-50 rulebook. Our efforts to communicate the difference between a type-3 competition (BR-50 International), and a type-1 competition (all other target shooting sports) have been completely futile. It matters not how well I might write it if no one reads it. And it appears that approximately 80% of the Match Directors themselves, at any given moment, cannot answer even the simplest of questions regarding the rules - like, what is "the Gordon Method?" Or what is "the Nick Pappas Rule?" Or "what happens if a firing period is interrupted for some reason?"

Since BR-50 is intended to be an Olympic-Level activity, I do not believe that it's unreasonable to expect persons who have the title of Match Director to be well versed in the rules of the sport. (It was reported to me once, not too long ago, by one of our veteran shooters, that he had asked a match director if he had read the rulebook. The man said, "No, and I don't intend to." He is no longer a match director.)

BR-50 was *NEVER* intended to be a pastime, nor was "having fun" ever a major factor in it's design and development. It was created to be exceedingly challenging and difficult. Some of it is, therefore, inconvenient. But then, EXCELLENCE is always inconvenient - that's what separates it from mediocrity. Some people find the dedicated pursuit of excellence to be "fun". For them, mediocrity is painfully boring. It is for THESE PEOPLE that BR-50 was invented. However, either way, can anyone expect the shooter to take the sport any more seriously than his Match Director does? The MD sets the "tone" of the event.

Therefore, please correctly answer the eight questions on the accompanying questionnaire and send it to HQ when submitting your proposed match schedule for 1998.

Thank you for all your help.
sincerely,



Larry W. Brown
Competition Coordinator

**Match Director
RULEBOOK QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. ***What is the Gordon Method?*** (Pg. 12)

2. ***How many people must ENTER an event for it to qualify as “official”?*** (Pg. 7)

3. ***How are multiple relays run on day-2 of a two-day event?*** (Pg. 10)

4. ***What are the REQUIRED forms for filing match reports?*** (Pg. 14 & 15)

5. ***When, and how, are match reports to be filed?*** (Pg. 14 & 15)

6. ***How long is the BRV firing period?*** (Pg. 9 & 11)

7. ***What happens if ANY firing period is interrupted for ANY reason?*** (Pg. 9)

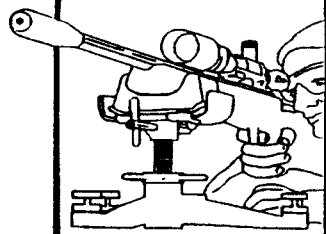
8. ***If a rimfire finishes in 4th place in a 3-match “OPEN” tournament, how many champoints does he get?*** (Pg. 7)

BR-50

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 *International.*

THE REAL BR-50



1998 RULEBOOK

(Photocopy & distribute as needed)

*Consistency is the key to the maximum enjoyment of our sport.
If circumstances or ideas arise that aren't specifically covered in this book,
or if you don't comprehend some part of it, call HeadQuarters for a ruling.*

PRECISION BENCHREST COMPETITION

The Marksmanship Events: (SKILL)

SERIES CHAMPIONSHIPS & TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS

(hosted by the various clubs)

BR-50 MASTERS INVITATIONAL

(Early season double point reward invitational, open to top 20 G-Liners & "wild cards" only.),

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

(Double point reward invitational, open to title holders only)

BR-50 NATIONALS TOURNAMENT

(Triple point prestige event - possible limited number of entries)

plus something extra

The Statistical Games: (STRATEGY)

BR-50 UNLIMITED WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ranking the best G-Line "Players")

LATEST-10-AGGREGATE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Ranking the best Agg Hunters)

What is BR-50 International?

(An overview)

Eight out of ten people will choose the easy, level, familiar path of mediocrity over the demanding, humbling, uphill climb toward excellence every time, especially if they can receive some sort of applause while doing so. BR-50 is designed for the other two.

#1

MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITIONS

(skill - type-one competition)

SERIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

A *series* championship consists of up to twelve "designated matches" staged during the official season which begins on January 7, and ends on December 7 each year. "Franchised" host clubs will schedule these events, at their discretion, in accordance with the regulations specified in the rulebook. The Champion of the series is determined by the "Champion" system, also outlined in the rulebook. This kind of challenge is intended to appeal to the person who is looking for a serious shooting activity, but may, for various reasons, be limited to a somewhat local "region".

TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS

A *tournament* is a series of matches (at least 2, not more than 6) which must be completed in a time period not to exceed two consecutive days. The Champion of a tournament is the shooter who finishes the event with the highest **average** score for all the targets involved. Due to the way tournaments fit into the "Big Picture" of our sport they generally can be expected to attract more of the "Top-Guns", often from great distances. Therefore, this type of challenge is designed to appeal to the person who is looking for an opportunity to "play hardball with the BIG BOYS", as it were. Champoints are awarded differently than in series events, and are only relevant to another of the challenges offered - "BR-50 Unlimited" (the G-Line game).

#2

STATISTICAL COMPETITIONS

(strategy - type-three competition)

LATEST 10-EVENT AGG CHAMPION

Of the World-Championship titles awarded in BR-50, the *Latest-10 Event Aggregate* is the most attainable by the greatest number of shooters. It is, therefore, the most hotly contested to the bitter end of the competition year. Simply put; the shooter who ends the season with the highest average score, made up of his latest-10 finishes, is that year's "World Agg Champion" of his category.

