



ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS

ADVANCED RIFLE HANDLING (ARH)

Apprentice Trails Guide and ARH Renewal

**THE FIELD GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
(Association incorporated under Section 21)**

Registration number: 2004/003844/08



PROLOGUE

The assessment procedures described in this document are aimed at the Field Guides operating in dangerous game areas as Trails Guides. The guide is responsible for the overall safety of the group and functions as an Apprentice Trails Guide, Trails Guide or Professional Trails Guide on guided walks in areas of potentially dangerous animals.

This process is designed to ensure that the guide is equipped to deal with emergencies under guiding conditions, and that the correct muscle memory is fixed for the sake of safety and survival.

The entire assessment process (exercises, shooting distances, targets etc) is based on actual events in the field and on the shooting range, experienced over many years by the contributors to this process. Accurate measurements of dissected skulls and braincases were made in the development of the FGASA recognised animal targets and the static target.

Data from earlier assessment protocols revealed the dangers in poor rifle handling drills and were addressed in this process. Carefully monitored negligent discharges (total of 28 out of 27 000 shots fired) were analysed and protocols developed to prevent future occurrences. The breakdown of these negligent discharges was: (a) 25 out of 28 caused by right handed shooters locking the bolt with a closed fist (bolt between thumb and forefinger) and hitting the trigger with the pinkie, (b) 2 out of 28 caused by left handed shooters cycling the bolt with the right hand while the rifle is in the left shoulder, and the left hand is holding the rifle by the pistol grip, (c) 1 out of 28 caused by rifle failure due to the trigger assembly collapsing.

The use of two-dimensional animal targets must be well managed and should be restricted to assessments only. It should not be used during training exercises unless a large selection of realistic targets is available and used at random in a *simulated charge* setup. This is due to the high risk of fixing the image of the perfect target, which will very seldom present itself under guiding conditions. This might cause a guide to shoot too early, or not at all when a charging animal must be stopped. To not get fixated on a particular two-dimensional animal target it is important to rotate a variety of targets during both training and assessments.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS ON RIFLES AND AMMUNITION

Although candidates are allowed to be assessed using a rifle in .375 calibre, it must be noted that this calibre is regarded as marginal on dangerous game under guiding conditions. A larger calibre (.40 and up) is preferable.

The assessment must be conducted with a bolt-action rifle (.375 H&H Mag or .375 Ruger with a minimum of a 286-grain bullet at 2350 f.p.s. or larger calibre) with a minimum magazine capacity of



three cartridges. It must be fitted with iron sights viz. open-; ghost-ring peep- or Blenheim sight; or a Red Dot optic sight.

The assessment must be conducted with an operational rifle (as used in the field for guiding) and may not be fitted with a larger bolt handle knob, or the sling removed, or any other temporary modifications made, for the purpose of the assessment.

It is preferred that the candidate is assessed with the rifle he/she intends to use for guiding (either personal or issued by the employer). If a “pool” rifle is used as issued by the employer, training delivery partner, or assessor, the rifle must comply with all the criteria as if it is the candidate’s personal rifle.

The ammunition used in the assessment must be the same as what would be used during guiding. Only monolithic solid or full metal jacket bullets are allowed. FGASA encourages the transition to non-lead based solid bullets and therefore brass monolithic solids are preferred. From testing conducted by FGASA Members it has clearly been shown that solids of a flat nosed design outpenetrate solids of same weight and velocity in round nose design. Original factory loaded ammunition or reloaded (personal or commercial) must be of the following minimum standards:

Minimum allowed for the following is:		
Calibre	minimum bullet weight	minimum velocity
.375	286/300 grain	2300 f.p.s
	350 grain	2150 f.p.s.
.404/.416	400/410 grain	2150 f.p.s
	430/450 grain	2050 f.p.s.
.450/.458	475/500 grain	2050 f.p.s
	550/600 grain	2000 f.p.s.
.470	500 grain	2100 f.p.s.
.505	525 grain	2250 f.p.s
	600 grain	2000 f.p.s.
.510	535/570 grain	2250 f.p.s.

ASSESSMENT AREA

The ARH assessment does not fall under Section 9 (2)(r) of the Firearms Control Act (60 of 2000) thus does not have to be conducted on an accredited shooting range as defined in terms of Regulation 6 of the Act.

In most cases accredited shooting ranges in built up areas are not suitable for, nor is it safe to use, for ARH assessments, as the firing line and the backstop are too far apart, and bullets tend to ricochet over the backstop.

It is the responsibility of the assessor, in conjunction with the landowner and/or manager, to find the most suitable shooting area with a large safety zone to ensure that all bullets can land safely. The entire area must also be closed off as a no-go zone during the entire assessment time.

RESTRICTIONS ON ASSESSMENT INTERVALS

If the candidate is not yet competent because of timing and/or accuracy and/or penalties during any of the exercises he/she can be re-assessed the next day. If again the candidate is not yet competent, he/she must undergo formal logged training, firing at least 30 cartridges with a lighter calibre and at least 20 cartridges with the rifle (or similar in make and calibre) the assessment is conducted with, spaced over at least 5 hours. Once the trainer is satisfied that the candidate is ready, he/she can be re-assessed the next day. If on this 3rd assessment attempt the candidate is still not yet competent due to timing and/or accuracy the formal training is to be repeated with re-assessment the next day only. This is specifically to teach the candidate the skill of advanced rifle handling and not to teach him/her to simply pass a test by trying his/her luck.

If the candidate is not yet competent because of one or more non-fatal errors reducing the candidate's score to be below the minimum required for that particular exercise and the candidate has used both his/her opportunities on that exercise he/she can only be re-assessed one calendar month later. This is to ensure that self-taught candidates learn the correct rifle handling procedures and protocols. It is also to ensure that trainers teach the correct rifle handling procedures and protocols and do not submit candidates to the assessment if the candidate is not ready for it.

If the candidate is not yet competent due to a fatal error the shooting exercise will be stopped and the candidate must leave the shooting range immediately. This is because any fatal error is linked to safety. The candidate may only be re-assessed after three calendar months and only after some form of corrective training e.g. attending an endorsed ARH course.

If the candidate attempts any assessment before the cooling down period, it will be regarded as training regardless of the outcome of the assessment.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CANDIDATE PRIOR TO THE ASSESSMENT

This document must be available to all candidates prior to the assessment. The candidate must sign an acknowledgement that:

- He/she is competent in all the relevant unit standards (SAQA) and will submit copies thereof to the FGASA office
- He/she is a paid-up member of FGASA
- He/she understands and submits to the “General Safety Factors”, “Shooting Area Rules and Commands”, and all other rules, regulations and protocols described in this document
- He/she has the relevant training and/or experience needed to meet the minimum criteria of this assessment

OBJECTIVES

To assess candidates on:

1. Their practical, heavy-calibre rifle handling and shooting skills on an advanced level
2. Their competence in safely handling and maintaining a heavy calibre rifle in such a way that a charging dangerous animal will be killed at short distance, should such a situation arise
3. The safe handling and maintenance of a firearm in accordance with laid down legislation, rules, procedures and conditions

KEY COMPETENCIES

1. Safe Rifle handling

Carelessness with firearms has led to more deaths and injuries than those caused by wild animals. Irresponsible firearm safety is inexcusable.

2. Combined accuracy and speed

Correct shot placement combined with accuracy is vital; a missed shot or a wounding shot would give even a mortally wounded animal enough time to kill or injure one or more people. A shot should be a killing shot. Speed is also a crucial consideration. A charging animal covers at least 10 meters per second (lion 22 m/s) leaving the guide facing a charge with a maximum of 2-3 seconds to deal with the situation.

