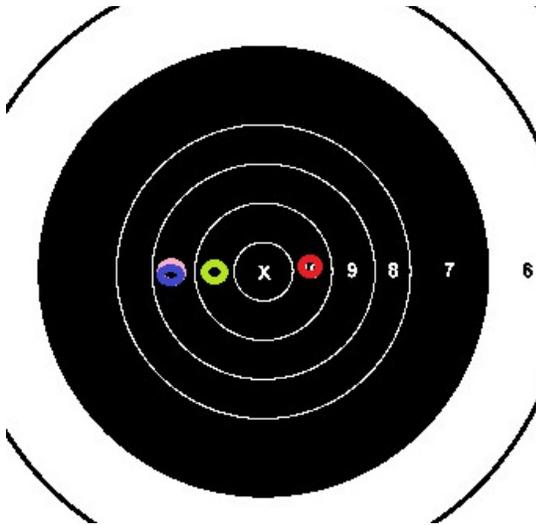


Shooting Mechanics- Calling your shot and getting the rifle on call

Beginning shooters always shoot 10's and X's, if it comes up a 9, 8, or heaven forbid a 7 or 6 it has to be "Wind". Taking this mindset that every shot is actually a 10 or an X denies the shooter of a very valuable tool in figuring out the wind and that is calling your shot. Calling your shot is simply what is says, call where you shot. This is more easily done with scope but can be done with irons also. If your crosshairs were moving towards a 9 o'clock 9 then call it a 9. If it broke in the X ring call it an X. This doesn't mean you are saying what the value will be, but you are saying where the shot "should" be. If we can honestly say where the shot "should" be then we can take the result (actual) shot on target as a way to measure what is going on with the wind or how far your sights are off. .

For example in the target below the shooter called a 3 o'clock 10 (red).

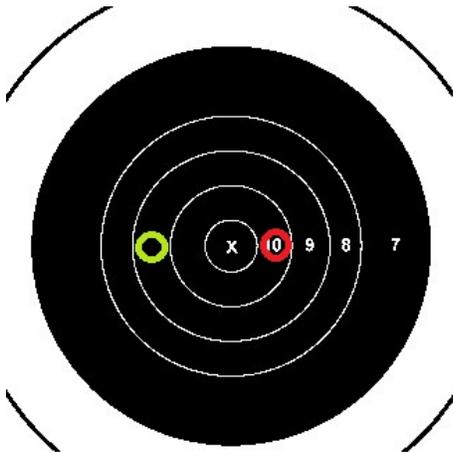


The target goes down and comes up a 9 o'clock 10 (green). The rifle is not on call, as the rifle did not come up to where the shot was broke. Now this is where a beginning shooter will make a mistake, they will adjust the sights for the center of the target, not where they actually shot. So a shooter may make .5 to 1 MOA right to center up on the X. His next shot "May" be an X but it still isn't shooting where he is pointing. What the shooter should do is adjust the sights 1.5-2MOA right as this is adjusting the shot to where the call was. The shooter breaks a second shot as a 9 o'clock 9 (pink) when the target comes up it comes up as a 9 o'clock 9 the rifle is now "on-call". If you don't call your shot you will adjust your sights and your third shot won't hit where you broke it this is what a non-experienced shooter will do. The experienced shooter will accept he broke it as a 9, and be glad the rifle is on call and move on. If you are in a match with unlimited sighters you are using your sighters to get the rifle on call. If you shoot two sighters and they are 9's but they are on call then you are good to go. Just break a good shot

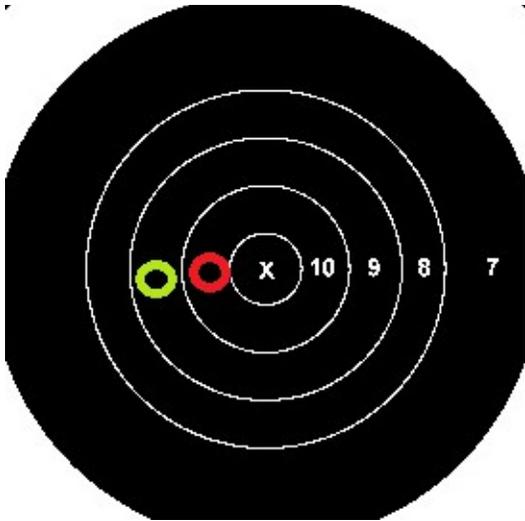
next time. The opposite is true if you shoot 2 X's but you are not on call don't think you are good to go. Sighters are for getting your shot on call, not for 10's or X's. If you want a 10 or an X then break it in the 10 and X ring.

