

OFFICIAL BULLETIN
2020 5-Buckle Overshoe Matches – Fired May 2 and 3, 2020
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Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2020 5-Buckle Overshoe matches. We had a very good turnout for our first event of the 2020 High Power Season considering the current status of this COVID thing. Hopefully, this country is getting on the road to recovery and things will return to normal. All toll we had 37 competitors in our 2 events this year. This compares to 74 entries last year. So, we're down a bit, but considering what's going on in the world – I don't think that's too bad. Also, we didn't have our annual Vintage match to start the weekend – but I'm sure it will be back next year.

We had an all e-Target weekend for both the Long range and the over-the-course events. This is a big change from how we've run events at our facility in the past. On Sunday we used one firing line for the over-the-course event. We set up e-Targets at 200 and 300 yards. Competitors fired from under our covered firing line canopy for these stages. The 600 yard stage was fired on the regular yard line (in the open). Since competitors were somewhat protected under our covered firing line it really didn't matter where you began. Shooters paired up and started at various stages of the course. I think this format went fairly well.

A big thanks goes out to all the guys that offered their e-Targets for the match. There aren't any club owned e-Targets in our state yet although a few clubs are beginning to look at acquiring some. So for now, we rely on competitors offering up use of their own e-Targets for these events. Thanks to all of you – this is changing the way we are running these events. With the use of e-Targets we're able to complete the course of fire in less time and I think have a little more fun. There are still quite a few bugs to work out conducting matches with the use of e-Targets. But if we continue to work at this it, won't be long before we'll have the bugs worked out of the system.

Kind'a sad though – those days of pulling targets and enjoying conversation with fellow competitors in the pits might be going away. I think about the years of attending the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, and at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. You were paired with someone for the day and most often you really got to know the person. I got to know a lot of people and made a LOT of friends over the years just hang'in out in the pits. Interesting to though (while I was talking to a fellow competitor at the Southwest Nationals in Phoenix this past winter....in the pits) – the use of e-Targets at his home range has brought back several competitors that had quit the game because they had a hard time pulling targets. So, there are additional benefits of this new system too.

Anyhow, on to the results. I didn't run a vintage event this year. I thought this year we would setup with the e-Targets and have some additional practice time before the event. Competitors spent about an hour or so shooting from the 1000 yard line before things got going. This seemed to work out well especially for the new and inexperienced shooters.

The 2020 North Dakota High Power Season then kicked off at about 11:45am with the long range match. As is so very usual at our range, we had the old wind meter up to 15mph plus winds from the Northwest with plenty of pick-ups and let offs with an occasional direction change – ALWAYS making this a challenge.

Aaron Gulizzua (Aberdeen, SD) out x'd Neil Jensen (Fargo) for the sling match win of 558-11x (yup – that was a challenging wind). Garald Gillies (Bathgate, ND) was the top F-Open shooter with a 537-6x (yes – those winds were challenging....) and Chris Longley from MN was the high F/TR shooter with a 510-6x (the wind was not kind to F/TR guys either). I spent some time in the pits reconnecting cables on the e-Targets as the wind pulled them loose (one of those bugs we need to correct). I took a photo of an F-Class target. Seem to be a group of shots in the 7/8 ring either side of center – so it appeared that whatever you did to correct for wind – it was not going to be right (or left).

Sunday turned out to be not much better for wind and now somebody turned the thermostat down. Apparently, this global warming thing is juuuust not catching on in North Dakota. There is not a doubt in my mind that the good citizens of NoDak would fully support a candidate for global warming. I mean how bad could it be – we

might actually have some warmer days in Winter (or Spring) there then yasureyoubetcha. Anyhow, Ryan Karrar (US Air Force, Grand Forks) was the top point getting in the over-the-course match with a very respectable 775-21x. Ok – so we had a somewhat protected cover to shoot standing – but still, that was a very good score considering the conditions.

On with the 2020 Season. As I write this match report we are looking at moving some dates around in our event schedule for this summer since the NRA and CMP Nationals have been cancelled. We had blocked out late July and August in our State calendar for the National Championship events. However, now that they have been cancelled, we are looking to move events to a more even pace throughout the summer shooting season here in the high plains. So, keep in contact with the match directors and we'll try to keep everyone informed as best we can of changes to our events schedule.

The next High Power event at our range will be the North Dakota Long Range State Championship the weekend of June 13 and 14. The State event weekend includes a Palma match (and this is for both sling and F-Class competitors) and our 80-shot Long Range State Championship event. As always - Non-residents can compete in our State Championship events. We encourage and welcome your participation. Non-residents can be the match winner however; the high overall resident is recognized as the North Dakota State Champion.

The 2020 Summer High Power season is here. Plan your summer shooting sports schedule **NOW. Summer is short in the northern plains – get planning, get going, get outside and get shooting.** You can check the full calendar for all the shooting events for our state at the NDSSA web site (ndssa.org). Be sure to contact match directors so they know you're coming. In addition, there are events in Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota. Be sure to check their State Association web sites for match information and match director contacts.

I send out notices for my matches by e-mail. If you know of someone that would like to get on my e-mail list – have them send me an e-mail at tthompson4895@gmail.com and I will put them on my list. Thanks again and hope to see all of you at more events this summer and bring a new shooter with you!

Tom Thompson