3. Knowing when and when not to shoot

A guide needs to know the right drills when facing a charge and should consider that most charges are not carried through. They are often terminated at about 10m or even closer and this (in most cases) should be the deciding distance. Shooting too early, for example at a lion or rhino at 15

meters, could be unnecessary and therefore should be avoided. The animal should always be given the benefit of the doubt. Most exercises are therefore carried out at this distance and closer. If an animal charges from 30 or 20m the guide has enough time to aim and place an accurate shot when the animal gets to less than 10m.

4. Legal unit standards required

Before the candidate receives any training towards the ARH or attempts the ARH assessment he/she must have obtained the following unit standards via a registered training provider and on a registered shooting range:

Pre 2009

- POSLEC unit standard 10750 (Use of a Rifle) including Knowledge of the Firearms Control Act

Post 2009

- SAQA Unit standard 117705 (Demonstrate knowledge of the Firearms Control Act 2000 (Act No 60 of 2000) applicable to possessing a rifle)
- SAQA Unit standard 119651 (Handle and Use a manually operated Rifle or Carbine)
- SAQA Unit standard 123519 (Handle and use a manually operated Rifle or Carbine for Business Purposes)

KNOWLEDGE

The learner should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

1. Safe handling rules and drills as per procedures, including how to clear a stoppage.
2. Loading and Unloading of the rifle
3. Maintaining a rifle and ensuring that it is always clean and serviceable
4. Methods of carrying a rifle, and terrain/circumstances where each should be applied.
5. Safety procedures
6. Conditions of readiness
7. Identifying and correcting malfunctions and stoppages
8. Firing of an accurate shot and combining all the necessary fundamentals under time pressure
9. Correct shot placement on static and moving targets at the required level of competence
10. Making the rifle safe for the purpose of storage
11. Use of suitable equipment (e.g. sling, ammunition belt, cleaning equipment)
12. The position of the brain and vital organs of dangerous animals and at what point you would have to aim in order to hit them

GENERAL SAFETY FACTORS

Accidents with firearms normally have serious consequences. It is with the utmost importance that any guide issued with a firearm is aware of his/her responsibilities as far as the safe handling of firearms is concerned. It is essential that all guides issued with firearms are familiar with and act in accordance with the requirements of the Firearms Control Act 60/2000.

1. **The essential elements of ultimate firearm safety:** Always treat a firearm as though it is loaded
2. Never point a firearm loaded or unloaded at anyone or anything you do not intend shooting or killing
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until the rifle butt is in the shoulder and your sights are on the target

SHOOTING AREA RULES AND COMMANDS

Range Procedures

Before shooting and assessment commences, candidates should hand in their ammunition to the assessor (who will also be acting as range officer), or if available the ammunition control officer/range officer. Rifles should be declared safe and empty and put on a rifle stand close to the firing point. Once ammunition and rifles have been submitted, no candidate is to enter the operation area (area between ammunition control officer and firing point) without instruction from the assessor.

Although not compulsory it is good practice that all ammunition and rifles are to be entered into a register by the ammunition control officer. All cartridges issued to the assessor will be indicated on the ammunition register in accordance with the assessment exercise.

The following range safety procedures and precautions must be adhered to at all times:

1. No loaded rifle to be taken onto the range
2. No rifle to be handled before being given a command by the assessor
3. No rifle to be loaded before being given a command by the assessor
4. A loaded rifle (Stage 3 & 4) will never be handed over from one person to another unless the assessor needs to intervene due to an unsafe situation arising from a serious malfunction of the rifle, or a physical or mental injury or breakdown to the candidate
5. Only the number of live cartridges and/or dummy cartridges as dictated by the exercise must be loaded
6. During and after loading, the rifle will be pointed down-range
7. If a candidate needs any assistance, he/she must raise his arm above his head whilst the rifle is pointed down-range
8. No person will move to the area in front of the firing line without permission from the assessor

General Safety Rules

1. All rifle bolts or actions will be unlocked and open at all times unless commanded otherwise by the assessor
2. No bolts or actions may be cycled or closed unless commanded otherwise by the assessor
3. No ammunition may be handled unless commanded otherwise by the assessor
4. When shooting commences, all present on the range must use ear protection
5. Once a candidate is at the firing-point, the muzzle must always point down range
6. When loading and unloading a bolt action rifle, the butt of the rifle must be supported against the thigh or hip with the non-loading hand under the action. A double rifle should be loaded by holding the pistol grip with the dominant hand and loaded using the non-dominant hand.
7. The bolt of a bolt action rifle may not be cycled by holding the bolt handle between thumb and forefinger. A soft open or cupped hand must be used at all times to cycle the bolt (See prologue)
8. Finger must be kept off the trigger while rifle is lifted into shoulder or being lowered
9. Nobody may approach the firing-point or move down-range from there, unless ordered to do so by the assessor
10. A candidate, who shoots from the left shoulder, may not use his/her right hand to cycle the bolt of the rifle (See prologue)
11. The use of ear protection (ear plugs and/or earmuffs) is compulsory to all on the shooting range once the order "range is closed" is given
12. No persons under the influence of any substance having a narcotic effect will be allowed at the shooting range
13. The consumption of alcohol on the shooting range is strictly prohibited

Range Commands (*ARH assessor = Range Officer*)

1. The candidate is called to bring rifle to the firing point. The candidate must bring the rifle to the firing point with the bolt or action open and the rifle unloaded. The candidate must indicate that the rifle is safe and empty and declare this to the assessor
2. The assessor declares the range “closed”
3. The shooting exercise is explained to the learner
4. He/she will be allowed a maximum of two dry runs. For this purpose, dummy cartridges may be used, or the candidate can go through the exercise but without dry firing the rifle
5. The necessary amount of ammunition is given to the candidate in his/her hand and the order “prepare yourself” is given. The candidate must cycle the cartridges through the action by locking the bolt on each cartridge to ensure that they all feed and chamber properly. Ear protection is fitted
6. The learner loads the rifle (full magazine) and goes to stage two for a bolt action and stage three for a double rifle.
7. The candidate then indicates readiness by saying “ready”
8. The command “fire” to start the exercise
9. Should the candidate experience a problem or malfunction during the assessment the candidate is required to handle and correct the malfunction him/herself within the allocated time frame. Should the candidate fail to rectify the problem the assessor should give the command “cease fire”. This command is also applicable to other emergency situations. When the command “cease fire” is given, the candidate must immediately remove finger from the trigger, lower rifle with muzzle pointing towards the target and await further instruction. Anyone on the shooting range may call a cease fire, if a safety infringement is not seen by the assessor
10. Once the shooting exercise is completed, the assessor will order the candidate to “make rifle safe”. This implies that all cartridges are removed and that the chamber and magazine are voided of any ammunition. The candidate must check the magazine and chamber (either visually or with upside-down little finger) and declare “rifle safe and empty”, which should be confirmed by the assessor
11. The assessor will now declare “range is open” and the candidate is allowed to move forward to inspect the targets
12. The candidate is reminded to pick up and remove fired cases. Any live cartridges that might have fallen on the ground and the balance from the ammunition belt must be handed over to the assessor

Summarised range and firing commands and procedures:

1. Candidate is called to firing point
2. Declare weapon safe
3. Assessor to explain the exercise procedures
4. Assessor asks if the candidate requires a dry run
5. Candidate is ordered to prepare him/herself
6. Load the magazine or chambers. Go to stage two or three depending on rifle type.
7. Assessor asks if candidate is ready
8. The command “fire” is given
9. Make and declare rifle safe
10. Rifle is placed on rifle rack with bolt or action open
11. The range is declared open
12. Inspect targets and leave firing point

Stages of rifle readiness:

Stage 0

Magazine empty and detached from firearm (Generally not applicable to bolt action rifles)

Stage 1

Magazine and chambers empty.

