# NZDA Centrefire Benchrest Rifle Classes

Firstly, some important information about rests, sand bags and muzzle devices.

## Rifle Rests

In NZDA national rifle classes for benchrest competition, front and rear rests under the rifle are a requirement and both must incorporate sand bags (see additional option for NZDA-BOP Club Class further on). The front rest is usually an adjustable support device which incorporates the front sand bag i.e. SEB, Farley, Rodzilla, Lenzi, Sinclair, Caldwell etc.

*Rests shall support the front part of a rifle. A rear rest shall support the rear part of the rifle. Neither rest may be attached to the bench, the rifle or the other. Each shall be moveable independently of the other.*

*The front sand bag shall be a bag without additions, containing sand only, and at least 1/2 inch thick over its entire surface. The bag must be able to be deflected horizontally at least 1/4 inch with finger pressure at any point. The portion which contacts the rifle shall contact the entire surface under the fore end.*

*The rear sand bag, shall be a bag, or combination of bags containing sand only. The bag must be able to be deflected horizontally at least 1/4 inch with finger pressure at any point. A vertical spacer under the rear bag will be allowed, as long as they incorporate no adjustments for windage or elevation. The vertical spacers shall not contain any protrusions which can be inserted into the benchtop or the sand bag and the top and bottom surfaces of the vertical spacer must be flat. The rear bag shall not be contained in any manner.*

## Muzzle Brakes, Suppressors & Barrel Tuners

- In short range benchrest group and score competition muzzle brakes are prohibited.
- Suppressors may be used in all rifle classes.
- Barrel tuners are allowed in all rifle classes.
- All muzzle devices will be included in the weight of the rifle.

# NZDA Centrefire Benchrest Rifle Classes

## Rifle Class Equipment Summary

| Class / Equipment | NZDA-National LV & HV Class | NZDA-National Factory Class | NZDA-BOP Club Class |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dial-Up Scope | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory |
| Front Sand Bag | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory |
| Front Bi-Pod | Prohibited | Prohibited | *Optional |
| Rear Sand Bag | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory |
| Muzzle Brake | Prohibited | Prohibited | Prohibited |
| Suppressor | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Barrel Tuner | Optional | Optional | Optional |

*For **NZDA-Club Class** the front sand bag can be substituted for a bi-pod. The intention is allow custom rifles such as F-Class or PRS style to compete.

## NZDA Rifle Classes

**NZDA Heavy Varmint Rifle (HV) and NZDA Light Varmint Rifle (LV)**

Heavy Varmint and Light Varmint class rifles must comply with the NBRSA rules (which are the same for WBSF and IBS). See page 3 below.

Heavy Varmint and Light Varmint rifle classes are the primary competition class and are used in international competition.

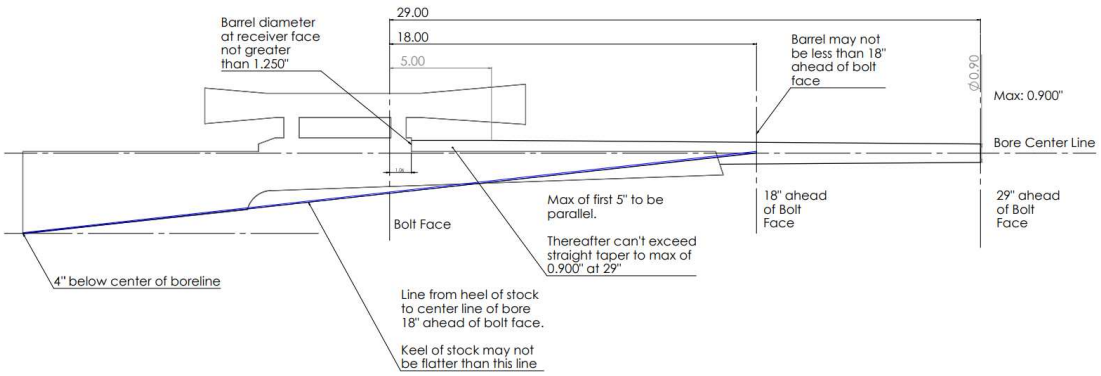
The only difference between a Heavy Varmint and Light Varmint rifle is its weight. HV has a maximum weight limit including the scope of 13.5 lbs (6.123 kg) and an LV of 10.5 lbs (4.762 kg). An LV rifle might have a shorter barrel, and a lighter stock and scope to make weight.

LV rifles are more popular as they can be shot in both classes at the same weight, or weight can be added into the butt stock to bring it up into the HV weight. Both LV and HV are limited to a 3 inch wide flat fore end.