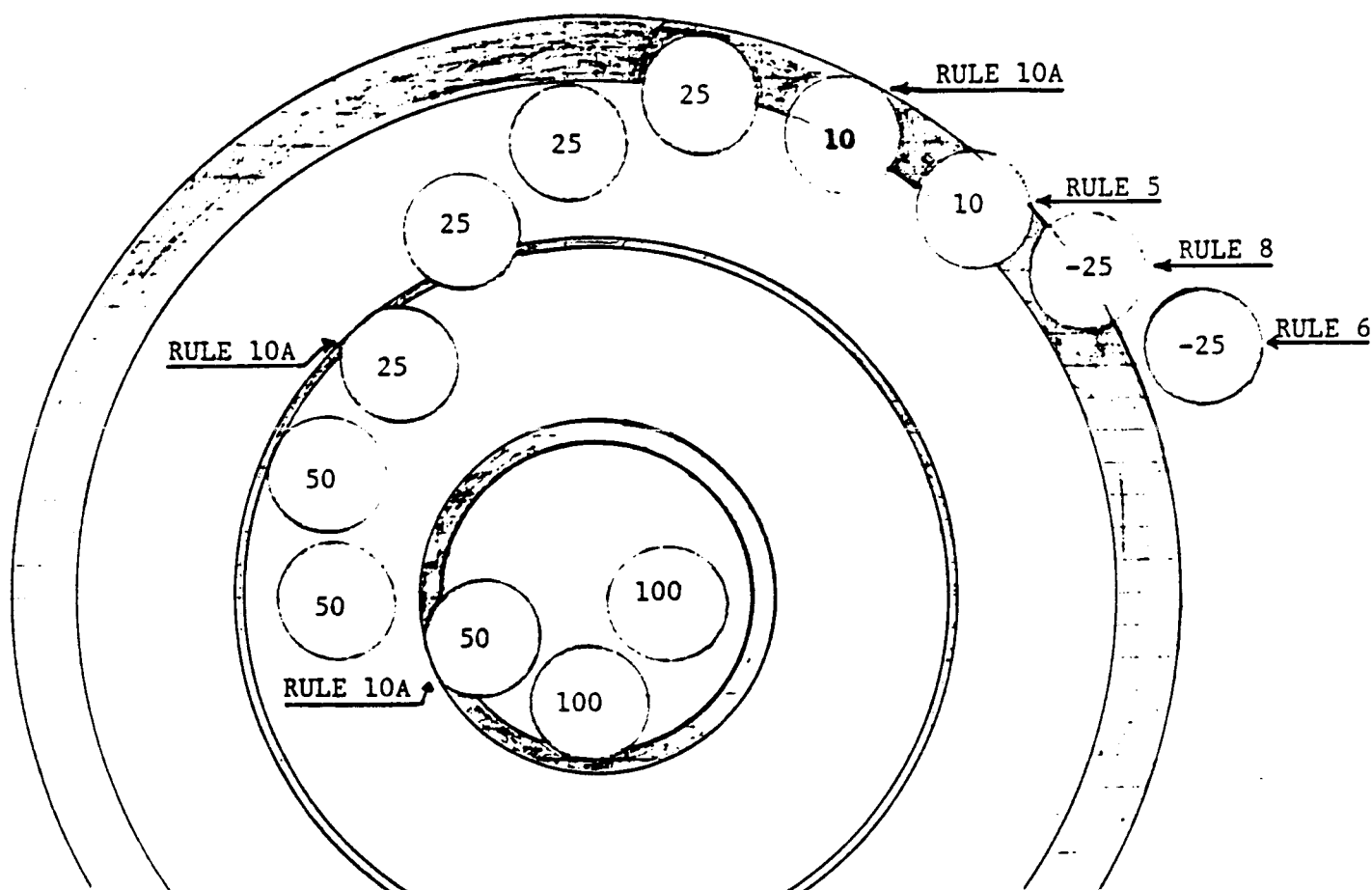
BR-50 UNLIMITED (The G-Line Game)

In addition to the aforementioned events, there is also the **game** called *BR-50 UNLIMITED* - a contest of strategy and tactics utilizing the performance "statistics" generated when a competitor participates in any of the other events. (Called "Unlimited" because when, where, and the number of events are not specified.) In this challenge an algebraic formula, similar to that used in professional tennis (described in the rulebook) "digests" these stats and assigns relative value to the various factors-of-accomplishment the shooter "chalks up" while competing in matches and tournaments throughout the year. Those who choose to "play" the G-Line often devise a "game plan" (a strategy of where and when to compete for maximum statistical advantage) by which they hope to advance their "standing" higher than anyone else by Dec. 7. Since the G-Line encourages participation in all the other events, and rewards the player for a higher degree of effectiveness, (his numbers must "crunch out" better than **ALL** others in his category) it is the G-Line that determines the BR-50 Unlimited World-Champion each year. This challenge is designed to appeal to the person who is looking for an opportunity to use his "wits" in addition to his shooting skills. Nothing like it has ever been available in any precision target shooting activity before. It is not for everyone, yet many who aren't G-Liners do watch the standings simply to see where they stack-up against the rest of the world.

THE MEANEST GAME ON ANY CONTINENT

BR-50 INTERNATIONAL is a precision BenchRest competition, demanding a standard of excellence that just begins where most other shooting sports leave off. **IT IS AN EGO SMASHER**, not a "pastime". Headquarters expects this standard to be consistently maintained, therefore, **IT IS NOT A MATCH DIRECTOR'S OPTION TO WAIVE ANY OF THE RULES**, any more than it is allowable for a baseball umpire to let a batter have FOUR strikes before calling him out because it looked like maybe the sun was in his eyes. Scoring is ruthless. The sport is designed to be totally non-co-dependant; completely, uniquely, and astonishingly self contained. There is nothing traditional about it and there isn't supposed to be. It expects, and delivers, much more than the same old stuff repackaged.

BR-50 is a world-class challenge for world-class shooters using world-class equipment.



BR-50 SCORING TOOLS

Because of how the G-LINE GAME links together the performance of BR-50 competitors around the world, **IT IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CLUBS TO BE USING ONLY THE SCORING TOOLS AUTHORIZED BY BR-50 HQ.** The required "start-up kit" containing a rulebook, regulation scoring plugs, magnifier, raised target platform, and three IN/OUT markers is available from HQ. For the good of our sport there must be consistency in scoring club-to-club, match-to-match. This can only be assured through uniformity of equipment and procedures. **(See section on TARGET SCORING & 10A RULINGS).** The kit including the above, and 200 official BR-50 targets, costs **\$99.00**, (including shipping - within U.S.A.). This equipment is mandatory for a club to be "franchised" by BR-50 INTERNATIONAL. Continued affiliation is contingent upon how well that club complies with the rules set forth in this rulebook.

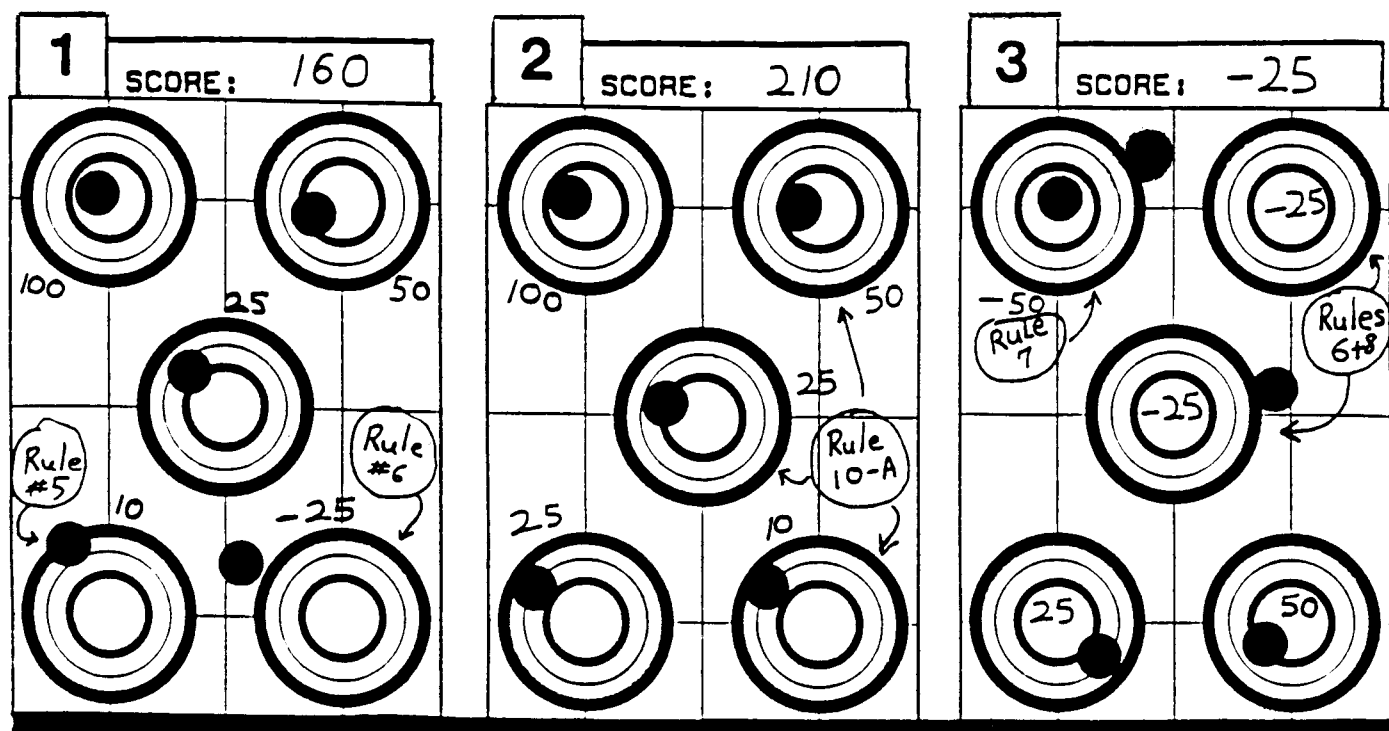
BR-50 INTERNATIONAL is a super-accuracy GAME invented in June of 1987 by Larry W. Brown of San Diego, CA. It's shot BenchRest (BR) style at 22 yards by "Olympic" Airguns, 30 yards by all other Airguns, and 50 yards by Rimfires. (100-yard Centerfire is now a separate sport.) The target sheet contains "grids", each of which contain five circular bullseyes. The goal is to put **ONE** (only) bullet hole in each of these bullseyes during the official firing period. Targets are scored by a designated "SCORING TEAM", and are then "audited" by the official three-judge panel who will make all **10A** judgements, corrections, and calculate the final score.