Bolt or action closed and firing pin released (in case of bolt action), double rifle safety catch engaged.

Stage 2 (Bolt action rifles only)

Magazine loaded

Bolt closed

Chamber empty

Firing pin released

(The normal carrying position for field guides whilst conducting guided activities.)

Stage 3

Firearm loaded

Cartridge/s in chamber/s

Firing pin cocked

Safety-catch “on”

(Not generally applicable to field guides with bolt action rifles)

Stage 4

Firearm loaded

Cartridge/s in chamber/s

Firing pin cocked

Safety-catch “off”

Ready to fire

WEAPON HANDLING DRILLS

Materials & Equipment Requirements

The following equipment and materials are needed for the assessment:

- Bolt-action rifle (minimum calibre .375 H&H Mag or .375 Ruger with a minimum of a 286-grain bullet at 2300 f.p.s.) with iron sights viz. open-, ghost-ring peep- or Blenheim sight or Red Dot optical sight (no magnification permitted).
- 40 cartridges per candidate for the specific rifle of the type used under operational conditions while guiding viz. non-expanding monolithic or full metal jacket bullets (carry rounds). Minimum specifications required refer to *Prologue*
- 10 dummy cartridges (Preferably plastic/ nylon bullet to reduce damage to the extractor and ejector mechanisms of the rifle) seated in case without primer and propellant). The Assessor must provide dummy cartridges for .375H&H Mag and .458WinMag. If the candidate uses any other calibre/cartridge he/she needs to provide the dummy cartridges of suitable quality
- Ammunition pouch or cartridge belt (10 rounds).
- Ear protectors for candidates, assistant and assessor
- Standard score sheet with the same date stamp as the ARH Protocols
- Most recent copy of the ARH protocols
- Clipboard and pen
- First aid kit
- Clear Scotch tape for animal targets
- Red flags
- Rifle stand
- Static targets
- 4 x target stands
- A variety of animal targets. Four of which must be the same for the shot placement exercise (only targets approved by FGASA and FGASA SKS(DG) Standards Committee may be used)
- Sled and Charge-box for moving target (approved by FGASA and the SKS(DG) Standards Committee to be safe and moving at a speed between 8 and 9 m/s)
- Blindfold
- Backpack (minimum weight 5 kg)
- Torque wrench (recommended)
- Chronograph (recommended)
- Scale
- Tape measure

Procedures

Rifle and ammunition inspection

Purpose: *To assess the candidate's ability to take care of and maintain his/her equipment.*

The assessors will inspect the candidate's rifle and ammunition before firing commences. The following will apply:

- Bore must be free of any dirt, oil and corrosion.
- Bolt free of dirt but lightly oiled.
- Exterior must be free of dirt, oil and fresh rust
- Sights must be in good order.
- Stock must be free of dirt and oil, and free of un-repaired cracks.
- Sling and recoil pad must be in good order
- Guard screws must be tight (less than 1/8 of a turn)
- Ammunition may be stained (oxidised), but must be free of dirt, oil, dents and corrosion, and the bullets may not be loose in the cases.

If any one of these points does not conform to standards, the candidate will be declared not yet competent, and will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

If one rifle is shared by more than one candidate for the assessment the first candidate will be linked to the initial rifle inspection and the cartridges, he/she will be using during the assessment. The candidate will then shoot all the static target exercises (or up to the point NYC). Then the rifle will be handed over to the next candidate who must first clean the rifle and present it together with the ammunition to the assessor for the rifle and ammunition inspection.

If the rifle is provided by the assessor (who might also be the delivery partner) the same rule will apply with the difference that the assessor must provide the first candidate with a dirty rifle which must be cleaned by the candidate prior to the inspection. A minimum of five shots needs to be fired through the rifle to provide the candidate with a rifle to clean. Potential "defects" might also be provided e.g. loose guard screws which must be picked up by the candidate.

If the candidate detects a "fatal" defect on the rifle provided by the assessor (which cannot be repaired there and then and renders the rifle unserviceable) e.g. a cracked stock, another serviceable rifle must be provided/sourced for the assessment to continue. If a serviceable rifle cannot be sourced the assessment cannot continue. If the candidate does not detect the "fatal" defect but it is picked up during the inspection the candidate will be declared NYC.

If the assessor is only providing one rifle to be used by multiple candidates, the assessor must ensure that enough time is allocated to the assessment as to not put the candidates under unrealistic time



pressure. Enough time should also be allowed as to not shoot the rifle so hot that it becomes a safety risk.

If the assessor (who might also be the training delivery partner) is providing the ammunition the candidate must be provided the opportunity to inspect and select the ammunition to be used by him/her. This ammunition must then be submitted to the assessor for the rifle and ammunition inspection.

If the ammunition provided by the assessor is faulty (corroded, loose bullets etc) or incorrectly loaded (expanding bullets, not correct velocity etc) a larger pool of ammunition must be made available for the candidate to select from. If the assessor cannot provide this the assessment cannot continue.

If the candidate does not detect the defect or incorrectly loaded ammunition but it is picked up during the inspection the candidate will be declared NYC.

The FGASA Advanced Rifle Handling Shooting Exercises consist of:

- 1. Blindfold quick loading***
- 2. Accuracy***
- 3. Distance***
- 4. Immediate Action***
- 5. Shot placement***
- 6. Simulated charge***

EXERCISE No.1 - Quick loading (blindfolded) (with 5 kg backpack)

Purpose: *How to load, unload and make the rifle safe without looking at the rifle and to know your weapon without sight.* This is not to test if you can handle the rifle in the dark. When focused on a target (downed animal) you should not need to look at your rifle.

It is required of the candidate to successfully complete this exercise once. The candidate will be allowed two consecutive attempts to pass the quick loading (blindfold). If this is not achieved the candidate will be declared not yet competent and will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

- Candidate is blindfolded
- Rifle is held by the fore stock with the non-shoot hand) and by the pistol grip (with the shooting hand), rifle butt against the groin or under the elbow
- Rifle is in stage one
- 10 dummy cartridges are carried in the cartridge belt
- On the command “hold” the candidate opens the action and loads three dummy cartridges into the magazine, chambers one, and points the rifle, with finger clearly off the trigger (timer stops)
- In the case of a double rifle, on the command “hold” the candidate opens the action and loads two dummy cartridges into the chambers, closes the action, disengages the safety catch while raising the rifle to the shoulder, pointing the rifle in the direction of the target, with the finger off the trigger (timer stops)
- The command “unload” is given
- The candidate then extracts the dummy cartridge/s from the action without ejecting it clear of the action. The cartridge/s is/are then removed from the action and put in the cartridge belt
- For a bolt action rifle, other two cartridges are also fed through the action and removed in the same way
- The chamber is inspected to be empty, and in the case of a bolt action by placing the little finger in the chamber mouth
- For a bolt action the bolt is pushed forward halfway; the chamber is again inspected as well as the magazine
- The bolt is then closed while the trigger is pulled to release the firing pin
- Time is taken from the command “hold” until the cartridge is chambered, and rifle pointed
- The time allowed is 15 seconds for a full score, without any penalties

