

**Rules & Classification Committee Meeting  
Phone Conference  
January 11, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM EST by the Committee Chairman, Trish Magyar. Members present were: Woody Anderson (TX); Bill Batty (MA); John Bratty (CAN); King Heiple (OH); Don Kelly (WI); Dan Lewis (CA); Sid Miller (NY); Debbi Perry (MD); Jim Tiner (NC). Also present were Linda Mayes; Louise Terry (for agenda item concerning World Co-Champions).

**Motion made by Woody Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbi Perry, to approved the minutes from the January 26, 2013 Rules and Classification Committee meeting. Motion passed all in favor.**

**1. World Shoot Co-Champions (II-B-9-i).** Louise Terry requested the Rules Committee review the Executive Committee decision, allowing an exception to the rule, to declare Todd Bender and Wayne Mayes 2008 World Shoot High Over All Co-Champions. Todd Bender petitioned the Executive Committee to declare him and Wayne Mayes 2008 HOA Co-Champions as a way to honor Wayne. The "declaration" did not add a World Championship to Wayne's résumé, nor is it reflected in the Records Annual. It was simply a gesture by Todd to honor his long-time two-man team partner and, in Todd's words, "the greatest skeet shooter in the history of our game." Several Rules Committee members felt the Executive Committee did not have the authority to override the rules, so **it is recommended the Executive Committee have the Board of Directors ratify their action.**

**2. Ammunition (I-B).** There have been a number of observations that factory .410 ammunition does not conform to our rules for the maximum allowable overweight allowance of 3%. When the Rules book was "streamlined" in 2012 we deleted the details for grains standard and grains maximum for all of the gauges, and made the overweight allowance 3% across-the-board, which is what the allowance was for 12, 20 and 28 gauge loads. However, the .410 had an overweight allowance of approximately 4.6% equating to 229 grains. Sampling of Remington .410 loads showed an average of 231 grains, and AA 227 grains, both of which are over the current allowable maximum of 225 grains. We should increase the maximum for .410, so shooters who reload are not penalized. In addition, due to the variance in loads, especially the .410, the challenge procedure should be modified and factory ammunition should not be subject to challenges.

**Motion by Don Kelly, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tiner to list the grains standard and grains maximum in the Rules Book as they were in 2011 for the 12, 20 and 28 gauge, and increase the grains maximum for the .410 bore to 232 grains. Motion passed all in favor. I-B-1 to read:**

Gauge	Oz. Lead	Grains Std	Grains Max
12	1-1/8	492.2	507
20	7/8	382.8	394
28	3/4	328.1	338
.410	1/2	218.8	232

**Motion by Don Kelly, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Woody Anderson, to change I-B-3 to read:**

*Reloads. Any shooter whose loads are challenged as to weight shall have ~~one~~ **three shells selected and checked for weight of shot and the rest entrusted to the referee for use during the flight. The three shells will be individually weighed, and the average weight will be used to determine the legality of the loads.** 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 his/her score disqualified for that event.*

**Motion by Debbi Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Bratty, to add to end of I-B-4:**

*Factory loads that meet the specifications of I-B-1 are exempt from challenge.*

**Motion passed all in favor.**

**3. HOA Titles (II-B-5).** Our effort to have more shoots incorporate Doubles into the High Over All event has not been embraced by shoot management or the shooters. Therefore, we need to change the current rule to provide shoot management more flexibility and to have our rules reflect reality. **Motion by Sid Miller, and by Debbi Perry, to change II-B-5 to read** (changes underlined; deletions ~~struck through~~):

HOA titles ~~must be~~ are an aggregate of all any gauges or doubles offered in that registered tournament (preliminary events and Champion of Champions not included) and will officially be recognized by the NSSA only when they include championships or title events in any of the four standard gauges and load divisions defined II-B-1 or doubles designated as HOA events in that registered tournament and a total of at least 200 targets. i.e., a HOA could be 100 20 gauge and 100 doubles, or 200, 300 or 400 .410, or other combinations, as long as each gauge is scheduled as a separate event. **A registered tournament may only have one HOA event.** ~~If doubles are not to be included in the HOA, they may be run as a preliminary event.~~

Additionally, delete the term "HAA" in V-C-4-a and V-C-4-c.

Note: this does not preclude shoot management from offering an HAA event.

Add a note under the "HOA Classification Tables":

See V-C-4-a for HOA classification when the HOA event is not comprised of the four standard gauges, or four standard gauges plus Doubles.