BR-50 SCORING RULES

1. BR-50 IS SCORED ON THE "WORST-EDGE" OF THE BULLET.
2. THE CENTER CIRCLE (MOTHBALL) COUNTS 100 POINTS.
3. THE NEXT BAND OUT COUNTS 50 POINTS.
4. THE LAST BAND OUT COUNTS 25 POINTS.
5. ANY SHOT THAT COMPLETELY STRADDLES THE HEAVY OUTER RING COUNTS 10 POINTS.
6. ANY TARGET THAT IS MISSED IS A MINUS 25-POINT PENALTY.
7. ANY TARGET WITH MORE THAN ONE BULLET-HOLE TOUCHING IT IS A MINUS 50-POINT PENALTY.
8. ANY SHOT THAT NICKS THE OUTER EDGE OF THE OUTER RING BUT DOESN'T ACTUALLY SPAN THE HEAVY LINE IS "SCORED" AS A MISS (-25), NOT A 10-POINT SHOT.
9. A MISSED SHOT TOUCHING A GRID SIMPLY LEAVES A BARE TARGET WHICH IS A 25-POINT PENALTY. A MISSED SHOT NOT TOUCHING A GRID IS CONSIDERED TO BE A "SIGHTER", AND IS NOT PENALIZED.
10. ANY BULLET THAT COMPLETELY SEVERS A RING IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE ENTERED THE NEXT BAND OUT (WORST-EDGE SCORING), EVEN IF IT'S ONLY DISCERNABLE WITH A SCORING DEVICE. BUT CONSIDER ONLY THE EDGE OF THE BULLET, NOT PAPER RIPS, ETC.

→ **10A.** ANY SHOT THAT REQUIRES A SCORING PLUG IS CALLED A "10A CALL". WHEN IT IS SO CLOSE YOU CAN'T TELL FOR CERTAIN, EVEN WITH A PLUG, IT IS SCORED TO THE SHOOTER'S DISADVANTAGE.
(IF YOU CAN'T SEE THAT IT'S IN, IT'S OUT!)
 (RULE 10A IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF BR-50. IT MUST BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.)

11. EVERY BULLET HOLE TOUCHING A GRID, IN EXCESS OF THE NUMBER OF BULLSEYES TO BE SCORED ON THE TARGET-SHEET, IS A 100-POINT PENALTY EACH. (SIGHTERS MAY BE FIRED ANYWHERE, BUT THEY MAY NOT TOUCH A GRID.)
12. ANYONE WHO CROSSFIRES ON ANOTHER TARGET IS DISQUALIFIED UNLESS THE OFFENDER IS THE FIRST TO MENTION IT, (GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP). AND ANYONE SHOOTING A NEGATIVE SCORE IS DISQUALIFIED (no Champoints).



INTRODUCING BR-50 INTERNATIONAL

BRV

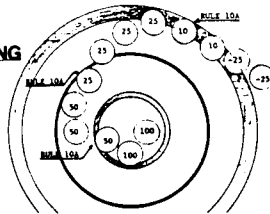
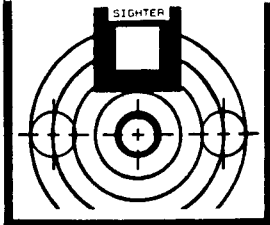
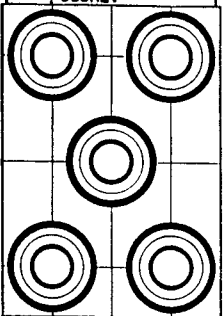
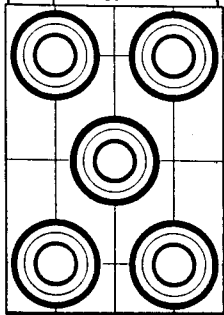
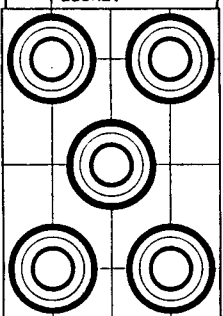
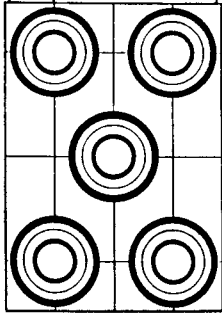
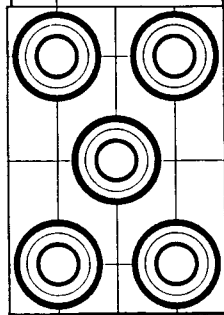
(so called because the grids are arranged in the shape of a "V".)

It's a 25-shot version of BR-50. Same size target - same color ink, and all the rules are identical to regular (50-shot) BR-50 except that the firing period for this target is **20 minutes**, not thirty. Sighters may be fired anywhere on the target sheet (there's plenty of room) but any extra bullet holes (in excess of 25 holes) that touch a grid are a 100 point penalty each. The wording of scoring rule #11 has been changed to read, "TOUCHING A GRID" instead of "below the foul line". (The "Foul Line" has been eliminated from any consideration.) Only those "EXTRA" bullet holes that actually touch a grid will be penalized.

Regarding the 20-minute firing period:

Beginning in 1998 shooters will have a choice as to which target they wish to shoot in a match. The match director, who is required to call out time checks anyway, will simply announce (15 minutes into the match) something like this: **"ATTENTION ALL SHOOTERS - FIFTEEN MINUTES OF THIS MATCH HAVE PASSED."** This lets the 50-shot shooters know that they have 15 minutes remaining, and the BRV shooters know that they have 5 minutes remaining. 20 minutes into the match he announces, **"ATTENTION ALL SHOOTERS - BRV SHOOTERS MUST CEASE FIRE, AND STEP BACK FROM THEIR BENCHES NOW! ALL OTHERS HAVE 10 MINUTES REMAINING."** (It doesn't take a brain surgeon to do this.)