Summary: Quick Loading blindfold exercise

1. 10 dummy cartridges to be cycled and placed in ammunition belt
2. Magazine empty, bolt closed
3. Rifle butt against the groin, non-shooting hand on fore stock and shooting hand on the pistol grip
4. Blindfold on
5. Command "are you ready?"
6. Command "hold" (Timer starts)
7. Open bolt / action
8. Load 3 or 2 dummy cartridges from belt
9. Chamber/ close action, aim, do not fire (Timer stops)
10. Command "Unload" (still blindfolded)
11. Make rifle safe
12. End of exercise

EXERCISE No.2 - Accuracy exercise (with 5 kg backpack)

Purpose:

- 1. Accurate shot placement with no time pressure**
- 2. Rifle safety**
- 3. General rifle proficiency**

It is required of the candidate to successfully complete this exercise once. The candidate will be allowed two consecutive attempts to pass the Accuracy Exercise. If this is not achieved the candidate will be declared not yet competent and will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

- Standard static target is placed at a distance of **12 metres**
- The rifle is held in the weak hand, or if fitted with a sling, over the weak shoulder with the muzzle pointing forward. Feet square to the target
- Rifle is in stage two or stage 3 for a double rifle
- The guide must confirm that s/he is ready
- On the command “fire” the guide must fire **five shots** into the target in his/her own time
- If the guide wishes to relax between shots, he/she may do so as long as the muzzle is pointing down range and finger is off the trigger
- The rifle must be made safe

Summary: Accuracy exercise (Exercise No.2)

No time limits

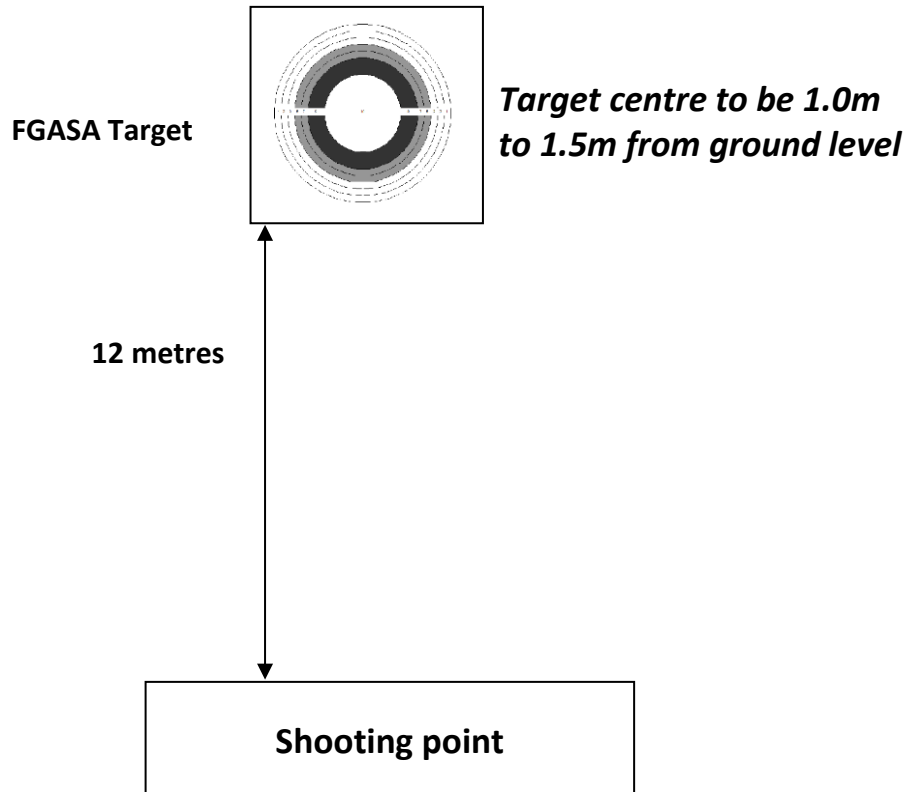
All 5 shots to cut target rings (Designated target area)

- a. 10 cartridges to be cycled and placed in ammunition belt*
- b. Load full magazine or chambers*
- c. Rifle in stage 2 or 3*
- d. Command “are you ready?”*
- e. Command “fire”*
- f. Chamber and fire at 12m target*
- g. Reload if magazine is empty*
- h. Make rifle safe when all 5 shots have been fired*
- i. End of exercise*

Competence (passing) score:

All 5 shots within the designated target area

Range and Target layout: Exercise 2 – Accuracy



EXERCISE No. 3 - Distance exercise (with 5 kg backpack)

- Purpose:**
- 1. Accurate shot placement at different distances under time pressure**
 - 2. Rifle safety**
 - 3. General rifle proficiency**

It is required of the candidate to successfully complete this exercise once. The candidate will be allowed two consecutive attempts to pass the Distance Exercise. If this is not achieved the candidate will be declared not yet competent and will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

- Standard static targets are placed at distances of 12m, 8m and 4m
- The rifle is carried in the non-shooting hand, or if fitted with a sling, over the non-shooting shoulder with the muzzle pointing forward. Feet square to the target
- Rifle is in stage two with a full magazine, or stage 3 with full chambers for a double rifle
- The guide must confirm that s/he is ready
- On the command “fire” the guide must fire one shot in each target starting at 12m and ending at 4m
- Once the 3rd shot is fired, and if there are cartridges left in the magazine, the candidate must re-chamber and point but not fire, with finger clearly off the trigger
- If there are no cartridges left in the magazine, the candidate must first fill the magazine/ chambers before s/he chambers one and points the rifle
- Time is taken from the command “fire” until the rifle is pointed at the target
- It must be remembered that there is a cartridge in the chamber and the rifle must be made safe
- Determination of score: The bullet must clearly break the line in order to score as indicated on the target. Time is measured on a stopwatch and recorded to one-tenth of a second. A score of 30/40 or better is needed to successfully complete this exercise

Summary: Distance exercise

1. 3 Targets – 12m, 8m, 4m
2. All cartridges to be cycled and placed in ammunition belt
3. A full magazine/ chambers to be loaded
4. Rifle in stage 2 or 3 for double rifle
5. Command “are you ready?”
6. Command “fire” (Timer starts)
7. Chamber and fire at 12m target
8. Chamber and fire at 8m target
9. Chamber and fire at 4m target
10. Chamber 4th cartridge, aim, do not fire (Timer stops)
11. Or re-load and chamber, aim do not fire (Timer stops)
12. Command “unload” – make rifle safe
13. End of exercise

