

Rules & Classification Committee Meeting
National Shooting Complex
San Antonio, Texas
January 31, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, King Heiple at 8:30am. Members present were: Woody Anderson; John Bratty; Don Kelly, Trish Magyar, Debbi Perry, Louise Terry and Ron Wilson. Also present were: President Bill Batty and Rick Stockstill, NSSA Director. Sid Miller was unable to attend for health reasons, but did provide input for all the agenda items.

Motion was made by Don Kelly, 2nd Woody Anderson, to approve the February 16, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion passed all in favor.

Item 1. **Age Concurrent Dates.** The Rule is the way it is, because we needed to make the transition from one age concurrent to another consistent and uniform; hence, using a shooter's age as of the beginning of the shooting year. However, since we'd like to encourage people to keep shooting as long as they can, why not allow certain age shooters the option of selecting, at the beginning of the shooting year, if they want to move into the age concurrent based upon the age they *will be* during the shooting year; i.e., a shooter who turns 70 during the shooting year who would normally remain a Senior shooter for the entire year would have the option of declaring Veteran.

Proposed:

II-C-4.a.2. - Any shooter turning 70, 80 or 90 years old during the NSSA shooting year has the option of declaring into the next older age concurrent category. Such declaration must occur prior to the individual's first registered shoot of the year; must be so indicated on their classification card; and they must provide *written* notification to NSSA Headquarters of their selection. If a shooter elects to move up into the next age concurrent category, they cannot subsequently change back to their previous age concurrent. Such qualified individuals who do not so choose, will remain in their current age concurrent category until the end of that shooting year.

Add to II-H-6, "See exception under II-C-4.a.2. for Veteran, Senior Veteran and Super Veteran."

Motion made by Woody Anderson, 2nd by Debbi Perry, to forward the above rules change to the Executive Committee. Motion passed all in favor.

If approved by the Board of Directors, the current exception for Military Reserve Component will be renumbered 4.a.1. and the change will be effective November 1, 2009.

Item 2. **Moving In/Out of AAA.** The current rules make AAA a mandatory class for the shooter if it is offered by a shoot, but not every shoot offers a AAA class. Under the previous classification system, shooters only re-averaged every 300 targets, and at that re-average point, could drop back into AA during the shoot year if their averages didn't sustain them in AAA. However, if we were to allow moving in/out of AAA under the current system, a shooter could theoretically change after every shoot, potentially allowing manipulation of the classification system. The concern is that some low AAA shooters get "trapped" there for the full season and get discouraged from continuing to shoot. Additional data provided by Rick Stockstill will be reviewed for subsequent discussion via phone conference to address the bottom average cutoffs for AAA....perhaps they are still too low in the big guns. It was noted that demographic differences across the country preclude making AAA a mandatory class; the Board of Directors has voted down making AAA a mandatory class on several occasions.

Item 3. **World Shoot Classification Issues.** For future Mini World/World Shoots, the program will have specific procedures for reviewing, and classifying, any shooter who doesn't have an NSSA classification at the beginning of the shoot. All unclassified shooters will be directed to a single processing point at Registration, where research will be conducted to determine if that shooter has any previous registered clay target shooting record. The recommendation to require a minimum number of shoots (i.e., five

events in each gauge entered) is not practical, since some shooters do not have access to registered NSSA targets.

Item 4. **Co-Champions at the World Shoot.** No action taken.

Item 5. **Release Trigger Stickers.** Motion by Debbi Perry, 2nd by Woody Anderson, to reword III-G.10. to:

Release trigger *stickers*, with instructions on placement, are available from NSSA Headquarters. Please call or write to Membership Services.

Motion passed all in favor. [*Housekeeping*]

Item 6. **Residency Changes.** No action taken. Louise Terry will respond to Dick Burkhart.

Item 7. **Scoring Errors and Management Errors.** On many occasions when score sheet errors (i.e., indicated misses don't add up to the written score) are discovered by shoot management they usually simply correct the score, contrary to the rules, which state shoot management will check with the field referee. *This is not the correct procedure.* Shoot management needs to engage the field referee in question where discrepancies exist prior to posting the score.

Item 8. **World Record Requirements.** At the January 30, 2009 Executive Committee meeting, it was recommended to allow the non-open (i.e., age, lady, military and retired military) team concurrent records to stand. After reviewing the rules, the Rules Committee felt the original intent to restrict open team competition was not intended to apply to concurrent teams. **Motion by Trish Magyar, 2nd by Woody Anderson, to add, II-C-4.r.and II-D-4.f.:**

Concurrent teams have no club and/or domicile restrictions to establish official/world records.

Motion passed all in favor to forward the above change to the Executive Committee. If forwarded by the Executive Committee for a vote by the Board of Directors, the ballot will explain that all such records previously established will stand (i.e., they will be "grandfathered"). Any subsequent applications for World record recognition received that could be affected by this will be held at NSSA Headquarters until the ballot results are known.

Item 9. **Mini/Main Reclassification.** No action taken. If shoot management wants to ensure their "preliminary" event receives All-American points, then two separate shoot numbers must be applied for.

Item 10. **2009 Referee Exam Review.**

Motion made by Ron Wilson, 2nd by Debbi Perry, to change III-F-2.h. by deleting, "... to answer incoming or make outgoing calls", so sentence reads, "No cell phone may be used on a skeet field."

Motion passed all in favor. This change will make text messaging on the field a violation of the rules. There have been several recent instances of referee inattention, as well as distractions by shooters, due to text messaging. [*Housekeeping*]

There being no further business to discuss, **motion made by Ron Wilson, 2nd by Debbi Perry, to adjourn.** **Motion passed all in favor.** The Rules Committee was in session from 8:30am to 2:00pm, with a recess for lunch from 12:00-12:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

King Heiple, Chairman