

6mm Competition Match

By Kevin Drake

Accuracy is repeatability. In less than ideal weather conditions the advantage goes to the bullet with the best ballistics.

The .308 Winchester has been used with great efficiency, but there are a lot better options for civilian shooters to compete in tactical matches with.

I found the 6mm Competition Match cartridge while reading some Bench Rest forums. The cartridge was designed by Joe Hendricks for the High Power Match Rifle. The Match Rifle game is similar to tactical matches in that there are long range stages of fire and rapid fire strings of fire.

The 6mmCM is a wildcat off of a standard .243 case. The shoulder is blown forward to 31 degree's to allow for larger case capacity and the body keeps its original taper. By keeping the same body taper this makes chambering and extraction a non issue with field conditions and long strings of fire.

The fire forming loads are quite accurate and I use them for practice. What I get in the end is a cartridge that is at the top of the food chain for accuracy and killing wind.

Usually, greater speed comes at the cost of shorter barrel life. By using the improved case I get a greater case capacity that allows me to use more powder to reach faster velocities. But here is where the advantage of the 6CM comes in to play. Using a slower burning powder like Hodgdon H1000 and a 28 inch barrel the slower burning powder will burn over the full length of the barrel instead of quickly at the throat area. This will allow for a more even burn thru the barrel and not destroy the throat of the barrel as fast as the standard .243 cartridge.

Shooting the slower burning powder will increase barrel life to roughly 4000 rounds or more. As for barrel life I am half way there already with no signs of accuracy fading and no problems to report. With the 6CM I can run 6mm bullets really fast. I can push 115 grain non-moly coated bullet over 3000 fps safely. This gives me 24 MOA to 1000 yards with a 100 yard zero compared to 39 MOA to 1000 yards for the .308 Winchester.

The other benefit of this cartridge is that it easily fits in my Badger Ordinance magazines so rapid reloads are easy.