

Line Commands for .50 BMG Matches

Set Up

"Shooters, you have 10 minutes for your set up period." (start timer)

Walk the line during set up period to verify with the pits that the score sheet matches the shooter at each position.

1st Sighter Period - - - - -

Call pits and say "Run up targets for the sighter period"

"Shooters to the line for your 1st sighter period. You will have 10 minutes to fire unlimited sighter rounds."

Make sure all targets are fully visible, then, "Ready on the right? Ready on the left?"

"Commence firing, the line is hot.

Commence fire." (start timer)

Give "2 minutes remaining", "1 minute remaining", "30 seconds remaining", then, "Cease fire, cease fire. Open all bolts and clear all actions."

"Pits, pull and patch all targets."

1st Record Group

While pits are busy, "Shooters, display 5 rounds for record on your benches."

Make sure all targets are fully visible, then "Shooters, you have 10 minutes to fire your 1st 5 shot record group."

"Ready on the right? Ready on the left?"

Commence firing, the line is hot.

Commence fire." (start timer)

No countdown. At the end of the time period, "Cease fire, cease fire. Open all bolts and clear all actions. Make your benches safe."

"Pits, score the targets."

(Some shooters will run a patch through their barrels.)

2nd Sighter Period - - - - -

Call pits and say "Run up targets for the sighter period"

"Shooters to the line for your 2nd sighter period. You will have 3 minutes to fire unlimited sighter rounds."

Make sure all targets are fully visible, then "Ready on the right? Ready on the left?"

"Commence firing, the line is hot.

Commence fire." (start timer)

Give "2 minutes remaining", "1 minute remaining", "30 seconds remaining", then, "Cease fire, cease fire. Open all bolts and clear all actions."

"Pit, pull and patch all targets."

2nd Record Group

While pits are busy, "Shooters, display 5 rounds for record on your benches."

Make sure all targets are fully visible, then "Shooters, you have 10 minutes to fire your 2nd 5 shot record group."

"Ready on the right, ready on the left, the line is ready."

"Commence firing, the line is hot.

Commence fire." (start timer)

No countdown. At the end of the time period, "Cease fire, cease fire. Open all bolts and clear all actions. Make your benches safe."

"Pits, score the targets."

(Some shooters will run a patch through their barrels.)

3rd Sighter Period - - - - -

When pits are ready,
"Shooters to the line for your 3rd sighter period. You will have 3 minutes to fire unlimited sighter rounds."
Make sure all targets are fully visible, then "Ready on the right? Ready on the left?"
"Commence firing, the line is hot. Commence fire." (start timer)
Give "2 minutes remaining", "1 minute remaining", "30 seconds remaining", then, "Cease fire, cease fire. Open all bolts and clear all actions."
"Pits, pull and patch all targets."

3rd and Final Record Group

While pits are busy, "Shooters display 5 rounds for record on your benches."
Make sure all targets are fully visible, then "Shooters, you have 10 minutes to fire your 3rd and final 5 shot record group."
"Ready on the right? Ready on the left?"
"Commence firing, the line is hot. Commence fire." (start timer)
No countdown. At the end of the time period, "Cease fire, cease fire. Open all bolts and clear all actions. Make your benches safe."
"Pits, score the targets."
(Some shooters will run a patch through their barrels.)

Move On

"Shooters, if you are not shooting the next relay, please clear your benches as soon as possible to allow the next shooter to set up. We will resume in 15 minutes."

Notes

During the sighter period newer shooters may miss the target entirely. It is useful to have more than one radio and operator to relay feedback from the pits on where the bullet went (high, left, right).

During either the sighter period or the record period the pits may announce "Green on 5" or some other number. This should be repeated to the shooter on 5 or whatever number is called. It means the last shot struck the 3-inch spotter.

Move quickly from the sighter period to the record period. Some shooters wait to the end to check wind with a sighter round. Minimize the delay going from sighters to record shots.

If a cross fire occurs during the sighter period, acknowledge the error and make sure both benches continue firing. If a cross fire occurs during the record period, the error is dealt with during scoring. The shooter hitting the wrong target receives a miss, since only 4 rounds reach that shooter's target. The shooter with 6 holes in the target gets to choose whether to accept the better group or better score (or both if it works out that way).

These notes are intended to document lessons that I've learned running the line. By no means are they complete. Feel free to add lessons you have learned.

Remember, this is supposed to be fun!

- Paul Rittmann, Tri-Cities Shooting Association, February 22, 2007