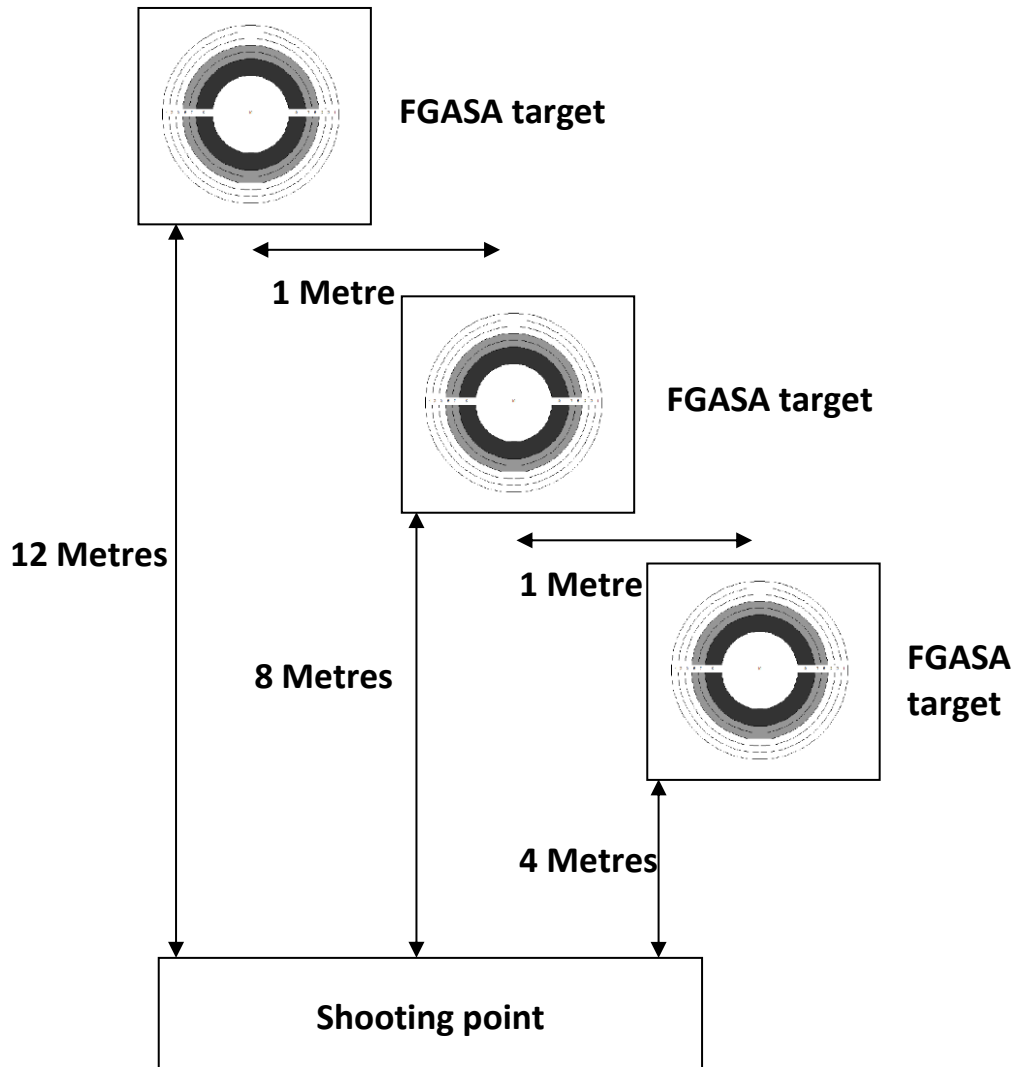
Time Scoring for Exercise 3 – Distance exercise:

< 10 seconds	10	A Three cartridge magazine	
10,1 – 11 Sec	9		
11,1 – 12 sec	8	< 20 seconds	10
12,1 – 13 sec	6	20,1 – 21 Sec	9
13,1 – 14 sec	4	21,1 – 22 sec	8
14,1 or more	NYC	22,1 – 23 sec	6
		23,1 – 24 sec	4
		24,1 or more	NYC

Competence (passing) score: 30 / 40

Range and target layout: Exercise 3 – Distance exercise

All target centres to be between 1.0m to 1.5m from ground level



EXERCISE No. 4 - Immediate Action Exercise (with 5 kg backpack)

- Purpose:**
- 1. Accurate shot placement under difficult conditions and time pressure**
 - 2. Rifle safety**
 - 3. General rifle proficiency**
 - 4. Dealing with malfunctions in the correct way**
 - 5. Immediate action drill**
 - 6. How to clear a misfire or hang-fire safely during an emergency situation**
 - 7. Quick load under time pressure**

It is required of the candidate to successfully complete this exercise once. The candidate will be allowed two consecutive attempts to pass the Immediate Action Exercise. If this is not achieved the candidate will be declared not yet competent and will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

- A standard static target is placed at a distance of 8 metres
- The candidate is given 9 cartridges and 1 dummy cartridge
- The assessor loads the rifle with two cartridges and one dummy cartridge, in any order without the candidate knowing what the order is and places rifle in stage 2. In the case of a double rifle load 1 dummy and 1 live round, rifle in stage 3.
- The rifle is held in the non-shooting hand, or if fitted with a sling, over the non-shooting shoulder with the muzzle pointing forward. Feet square to the target.
- The candidate must confirm that s/he is ready
- On the command “fire” the candidate must fire two shots into the target
- When the dummy cartridge is “fired”, the right-handed shooter must cant the rifle on its side (90° clockwise for right handed shooter) before unlocking the bolt to eject the “dead” cartridge downwards, while the left wall of the receiver shields the face of the candidate. The dummy cartridge should land at the feet of the shooter (within 1 metre and not more than 45° to the right). The left-handed shooter using a right-handed rifle must cant the rifle 180° anti-clockwise and eject the “dead” cartridge onto the ground. The ejected cartridge should land less than the shooters body length away and between 45° and 90° to the left. If the left-handed shooter uses a left-handed rifle the rifle must be canted 90° anti-clockwise before unlocking the bolt to eject the “dead” cartridge downwards, while the right wall of the receiver shields the face of the candidate. The dummy cartridge should land at the feet of the shooter (within 1 metre and not more than 45° to the left) . In the case of a double rifle if the dummy is fired go to the second trigger.
- Once the rifle is empty, the learner must then load three / 2 live cartridges into the magazine / chambers and fire a third shot into the target or in the case of a double rifle fire second and third shots.
- Time is taken from the command “fire” until the rifle is pointed at the target after the third shot has been fired and a new cartridge chambered, with finger clearly off the trigger

- It must be remembered that if there is a cartridge in the chamber and the rifle must be made safe
- Determination of score: The bullet must clearly break the line in order to score as indicated on the target. Time is measured on a stopwatch and recorded to one-tenth of a second. A score of 30/40 or better is needed to successfully complete this exercise

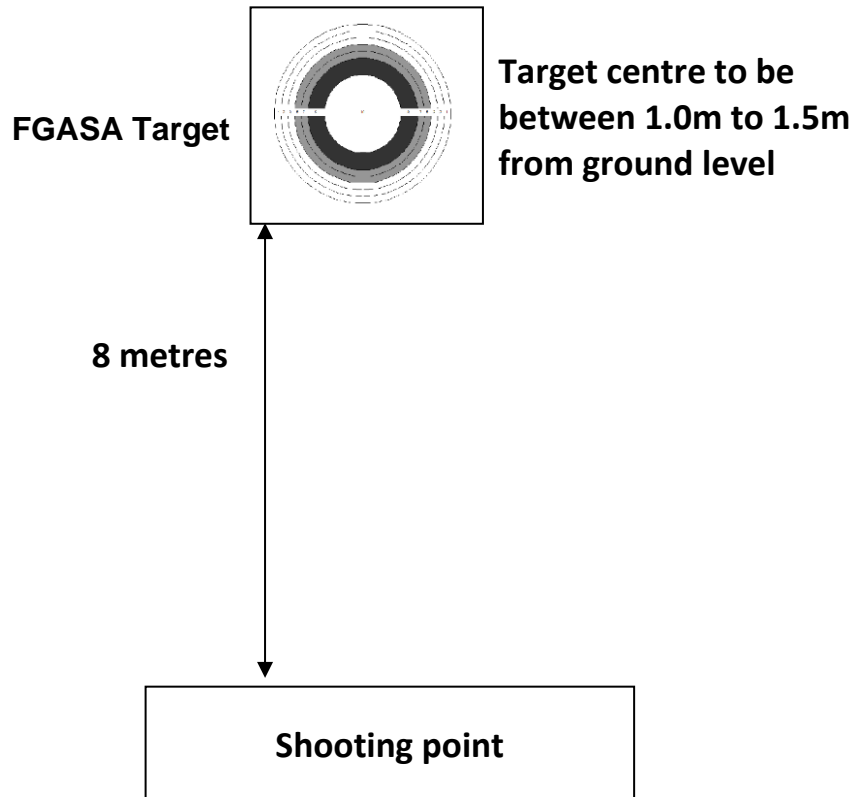
Summary: Immediate Action exercise

1. 1 Target – 8m
2. 3 cartridges in magazine or 2 in chamber if double rifle (1 dummy), 7 cartridges in ammunition belt
3. Rifle in stage 2 or 3
4. Command “are you ready?”
5. Command “fire” (Timer starts)
6. Chamber and fire cartridge 1 (potential misfire)
7. Chamber and fire cartridge 2 (potential misfire)
8. Chamber and fire cartridge 3 (potential misfire)
9. Misfire – go through drills (decant rifle eject) chamber and fire
10. When magazine empty, load 3 or 2 from ammunition belt
11. Chamber and fire 1 cartridge
12. Chamber, aim but do not fire, with finger clearly off the trigger (Timer stops)
13. Command “unload” – make rifle safe
14. End of exercise

