

Shooting off Barricades, building a solid position.

By Jim See

Today I'm going to do a quick review of 3 common barricade positions and discuss some of the finer points of building a stable firing position while shooting rifle matches. The picture examples on the culverts would be equally applicable to a wall barricade as well as many others.

The lowest position has me grounded in a good 3 point kneeling position, with the use of the right arm pressure on the knee, and a slight drive into the barricade I can keep my wobble well with-in the target. My shoulder and cheek are making firm contact which adds the barricade as a 4th level of support through the extension of my rifle. In all of these positions the use of a front support bag between the rifle and culvert is the basis for a solid position fully supporting the front of the rifle.



The highest position has my legs perpendicular to the target direction, again firm shoulder and cheek pressure help in making the rifle to barricade my 3rd point of support, remove the barricade and I fall straight forward. I can easily maintain a hold on the target to initiate the firing sequence.



The 3rd position is what I call no man's land, in essence my lower half is only 2 points of support and leaning forward does not create enough pressure on the rifle to stabilize it as a 3rd position. So look at the subtleties; my body position is rotated to the left so I can get the left elbow firmly on the barricade for a 3rd point of solid contact. At this point it removes my shoulder from making firm contact with the butt pad, and you can see I am floating my face off the cheek piece with just felt contact and minimal pressure. I am using my hands to aim the rifle left hand pressure down firmly into the support bag and steering the grip a bit with my right hand. By reducing my shoulder pressure and cheek pressure I am not disturbing the rifle with uncontrolled movement. The big advantage to this is I can hold very steady but I will give up recoil management which can inhibit me spotting my impact. With a solid previous wind call from the kneeling position this is generally irrelevant.



This stage was a 10 shot clean for me, by using solid techniques that are completely second nature from years of shooting. Learn these tips and you will be on your way to more successful shooting.