

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

Guidelines for Preparing Vintage Sniper Rifles that Comply with Class B Vietnam Era Sniper Rifle Rules

Introduction. The **2024 CMP Games Rifle and Pistol Competition Rules** authorize the establishment of a new Category B for Vintage Sniper Rifles that were produced and deployed between 1954 and 1976 (Vietnam Era sniper rifles). Rule G6.2.1 and Table 9 in that rulebook define this new category and list sniper rifles that are legal for use in Category B events. A principle the CMP has followed in developing its Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Match Program has been to maintain this event's historic credibility by only allowing original or replica rifle and optical sight variations that were actually used in military sniper operations. U. S. sniper rifles of this era were based on commonly available rifle platforms that have been used in producing a wide variety of rifle variations. However, to preserve the integrity of the CMP Sniper Rifle Team Match, the CMP has adopted rules and rule interpretations that will limit the rifle variations that can legally be used in this new category to those that have historic provenance.

These **Guidelines** are intended to provide specific guidance on how to interpret CMP Games Rule 6.2.1 when selecting or preparing rifles to use in Class B Category Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Matches. If, after reading these Guidelines, you still have questions about this rule and the Guidelines to this rule or for a proposed sniper rifle feature, please contact CMP Competitions (Brian Williams, bwilliams@thecmp.org).

Manually Operated and Semi-Auto Sniper Rifles. While Rule G6.2.1 provides for dividing Sniper Rifle Teams into separate classes for manually operated and semi-auto rifles, the CMP intends, at least initially, to have all Category B sniper rifle teams compete in one class and does not plan to divide Category B teams into separate manually operated and semi-auto classes. If experience during the next year provides convincing proof that separate classes are necessary, that change can be implemented in due time.

The following Guidelines concerning USMC M70, USMC M40 and U. S. Army XM21 sniper rifles will be followed in approving rifles for use in the new Class B Vintage Sniper Rifle Category:

U. S. Marine Corps M70 Winchester Rifles. Rifles that replicate USMC M70 sniper rifles are permitted. M70 sniper rifles must comply with the following:

- Must have a Winchester pre-64 Model 70 action. Actions may not have threaded bolt handles or nobs.
- Must be chambered for the .30-06 cartridge.
- The maximum barrel length is 24 in., the maximum muzzle diameter is .790 in.
- Must have a non-adjustable, wooden stock (target style or sporter stock). The stock may be glass bedded. The stock may not have a cheek pad or riser.

- Must have an external adjustment telescope that has no recoil spring. Telescope magnification is limited to 3X, 6X or 8X. The issue telescope was a Unertl 8X. Authorized non-issue telescopes are Unertl, Lyman or Fekker 6X or 8X with objective lenses of 1.50 in. or less. Leatherwood Malcolm 3X, 6X or 8X scopes are also authorized.
- Scope mounts must be original or exact reproductions of original scope mounts.

U. S. Marine Corps M40 Rifles. Rifles that replicate USMC M40 sniper rifles are permitted. M40 sniper rifles must comply with the following:

- May have any Remington Model 700 action, regardless of the year of manufacture. Clone or custom receivers are not permitted. Actions may not have threaded bolt handles or nobs.
- Must be chambered for the 7.62 NATO/.308 cartridge.
- Maximum barrel length is 24 in. with a maximum muzzle diameter of .850 in.
- Must have a non-adjustable, wooden stock (target style or sporter stock). The stock may be glass bedded. The stock may not have a cheek pad or riser.
- Optical sights may be Redfield 3-9X Accu-Range telescopes or Leatherwood ART telescopes. Commercial equivalent 3-9X scopes with a 40mm max. objective lens diameter are permitted. Any commercial 3X9X40 scope will be accepted (No target-type adjustment knobs).
- Scope mounts must be original or exact reproductions of original scope mounts.

U. S. Army Model XM21 Rifles. Rifles that replicate U. S. Army XM21 sniper rifles are permitted. M21 sniper rifles must comply with the following:

- Rifle actions must be semi-auto commercial equivalent M14s. Rifles manufactured by Springfield Armory, Fulton Armory, Armscorp, or Norinco will be accepted. Lugged receivers are not permitted. Blued or stainless finishes are acceptable.
- The external rifle appearance should replicate the original rifle configuration as closely as possible.
- Must be chambered for the 7.62 NATO/.308 cartridge.
- Barrels with various contours are acceptable. Barrels may be standard, medium, or heavy.
- Wood or fiberglass stocks are acceptable. The stock may be glass bedded. The stock may not have a cheek pad or riser.
- Optical sights may be Redfield 3-9X Accu-Range telescopes or Leatherwood ART telescopes. Commercial equivalent 3-9X scopes with a 40mm max. objective lens diameter are permitted. Any commercial 3X9X40 scope will be accepted (No target-type adjustment knobs).
- The M21 original scope mount is acceptable or a reproduction scope mount that has more than one mounting point may be used (No M25 mounts).