Now what causes shots to be off call? Well it can be wind but it can also be mechanics. That is why it is very important for the shooter to remove him or herself as the variable so that any reasons for being off call is the wind. Lets look at a real life example and though process assuming that the position and follow through are not an issue and so it is just the wind.

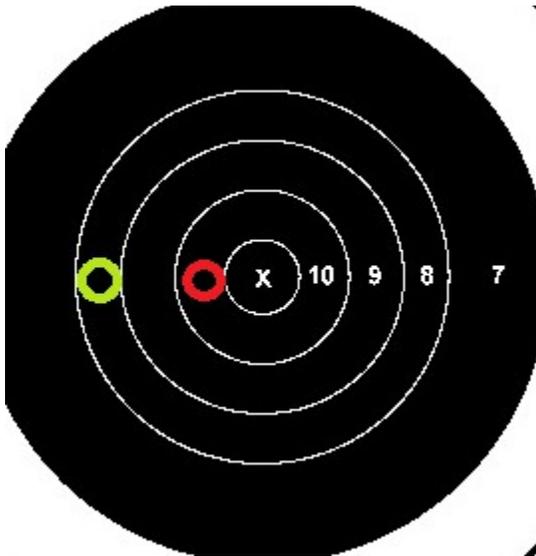
The shooter below breaks a 3 o'clock 10 (red) and it comes up a 9 o'clock 9 (green). That is roughly a 3 MOA difference from call to impact. (fig1)



If the shooter does not call his shot, he may only adjust 2 MOA to center it up. Provided the conditions are consistent he will get an X on his second shot with that 2 MOA correction. However his rifle is still not hitting where he is aiming it is off call by 1 MOA to the left. Lets say the same shooter breaks a shot as a 3 o'clock 10 provided the wind condition is the same as the first shot. You will see with the rifle not on call the shooter shot a 9. (fig2)



So by not calling the shot on the first shot the shooter just cost himself a point on the second shot. What should have been a 10 ended up being a nine. Lets take this one step further instead of the wind staying constant the wind picked up another MOA and the shot was broken as a 9 o'clock 10. So now instead of being a 9 the shot is now an 8 (green). (Fig3)



Ok the shooter has dropped 3 points all because the gun is not on call. If the rifle was on call he would only be down 1 point due to the wind increase. Getting back our shooter is getting upset so he puts on 3MOA to the right as mathematically this is the distance from his shot to the X ring. However The shooter broke the shot 1 MOA right of the X ring and the wind is taking him another MOA to the right. Our 3MOA correction is going to move the impact 1 MOA right of where the shot is broke. We could continue this exercise but as the wind builds and lets off and maybe even changes the direction if the shooter corrects off of bad shots and doesn't realize they are bad by calling the shots he is going to get lost quick.

Now how could this have been fixed? In the first shot if the shooter would have realized where his call was he would have realized he was 3 MOA off, not 2. While he still lost a point, his rifle is now on call. With his rifle now on call if he breaks a 9 o'clock 10 it should come up a 9 o'clock 10. The shooter then gets the input ok that is me, not the wind. Do not adjust just favor center. In figure 3, the wind picked up a MOA that the shooter didn't adjust for, however with his gun being on call he calls a 9 o'clock 10, but comes up 9 o'clock 9. This then will tell the shooter I'm off call by 1MOA it must be the wind, add 1MOA.

During a string your through process should be 1. Break a shot and make a call. 2. Is my shot on call? 3. If yes, no adjustment break another good shot. 4. If no adjust for how much off call you were.

In the next part we will talk about the wind which leads to shots being off call and how you can go about trying to read it.