

FAQ of the Month – Precision Rifle Shooting & PRS

What is precision rifle shooting?

Precision rifle shooting can be thought of as shooting at small targets from far away. There are two main competition styles in Canada. The DCRA National Service Conditions matches (a prone only match fired at set distances) and practical precision rifle matches (a mix of prone, barricade, and unconventional shooting positions with targets at random distances).

What equipment is used?

A scoped mag fed rifle is usually used. It can be either bolt action or semi-automatic. Single shot rifles are also used, but are less common. A bipod and a rear support (bag) are also highly recommended. Most matches are centrefire, but there are a growing number of rimfire only matches within the practical precision rifle world.

What is "PRS"?

PRS stands for Precision Rifle Series, a popular point series race of precision rifle matches which started in the USA. The series has expanded to Canada with matches being held in Ontario and Alberta this year. The PRS is a collection of matches, not necessarily a shooting style. Matches are sometimes described as PRS style, to give new shooters a reference point to the style of shooting.

The NRL (National Rifle League) is another points series popular in the States. It is similar to the PRS and people often compete in both leagues.

I need fancy gear to compete.

Not true. While there are plenty of products being offered to improve shooters performance, they are not necessary. If you're interested, come out and shoot, and worry about gear later.

I need a special calibre to compete.

Not true. Yes, the top competitors are using some specialized cartridges. But they are not necessary to come out and shoot, learn, and have some fun.

I don't want to compete.

That's fine. Most of us aren't competitors. We get together to shoot, learn, and have some fun trying something different. But you might get hooked.

Further reading.

Here are some websites with more info on precision rifle.

[DCRA](#) – NSC rules and dates

[Ontario Rifle Association](#) – Good description of NSC

[Precision Rifle Series](#)

[National Rifle League](#)

[Precision Rifle Blog](#) – A blog full of info about the PRS, the type of gear used, and precision rifle shooting in general

[Canadian Rimfire Precision Series](#) – A developing rimfire only Canadian series of precision rifle matches

~ Mark McMullin