

NSSA Rules & Classification Committee Meeting
Saturday, January 26, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 10:00AM CST by Chairman, Trish Magyar (MI). Members present were: Woody Anderson (TX), Bill Batty (MA), John Bratty (CAN), King Heiple (OH), Don Kelly (WI), Sid Miller (NY), Debbi Perry (MD) and Lou Riddle (CA). Also present was Linda Mayes.

1. **Protest Procedures.** Rewrite to Section VI, protest procedures, to make them clearer and easier to understand (see attached). Also, delete all wording under II-E, which was supposed to have been eliminated in its entirety from the Rules book since it was incorporated completely into Sec VI, and replace with "See Section VI". Also, need to change reference in last sentence of IV-D-17 from "II-E" to "VI". [*Housekeeping*]
2. **Letter from Howie Altman regarding a "conflict" between rules IV-D-7 and IV-D-7-a** in that referees do not always call "no bird" when an irregular target is thrown, especially in light of the increased use of voice release systems. The Committee agreed that "no bird" calls are inconsistently applied, but there is no good solution due to the large population of relatively inexperienced referees. All in all, it's a training issue. *We will include a cover letter with each referee's patch and Referee Handbook emphasizing the importance of "no bird" calls.*
3. **Letter from Howard Confer requesting clarification on II-C-3 (Residency) and its impact on II-D (Team Eligibility).** The Committee reviewed the rules in question and found no conflict. Rule II-C-3 provides a procedure for an individual to petition the NSSA for a change in residency without actually physically moving from one state to another. Additionally, the rules are clear on team eligibility; though individuals must be from the same State for a State Team, they do not have to be from the same State for a Club Team, but must belong to the same club. (Note: In my subsequent review of II-D it states a shooter cannot represent a club if they live more than 100 miles from that club *unless* the shooter resides in the same state as the club.) *No action taken.*
4. **Email co-signed by six members recommending the requirement that all firearms used in a registered shoot be plugged or altered so they will not hold more than two shells.** None of the Committee members could ever recall an instance during a registered event of a shooter loading more than two shells into a gun that could accommodate it. Also, there is nothing that precludes a club from requiring a gun be modified or altered to only allow the loading of two shells. Clubs can easily post signs on the field that the loading of more than two shells at a time is not permitted. *No action taken.*
5. **Email from Jeff Key, VSSA Secretary, recommending that rule I-E (Recommended Positions for Shooters) be "mandatory".** There is nothing to preclude a shooter or referee from asking a shooter to not proceed more than one-third of the way to next station if *either* is bothered by it. The lead-off shooter doesn't have the luxury of observing targets while the shooter in front of him/her is shooting. It is not uncommon for the lead-off shooter to stand well behind the next station while the squad is shooting the current station, and doing so is neither an issue of safety or interference. Additionally, if a shooter or referee feels that the on-deck shooter is bothering or interfering with the shooter on the station by standing too close, he/she can be asked to move back. *Topic will be addressed in a What's Your Call "Skeet Etiquette" article that will be run in the SSR every year. No further action taken.*
6. **String of recent emails about "legality" of holding an umbrella for a shooter while shooting.** The Committee agreed that holding an umbrella, or otherwise physically assisting a shooter while in the act of shooting, could not only result in interference to the shooter but, more importantly, is a safety issue. **Motion by Sid Miller, 2nd by Don Kelly, to forward to the Executive Committee for approval for a vote by the Directors to add new rule III-G-18:**

A shooter may not be assisted while in the act of shooting by any other shooter or the referee, apart from verbal encouragement. For example, holding an umbrella over a shooter on the station or shielding a shooter on the station with a piece of cardboard to block the sun are not permitted.

Motion passed all in favor.

7. **Email from Ken Keth to review two of the changes from last year:**
- a. **Time Balk** – The Committee agreed to make no change to the 10 second balk rule; it serves to remind shooters that there is a time limit in which to shoot. It is reasonable to assume that a referee won't start "clocking" a shooter unless a squad is not completing a round in the allotted time. *No action taken.*
 - b. **Reload Max Weight for .410** – The change to 3% overage, across the board, was a conscious decision. It simplified the rule while making very little difference in the maximum load for .410 shells. The math shows about a 4 pellet difference between 3% overage and 4.4% overage. *No action taken.*
8. **Referee Use of "Ear-buds"**. The rules only state that "...some form..." of hearing protection is required for all persons on a skeet field. The Committee agreed that if a referee is listening to an iPod there is a significant probability the referee will be distracted from the task at hand. **Motion by Bill Batty, 2nd by Woody Anderson, to forward to the Executive Committee for approval for a vote by the Directors to renumber current rule IV-D-1 to IV-D-1-a and add new rule IV-D-1-b:**
- While on the skeet field, the referee must wear some form of eye and ear protection, and is prohibited from using any type of listening device (e.g., iPod or iPhone "ear-buds") in lieu of hearing protection.**
- Motion passed all in favor.**
9. **Letter from R.U. Myers, with Response from King Heiple**
- a. **Shooting a target resting on the ground that didn't pass the out of bounds marker.** Paraphrasing King Heiple's original response to R.U. Myers, "Do you really think a referee, or protest committee, would allow the scoring of target shot on the ground?!" *No action taken.*
 - b. **When does a target blown inside or outside the normal flight path become out of bounds?** Though the diagram in the centerfold of the Rules Book shows a "point" along the flight path for the out of bounds marker, it is common practice to use a line, parallel to the face of the house that intersects the marker, to determine out of bounds. Bottom-line: it is the referee's judgment as to when a target is out of bounds. *No action taken.*
 - c. **Referee Positions on Stations 1 and 7.** Many feel the mandatory referee position on Stations 1 and 7 make it awkward for shooters getting on and off the pad; and even more so when using a voice release system (VRS). The current rule provides leeway to the mandatory positions for Stations 1 and 7, in that it states, "...where possible...". Additionally, it also states when using a VRS the referee may adjust his/her position to meet the needs of either the shooter or the VRS without causing interference with the shooter or squad. *No action taken.*
10. **Can the lead-off shooter hold his/her gun in the shooting position when observing targets at the beginning of the round?** If any squad member were to object, the referee should ask the shooter to open the gun, since it could be deemed a safety issue. Under no circumstance should a shooter have a loaded gun when observing targets. King Heiple will discuss observing targets in the WYC Skeet Etiquette article. *No action taken.*
11. **Question regarding call when two targets collide (III-E-2).** Shouldn't it be a "no bird" if the first target wasn't hit since the referee didn't have the opportunity to observe the target to the ground, and it might still break? The Committee's consensus was that it's the referee's judgment. *No action taken.*

There being no further business to discuss, **motion by Don Kelly, 2nd by Sid Miller to adjourn. Motion passed all in favor.** Meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar, Chairman