

Extended Long Range (ELR) Central Applied Ballistics' Role in the ELR community

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Mission Statement

The ultimate objective of ELR Central is to advance the equipment and knowledge used to engage targets at extreme range.

What is 'ELR Central'?

The concept of ELR Central is a result of the ongoing discussions about standardizing ELR matches, records, targets, etc... Although ELR Central will not be enforcing these details, there is a measure of organization which we feel is appropriate, would benefit the sport, and that we are willing to provide.

The most visible element of ELR Central will be a website which will serve to publish and promote all ELR shooting events going on across the country. ELR Central will be operated as a division of Applied Ballistics (AB), using AB resources including money and infrastructure such as personnel, corporate cover, bandwidth for processing questions, website maintenance, etc.. Although owned and operated by Applied Ballistics, ELR Central will rely heavily on input from the community in order to best serve the sport as a whole.

What ELR Central is NOT

ELR Central is NOT a governing or sanctioning body. We do not have nor seek the authority to dictate how matches are run. For anyone who asks, we can advise on best practices, and what's generally working, but we're not here to tell anyone what to do nor how to do it.

Some Specifics

Here is a list of some specific activities that we plan to do thru ELR Central. Keep in mind this is a preliminary vision and things will be added, changed and removed as our plan encounters reality.

- On the website:
 1. Maintain a map of ELR ranges across the US.
 2. Maintain a list of ELR events which are planned with some basic information and links to the match directors full program.
 3. Share technical information and articles with the ELR community.
 4. Publish match results/reports, including equipment lists where available.
 5. Publish analysis of what equipment and shooters are doing well in ELR.
 6. Share and promote links to other entities involved in ELR shooting such as forums and websites.
- Provide standardized ELR targetry. In competitive rifle shooting, standardization of targetry is important. Applied Ballistics, thru ELR Central, will provide steel targets to organizations wishing to run ELR matches and/or record setting events. No-one would be required to use these standard targets, we're simply providing resources to help promote

some consistency. The steel targets will be provided free of charge for those with a need and desire to put on ELR matches. Of course there will be an application process and qualifications to meet.

- Here are the basic criteria for what would define a ‘qualifying ELR event’ for being an ELR Central recognized match:
 1. **Range:** More than ½ the targets have to be 1500 yards or further to be considered an ELR event. If you have targets past 1500 but most are shorter range, we could still promote your event as “having ELR stages”, but not primarily being an ELR event.
 2. **Targets:** Targets no larger than 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide (so a 3-foot square or circle would be max target size) at the ELR stages. The idea here is to stay focused on target sizes that are somewhat practical for military/tactical and hunting applications. Characteristic target sizes would be 1 MOA to 2 MOA at range, but the only hard constraint is no target can be taller or wider than 36”.
 3. **Scoring:** A valid scoring system will reward hitting the target in as few shots as possible. No sighters or spoiler shots are allowed. In other words, we’re not interested in promoting events where shooters *walk their shots onto the target* with unlimited practice shots, then shoot a 3 shot group. ALL shots fired will count, with the first shots being most valuable. Generally the score will also be affected by the range to the target, although there is no strict requirement for this and is up to the match directors discretion.
 4. **Time limits:** Qualifying events will have some time limits which are established by the match director and enforced equally for all competitors.
 5. **Equipment, round count and valid shooting positions:** Will be up to match directors discretion.

Any event meeting the basic criteria above would be considered a qualifying event for ELR Central. If you want to have an ELR event which requires 600 rounds in 2 days, you’re free to do so. Natural selection will determine what elements of ELR competition are most favored and which are not. The role of ELR Central is not to restrict anything, but rather to record and share information related to ELR, and advise on best practices for the benefit of the sport.

- Organize sponsorship for ELR matches meaning coordinate between sponsors and events. The vision here is to bring some efficiency to the process of match sponsorship. Rather than a sponsor getting contacted by 20 different match directors each year, ELR Central will approach sponsors on behalf of the entire community, accept any promotional content, prizes, or cash that sponsor wishes to supply to ELR events in one transaction, and then manage the distribution of those materials to all the qualifying ELR matches. Of course individual match directors are free to approach sponsors independently if they wish, but ELR Central will provide a baseline package of sponsor provided promotional materials to all events.
- ELR Central plans to host an annual ELR capstone event. This event will be an exposition of ELR equipment, skills and shooters intended to showcase the state of the art. Vendors,

shooters and press will be invited to demonstrate their products and practices in use. Multi-media coverage of the event would offer value to those in attendance by generating advertising content. The vision is; this would be at least a 2-day event, with the match portion fired in the morning, and with record setting attempts later in the day, as well as less formal range time in the afternoon where vendors and press can get together and generate live-fire content, one-on-one interviews, even invite spectators to shoot. Think of range day at SHOT show.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applied Ballistics is committed to investing the ELR community. We will rely heavily on those most vested in the sport to advise us on how we can benefit the community thru this effort. Thru ELR Central we will promote the knowledge and growth of the sport by providing organization bringing standardization to the community.

It's important to stress that ELR Central is not here to sanction, govern, or tell people how to run ELR matches. Rather, we're here to promote the collective efforts of the sport in general.

