

NSSA Rules & Classification Committee Meeting
Natioanl Shooting Complex, San Antonio, TX
Saturday, January 28, 2012

Trish Magyar called the meeting to order at 8:35AM with the following Committee members present: Woody Anderson, John Bratty, King Heiple and Debbi Perry. Don Kelly, Sid Miller and Lou Riddle attended via phone conference. Prior notification was received from Bill Batty and Louise Terry they would be unable to attend. Also present was Linda Steen.

1. **Shooting of "Additional Targets"** – Make official the waiver granted for the World Shooting regarding shooting of additional targets.

Discussion: Change rules II-A-7-I, II-G-4 and V-B-1-f-1 to give shoot management the discretion to determine when and in what increments additional targets are to be shot. With the exception of the World Shoot, there were several committee members who took issue with allowing additional targets prior the registered event. Everyone did, however, agree that the increment of additional targets (i.e., 50, 100 or more) should be up to shoot management.

Motion by Woody Anderson, 2nd King Heiple, add to the beginning of the last sentence of II-A-7-I and II-G-4, "With the exception of the World Shoot..." and delete the last sentence of V-B-1-f-1 pertaining to increments; motion passed all in favor.

2. **Smoking on the Field** – Request from Debbi Perry to revisit having a "smoke free" (registered) shooting environment.

Discussion: The "*Skeet Shooting Etiquette*" page has verbiage to please refrain from smoking during the round. *No action taken.*

3. **Letter from Ron Wilson** – Recommendation to look at NSSA protest procedures in light of Zone 7 incident. *Covered under 4, below.*

4. **Request from NSSA President** to consolidate all protest procedures under one rule.

Discussion: If a violation of the rules has no time limit, the ripple effect could be a tidal wave. The current timeframes don't adequately provide shoot management with the flexibility to deal with situations that might arise post-shoot. Shoot management *must* be proactive in dealing with incidents that (may) lead to a protest. Additionally, the rules don't preclude shoot management from correcting an error in scoring that is discovered after the shoot is over.

Motion by Debbi Perry, 2nd by Sid Miller, to move current VI (International Skeet) to IX and consolidate II-E, IV-D-3 and all of (current) IX under VI, as follows:

VI. PROTESTS

1. Only a shooter, shoot management or referee may initiate a protest when:
 - a. If in his/her opinion the rules as herein stated have been improperly applied.
 - b. The conditions under which another shooter has been permitted to shoot.
 - c. Where he/she feels an error has been made in the compilation of a score.

A protest is not required for shoot management to take corrective action on an error in scoring upon discovery.

2. How To Protest

- a. A protest shall be initiated immediately when it is possible to do so upon the occurrence of the protested incident. No protest may be initiated by the shooter involved after thirty (30) minutes have elapsed after the occurrence of the incident for which a protest is desired to be made. Failure to comply with the following procedure will automatically void the protest.
- b. A protest involving the scoring of a target, if filed immediately on the station, a second shot, or shots will be fired and the results recorded and noted as a protest.
- c. The protest shall proceed in the prescribed manner:
 - 1) State the complaint verbally to the chief referee. If not satisfied with his/her decision, then:

2) File with shoot management a protest in writing, stating all the facts in the case. Such protest must be filed within **24 hours** after the occurrence of the protested incident. Shoot management must reply within **48 hours** of receipt of the protest. If not satisfied with the decision of shoot management, then:

3) File with the NSSA a written appeal, stating all the facts. Such appeal must be filed within **7 days** after the decision of shoot management has been made known to the protestor. The team captain must make protests in team events. Team members who believe they have reason to protest will state the facts to their team captain, who will make the protest if he/she feels such action is justified by the facts.

3. Referee Responsibility

Upon protest, the referee shall record the time of the incident, and will rule upon the occurrence, and then without delay, proceed with the round as if nothing had happened. At the completion of the round he/she shall notify the chief referee or shoot management.

