

Press Release & General Response to The Recent Changes to the Modern Military Rules - January 19, 2019

Recent changes have been made to the rules governing competition in the CMP Modern Military Match in an attempt to restore the original spirit of competition. General observation and statistical analysis revealed a trend discontinuous with the original purpose and intent of this match.

The Modern Military match was originally devised to be an inclusive category, encompassing a litany of common rifles presumably owned and underutilized by the majority of average firearms owners. Among other things, Modern Military serves to attract this shooter who may have little to no prior competitive experience and a limited arsenal at their disposal. The original intent was to have a competitive forum and a level playing field, for these commonly owned and underutilized firearms to compete. In short, Modern Military provides an avenue to competition for a shooter who might not otherwise possess the equipment to compete.

As our Service Rifle Competition rules evolved to accommodate optics, unfortunately so too did our standard Modern Military rules. In order to accommodate these optics in the Modern Military match, overall weight was addressed by necessity at the same time. With this shift we had inadvertently created a distinct advantage for particular rifles that could now compete at a heavier weight with minimally restricted modern optics. This led to a rapid influx of rifles essentially built to a lighter weight, Service Rifle Competition specification. As a result, a significant portion of the rifles around which the Modern Military match was originally focused had been rendered obsolete and uncompetitive. It was never our intent for this match to become dominated by "match" AR's with exorbitantly expensive optics. The 2019 rules represent an effort to correct this oversight, restoring the original intent and diversity of competition for the Standard Modern Military Match classification.

The second significant change to the 2019 rules pertains to general limitations on "accurizing". The original general restriction on accurizing was again intended to prevent a firearm built to competition Service Rifle Specifications and limit the potential for the Modern Military Match to devolve into another equipment race. Inadvertently, this ban limited participation of the commonly available firearms which were within the match's original design. It was brought to our attention that commonly available and inexpensive AR type rifles are sold with attributes (float tubes, alternate Sights, etc.) which would prevent them from competing due to the accurizing ban. Since the 2019 reversion to the previous weight limit of 7.5 lbs (AR) will eliminate the possibility of competing with a Service Rifle therefore eliminating A2 with 20" barrels. This will promote a competition with pencil barrels and m4 clones which is in line with the original intent and spirit of the competition.

In the interest of inclusivity and simplicity of enforcement, the 2019 rules relax any additional restrictions regarding accurizing beyond the clearly defined position on optics and overall weight. 2019 revisions will also ensure that other rifles, such as the M1A which is often sold with an "NM" front sight, will be legal for competition in their commonly available configuration.