

## Bluffs Shooters Gong Match Rules 2026

Revised 6-15-26

Our gong matches are shot from 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600 yards. The match can be shot from the bench or from the prone position, next to the bench. The type of rest is up to the competitor. Each shooter will be allowed up to two sighters and then 6 shots for record at each distance. There are three different sized targets at each distance. The smallest target at each distance is worth 3 points each time it is hit. The middle target is worth 2 points, and the large target is worth 1 point. Open sight shooters receive 4 points for the large targets, 3 points for the middle-sized targets and 5 points for the small targets. Each shooter will receive 6 shots at each distance for score, and the shooter chooses which target they want to shoot at – but they must declare to the spotter which target they are shooting at. The distances and benches will be assigned by the match director. The match can be shot with any rifle that is smaller than .320 caliber and capable of consistently hitting the target at 600. No steel core or armor piercing ammo allowed. **The Gong Matches will be shot on: , 6/21/26, and 7/19/26.**

There will be at least 3 people to each shooting position. One person shoots, one person spots the shots and calls hits or misses, and the third person writes down the score. Once the shooter is finished they rotate positions and continue shooting until all persons at that position have fired their 6 record shots. Then everyone changes to the next distance and repeats. There are 6 classes based on the rifle and rest used. Muzzle breaks are not allowed in any class because they make it very uncomfortable for the people next to them on the line. Suppressors are allowed in all classes except Factory Class.

**Open Sights** – Rifles with open sights and any safe rest setup are allowed.

**Factory Class** – Unaltered factory rifle with any scope and any rest setup

**Tactical Rifle Class** – Semi-auto or bolt action rifles with any scope. Only .223 and .308 cartridges (or the NATO equivalent) are allowed. A rear bag and a bipod are required.

**Open Class** – Any rifle/scope/caliber up to .320 – Shot from a front rest (or bipod) and a rear bag.

**Sling** – with sights or a scope. Any caliber .320 or less.

**Varmint Class** – Shot with a typical varmint rifle in .20 thru .25 caliber. From the bench or prone, with bags or other rests, as appropriate when varmint hunting. Anyone shooting larger than .25 caliber will be in Open class.

Sign up is from 8:00 to 8:30. Shooting starts at 8:45. The cost to shoot the match is \$10 for Bluffs Shooters members and \$15 for non-members. Juniors that are club members shoot for \$5 and non-member juniors shoot for \$10. Juniors are 18 and under. Most matches will be done by noon.

The course of fire will be:

Shooters will be given a shooting position and relay by the Match Director/Range Officer. The number of relays will be dependent on the number of shooters present and the class they are shooting in.

A match will be comprised of 5 – 6 shot strings and up to 10 sighters for a total of 40 total shots. You do not have to shoot all the sighters at each distance – but it is highly recommended.

A bonus target will be set up at random distances and will be worth 5 bonus points. Only one shot is allowed on the bonus target. The bonus target will be shot during the 600 yard distance.

The first relay of shooters will be called to the line and given a total of 4 minutes of prep time.

The Range Officer (RO) will call the line – “ready on the right, ready on the left, with one round load, the line is hot, commence fire.”

Once you are given the command “commence fire” you will have 10 minutes to take your sighters and to fire your 6 shots for record. All shots must be fired in the 10-minute period, or a miss will be given for each shot that is left. Be sure to tell your scorekeeper if you are not taking all of the sighters.

Upon completion of each string, shooters will remove their gear from the bench or shooting bay and move it to the rear of the line. A new shooter will then be allowed to assume the firing position, place their gear, and fire for that distance. We will repeat this process until everyone has fired their record shots at that distance. The line will be called “clear” and no one can touch any firearms. We will go forward and paint the steel gongs and then move to the next distance. We will shoot the targets in the order: near-to-far.

To shoot this match you will need approximately 40+ rounds of ammo - depending on the number of sighters you take. You will need a rifle that fits one of the categories and the appropriate rest or sling. Bring a spotting scope or binoculars to spot with. You will also need an ECI (empty chamber indicator), and eye and hearing protection. Eye and hearing protection are **mandatory**. If spectators are on the firing line, they will be required to have eye and hearing protection as well.

**The Range Officer has final say in all matters and rulings. If you have a problem immediately confer with the RO.**

Classes may not be recognized unless there are three or more competitors in a specific class, otherwise the shooters will be in Open Class.

The RO will help you get on target initially if you need help. If we have a target failure a “cease fire” will be called and a repair will proceed. If the shooter was in the middle of a string when the “cease fire” was called, they will be awarded one sighter before commencing.

Call or email if you have questions – email is the best way to get ahold of me.

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