4. Shoot Management Responsibility

In order that protests may be uniformly and fairly handled, the protesting shooter and the protest committee, which is defined as Shoot Management, or a judge appointed by shoot management, or a panel of judges appointed by shoot management, should observe the following guidelines.

a. Determine if:

- 1) An incident occurred.
- 2) A verbal protest was made to the field referee.
- 3) A verbal protest was made to the chief referee.
- 4) The chief referee ruled on the protest.
- 5) The protest committee's decision was made known to the protesting shooter.

b. Then:

- 1) If there was a chief referee, was the complaint brought to his/her attention by the protesting shooter?
- 2) Was the written protest tendered to shoot management within 24 hours of the protested incident?
- 3) Is the shooter not protesting a referee's decision of fact?
- 4) Is the shooter protesting: Improper application of the NSSA rules, or the conditions under which another shooter has been allowed to shoot or an error in score-keeping?

If VI-4-b-1 through 4 above can all be answered, "Yes", the protest committee should then decide whether to grant or deny the protest. If the answer to any of the questions VI-4-b-1 through 4 above is, "No", the protest is invalid.

5. Any appeal to the NSSA of the protest committee's decision should include:

- a. The facts outlined above.
- b. A copy of the written protest.
- c. A copy of the protest committee's decision.

Shoot management should be prepared to provide the information in VI-5-a through c above to the NSSA upon request.

Motion passed all in favor.

5. **Reduce time balk.** Per III-C-3-g it shall be considered a time balk if a shooter deliberately delays more than 15 seconds for each shot on a station and the referee shall warn him/her once each round without penalty. Mathematically, if every member on a squad were to take the allotted 15 seconds

per shot, it would take nearly 30 minutes to complete a around, not including the break. Per III-B-7, a round of skeet should be completed in 20 minutes, including breaks between rounds.

Discussion: We should change the time for each shot to 10 seconds to help ensure a 20 minute round. This would give the referee more authority to move the squad along. Where the squads are losing time is between rounds.

Motion by Debbi Perry, 2nd by Don Kelly, to reduce the time balk to 10 seconds; motion passed all in favor.

- 6. Proof Doubles for both ammunition (III-C-7) and gun malfunctions (III-D-9.b.) when such malfunction occurs between shots.** If an allowable malfunction occurs and the first target is lost, it remains lost, but if the target was hit it has to be repeated. Why should a shooter be penalized for something beyond his/her control?

Discussion: Everyone agreed it's time to change the rules to establish the first target of a double when what subsequently occurs is beyond the control of the shooter.

Motion by King Heiple, 2nd by Don Kelly, to change III-C-7 and III-D-9-b, such that if an allowable malfunction occurs between shots on doubles the result of firing upon the first bird is established, dead or lost, and a proof double will be shot to establish the second bird; motion passed all in favor.

New wording for III-C-7: During a regular round or a doubles event, if the brass pulls off a hull, or defective ammunition occurs between shots on doubles, the referee *will score the results of the first shot* and a proof doubles shot to establish the second shot result.

New wording for III-D-9-b: During a regular round or a doubles event, if an allowable malfunction has occurred, the referee *will score the results of the first shot* and a proof doubles shot to establish the second shot result.

- 7. Delete unnecessary phrases and rules from Rules Book** (see attachments 1 and 2).

Motion by Woody Anderson, 2nd by Debbi Perry, to approve the proposed rules' changes; motion passed all in favor.

- 8. Change Registered Shoot Application Form.** Though not part of the Rules, everyone felt it would be a good idea to include a column on the Registered Shoot Application to indicate whether a shoot is open or closed. Several complaints have been received when someone has shown up at a shoot only to find out that it was a "closed" club shoot. A shoot will assumed to be "open" unless otherwise indicated. "CLOSED" will be included in the shoot name on the registered shoot certificate and the listing on the website.
- 9. Review Referee Exam for changes/update** – *Tabled until the Rules ballot is voted on. The Referee's Handbook will also be updated and reissued to reflect the revised rules.*

The Rules changes under items 1, 4, 5, 6 and Attachment (2) require Executive Committee action to send a ballot to the Board of Directors.