# NZDA Centrefire Benchrest Rifle Classes

Photo acknowledgement to Tyrel Lynn

Varmint Rifle Diagram
NBRSA




**Heavy Varmint (HV) Rifle Definition**

*A Heavy Varmint Rifle is any rifle having a safe manually operated firing mechanism that weighs no more than thirteen and one half pounds, inclusive of sights. Any sight will be permitted. The stock should have a flat or convex forearm not more than 3 inches wide and having a toe formed by an acute angle that conforms to the varmint rifle diagram. The barrel shall not be less than 18 inches long forward of the bolt face and a diameter of not more than 1.250 inches from the bolt face forward 5 inches. From said 5-inch point, the diameter shall not be greater than would be defined by a straight taper between such point and a muzzle diameter of 0.900 at 29 inches. The barrel may be attached to the receiver, bedding blocks or sleeve or combination thereof for a distance of no more than 4 inches, measured from the face of the bolt. The overall length of the receiver, bedding block or sleeve or the combination must not exceed 14 inches (maximum dimensions shall not include normal scope blocks or sight bases).*

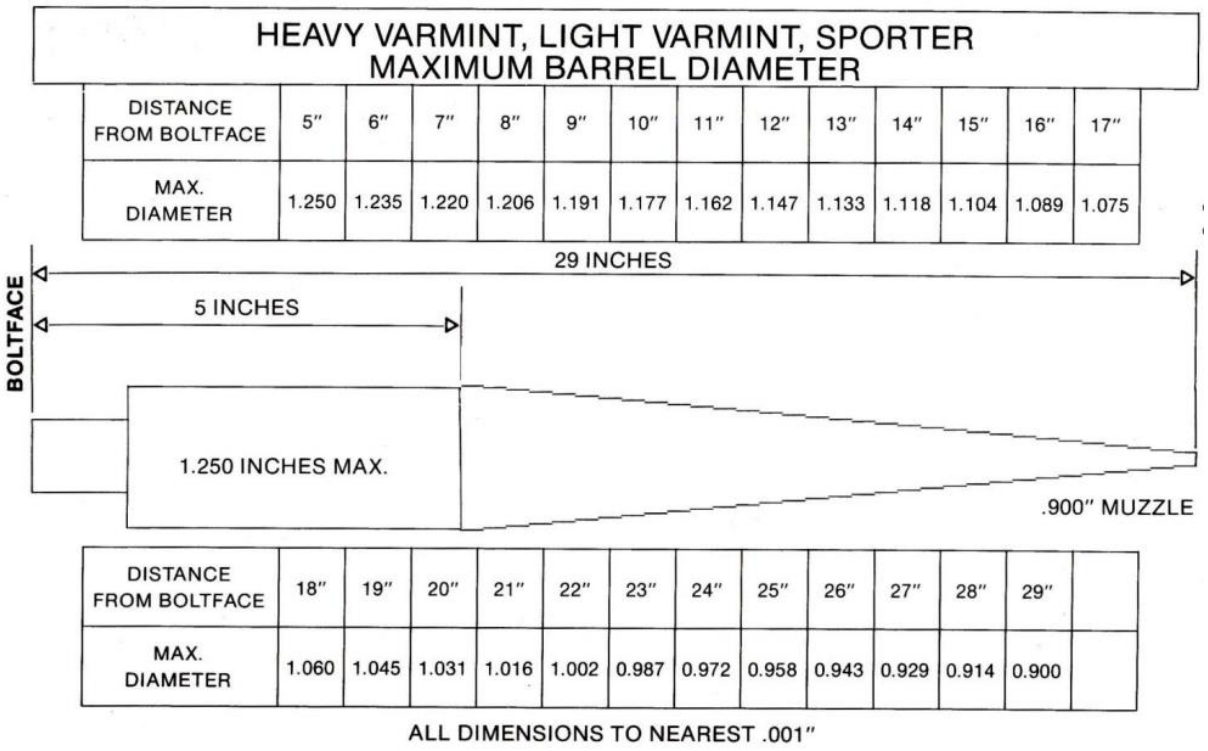
**Light Varmint (LV) Rifle Definition**

# NZDA Centrefire Benchrest Rifle Classes

*Any rifle of not more than ten and one half pounds in weight, inclusive of sights, and otherwise meeting the requirement of the Heavy Varmint Rifle.*

**Note:**

The NZDA allows the use of suppressors on HV and LV rifles, although they are generally not allowed in other countries. The weight of a suppressor in the HV and LV classes will be included in the overall rifle weight. As suppressors are relatively heavy, they would generally be considered a disadvantage as weight will need to be lost from other vital components,




**NZDA Factory Class Rifle (FC)**

- *Any mass-produced repeating rifle. Must have a magazine. No custom, semi-custom or custom shop rifles.*
- *Factory barrel stamp must be visible.*
- *The only modifications allowed are improvements in bedding and adjusting of the original factory trigger. Must have the original factory chamber, action and stock.*
- *There are no limitations on sights or ammunition. Calibre will be limited to a maximum of 30 calibre.*
- *Moderators/Suppressors are allowed but muzzle brakes are excluded.*

# NZDA Centrefire Benchrest Rifle Classes

**NZDA-BOP Club Class Rifle (CC)**

- Other safe firearms that comply with the NZDA-BOP Range Standing Orders.
- The front rest/sandbag can be substituted for a bi-pod which must be attached to the fore end of the rifle. A rear sand bag rest is still required.
- *Moderators/Suppressors are allowed but muzzle brakes are excluded.*
- This class of rifle is not shot at NZDA national competitions.

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