Time Scoring:

< 22 seconds	10
22,1 – 23 Sec	9
23,1 – 24 sec	8
24,1 – 25 sec	6
25,1 – 26 sec	4
>26 seconds	NYC

Range and target layout: Exercise 4 – Immediate action



EXERCISE No. 5 - Shot Placement Exercise - double shoot (with **5 kg backpack**)

- Purpose:**
- 1. Accurate shot placement on animal targets at different distances under time pressure**
 - 2. To simulate a situation where both the 1st and 2nd rifle must fire at targets at the same time and in close proximity of each other**
 - 3. Rifle safety**
 - 4. General rifle proficiency**
 - 5. To maintain assessment standards through peer-review**

It is required of the candidate to successfully complete this exercise once. The candidate will be allowed two consecutive attempts to pass the Shot Placement Exercise. If this is not achieved the candidate will be declared not yet competent and will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

- Two sets of two approved animal targets of the same species are placed at distances of 8m and 4m
- Two candidates must stand at the firing line at least 2 meters apart
- If only one candidate is being assessed the 2nd shooter must be any other competent person
- The assessor must only assess one shooter at a time, even though two are shooting
- The rifle is carried in the non-shooting hand, or if fitted with a sling, over the non-shooting shoulder with the muzzle pointing forward. Feet square to the target.
- Rifle is in stage 2 or stage 3 if a double rifle is used
- The candidate must confirm that s/he is ready
- On the command “fire” the candidates must each fire one shot in each of the two targets directly in front starting at 8m and ending at 4m
- Once the 2nd shot is fired the candidate must re-chamber or reload and point but not fire, with finger clearly off the trigger
- Time is taken from the command “fire” until the rifle is pointed at the target
- It must be remembered that there is a cartridge in the chamber and the rifle must be made safe
- Determination of score: The bullet must clearly break the line in order to score as indicated on the target. Time is measured on a stopwatch and recorded to one-tenth of a second. A score of 24/30 or better is needed to successfully complete this exercise



Summary: Shot placement exercise

1. Two sets of two life size animal targets – 8m and 4m
2. Full magazine or chambers
3. Rifle in stage 2 or 3 in Guiding position
4. Command “are you ready?”
5. Command “fire” (Timer starts)
6. Chamber and fire at 8m target
7. Chamber and fire 4m target
8. Chamber or reload 3rd cartridge, aim but do not fire, with finger clearly off the trigger (Timer stops)
9. Command “unload” – Make rifle safe
10. End of exercise

Time allowed: 8 - 12 seconds

Target Scoring

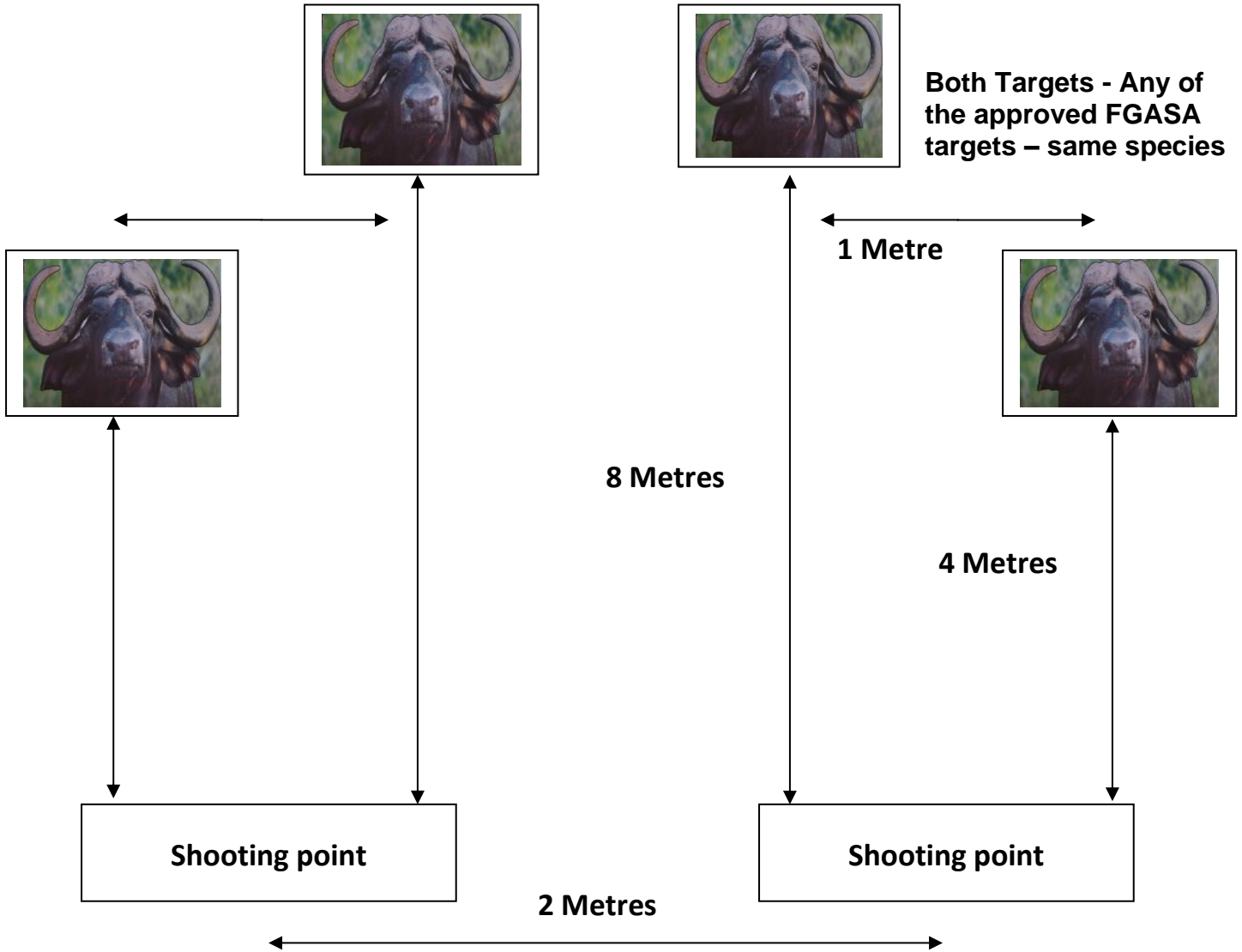
Brain 10 points (Both targets)

Time Scoring:

< 8 seconds	10
8,1 – 9 Sec	9
9,1 – 10 sec	8
10,1 – 11 sec	6
11,1 – 12 sec	4
>12 seconds	NYC

Range and target layout: Exercise 5 – Shot placement (double shoot)

Top of targets to be at an appropriate height for the species permitting it is safe.