The raw score on the BRV target is simply doubled to arrive at the "BR-50 AGG" that will be listed on the match report and computed into the G-Line. And please notice this: The doubling of the score also automatically doubles the penalties. As always, it's a lot harder than it looks. --LB.

SCORING 		BR-50 INTERNATIONAL BRV Copyright TARGETECH: 1997
RAW SCORE: _____ BR-50 AGG: _____ (Score X 2)		
1 SCORE: _____ 	2 SCORE: _____ 	5 SCORE: _____ 
3 SCORE: _____ 		
4 SCORE: _____ 		

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

HANDICAPPING: As of December 31, 1997 Weight Handicapping has been eliminated from BR-50. All guns now shoot RAW SCORE only.

CLASSIFICATION OF GUNS: (Rifle or Pistol)

Whatever the shooter chooses it's simply in one of these divisions, **RIMFIRE (RfO & RfX)**, or **AIRGUN (AgO & AgX)**. "O" signifies *OLYMPIC* type. "X" stands for *EXPERIMENTAL*. ONLY THESE CATEGORIES ARE RECOGNIZED IN BR-50 INTERNATIONAL. (CENTERFIRE is now a separate sport)

AgO & RfO Class: Airgun & Rimfire "Olympic" type **Match Rifles** only, no Machine Rests (per the original BR-50 rules), stocks may be custom painted if desired, stabilizer plates may not exceed three inches in width, Bi-Pods may be used, no restrictions on scopes. **All "O" class guns must have adjustable butt plate or accessory rail, or both, and must be legal in some form of ISU sanctioned competition, except that BR-50 has no restrictions on trigger weight-of-pull.** Replacement barrels may be any type material, but must conform to original manufacturers external dimensions. ("Olympic" class guns must *LOOK* like Olympic guns.) Check HQ for modifications.

AgX & RfX Class: (All guns other than AgO-RfO) Airgun & Rimfire "Experimental" guns - no restrictions. **AgX SCUBA GUNS** may be shot "hooked up" to the SCUBA tank.

AMMUNITION: AgO class ammo must be flat nose wadcutter only, not to exceed 9 grains, nor 600 Fps. No restrictions on other classes.

SCOPES: No restrictions on scopes. Let the results show what works best.

RESTS: (All but RfO & AgO class) As of 1996, the restriction against "MACHINE RESTS" was ended. Any rest system the shooter chooses is now legal, including aimable templates such as turntables (lazy susans), rail guns, etc. The only regulation is: **THE GUN MUST BE ABLE TO BE LIFTED AT LEAST ONE QUARTER-INCH VERTICALLY ABOVE THE REST WITHOUT LOOSENING OR UNFASTENING ANYTHING.**

NOTE: "O" Class guns may not use machine rests. In "Olympic" class, the front and rear supports may not be connected. They must be separate and individually manipulated. The rear support must be some type of "sandbag" containing at least two cubic inches of filler (sand, bird seed, lead shot, etc.). *Check with HQ for specifics.*

BENCHES:

It is not a requirement to have concrete benches. But, however the benches are constructed, they must be equal in quality and sturdiness. A facility that cannot provide consistency of range equipment (benches & target frames) does not qualify to host registered BR-50 events. Shooters' physical stature may vary greatly, therefore they may bring their own stools.

TARGET FRAMES, ETC.: (Target distances: AgO - 22 yards, AgX - 30 yards, RfO & RfX - 50 yards)

Only official target sheets and suitable backers may be placed on the target frame. Some competitors prefer a large blank backer which allows better viewing of "sighter shots" fired into various locations adjacent to the target sheet during the match. These are OK provided that they are available to all who want one. NOTHING ELSE is allowed within eight inches (8") of the outer border of the target sheet. Not even pencil lines! Once the match starts, sighter shots may be fired anywhere except in the "GRIDS" on the official target sheet. Clubs must provide **identical**, "fresh" target set-ups for all competitors to begin the match. (It is recommended that Airgunners bring a target frame with them in case a "new" club can't yet supply an adequate airgun set-up. Only then may a shooter use his own.) Events where any cash prize exceeds **\$300** in value must have stationary backers at least 18 inches behind targets for crossfire detection. Non-cash prizes do not require backers.

MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITIONS

(Skill)

SERIES CHAMPIONSHIPS: (Requires marksmanship skill & good equipment; Type-1 competition)

Hosted by individual clubs, these are structured on a "10-point must" CHAMPOINT system. Champoints are awarded based on where, in the Top-Ten, a competitor finishes in a match. FIRST PLACE is 10 points, SECOND PLACE is 9, third is 8, etc., on down to 1 point for TENTH PLACE. A shooter must finish in the Top-Ten to get any points. (This is known as "making-the-cut".) By the end of the series, the shooter with the most Champoints is the CHAMPION of that Series.

A Championship Series may not exceed twelve matches per-year. They may be scheduled at the club's discretion within the OFFICIAL BR-50 "SEASON" which is from January 7, through December 7. Factors such as climate, range availability, etc., need to be considered. "MATCH STACKING", (more than one match on one day) is very effective at bringing out-of-towners to your events. However, the published schedule, including "Start-Times", must be followed exactly. Coordinating match dates so as to not conflict with a neighboring club's events will bring great rewards. The Series must be no less than two matches, and, as always, the SCHEDULED FINAL MATCH of a Championship Series is worth DOUBLE CHAMPOINTS. This helps keep the competition open all the way to the end. **TITLE BONUS:** - Finally, the number of champoints the winner accumulated in winning the series title will be doubled, thereby boosting his G-Line stats as a proper reward for his accomplishment.

Champoints are awarded only in the category in which they were won, i.e., points won with an RfO RIMFIRE are not transferable to RfX category, etc. A shooter may re-enter and shoot on a subsequent relay in a different category, but only if he alone does not cause extra relays. There must be at least FIVE entrants and THREE finishers for it to qualify as an official "EVENT". But, should one or two AIRGUNNERS enter, (and finish) in a RIMFIRE match (or vice versa), they shoot under "PARALLEL PLACEMENT", which means they get the points, in their category, that their scores would have earned if they had shot in the same category as the main group. If neither category has three finishers, yet there are three in total, the event is automatically reported as an "OPEN" and they finish by agg irrespective of category. When there are less than three finishers at all, the event is listed as a "NON-MATCH", and is completely forfeited from the schedule. No championship title or bonus is awarded in a category with less than three contestants.

TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS: (Requires marksmanship skill & good equipment; Type-1 competition)

Totally separate from their 12-match Championship Series, each club is also authorized to host **TWO** TOURNAMENTS per year. A "tournament" is a MULTI-MATCH EVENT where the scores of the matches involved are AVERAGED to determine the winner. Tournaments result in a TOP-20, TOP-30, Top-40, etc., depending on whether it's a 2-match, 3-match, 4-match, etc., event. For example; a 3-match awards 30 points for 1st, 29 for 2nd, etc., down to 1 point for 30th place. (The "NATIONALS" is triple point - single step.) The maximum size tournament is a six-match event. A tournament is listed as a single event no matter how many matches (targets) are involved. (However, the match fees paid to HQ are \$1.50 per target.) Tournaments must have titles, (THE OHIO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, THE TEXAS INVITATIONAL, THE FROSTY PUMPKIN, THE LOS ANGELES OPEN, etc.) and **everything** must be approved by HQ. A tournament may span no more than two consecutive days. The number of matches to be shot each day, and the initial "Start-Time", must be published in the Hot-Sheet, and must then be adhered to without deviation, except in the case of foul weather. Should weather force a change, the match director must notify HQ immediately.

