

# **The Muzzle Loaders' Association of Great Britain**

## **The Governing Body for Muzzle Loading Shooting in the United Kingdom**

President W. Harriman, Vice Presidents: The Duchess of Argyll,  
D.J. Penn, P.W.G. Helps, A.J. Overton

Established 1952

Home Office Approved

Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol Club No. *CFP/10/1/7/4/1/2/1/2/3/512*

### **Protocol – Miniature Cannon only**

1. This Protocol addresses the live firing of miniature cannons, smoothbore or rifled, and models thereof. The term cannon embraces all such guns, whether originally called such or by any other mode of address, name, weight or calibre. Miniature cannons do not have to be exact replicas of the original, if it looks like a cannon then it is a cannon.

2. For the purpose of this Protocol, live firing involves the discharge of a projectile or projectiles, including ball, elongated shot, bolt, or any other missile or missiles. Blank firing involves a powder charge and wadding only.

3. Any such firing is restricted to guns that are legally held in accordance, if appropriate, with the 1968 Firearms Act, as amended. Live firing may only be conducted on ranges that are approved for the class of gun concerned.

4. Only barrels that are proved, and in proof, may be fired.

5. Only commercially produced gunpowder may be used.

6. Only projectiles made of lead, with or without an alloy may be fired.

7. Only target loads to be used, the over loading of cannon to generate excessive noise and smoke is not permitted.

### **8. Hearing and eye protection is mandatory for all those who are involved in the firing of the cannon.**

9. Such steps as are necessary must be taken to restrict and restrain the recoil and barrel flip of any discharge, particularly when models with their lesser mass to projectile weight are fired. Reeving ropes, wheel and barrel chocks must be of sufficient robustness and fit to be effective.

10. One person (Gun Captain) must be nominated to be responsible overall for the safety, sighting, firing and discharge of any cannon.

D.E.Spittles, Honorary Secretary

11. Should more than one cannon be on the range at any time, a single person will be appointed Range Officer of them all. He or she will be in charge and responsible for the co-ordination of the safe handling and firing of all the guns on the line. This person must be in a safe position behind the gun line and able to see all the cannon and their crews. They must not be part of any gun crew.

12. Normal MLAGB safety procedures are to be followed for loading and firing. After firing, the Range Officer is to ensure that all cannons are cleared before any one goes down range and before the cannon are removed from the range.

13. Spectators must be restricted to areas where their safety is not compromised.

14. All sensible precautions must be taken to guard against accidental ignition of stored powder or ammunition. The use of a closed container such as a wooden lidded or plastic box is mandatory.

16. Cannon must only be loaded with the appropriate pre measured powder charge, these can be in phials or cartridges. If paper cartridges are used to hold the charge of gun powder, the person loading the gun must ensure that the barrel is cleared after firing before inserting the next cartridge.

17. Loading direct from flasks is not permitted. Priming flasks must be removed from the area or covered before firing.

18. When match cord is used for ignition, a closed container must be to hand in which the lit end of the cord may be placed and held for safety whilst the gun is being loaded. The match cord must be secured in such a way that it does not fly about when the charge is ignited.

19. Fuse on the firing line must be stored in a closed container. Away from the firing line the fuse can be stored in its original packing.

20. Brass or bronze cannon should be regarded with extra care as the barrel can become crystalline with age. Anyone wishing to use such a gun should consult the Proof House.

21. When shooting at Bisley or on MOD ranges a Certificate of Competence issued by the NRA or the firer's Association/Club will be required. The Certificate can be for either muzzle loading rifle or pistol, as both show that the person is safe and knowledgeable in the handling of muzzle loading firearms and gun powder

22. It is the firer's responsibility to ensure that their Association/Club's Insurance covers the firing of cannon. (The MLAGB insurance gives the correct cover.)

D.E.Spittles, Honorary Secretary

## **RULES**

1. Range 10m, 25m and 50m.
2. Target PL7 (50m ISSF) or its equivalent or specially printed ones.
3. Shooting from tables.
4. Firing from standing position, however dispensation is given to anyone with a disability to fire from the sitting position.
5. There is no distinction between originals and replicas.
6. Maximum calibre when shooting at the MLAGB range at Wedgnock or Bisley is 0.75"
7. To encourage female members to compete, the loading of the cannon can be done by their partner but the sighting and firing must be carried out by the themselves. (Coaching by the male is prohibited)

## **Smoothbore**

Without sights - barrel length 800mm (32") max, Calibre between 16mm (0.63") and 19mm (0.75")

Without sights - barrel length 400mm (16") max, Calibre between 11mm (0.43") and 19mm (0.75")

With sights - barrel length 800mm (32") max, Calibre between 16mm (0.63") and 19mm (0.75")

With sights - barrel length 400mm (16") max, Calibre between 11mm (0.43") and 19mm (0.75")

## **Rifled**

Without sights - barrel length 400mm (16") max, Calibre between 11mm (0.43") and 19mm (0.75")

## **MLAGB Cannon Competition Rules**

The intention of the cannon section is to provide an informal and fun way of shooting cannon without too many restrictions. However one area of concern has been expressed by members and that is the use of some form of guide or guides to aim the cannon. To get everybody onto the same playing field, the following will apply to all **MLAGB** competitions.

1. If there is a stop in front of the cannon then it must be at a minimum of 2" (50mm) in front of the wheels. The wheels must not be in contact with the stop when firing.
2. If there is a stop to the rear of the cannon then it must be a minimum of 6" (150mm) to the rear of the trail on artillery models or the wheels on ship models.
3. The cannon must be free to recoil without any restrictions of ropes or pulleys or guides.
4. There must be a clear flat area of a minimum of 4" (100mm) either side of the wheels and trail.
5. It is permitted to mark your table with guide lines.

David Spittles 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011

D.E.Spittles, Honorary Secretary