

Regulations for the Norwegian Reserve Officers' Association Military Skills Competition¹

Introduction

The NROA military field team competition/military skills competition comprises elements of several military disciplines and is conducted as a field team competition (infantry competition with four competitors on each team. The competition has a duration of 10 -15 hours and a distance of up to 30 kilometers. The competition has several check posts testing various field skills, such as shooting, target observation, medical, orienteering and so on. Additionally, the competition has check posts testing the teams' abilities of coping with demanding "outdoor tasks". The competitor's' knowledge of relevant defense related topics will also be tested².

Aim

Overall

The field team competition is an important tool to reach the NROA's ambition of maintaining the Reserve's military competence and physical fitness. Furthermore, the field team competition shall contribute to increase the understanding of Reserves as a resource for the Armed Forces and support the credibility of the Norwegian Reserve Officers' Association.

Individuals

The field team competition shall motivate the individual participants and the members of the NROA to maintain their field competence and skills as well as other defense related skills and competence.

Units of the NROA

The field team competition shall contribute in spreading competence among the various local units of the Association, increase the width of military sport and contribute to recruit members as sportsmen. The field team competition shall provide training for the NROA units in organizing complex activities and work together "as a staff".

Local field team competitions

Although this directive is written for the main NROA field team competition, it shall also apply for similar local arrangements.

Main regulations

The NROA regulations and directives provide the basis for the conduct of the NROA field team competition. In particular, the following are central:

- The regulations for NROA shooting activities, describing shooting programs, security rules and requirements for firing range officers.
- The agreement of cooperation between the NROA and the Norwegian Armed Forces.
- UD 2-1, The Norwegian Army's safety regulations
- The NROA directive for travel and transport

¹ Approved by the Board of the NROA, October 26th, 2013 for evaluating a revised concept

² When non-Norwegian teams are participating, the questions of the quiz will be adjusted to provide a fair playing ground for the competitors.

The NROA unit conducting the field team competition shall check that the participants are covered by personal insurance. NROA shall not bear any liability for damage, should a participant have an accident or cause damage to others.

Weapons and ammunition

Activities comprising weapons and ammunition will normally be conducted on some of the check posts. Military weapons will be loaned from the Armed Forces in accordance with the cooperation agreement. Provision of other military weapons could be done on case-by-case basis.

Military weapons will be handled in accordance with Armed Forces regulations and be kept the ranges. The competitors shall not carry functional weapons during other parts of the competition.

Level of ambition

The level of ambition shall be tuned to the current direction and activity of the Norwegian Armed Forces, and be adjusted to comprise the field skills and competence that the Reserves should aim for. It must be a direct link between the Strategy of the NROA and the guidelines for planning and conduct, as it is for all military sports of the Association. The content of the NROA field team competition will normally be within the tasks and responsibilities of the Norwegian National Guard.

The level of ambition shall be adjusted to make it feasible for a regular NROA unit, or several cooperating units, to conduct the competition. For practical purposes, this means that the level of ambition may vary slightly from year to year.

The field team competition is focused on competence, and the various check posts / exercises shall be organized in a way to make it possible evaluate the skills and competence of the participants relative to the standards of the Norwegian Armed Forces for "Approved Infantry Soldier" or "Approved National Guard Soldier".

The aim is that as many teams as possible should pass these requirements. This requires the exercises to be measurable in an objective way and that the requirements are realistic.

However, even if the requirements for "passed" are realistic for a prepared NROA team, the scoring rules will be designed to clearly differentiate between the best teams. This will also make the competition more demanding for the top-end teams. Consequently, the field team competition will not increase in its complexity over the years. The element of meeting unknown elements that is natural for such competitions should be created by variation of the field activities and the competition between the high end teams.

The successful completion of the field team competition will award point for earning the NROA price for versatile military sports.