"OPEN" TOURNAMENTS:

When a club desires to schedule both of their **TWO** tournaments, thereby maximizing their yearly allotment, **ONE** of those tournaments must be listed and held as an "OPEN". An OPEN is where the rimfires and the airguns compete directly against each other for the title, the champoints, the prizes, et al. In other words, the winner of the tournament could be a rimfire, or it could be an airgun. We won't know till it's over. But either way there is only ONE winner, and you place where you place, regardless of what technology you were shooting. All champoints earned will, of course, fall into the division they belong in. The good news is, **ANY TOURNAMENT LISTED AND STAGED AS AN OPEN IS WORTH DOUBLE CHAMPOINTS (it must have finishers in both categories).** This means that a six-card event becomes a 120X60 instead of a 60X60. (If there are no finishers in one of the two categories the event reverts to being just a regular "single-point" tournament.) If a club wants both of their tournaments to be opens, they can be.

STATISTICAL COMPETITIONS

(Strategy)

"GAMES"

There are these two Statistical World Championships ("Games") in BR-50 International: **LATEST-10 AGG**, (AgX, AgO, RfX, RfO), and **BR-50 UNLIMITED** (the Rimfire and Airgun G-Lines). These are type-3 competitions because they require something beyond marksmanship skill to win the title of Champion; a "game plan" as it were. Choices must be made regarding where and when to compete, what scores to keep, when to DNF, etc., for one's statistical advantage.

Latest-10 Agg: RfX, RfO, AgX, AgO. (Requires marksmanship skill, good equipment, tactics & strategy; Type-3 competition)

The competitor's latest 10 scores are averaged, and the shooter who then finishes the season with the highest aggregate of these is the WORLD AGG-CHAMPION of his or her "Class". Participants constantly monitor what existing score is about to be replaced by the next score, in order to decide whether to DNF or keep it for aggregate improvement. As always, in BR-50, there are options. But every choice has it's own costs and risks. That's what make it a "Type-3" competition.

BR-50 Unlimited: (Not for the timid! Requires marksmanship skill, good equipment, tactics & strategy; Type-3 competition)

Every shooter who earns Champoints in official competition during the season is automatically entered in the computer record (the G-Line) for that year. An Algebraic formula relates their performance statistics to one another and cedes them accordingly. The serious competitors who choose to actually "play" the G-Line usually devise a game plan by which they can maximize their stats, and end up as high as possible in the rankings. It's an "open-loop" competition like 24 hours of LeMans - not a matter of who finishes first, but rather, who goes the farthest by the time it's over. Therefore, BR-50 Unlimited is truly a "wide open", "no-holds-barred", "King of the Mountain" competition where the contestant must "statistically" beat **everybody in his category** to claim the title of BR-50 UNLIMITED WORLD CHAMPION. (Airgun and Rimfire categories each contain two "classes" - only one will be *G-Line World Champ*. The other will receive the title of "DIVISION CHAMPION" of his class.) And every choice along the way has a cost. Time, friendship, marriage, money, hope, ...youth - all can fly away. SO WHAT?!! We're talkin' BR-50 UNLIMITED here. There's never been anything like it before,.....EXCEPT TOTAL WAR!

G-LINE FORMULA: $A+B+C+D = E$ $\sqrt{E} \times F = X$ $\sqrt{X} = G - \text{line}$

- A - Total Champoints
- B - Average Champoints
- C - Champoint Finishes
- D - Total Ranges
- F - Latest-10 Average Agg

TEAMS (Revised July 30, 1997)

In addition to individual shooters, **BADGE TEAMS** are also competing in BR-50 UNLIMITED. A Badge Team may have up to four members. The "badges" are obtained from HQ by registering the team name and paying a \$10.00 fee for each member's badge (to cover the cost of extra computer work). That team-badge must be worn by whichever member is shooting "for the team" at any given event, and the stats are logged into the G-Line record for both the team and the individual - he forfeits nothing when shooting for the team. Since the team badge may not be worn in more than one place at one time, this system allows people to combine their resources in a G-Line campaign without gaining an insurmountable advantage over single competitors. A badge team requires total trust and commitment on the part of all members. Also a good game plan is essential. Teams are a great method of enhancing the fun of chasing the BR-50 Rimfire or Airgun ***World G-Line Championship!*** (It's the **ONLY** title a team may compete for.) A schedule of who will be wearing the badge, where, and when, must be on file at HQ. Contact HQ for details.

REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES

(Listed below are the basics. Headquarters reserves the right to impose additional requirements on clubs that appear to be attempting to defy the spirit of the rules.)

DECORUM

All persons are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner while attending any sanctioned BR-50 activity. Disruptive individuals (especially those who are just there to "agitate in protest") are not welcome. It is the Match Director's responsibility, should he observe any behavior or other circumstance deemed "unsafe", or "not in the best interest of the sport", to correct the situation. If he cannot correct it, the Director must inform the group concerning his decision to delay, or cancel, the match for safety or for the good of the sport in general.

Loud talking, shouting, or any other distracting behavior is not permitted while people are trying to compete. The atmosphere at a registered BR-50 event should be that of a professional golf tournament. If it isn't, players are urged to complain to the Match Director and to Headquarters.

THERE SHALL BE NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED AT ANY REGISTERED BR-50 EVENT UNTIL AFTER THE DAY'S FIRING HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

NEW CLUBS

An existing club may host the first **two** official match dates for a new club AT THE NEW CLUBS RANGE FACILITY. This lets the new club experience the proper procedures required for registered events before investing any money. Contact HQ for details. Any entity that has passed a full year since it's first registered event is no longer considered to be a "New Club".

REGISTERED MATCHES

(Only OUTDOOR events are official.)

MATCHES AND START-TIMES MUST BE PUBLISHED IN THE HOT-SHEET AHEAD OF TIME TO BE OFFICIAL. Publication date is the 10th of each month. (It's best to submit a seasonal schedule for publication.) We publish the match date, the Start-Time, how many matches are scheduled ("stacked") on that date, whether they are series matches or tournaments, and the Match Director's phone number. NOTE: Whenever an event is listed in the Hot-Sheet, it is MANDATORY to stage it as listed, and in strict compliance with the rules of BR-50 INTERNATIONAL. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF AFFILIATION. It is not permitted to reschedule matches without a waiver from HQ. (Registered events must be scheduled in the Hot-Sheet.) Registered events are to begin and end on schedule. **NEVER delay a start-time for late-comers.** (It is unfair to those who were "ON TIME".) IF AN EVENT IS CANCELED FOR **ANY** REASON NOTIFY HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY.