EXERCISE No. 6 - Simulated Charge (with 5 kg backpack)

- Purpose**
- 1. Drills to follow when an animal charges**
 - 2. Group control**
 - 3. To shoot the animal target, concentrating on correct shot placement**
 - 4. Administering an insurance shot**
 - 5. Rifle safety**
 - 6. General rifle proficiency**

It is required of the candidate to successfully complete this exercise once. The candidate will be allowed two consecutive attempts to pass the Simulated Charge. If this is not achieved the candidate will be declared not yet competent and will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

- Assessor to follow charge box instruction manual
- The standard approved animal target (without the score zone clearly marked, is mounted on a sled that is pulled on a 35m rope by a charge box. (Min 8m/second)
- The candidate has one cartridge on top of a full magazine of dummy cartridges in the magazine, with an empty chamber (stage 2) and at least 5 dummy cartridges in his/her ammunition belt. In the case of a double rifle, 1 chamber loaded and 1 empty, with dummy rounds in the ammunition belt.
- The candidate followed by the assessor walks towards the charge box. The rifle is carried in the non-shooting hand or if fitted with a sling over the non-shooting shoulder with muzzle pointing forward. As soon as the candidate has passed the charge box before getting to the guide tyre, the charge is activated (pulling the sled towards the candidate) simulating a charge by the animal
- The candidate starts going through all the drills the moment the target starts moving, chambers a cartridge, shouts clear instructions to the “guests”, may drop on one knee (maximum range within 10m), aims and fires at the approaching target, re-chambers dummy cartridge and fires an insurance shot (using a dummy cartridge for safety purposes). In case of double rifle, move finger to second trigger and fire dummy cartridge.
- For safety reasons the candidate must stay between the charge box and the guide tyre and may only move forward after the sled had come to a complete standstill.
- Load two dummy cartridges into the magazine or chambers and re-chamber or close action immediately
- The candidate then waits for a few seconds to make sure the animal is down, then walks up to the target with rifle ready and administer the *coup de grace* at close quarters. This is done by “firing” the dummy cartridge as a carefully aimed shot at sort distance and re-chambers immediately
- The candidate then checks the (corneal) eyelid reflex by touching the animal’s eye with the muzzle of the rifle. The rifle must be held with 2 hands, extended arms and finger clearly off the trigger. The rifle butt may not be in the shoulder when this is done

- **The candidate must make sure that at no point in time the rifle or direction of approach is towards people, thus keeping the rifle pointing down range**
- The candidate then moves a few steps back from the downed animal and extracts the chambered dummy cartridges from the action without ejecting it clear of the action, then loads it back into the magazine and loads one more dummy cartridge from the ammunition belt and puts the rifle in stage 2. In the case of a double rifle the candidate engages the safety catch in stage 3.
- During the whole procedure the candidate must constantly be between the target and the assessor (simulating the group of guests), even if it means that the candidate must give orders to the assessor to move to a specific spot
- The rifle must at all times point down range, regardless of the fact that dummy cartridges are being used and/or the final position of the target
- Score is allocated as per attached score sheet
- A hit in the predetermined but not clearly marked kill zone scores 50 out of 100 points
- Rifle handling, group control, the insurance shot etc. contributes 50 out of 100
- A score of 80/100 or better is needed to successfully complete this exercise

Summary: Exercise No. 6 - Simulated charge

1. Life size (Animal) target – 30m
2. Magazine/ chamber loaded with 1 cartridge on top of dummy cartridges (full magazine) and the balance of the dummy cartridges in the ammunition belt
3. Rifle stage 2 or 3
4. Command “are you ready?”
5. Command “when you are ready, start walking towards the charge box”
6. Start walking towards animal
7. Animal charges – warn clients by shouting at the animal while chambering a cartridge
8. Shout command “Stand still”
9. Head off charge (step forward and shout at animal)
10. Take appropriate stance to engage target, aim and fire (maximum 10m)
11. Re-chamber and fire Insurance shot.
12. Client control
13. Load 2 dummy cartridges from the cartridge belt and re-chamber
14. Approach target and administer coup de grace and re-chamber
15. Check corneal reflex (poke eye with rifle muzzle)
16. Retreat a few meters
17. Reassure clients
18. Re-load and place rifle into stage 2 (guiding position)
19. Command “unload” – Make rifle safe
20. End of exercise