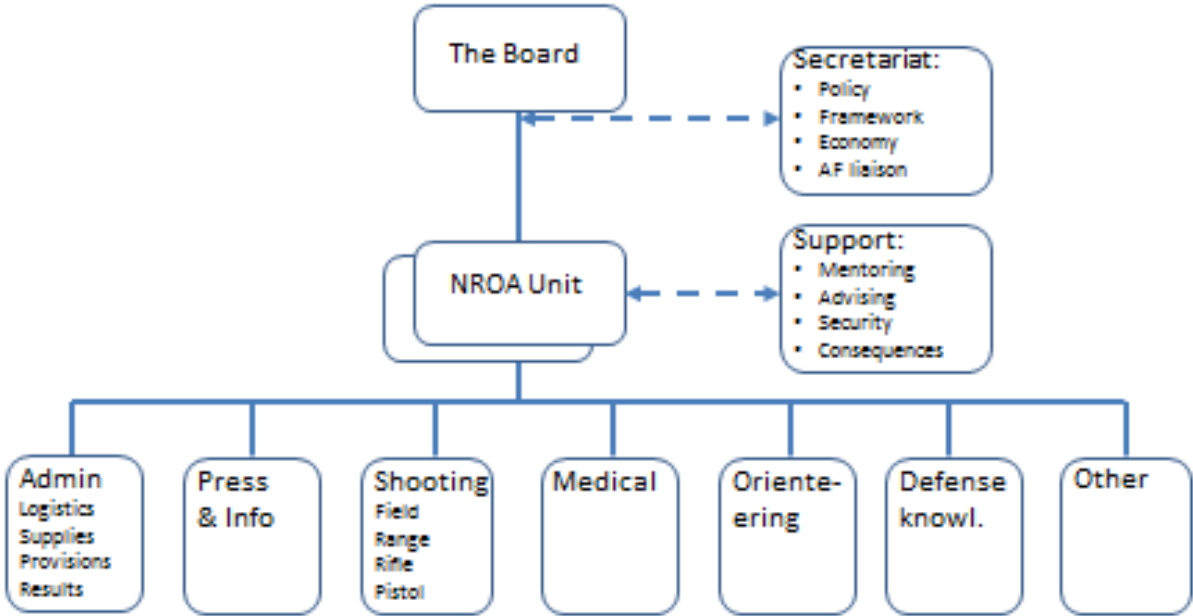
Classes

The field team competition is divided in two classes, over 55 years of age and below 55 years of age. Additionally, the best female team and the best beginners' team will be awarded. The requirement of a beginners' team, is that at least 3 of the 4 team members have not participated in a similar competition.

Roles and responsibilities

The Board of the Norwegian Reserve Officers' Association is the Officer Scheduling the Competition and holds the overall responsibility. The Board is supported by the NROA Secretariat for all matters concerning economy, policy, rules and regulations. The Secretariat may also be assigned other tasks.

The responsibility for planning and conduct of the field team competition will be assigned one or more local units of the NROA, pending upon the resources of the unit(s). The unit(s) shall be assisted by a supporting group. This group shall not hold responsibility of the actual conduct, but advice in areas where the local units lack experience. A representative of the unit that conducted the previous field team competition as well a representative of the unit responsible for the forthcoming competition should be a part of the support group.



The field team competition is normally organized like this:

Exercises and check posts

In order for the competitors to prepare, a standard menu of elements of the competition has been established. The responsible NROA unit will pick a number of these exercises and holds the responsibility of conducting them:

No.	What	Objective	Comment
	Defense focused briefing	Increase knowledge	Does not count for the result
	Operational briefing	Information, preparation	As above
	Defense knowledge	Motivate participants to be update	Based on the NROA military strategy course, adjusted for intrn’ participants
	Military ethics and RoEs	Reflection	
	Field shooting/combat shooting, long weapons	Test skills and leadership	“Regular activity” NROA
	Shooting AG-3	Test skills	National program Guard
	Range shooting, long weapons	Test skills	“Regular activity” NROA

			activity”
	Pistol shooting	Test skills	“Regular activity” NROA
	Orienteering	Focused on precision, plotting position of objects	Focused on precision rather than time
	Target spotting	Test vigilance	
	Medical/Combat casualty care	Focused on first aid and leadership	
	Communication	Test procedures	
	NRBC	Test knowledge, skills and leadership	
	Physical fitness	Meet Armed Forces requirements	
	Obstacle course	Team work	
	Passing water obstacle	Skills/coping	
	Rappeling by double rope	Skills/coping	
	Bouldering	Team work/coping	
	Other coping exercise	Team work/coping	
	Other coping exercise	Team work/coping	
	Other coping exercise	Team work/coping	

Planning

In order for the various NROA units to gain experience and divide the burden on supporting units of the Armed Forces, the field team competition is normally conducted in different places throughout the country. The competition should normally be located in a military exercise area, in order to vary the shooting elements.