FIRING PERIODS:

RIMFIRE / AIRGUN: -- (50-shot target) -- **30 minutes NONSTOP**, including any sighters & foulers.
BRV (25-shot target) -- **20 minutes NONSTOP.** (It is to be run simultaneously with the 30-minute firing period - simply call out the 20-minute ceasefire for the BRV shooters.) Since each shooter is responsible for fastening his own target securely, we do not stop a firing period if a target comes loose from the frame. We do not let one person's misfortune become everyone else's. Interrupting a firing period for ANY reason (safety, technical problems, etc.) disqualifies that relay, which must then be re-shot from the beginning.

CENTERFIRE BR-50: -- (A separate sport with it's own titles, etc. Contact HQ for separate Centerfire Rulebook Supplement.)

DRAWING FOR BENCHES IS MANDATORY.

BENCH ROTATION IS MANDATORY. Divide the number of designated benches by the number of matches to be held in any particular event. The result is the number of positions for each shooter to "shift" to the right for each "rotation". Do not use more benches than there are shooters. If you have 20 benches and only 6 shooters, **USE THE 6 MIDDLE BENCHES.** (This makes more consistant shooting conditions.)

MULTI-RELAY MATCHES:

When there are more competitors than available benches, more than one relay is necessary. DO NOT LET EXTRA RELAYS BECOME AN EXCUSE FOR SOME SHOOTERS TO JUST SHOW UP LATE. SET A SIGN-IN DEADLINE AND STICK TO IT! Registered events are to begin and end on schedule. **NEVER delay a start-time for late-comers.** (It is unfair to those who were "ON TIME", and BR-50 is to be an *Olympic quality event*. At the Olympics **NOTHING** is delayed for a late-comer.)

At MULTI-RELAY events, balance the number of shooters per relay as evenly as possible, while making arrangements so people sharing equipment can shoot on the same bench. Only the first "sharer" of the gun need draw for a bench - the others shooting it will use his bench throughout the entire event.

EXAMPLE: Joe draws bench #4 to begin a 3-stack on a fifteen bench firing line. (15 divided by 3 = 5; a five-bench [shift] "rotation") His 2nd match would be shot on bench #9, the 3rd on bench #14). The intent is that all shooters compete across the entire designated facility instead of "lucking" into a possible sweet-spot.

At a 2-day event, the sequence of the relays is to be reversed on the second day. (relays #1, #2, & #3 would be shot in reverse order on day two - relay #3, then #2, and finally #1.) This helps balance the "conditions".

RANGE PROTOCOL:

Match directors must announce the amount of time scheduled between matches. (Ten minutes is the minimum period allowed. A half hour is much better, and has become the "tradition" thereby allowing each match to start "on the hour".) **No shooter is allowed to delay or disrupt the time schedule.** If he isn't fully set up and ready when it's time for his next match he must either compete "as is", or DNF. In the interest of safety and order, the Match Director or designated range officer, should control firing-line activities in this sort of manner:

At CEASE-FIRE, call out:

"CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE, OPEN ALL ACTIONS PLEASE, AND STEP BACK FROM THE BENCHES!"

When all have moved away from the benches, he, or an assistant, shall go down the line inspecting all actions to verify that all chambers are empty and that all else is safe. He then turns to the group and calls out:

"THE LINE IS SAFE! FOLLOWING THE TARGET OFFICER YOU MAY GO FORWARD AND SET TARGETS. YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES (or ?) 'UNTIL THE NEXT FIRING PERIOD, TEN MINUTES!"

(At this time shooters may also approach their benches again, but all actions must remain open until the firing period begins.)

At the end of the CEASE-FIRE the Director calls out:

"THE LINE IS NOW HOT, YOU HAVE THIRTY MINUTES UNTIL THE NEXT CEASE-FIRE, THIRTY MINUTES! YOU MAY BEGIN FIRING NOW!"

Fifteen minutes into the match the Director shall call out:

"ATTENTION ALL SHOOTERS - FIFTEEN MINUTES OF THIS MATCH HAVE PASSED." This lets the 50-shot shooters know that they have 15 minutes remaining, and the BRV shooters know that they have 5 minutes remaining. At the end of 20 minutes he announces, **"ATTENTION ALL SHOOTERS - BRV SHOOTERS MUST CEASE FIRE, AND STEP BACK FROM THEIR BENCHES NOW! ALL OTHERS HAVE 10 MINUTES REMAINING."** (It doesn't take a brain surgeon to do this.)

At the end of the match he cycles back to the "cease-fire" protocol, and the whole thing starts over again.

TARGET HANDLING AT MATCHES

(The purpose of it all is to convey the assurance of unbiased "fairness".)

AFTER THE SHOOTER HAS SECURED HIS TARGET UPON THE TARGET FRAME TO HIS SATISFACTION (since this is HIS responsibility) HE WILL NOT TOUCH THE TARGET AGAIN UNTIL AFTER IT HAS BEEN FINALIZED BY THE THREE JUDGE PANEL. All names, and any other identifiers, must be on the back of the target .

At each registered event the Match Director shall appoint a "TARGET OFFICER" and a "SCORING TEAM" made up of the most competent and reliable persons present. The number of persons appointed must be adequate to "RAW SCORE" all targets in a reasonable amount of time. This group may include the match director and his mandatory "THREE JUDGE PANEL" of "finalizers".

TARGET SCORING

At the "cease-fire", only the Target Officer (T.O.) will collect the targets from the target frames. He will stack them randomly (not in sequence) and "FACE-UP", and deliver them to the Scoring Team who will view ONLY the front of the target while OPTICALLY scoring all but the "close ones" (no plugs of any kind) . The target will then go immediately to the THREE JUDGE PANEL for "finalizing". Using the OFFICIAL SCORING TOOLS, they will "RULE" on all the close ones (10-A's) MARKING ANY HOLE CHECKED WITH A PLUG BY WRITING A "P" NEXT TO IT. The scoring is now finished, and the target is returned to the T.O., who will then look at the back to find out which shooter to return it to. When the shooter has received his target he has **THREE MINUTES** to decide whether to DNF or not. If he DNF's he keeps the target. If he chooses not to DNF, he files the target with the Match Director for inclusion in the results of the match. Any target not turned in within the three-minute limit is presumed to be a DNF.

NOTE: HQ does not consider the act of bringing incorrect arithmetic to the attention of the Match Director to be a PROTEST. A "protest" is a disagreement with a "judgment call" as to whether a bullet hole is in or out, and since all those decisions will have been made *BY THE FINAL JUDGES* prior to the shooter receiving his target back there is NO PROTEST. But arithmetic is not a judgment call in any way, and therefore in the interest of accuracy and fairness, if one discovers incorrect addition in the totaling of his score, he should point it out when he submits his target to the match director for inclusion in the match results. We don't want anyone to be penalized by somebody else's inability to add correctly. The same rationale applies to a bullet hole that is simply **scored wrong**. If, for example, **"25"** is written next to an obvious 50-point hole, this too, falls into the category of "easily correctable errors". The idea is, once the judges have judged (plugged) a 10-A hole it stands. But holes that weren't even looked at by the judges may be corrected by the Match Director. (This is *NOT* referring to holes that require a plug.) Finally, if a shooter is seriously displeased with the scoring he may send his target(s) to HQ for certification (Including \$2.00 for S&H). If HQ determines the scoring to be substandard the match director will be "put on notice" and may be required to submit additional future targets to Headquarters for review.

