

Deer Competency 2024

The Deer Competency section of a provisional members application form is intended primarily to ensure that any prospective BSRC full member has received sufficient training to enable them to safely adopt the ISSF ready position on the Running Deer range.

Secondly, it is also to ensure that all new members are familiar with how to operate safely the computer systems in the Deer, Boar & 10m ranges which all operate in a similar manner.

Such training & practice leading up to the Deer competency test should be conducted on the running boar ranges where probationary members may adopt the ISSF start position once trained & confident to do so. Remembering of course to keep your finger off the trigger at all times until the rifle butt is firmly in the shoulder with the muzzle pointing at the stop butt & you are about to take a shot.

The reason for allowing probationary members to adopt the ISSF start position on running boar before deer competency is completed, is as follows - In the event of an accidental discharge of a 22lr round whilst in the ISSF ready position, it has been deemed that the fall of shot would be within the Range Danger Area (Mid Boar & Time Limit). The same is most certainly not guaranteed if the same should happen using centrefire cartridges on the Running Deer range – you have been warned!

Until a probationary member is signed off for deer competency, or is actually being tested, then the Running Deer start position remains with the rifle being held at waist height above the bench & parallel to the ground, finger off the trigger & muzzle pointing at the stop butt. When the target appears, the rifle should be lifted to the shoulder keeping the muzzle pointing at the stop butt at all times & keeping the finger off the trigger UNTIL the rifle is fully in the shoulder & you are about to take the shot

When requesting Deer competency sign-off, the provisional member should also be confident enough to operate & change shooting disciplines using the buttons on the bench behind the firing point. It is therefore recommended that you familiarise yourself with the computer system at least in the deer hut BEFORE asking to be assessed for deer competency. A BSRC RO will be able to show you how to do this (but not on the same day as your test!). A provisional member requesting Deer competency sign-off must be able to demonstrate safety & proficiency in both areas before being signed off by the RO observing the test.

In a slight change to the current process for 2024, we are now also asking that a copy of the deer competency printout (10 shot test) is forwarded to the club secretary along with the members signed attendance record, noting what occurred to any missing shots not shown on the printout. Please note - The score is not important, only that all shots can be safely accounted for. If there is any doubt, or the RO is unhappy with any aspect of the test, then the RO has the right to refuse to sign-off deer competency & recommend further training before any further attempts are made.

A guide on how to successfully complete 'Deer competency' will in future be sent to each new provisional member, a copy will be circulated to BSRC range officers & it should also be published in 'News & notes' shortly. A printed copy will also be posted in the Deer hut for reference.

How to complete Deer Competency – notes for the Provisional member & BSRC Range Officers.

Before any rifle is placed on the firing point, the applicant must demonstrate that they are capable of the following actions:

1. Can the applicant demonstrate the ability to change discipline on the computer system & successfully select '10 shot test' from the menu? **Yes / No**
2. Is the applicant able to switch between 'Sighters' & 'Match' on the computer system. **Yes / No**
3. Can the applicant run the deer target out & then back again (remembering to wait for the green light before sending the trolley back)? **Yes / No**
4. Does the applicant know how to switch correctly to 'Stop at wall' using the computer system? **Yes / No**
5. When selecting 'Swedish Deer', does the applicant know how to switch correctly to 'Stop at wall' using the buttons on the controller? **Yes / No**

If the applicant is able to demonstrate a working knowledge of how the computer is used to change disciplines etc as above, then move on to the shooting part of the test. If not, then abort the test & advise applicant to seek training on use of the system before requesting sign off again.

Note: The Deer competency part of the shooting test may be carried out using a 22 centrefire rifle even though the 10 shot test would normally require the use of a deer legal rifle (i.e .243" & above etc as per BSRC rules).

Now Conduct the shooting part of the test.

Does the applicant ensure that the rifle is loaded safely with the muzzle pointing at the stop butt when the bolt is closed. **Pass / Fail**

When the applicant assumes the ISSF start position, do they ensure that fingers are kept well clear of the trigger until the rifle is firmly in the shoulder & the muzzle is once again pointing at the stop butt? **Pass / Fail**

Note: If fingers are observed to be on the trigger when in the ISSF start position, abort the test immediately & explain the reason for doing so.

Once shooting has finished, the rifle is cleared & all items are removed from the firing point, can the applicant print out the score sheet & reset the computer for the next shooter? **Yes / No**

If the RO is satisfied that the applicant is both safe & competent to shoot from the ISSF start position in future & answers to the above are all either 'Yes' or 'Pass', then please forward an initialled copy of the 10 shot test print-out along with their Provisional membership attendance record (duly signed for Deer competency) to the club secretary. Please also annotate the print-out making particular note of the reason for any missing shots not indicated on the print-out (remember that the score is not important here).