Addendum 1: ELR Central - World Record Criteria

The following guidelines are based on extensive discussion and polling of the ELR community. These specific conditions and definitions of an ELR world record are representative of the ELR shooting sport. A record that's established by these guidelines represents the pinnacle of achievement in ELR shooting as defined by majority consensus.

A) Setting.

- a. World record attempts can either take place at ELR matches or dedicated record setting events. In either case, a match director or RO with experience in ELR matches will officiate the attempt and be responsible for insuring all the conditions are met.
- b. There must be at least 5 witnesses, not including the shooting team, with one of the witnesses being the match director.
- c. There must be two uncut video recordings of the attempt from start to finish. One video which frames the shooter, and the other video which frames the target. Video of the firing position must allow for positive ID of the shooter and spotter. Video must begin before the shooter stages on the line.

B) Target.

- a. There is one standard target size that will be used for world records. A sheet of steel, 36"x36" square which is the largest target size used in ELR matches.
- b. The target shall be free-hanging.
- c. The target shall be freshly painted (showing no impacts) prior to any world record attempt, or a target monitoring system which allows for marking previous impacts may be used.

C) Observation.

- a. Shooters, spotters, and witnesses can observe the target with any kind of optics or cameras including remote 'target' cameras.
- b. Final verification of hits will be made at the target, and the official hit count is up to the match director to decide.

D) Range.

- a. Range must be verified to within +/-5 yards by at least 3 individual laser rangefinders, or survey equipment.
- b. Any existing record must be broken by at least 10 yards.
- c. After a World Record setting performance, the exact range will be re-measured from the shooter's shooting position to the target. The shooter's rifle will also be weighed at this time to ensure that it is under 50-pound limit in the fired configuration.

E) Hit Criteria.

- a. The criteria for success is 3 out of 3 hits on the 36" square target.
- b. Only direct hits count.
- c. The officiating match director has final say on official hit count, based on up close visual inspection of the target and the video.

F) Timing.

- a. Shooters will have unlimited time to prepare and set up. Once the first shot is fired, the shooter will have 3 minutes ~~10 minutes~~ to fire the remaining 2 shots. Changed from 10 to 3 minutes.
- b. The rifle used in the world record attempt must not have been fired within the past 4 hours except for a zero confirmation at 100 yards only.
- c. Shooters are permitted to shoot and spot only once in a 4-hour period.
- d. There must be a minimum of 4 hours before shooters can attempt another World Record.
- e. Shooters may attempt no more than two World Record attempts in a 24-hour period.

G) Shooters.

- a. Shooters are allowed up to 1 spotter to directly assist in wind calls, spotting impacts and any other capacity other than direct physical contact with the shooter or rifle once the first shot is fired.
- b. No-one other than the named spotter can assist or communicate the shooter during the attempt.
- c. Shooters may fire from any platform they desire including prone, benchrest or other.
- d. If a shooter has a spotter during the attempt, that spotter will be named along with the shooter, as the official world record holding 'team'.
- e. Shooting order will be determined by a random draw.

H) Shooters & Spotters.

- a. One rifle per shooter for both attempts. Two shooters cannot share one rifle.
- b. Shooters and spotters may not shoot back to back (1-hour minimum between tries).
- c. For the purposes of firing order random draw, the teams are split in to A and B relays. One member of the 2-man team will draw a number, and the second member of that team will shoot the same order number on relay B (If the spotter is also planning on a World Record Attempt). Example, one team member picks number 8. Both members of the team will shoot slot 8. One in relay order A and one in relay order B.
- d. Relay order B begins only after every shooter from relay order A has shot.
- e. Spotters may spot for only 1 person in a 24-hour period.

I) Equipment.

- a. There is no limit on caliber, cartridge or bullet.
- b. There are no restrictions on optics or aiming devices.
- c. The overall weight limit of the rifle is 50 pounds which does not include: bi-pod, pedestal, front or rear support.
- d. No bolted down weapon systems or railguns.

Record of Revisions

Rev 1: 3/8/2017

Addressed a few more items regarding 'qualified' ELR events
Included idea about 'trickle down' sponsorship

Rev 2: 3/9/2017

Changed wording for qualifying ELR events from: "more than ½ targets at 1200+ yards" to "More than ½ targets at 1500+ yards".

Rev 3: 3/10/2017

Added Addendum 1: World Record Criteria.

Rev 4: 7/17/2018

- 1) Clarified and updated the wording for video records. Included that videos must clearly identify the shooter and spotter.
- 2) Added electronic target spotting systems for use in to the wording.
- 3) Updated section F. Reduced time between attempts from 8 to 4 hours. Clarified how many attempts per day shooters may attempt.
- 4) Updated section G. Added shooting order is random draw (as has been the standard at all events). Added wording for how many spotters a shooter may have, according to the current standard of practice.
- 5) Added section H clarifying the rules for spotters, and how random drawing order works for teams. Previously spotter rules were scattered, now they can be found in one location.
- 6) Added clarification for rifle systems in section I. Specifically added (no bolted down systems or rail guns).
- 7) Removed "1500-yard minimum distance" because the current World Record is 2011 yards.