10A RULINGS:

Any shot that even remotely appears to need a plug is referred to as a "10A call". Each of the three "Finalizing Judges", using the official scoring tools, will independently decide whether any 10A bullet hole is actually IN or OUT. No talking is allowed. When all three have made their decision, they simultaneously lay down their "IN / OUT" marker on the table with the proper side showing. MAJORITY RULES AND THEIR DECISION IS FINAL. These judges bear great responsibility and MUST be known by the Match Director to be competent, capable, and honest. **They may NOT be selected by random drawing.**

THE NICK PAPPAS RULE

If a shooter DNF's a target during a tournament, that target is scored as a zero. (A target "Blow-Down" is also a DNF) This will severely impact his finish/placement in the event because the zero is still included as part of the average. It will, however, allow him to salvage whatever champoints he might still collect at that tournament, and therefore his trip is not a total loss. (Nick's target once blew down in a tournament but, in retrospect, total disqualification did seem a bit harsh - hence this new rule.)

IN CASE OF A TIE - THE GORDON METHOD:

The Champoints for the positions which would be occupied by those who TIED are simply added together and that total is divided equally between those shooters. EXAMPLE; TOM, DICK, & HARRY tied for first place with aggs of 3985. If they had NOT tied they'd have finished first, second, and third, for 10, 9, & 8 points respectively. $10+9+8 = 27$ points. 27 divided by $3 = 9$ points each. The next finisher is 4th-place, (7 points). In BR-50 matches you only get 10 points by beating EVERYBODY. Since they beat everybody *EXCEPT EACH OTHER* they only get 9. **Recommendations regarding "prizes" and "Awards":** Now that it's all "Raw Score" there will be more "ties". It may be difficult to guess how many trophies, etc. will need to be purchased. It's best to have "display" models of the awards present at the event (for photo purposes) and send the actual trophies or plaques to the winners at home later, once the correct ones have been ordered from the supplier. This way relieves all the strain. Prizes, on the other hand, (cash, equipment, services) should be handled by drawing (a raffle) and have no relationship to the score or placement. May we all fondly remember the late JOHN GORDON on these special occasions.

(LIMITING TOURNAMENT SIZE)

**Maximum Champoints may not exceed 5 times the number of available benches.
(unless it's an "OPEN")**

&

**Number of shooters may not be intentionally restricted to less than two full relays
without approval from HQ.**

EXAMPLE: The maximum size tournament allowed on a ten bench range is a five match event (50X50), and may be limited to no less than 20 competitors (2 relays) without approval from Headquarters. Less shooters may sign up, but the event isn't allowed to be intentionally limited to less than 20. If time available on the range facility is a factor, then shooting less matches is to be the solution.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY LIMITATION CHART

4	Benches.....2-Match Tournament (20X20).....8 shooter minimum
5	Benches.....2-Match Tournament (20X20).....10 shooter minimum
6	Benches.....3-Match Tournament (30X30).....12 shooter minimum
7	Benches.....3-Match Tournament (30X30).....14 shooter minimum
8	Benches.....4-Match Tournament (40X40).....16 shooter minimum
9	Benches.....4-Match Tournament (40X40).....18 shooter minimum
10	Benches.....5-Match Tournament (50X50).....20 shooter minimum
11	Benches.....5-Match Tournament (50X50).....22 shooter minimum
12	Benches.....6-Match Tournament (60X60).....24 shooter minimum

6-Match tournaments are the largest allowed, and 4 benches are the minimum allowed.
And no tournament may be limited to less than 2 full relays without a "WAIVER" from HQ.

PRO-RATED MATCH SCHEDULING:

Any club submitting their complete match schedule early enough (first 6 months) for publication by, or in, the June HOT-SHEET will be allowed a full allotment of official events as described in the rulebook. Any club submitting their schedule for publication in the third quarter of the year (July, August, September) will be allowed only a half year allotment of events (maximum - a six-match series and (2) three-match tournaments, etc.). If their events don't even begin until September they will be allowed only a quarter-year allotment (maximum - a three match series and 1 two-match tournament).

What this all means is; there is no change for the first half of the year. But if a club waits until the second half of the year to commit to a published official schedule they will only be allowed to host half the events they might have had. And the schedule as published in the September 10 HOT-SHEET will be FINAL, TOTAL AND COMPLETE as far as G-LINE events are concerned - canceled matches may not be rescheduled. The only additions after this printing would be for new clubs coming on line, and these matches, though official for state and world record, would not count toward national ranking. Questions? Call HQ for answers.

MONEY

ENTRY FEES:

Clubs may charge whatever they deem reasonable for the economic health of their matches. At many places around the country an entry fee of five - six dollars per-shooter per-match is normal and is used for match fees, awards, necessary equipment, etc.

MATCH DUES:

A fee of **ONE DOLLAR & FIFTY CENTS (\$1.50 - U.S.)** per entrant per match is to be included with the match report, which **must arrive at HQ within seven days** of the completion of the event. This is part of a shooter's "**ENTRY**" fee and is not contingent upon whether or not he finishes the match. (DNF-ing is part of playing the game.) **THIS COMPLETES THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION OF THE MATCH**, enabling the results to be certified and recognized in the HOT-SHEET.

EXAMPLE: 19 shooters enter a match, but only 15 finish, the fee is still **\$28.50**, not \$22.50.

PRIZE MONEY:

Matches & Tournaments that award PRIZE MONEY must be approved by BR-50 HQ ahead of time. At all PRIZE MONEY events where the "POT" is funded by an additional entry fee, IT SHALL BE THE SHOOTER'S OPTION WHETHER TO PAY THE EXTRA FEE AND BE ELIGIBLE, or to merely enter at the "regular" price and shoot for Champoints. Events where the value of any cash prize exceeds **\$300.00** must employ a stationary backer system at least 18 inches behind the targets for "crossfire" detection. (**RECOMMENDATION:** It's best to leave prize money out of Series matches and let it be part of the "sizzle" of Tournaments only)

MULTI-SANCTIONING, SPONSORSHIP, & PRIZES:

Occasionally other entities desire to host a BR-50 match and still have it sanctioned by BR-50 INTERNATIONAL. This is fine, but must be approved by HQ. And as always, **NO PERSON SHALL BE REQUIRED TO JOIN ANY ORGANIZATION TO SHOOT IN OFFICIALLY REGISTERED MATCHES SANCTIONED BY BR-50 INTERNATIONAL.** Only those matches held in STRICT compliance with the rules (including this one) of BR-50 INTERNATIONAL will be recognized.

Regarding commercial sponsorship: **ALL RIGHTS TO ATTACHMENT OF COMMERCIAL NAMES AND TRADEMARKS TO ANY BR-50 EVENTS ARE THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF BR-50 INTERNATIONAL, AND REQUIRE WRITTEN AGREEMENT FROM HEADQUARTERS.** Donations of prizes from various suppliers of equipment and services do not require written agreement, but are subject to refusal if such donation is deemed inappropriate by BR-50 INTERNATIONAL.

MATCH REPORTS

Because of the weekly download of competition data (each Thursday) Directors are REQUIRED to FAX their match reports to HQ WITHIN 2 DAYS OF THE EVENT, and then mail the originals etc. in strict compliance with the following directives. ONLY COPIES OF THE OFFICIAL MATCH REPORT FORMS SUPPLIED IN THE RULEBOOK WILL BE ACCEPTED. (DO NOT COPY THEM "DOUBLE-SIDED". If they are double-sided in the rulebook, it's only to save weight.) This supersedes ALL previous agreements. Searching through various "custom" report forms all year long is just too mind boggling. SIGN-IN SHEET must always accompany the MATCH REPORT when filed by FAX, and by mail.