There being no further items, **motion by Woody Anderson, 2nd by Debbi Perry to adjourn; motion passed all in favor. The Rules Committee adjourned at 1:40PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar
Chairman, Rules & Classification Committee

Attachment (1): Housekeeping Changes
(2): Streamlining Changes for Balloting

NSSA Rules & Classification Committee Meeting
January 28, 2012
Attachment (1) – Housekeeping Changes

The following changes to the Rules are deemed *Housekeeping* and, hence, require no action by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors:

1. I-A. TARGETS. **Reword** to read, "Standard targets must be no more than four and five-sixteenths (4-5/16) inches in diameter nor more than one and one-eighth (1-1/8) inches in height."
2. I-C. FIELD LAYOUT. **Correct** wording on the bottom right-hand side of field diagram to read, "or minus six inches; target emergence elevation, high house, plus or minus three inches from level of Station 1, low house plus or minus three inches from level of Station 7. Station levels within plus or minus nine inches of Station 8 level. Mandatory referee positions should be marked."
3. I-D MANDATORY POSITIONS FOR REFEREES. Web edition was not transcribed properly from the ballot. **Correct** to read:

D. MANDATORY POSITIONS FOR REFEREES

1. USING MANUAL PULL DEVICES.

For shooting Station 1 (1R), stand six feet to the right and three (3) feet back of the front of Station 1 where possible. For shooting Station 2 (2R), stand six (6) feet back and three (3) feet to the right of Station 2. For shooting Stations 3, 4, 5 and 6 (3-4-5-6R), stand six (6) feet back and three (3) feet to the left of the respective station. For shooting Station 7 (7R), stand six (6) feet to the left and three (3) feet back of the front of Station 7 where possible. For shooting Station 8 (8R), stand on the centerline of the field, not less than six (6) feet from shooter (and not more than 10 feet). During doubles shooting, as shooters are coming back around the circle, referees should stand six feet back and three feet to the right of Stations 5, 4 and 3. (See diagram on pages ~~###-###~~.) Exception: A shooter may request the referee to move behind the station at Station 3 or 5.

2. USING VOICE RELEASE SYSTEMS (VRS).

While a referee must stand as close as possible to the mandatory positions detailed in 1-D-1, it is acceptable for a referee using a VRS to slightly adjust his/her position to meet the needs of either the shooter or the VRS without causing interference with the shooter or the squad.

4. I-E. RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR SHOOTERS. **Move** to III-A-1 (Shooting Positions) as III-A-1-d, and **reword** to, "It is recommended for courtesy to ~~team~~ *squad* members that shooters do not advance more than one-third of the way to the next shooting station until all shooters on the squad have completed the station."
5. II-A-1-a. **Reword** to, "This card will be of high quality and is to be used throughout the shooting year. ~~Classification cards will be a different color each year to ease identification.~~ Replacement cards can be obtained from NSSA Headquarters."
6. II-A-7-b. **Delete**, "...and supplies on which to report scores, winners and make financial reports", from the 2nd to the last sentence. NSSA Headquarters does not "provide" these materials; clubs purchase them, when needed. Most clubs are using some form of electronic reporting.
7. II-B-3. Concurrent events. **Eliminate** completely and renumber subsequent paragraphs. The definition of "concurrent" is at the same time; no one holds a separate event for a concurrent. II-B-3-b, exempting sub-juniors, juniors or collegiate shooters from paying mandatory purses is covered under II-C-4-b.
8. II-B-8-a. Method of Breaking Ties. **Reword** to read, "Shoot management may elect to use regular skeet or a doubles event and shall follow NSSA rules for whichever is elected." The rules for both are the same; this goes back to the days when the rules for a doubles event were different.
9. II-I-1-a. **Change** standards for Open Teams per Executive Committee action.
10. II-I-7. Rookie. **Delete**, "...2006 or..." in first sentence. The year is not relevant and only causes confusion.
11. III-A-14. Lost Target. **Move** IV-D-9 by adding to the end of III-A-14, "A dusted target shall be declared lost." (Renumber subsequent paragraphs in IV-D.)
12. **Move** VI. INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING to IX. (PROTESTS will be VI.)

The following changes to the Rules are *streamlining* but, because they in effect change the rules or constitute a significant change in wording, require action by the Executive Committee to send a ballot to the Board of Directors for a vote:

1. I-B. AMMUNITION. **Replace** I-B-1 and I-B-2 with:
 1. Lead shot ammunition for skeet shall have a normal weight for 12 gauge of 1-1/8 oz; for 20 gauge: 7/8 oz; for 28 gauge: 3/4 oz; and for 410 gauge: 1/2 oz., but may weigh less. Each gauge has an allowable overweight allowance of 3%. Shot larger than 7-1/2 or smaller than 9 [2mm] may not be used. Reloads may be used.
 2. Gun clubs are allowed to use alternate shot (other than lead) for registered shoots; alternate loads must meet industry standards for "target load" ammunition. *[No change from current wording.]*
 3. Reloads. Any shooter whose loads are challenged as to weight shall have one shell selected and checked for weight of shot and the rest entrusted to the referee for use during the flight. Challenges may not be anonymous. Any shooter found to be using loads heavier than the maximum weights permissible as listed in I-B-1 will have his/her score disqualified for that event.
 4. Factory Loads. Any shooter found to be using commercial loads heavier than the maximum weights permissible as listed in I-B-1 will have his/her score disqualified for that event.
2. I-C. FIELD LAYOUT. **Replace** all under I-C with:
 1. It is recommended and desirable for all NSSA registered targets to be shot on fields constructed according to Standard NSSA specifications shown in the diagram on the centerfold of this book.
 2. Field layout deviation will not affect NSSA's consideration of scores.
 3. Under no circumstances will protests based on alleged irregularity of field layout be considered.
 4. The placement of markers other than those specified shall be deemed illegal. *[Old III-G-13 that was omitted from the web version of the Rules Book.]*
 5. Standard field specifications are available in the NSSA Club Manual; on the NSSA web site; or by request from the NSSA.
3. I-E. RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR SHOOTERS. **Delete**, "Furthermore, shooters should stand at a minimum of six feet behind the shooter while waiting to shoot," since the reality is that the next shooter usually stands a few feet behind the back of the station.
4. I-F. RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR SETTING DISTANCE ON TARGETS
Strike "RECOMMENDED" from title and "It is recommended to" from the beginning of the first sentence. **Change** "legal target" to "regular target" in the last sentence to conform to wording used throughout the Rules Book. This is the only occurrence of the term "legal target" in the Rules Book; all other references are to a "regular target".
5. I-H. USE OF VOICE RELEASE SYSTEMS (VRS). **Change**, "Shoot management should provide...", to "Shoot management *must* provide...".
6. II-A-7-b-1. **Delete**, "...and may not be altered within 10 days notice. Shoot applications, properly sanctioned, must be postmarked or received by NSSA at least 10 days prior to the shoot date", from the first sentence.

The reality is that NSSA can, and does, respond to electronic requests for shoot numbers the day before a registered shoot when all approvals are in order.
7. II-A-7-c. **Delete** in its entirety. We state that advertisement of a shoot "should" be done, which doesn't make it mandatory, and then impose a penalty if it isn't done. In effect, ALL shoots ARE advertised, because they are published in the SSR and posted on the web.

8. II-A-7-f. **Delete**, "...and enter on the shooter's classification card the classification in which it is entering him/her in each gun." When is this ever done???
9. II-A-7-k. **Delete**. Standard practice is to shoot all four rounds on the same field. Don't need to include a recommendation for shoot management to do so.
10. II-A-8-c. **Reword** first sentence to read, "Each shooter must verify his/her *total* score and initial the official score sheet before leaving the field."

Though all shooters are required to verify their scores before leaving the field, the practice is that only one individual on the squad initial's the score sheet.
11. II-A-8-d-1). **Delete**, "...by NSSA Headquarters..." Notifications that someone has shot in the wrong class and that winnings must be returned aren't limited to Headquarters.
12. II-B-9-j. **Delete**, "In team shoot-offs, team members shall line-up adjacent to each other (i.e., shoulder-to-shoulder)." This conflicts with II-B-9-e.
13. II-D-2-d. **Delete**; an out-of-state team is never eligible to win a State title.
14. II-D-6. Five-Man Teams. **Delete** the first sentence of 6-a, "Five-man club teams and five-man state teams must shoot shoulder-to-shoulder, unless management publishes otherwise in their program or same is posted prior to accepting the first entry." The opposite is the norm today.

Delete 6-c in its entirety.
15. **Delete** II-D-8 NSSA World Championship Five-Man Teams from the Rules Book, but ensure it is included in the World Shoot Program.
16. **Delete** II-I-5 World Records from the Rules Book and move to Records Annual.
17. **Delete** III-B-6-c under "Shooting Up" since it is direct conflict with 6-a.
18. **Delete** III-C-3-e. Each target fired upon and allegedly missed because the shooter's gun had a bent barrel, or a bent compensator, or any other bent tube or accessory.
19. **Reword** IV-C-3 to read, "The chief referee has the responsibility..." to make it stronger.
20. **Delete** V-F Alternate Award Systems. No one uses this award structure.