**Motion passed all in favor.**

**4. One time down reclassification (V-A-9 and V-A-11-c & e).** A shooter's one time down reclassification between a preliminary event and main event are not adequately covered under the Rules. Additionally, reclassification between events of the same gauge or doubles at the same shoot isn't addressed at all. As currently written and

interpreted, if a shooter reclassifies downward between a preliminary event and the main event, and then subsequently reclassifies back upward after the main event, that shooter would not have had the chance to shoot in the lower class, since the downward reclassification occurred between the preliminary and main events. The Committee agreed that a shooter should not be deprived of that opportunity. **Motion by Sid Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Batty, to:**

**Change the last sentence of V-A-9 to read** (changes underlined):

However, the shooter's classification does NOT change between a preliminary and the main event, or between events of the same gauge or doubles at the same registered shoot. The changes are updated after the shoot (see V-A-II-e).

**Add after the last sentence of, and before the "Note" for, V-A-11-c:**

Should a shooter reclassify downward between a preliminary and main event, or between events of the same gauge or doubles at a registered shoot, and then subsequently reclassify upward at the completion of that registered shoot, such an occurrence will **NOT** count as the shooter's "one time downward" reclassification.

**Reword the first sentence of V-A-11-e to read** (changes underlined):

A shooter does NOT reclassify during a shoot after shooting in a preliminary registered event in one or more gauges before the main event or, between events of the same gauge or doubles at the same registered shoot.

**Motion passed all in favor.**

**5. N SSA Classification (V).** We have received suggestions to consider changing the classification system by dropping the high score and averaging on four of the last five; or, dropping the high and low scores and averaging on three of the last five. There is anecdotal data that the number of shooters in the top classes is down because of the classification system. Yes, the numbers are down; but keep in mind we also have an aging membership. What we have now is certainly a lot better than the previous classification system. Any changes would adversely affect some shooters, just as the current system adversely affects others. What we have now is not "broken". It's not perfect, but nothing will be since no system works well across our entire organization due to the variance in the shooter demographics. **No action taken.**

**6. Proof Doubles (III-A-8).** There apparently have been shooters who feel that when the first bird of a double is established they do not need to "waste" a live shell for their proof double. The definition of a proof double is that it is a repeat of a double, which implies two live rounds. The Referee Manual will specify that proof doubles must be shot with two live rounds. Could also revise the wording for III-A-8 to read, "A repeat of a double requiring the use of two live rounds of ammunition."

**7. Ammunition and Gun Malfunctions (III-A-12-d & III-D-6).** There appears to be a misunderstanding regarding ammunition and gun malfunctions, as some shooters think it is a combination of the two; i.e., if a shooter has one ammunition and one gun malfunction in the same round, then the next occurrence of either results in a lost target. This is not that case. Ammunition and gun malfunctions are mutually exclusive; a shooter can have two of each in the same round before a third occurrence of either results in a lost target. King Heiple will write a WYC? Article covering this situation.

**8. Licensed and Association Referees (IV-A & IV-B).** Jim Tiner raised the question as to why we have two different categories of referees, especially in light of the number of parents that are refereeing to help off-set the cost of their children participating in registered shoots. Most of these parents are not NSSA members, thereby excluding them from refereeing at the World Shoot. No Committee member could think of a valid reason for having two categories of referees. **Motion by Debbie Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Lewis, to delete IV-A-1-d and IV-B, and renumber IV-C and IV-D accordingly. Motion passed all in favor.**

**9. High Over All (V-C-4).** There has been some confusion regarding the eligibility of a “new shooter” to enter a HOA event. We received a recommendation from Jim Aguirre to reword V-C-4-a as follows (changes underlined):

For a new shooter in one or more guns (see V-A-5 and V-A-7) who wishes to shoot HOA, simply calculate a HOA based on their current new shooter and/or classified shooter averages. A shooter who has never shot registered targets in any one or more of the required gauges is not eligible to enter these events.

**Motion by Bill Batty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tiner, to adopt the revised wording of V-C-4 as housekeeping. Motion passed all in favor.**

**10. Referee Exam Review.** In addition to our annual review of the referees exam, it has been requested we review the correct answers to question 25 (When may targets be hooped, and under what conditions?) on the multiple choice section. It was agreed by the Committee that choice 4, IS a correct answer per IV-D-10, in addition to choices 2, 3 and 5. Gary Nace had questioned choice 5 as a correct answer. Per III-B-3-b, 5 is a correct answer, too, and the reference will be added. The Committee members had no other corrections or changes to the referee exam, other than revising the Referee Application removing “Associate Referee” should the Board of Directors approve the change.

There being no further business, **motion by Sid Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Batty, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed all in favor.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar  
Chairman, Rules and Classification Committee

APPROVED