Originals of reports (and all fees) must arrive at HQ within SEVEN DAYS of the completion of the event. (Overseas - foreign currency clubs may make "special agreements" with HQ.) They must be accurate and complete. Aggregates must be taken to the third decimal place, and all data must be clear and legible. The SIGN-IN SHEET has been designed to also serve as an "equipment list" to be filed along with the **MATCH REPORT**. Only one sign-in sheet (the original) is necessary for each **match date** - not one for each match. (Likewise, one for a whole Tournament, rather than one for each match of the tournament.) Shooters must clearly print ALL the required data and must use the same name at all events, plus the last four digits of their Social Security number, to enable HQ to publish accurate information. The MATCH REPORT form has been designed to minimize the Match Director's (& HQ's) work load.

FAILURE TO PROPERLY FILE REPORTS & FEES WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF AFFILIATION. (The Ripping-Off of shooters who have traveled to shoot at matches listed in the HOT-SHEET, by not completing the match registration requirements, will not be tolerated.)

Until a club has received a "waiver", all match reports must be accompanied by the **first place** and **second place** targets from each event being reported. Once a club demonstrates the ability to score accurately, and the ability to file prompt and correct match reports, they will be granted a waiver of the requirement to submit these targets for review. The waiver remains in effect until canceled by HQ.

TARGETS SHOULD BE FOLDED VERTICALLY BETWEEN GRIDS AND SENT IN A 9X12 MANILA ENVELOPE, available at all office supply stores. IF THE SHOOTERS WANT THEM RETURNED, SEND \$1.00 FOR POSTAGE & HANDLING PLUS CORRECT ADDRESS FOR EACH SHOOTER.

TARGET CERTIFICATION & RECORDS

Possible record-setting targets must be submitted by the Match Director only (with the completed "certification request form" and \$3.00 for processing) to BR-50 HQ for verification and confirmation. A three person *CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE* will judge all targets sent in for State or World records. These judges will be spread all around the country. When a target is sent to HQ it will be placed in a priority-mail envelope along with any others that have arrived that month. At the end of the month the envelope will be sent to "Judge A" who will make his decisions and immediately file a report with Headquarters. He will then send the targets to "Judge B". Judge B will do the same thing and forward the targets to Judge C. This last judge will send them back to HQ along with his findings, and I will then print the "Certificates of Record" (or the denial of record) and mail them to the proper individuals. Before these targets go to the judges they will have the identifying names "blacked out" so that the committee will be judging totally anonymous stuff. Then they're published in THE HOT SHEET. Non-record targets may be submitted by the shooters themselves for certification to check accuracy of scoring (include \$3.00 for postage & handling). G-Line statistics records require a minimum of five events to qualify.

MATCH DIRECTORS

The next three pages are "MASTERS" of the various forms required for submitting the "paperwork" to HQ. They have been specifically designed to ease your work-load, and mine. They are to be photo-copied for use.

NO OTHER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Those who want to duplicate these forms on computer are encouraged to do so, **BUT THEY MUST BE FULL SIZE** because in processing your monthly data I must make notations on them, and that requires **SPACE**.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
--LB.

1998

BR-50 MATCH REPORT

(Please print clearly)

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1998

BR-50 MATCH REPORT

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ACCELERATOR UPDATE

RULE CHANGES TO BEGIN JAN. 1, 1997

(Copyright TARGETECH: 1996)

In most of BR-50 INTERNATIONAL if Joe shoots just as well as Bill does, but with a lighter gun, **Joe** wins. Likewise, in **ACCELERATOR**, if Don shoots just as well as Fred does, but quicker, **Don** wins.

In the real world, seldom does one size truly fit all, so TARGETECH has developed another game. It is fast, exciting, unique, and it embraces the pursuit of excellence that BR-50 shooters have come to expect. And best of all, IT'S LESS EXPENSIVE!

The **ACCELERATOR** target is a blue-on-white marvel of ingenuity utilizing the first five grids of the BR-50 *International* target. It's a **twenty-five target game**, and the target-distance is the same for both Rimfire and Airgun - **100 feet**. It is scored just like BR-50 *International* except that the raw score is modified by speed rather than by weight. (No scales needed.)

Whatever raw score is achieved is divided by the number of seconds it took to achieve it.

EXAMPLE:

Let's say a raw score of **1875** is achieved, and the shooter took 3 minutes & 12 seconds to shoot it. 3 minutes is 180 seconds, plus 12 more = **192** seconds. **1875 divided by 192 = 9.766** (rounded-off to the third decimal place). 9.766 is the shooter's aggregate for that match. The total time allowed for a match is 5 minutes, and anyone not finished in that amount of time is an automatic DNF.

There are **no** restrictions on equipment other than this one:

EACH SHOOTER IS ALLOWED ONLY ONE WINDFLAG.

Originally there was a restriction regarding "magazines" for repeaters. In compliance with the philosophy of all TARGETECH sports ("Let's find out what works"), that restriction has been dropped. Any number of safe magazines are allowed. But all magazines must be empty, and all ammo must be visible on the bench when the shooter starts his timer. This, of course, necessitates the loading and/or reloading of said magazine(s) during the actual firing time, thereby requiring the "repeater" shooter to "handle" all ammunition just like the single-shot shooters must do. As in auto racing, speedy pit-stops are considered to be part of the game. If a shooter selects "single-shot" technology because he thinks it may be more accurate, the cost of his choice is that it's slower. If he chooses "repeater" technology because he thinks it's faster, the cost of that choice is the necessity of pit-stops for loading the magazine(s). There is no free lunch.

THE MATCH

Each shooter is required to have a table-top "count-up" timer which will be placed slightly beyond arm's reach behind his bench. (It's best to set them on a chair, railing, overturned bucket, etc., but on the ground will suffice if necessary.) The director will personally "zero" each timer, and then will call out, "The line is hot - you may begin firing NOW!"

We have tried to design **BR-50 ACCELERATOR** as perfectly as humanly possible, and it is based on the same rationale as BR-50 *International*. Still, here in the beginning, it may require some refinement. The revisions on this page are examples of such refinements, and are effective immediately. When in doubt, CALL HQ FOR A RULING. --LB.

The recommended timer is **RADIO SHACK's** - cat #**63-897** (\$12.99). Some people are using the Radio Shack #**63-884** which is a more expensive "dual-timer" model. - OK.

(No "stop-watches" allowed - too complicated.)

Championships, Tournaments, and G-Line. Target just like in BR-50. But since **ACCELERATOR** is a completely different game, it will have it's own Series Championships, Tournaments, and G-Line. Target prices and match fees are identical also. There is virtually nothing that Match Directors must do differently except that **ACCELERATOR** matches must be identified separately on the published match schedule so the shooters will know what they're looking at. A Series Championship may consist of up to **36 matches** (instead of 12) and two 6-Card Tournaments may be staged, per year. In other words, **ACCELERATOR** is a parallel sport designed to attract, perhaps, a somewhat different crowd interested in pursuing excellence in a new way.