The planning cycle is normally:

When	What	Who
October	Evaluation of completed field team competition, recommendations for the coming year	Secretariat
November	Designing outline plan, negotiating support and cooperating with the Armed Forces	Secretariat
December	Request to the MoD for financial support. Dialog with assigned Armed Forces units	Secretariat

February/March	Finalizing budgets	Secretariat
March	Kick-off with Unit conducting the competition, supporting group and Secretariat	All
April – June	Recces	Unit
August – September	Field team competition	Unit, participants

The planning should consider:

- Relevance for Armed Forces today
- Requirements of the Reserve
- Resource implications
- Simplicity
- Spectator friendliness

The field team competition is normally conducted ultimo August/primo September, but the dates may vary. The venue shall be advertised on the NROA Activity Plan, in the Pro Patria Magazine, Home pages and social media. Invitations will be sent to all NROA units, Armed Forces units and relevant foreign contacts and include:

- Time and venue
- Arrival and transport information
- Information on accommodation and messing
- Information POCs and how to sign up and

Schedule

The normal schedule comprises:

- Thursday – NROA checks out Armed Forces gear and equipment
- Friday – Participants arrive, setting up camp, briefings
- Saturday – The field team competition, BBQ late evening
- Sunday – Awards, clean-up, return of participants
- Monday – NROA returns Armed Forces materiel
- Fee

Participants

The competition is a team completion for teams built of four individuals. The team must be headed by an officer or NCO (sergeant equivalent or above) and 3 team members (officers-NCOs-soldiers/sailors/airmen/marines).

If a team is reduced to three individuals, the team will loose the points that could have been gained by that individual, i.e. 20 %. The team shall display good sportsmanship and sound military attitude throughout the course and be positive and be able to take initiatives.

Signing on

The signing-on information shall be received by the NROA Secretariat not later than 14 days prior to the field team competition. The team shall sign on as a team and provide the following:

- Name of the team

- Full name and date of birth of each individual
- Military ranks of all each individual
- E-mail address of each individual
- Designation of team leader and POC of the team
- Other contact information as relevant
- Arrival details

Language

The language will normally be Norwegian. However, when non-Nordic teams are participating, the official language of the field team competition will be English.

Attire

During the field team competition itself, the participants are required to wear correct military field uniform, without visible civilian effects. Travel, social events and award ceremony is carried out wearing civilian attire.

Conducting NROA Unit

The designated NROA unit is conducting the field team competition on behalf the Board of the NROA.

Manning the check posts will normally be done by members of the responsible NROA unit and neighboring units. However, some posts may be manned by the Norwegian Armed Forces personnel.

Accommodation and messing should to the extent possible, be within Armed Forces standards. Military barracks or tents may be used. Sometimes, the participants must provide own tents. Other civilian solutions may be used when it's cost effective.

Economy

The participants are required to pay for their own travel and a fee that will be determined when the invitations are sent. The NROA will cover accomendation and messing and all other expensxes. The financial framework will depend on the possible financial support by the MoD.

Preparations and training

The field team competition should comprise elements that the participants could prepare for. However, the competition should contain unknown elements, to increase the element of coping with new tasks.

Spectators

It should be possible for spectators and guests to observe parts of the field team competition. Locations should be established for this purpose, identified by marking tape. Spectators are not allowed to be on their own in the exercise area. Specially invited observers may observe the entire exercise, accompanied by the organizers.

Evaluation

All field team competitions shall be evaluated. Feedback forms the responsible NROA unit, Armed Forces personnel, participants and the NROA Secretariat. The Secretariat is responsible for the evaluation. The evaluation is to be presented to the Board of the NROA and relevant Armed Forces/MoD units.