Scoring Summary: Exercise No. 6 - Simulated charge

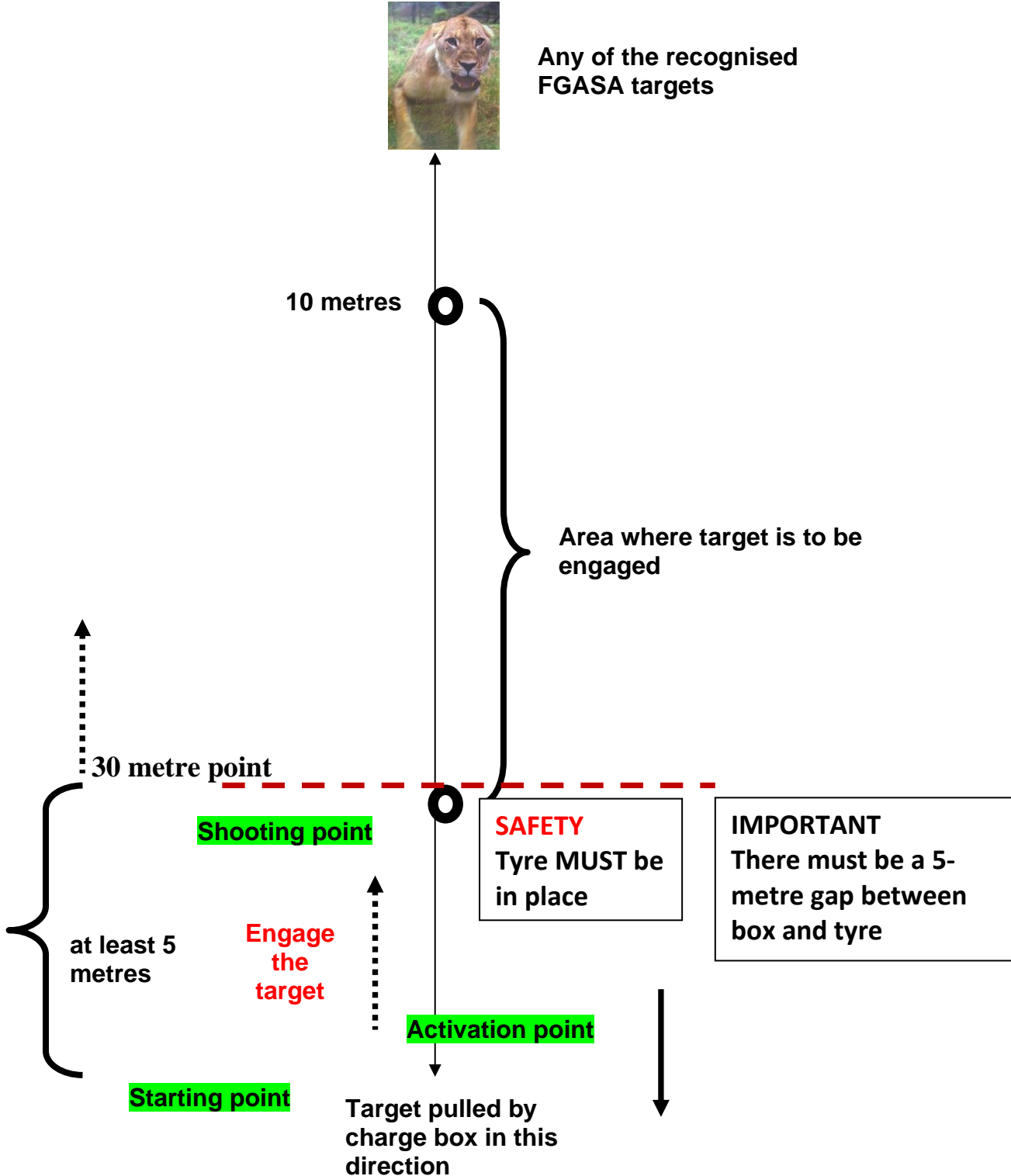
Target Scoring

1. Kill zone - 50 points
2. Shout clear instructions to “guests” – 5 points
3. Chamber cartridge at the correct time – 5 points
4. Step forward to head off charge – 5 points
5. Take appropriate stance to engage target and fire from less than 10 meters – 5 points
6. Insurance shot – 5 points
7. Load 2 cartridges from ammunition belt and chamber cartridge – 5 points
8. *Coup de grace* – 5 points
9. Group control and reassure “guests” – 5 points
10. Corneal reflex – 5 points
11. Rifle back to Stage 2 – 5 points

Competence (passing) score: 80/100

Range and target layout: Exercise 6 – Simulated charge

Top of targets to be at an appropriate height for the species permitting it is safe.



UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE OF A RIFLE

If a candidate unintentionally discharges the rifle the “cease fire” order must be given immediately. If the assessor could not clearly see that it was due to unsafe rifle handling the rifle must be inspected by the assessor. If it is found to be due to a new mechanical failure of the rifle (broken sear or trigger mechanism) which was not present during the rifle inspection it will be declared a “rifle failure”. If no mechanical failure is present the incident will be regarded as a negligent discharge.

FATAL ERRORS

If a learner does not comply with the **shooting range rules**, and/or **general safety rules** as prescribed in this document, or has a **negligent discharge**, any assessment regardless of the score will be cancelled with immediate effect, and the learner will be ordered to leave the shooting range immediately. The contravention must be described on the assessment form.

NON-FATAL ERRORS

Non-fatal errors will result in “not yet competent” regardless of accuracy, time and final score achieved in any exercise. The following are always regarded as non-fatal errors:

- Ejecting an unfired cartridge onto the ground (unless it is to clear a jam)
- Not cycling new cartridges or cartridges which had been exposed to recoil when given the command “prepare yourself” by feeding it from the magazine into the chamber and locking the bolt
- Cocking the rifle and aiming it at the target during or at the end of an exercise by chambering a fired case or no cartridge at all
- Not canting the rifle 90° to the right (clockwise) if the candidate is a right-handed shooter before unlocking the bolt during the immediate action drill
- Not canting the rifle 180° to the left (anti-clockwise) if candidate is a left-handed shooter using a right-handed rifle before unlocking the bolt during the immediate action drill
- Lowering the rifle before canting the rifle during the immediate action drill.
- Moving to the target with the rifle in any other state than stage 4 to administer the *coup de grace* or to check the corneal reflex
- Releasing the firing pin using only one hand
- Not checking the magazine and chamber (either visual or with upside-down little finger) when making or declaring rifle safe and empty
- Short stroking the bolt
- Not locking bolt completely on cocking
- Applying the safety catch on locking or unlocking the bolt
- Picking up a dropped cartridge during an exercise to load into the rifle
- Any penalty resulting in “not yet competent”

PENALTIES

Penalties are weighted errors deducting points from the total score achieved with accuracy and being in the set time restraints for each exercise or in some exercises will result in “not yet competent” regardless of accuracy, time and final score achieved in any exercise. The following will result in a penalty:

- Dropping a cartridge once the order “prepare yourself” had been given
- Not cleaning a dropped cartridge correctly
- Poor rifle handling which is not regarded as a fatal or non-fatal error

RANGE FAILURE AND LEARNER ERROR

The following will be regarded as a range failure for the purpose of this assessment:

- Target blown down by wind, or collapsing due to any other reason, but not due to a bullet strike intended at another target
- Animals or humans moving into safety zone
- Faulty time keeping
- A cartridge not firing due to a dead primer, no flash hole, or no propellant of a factory produced cartridge. The candidate must perform the immediate action drill and continue with the exercise to the end, and the misfired cartridge must then be inspected for obvious faults. It must then be fired off in the same rifle under controlled conditions, and if it fires it will not be regarded as a range failure

The following will be regarded as learner error for the purpose of this assessment and will therefore not result in a re-run

- Faulty rifle viz. failure to feed, not firing, cracked stock, stiff action, loose sights, rifle not sighted in
- Faulty ammunition viz. poor reloading, rounds not fitting in chamber, loose bullets, case deformities from recoil
- Poor rifle handling viz. not locking bolt completely, applying the safety catch

DROPPED CARTRIDGE NOT RESULTING IN A PENALTY

Dropping a cartridge prior to the exercise when the ammunition is handed to the candidate or when he/she is handing the remaining cartridges back to the assessor or when the cartridges is placed into the ammunition belt will not result in a penalty. If a dropped cartridge is not cleaned correctly it will lead to a penalty.



DEALING WITH A MISFIRE

If a Misfire is experienced in any exercise the candidate must perform the immediate action drill correctly. Two seconds will be allowed for extra time.

DETERMINING WHERE THE HOLE IS ON THE TARGET

The diameter of the bullet (not the case) of the calibre fired must be inserted into the bullet hole to see if it cuts the line.

RE-ASSESSMENT RULES

Re-assessment can take place within the allowed time frames (see “RESTRICTIONS ON ASSESSMENT INTERVALS”). This must be strictly adhered to and the FGASA office has the responsibility to pick up on and investigate cases. Action must be taken against candidates and/or assessors who are guilty.

RECORD KEEPING

- The candidate must sign the score sheets.
- The single front page of the score sheets needs to be submitted to the FGASA office for processing and record keeping within one day of the assessment.
- The actual exercise score sheets must be kept by the assessor for a minimum of 2 years.
- The assessor must also sign the candidate’s logbook.

APPEAL PROCESS

If a learner wants to appeal against the decision, the normal FGASA procedures for appeals must be followed.

ARH RENEWAL

In order to maintain the ARH qualification all Apprentice Trails Guides, Trails Guides, Professional Trails Guides, and SKS (DG) Guides need to successfully complete this assessment every three years.

ADDITIONS, CHANGES & REVIEW

- The FGASA Board and mandated SKS DG Standards Committee are the authority to review the ARH Assessment Protocols. Such will be reviewed every 5 years
Any earlier review will be governed by amendments to legislation
- Only written comments by FGASA Members on this assessment protocol, will be considered by FGASA Management and the FGASA SKS (DG) Standards Committee
- No deviation or individual interpretations of the assessment protocol by FGASA ARH Training Delivery Partner, Trainers or Assessors will be allowed as this is the FGASA standard
- Any and all changes approved by the FGASA Board and FGASA SKS (DG) Standards Committee, must be reflected in this protocol and the associated score sheets
- The protocols are to reflect the final approved date
- All the relevant FGASA learning materials are to be updated by FGASA reflecting the review date
- FGASA Management may not amend, deviate or make changes to this protocol or associated score sheets or targets without following proper policy procedure

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT: RIFLE HANDLING SCORE SYSTEM

- An arrow is drawn to the bullet hole(s) and allocated the appropriate score
- The time is measured on a stopwatch and recorded to one-tenth of a second

