

## NSSA Rules Committee Meeting Minutes December 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am EST by the Committee Chairman, Trish Magyar (Zone 3). Members present: Woody Anderson (Zone 6), John Bratty (Zone 8), Dick Dietz (Chief Referee), Dan Lewis (Zone 7), Sid Miller (Zone 1), Debbi Perry (Zone 2), Andy Schusteff (Zone 5) & Jim Tiner (Zone 4).

**Motion by Debbi Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tiner, to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2017 meeting; motion passed all in favor.** It was noted the current on-line Rules Book is up to date with previous approved changes.

1. **II-A-5. Squadding Restrictions.** Request from Harold Smith to permit a pacer for the lone participant on a field in a shoot-off in light of the increased use of the I-Shoot format.

The Committee felt that the lone participant on a shoot-off field at an I-Shoot is no different than the lone participant on a shoot-off field when multiple fields are used, such as at the World Shoot. Also, who would decide who and how the pacer is selected? Allowing for a pacer could lead to unforeseen consequences. **No action taken.**

2. **II-B-1-f. No shot smaller than No. 9 (2mm) or larger than 7-1/2 shall be used in any load.**

Though factory loads aren't subject to challenge under I-B (Ammunition), if the weight indicated on the shell is heavier than that allowed, then the score will be disqualified for that event. In a similar vein, if the shot size indicated on the shell or box of a factory load isn't in conformance with II-B-1-f, then the score should be disqualified for the event. There is no need to confirm the shot size using a micrometer for a factory load, since it is manufactured in a "controlled" environment.

**Housekeeping. Add to the end of II-B-1-f:**

Any shooter found to be using factory/commercial loads not in conformance, as evidenced by the shot size indicated on the ammunition box or shotgun hull, will have his/her score disqualified for that event.

This does not preclude the challenge of a reload for non-conforming shot size.

3. **II-C-4. Concurrent Events.** Proposal from Merideth Tunick, Fred Tschantz and Chris Naler to add a "First Responders" concurrent category. **Motion by Jim Tiner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Woody Anderson, to adopt a "First Responder" concurrent event, as proposed. Add III-C-4-r and renumber current III-C-4-r & s to III-C-4-s & t:**

A first responder (**FR**) is any sworn law enforcement officer, fire service and/or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel (including military police and fire/rescue personnel) employed full-time or part-time by, or retired from, a federal, state, county, municipal or township government.

**Motion passed all in favor for the Executive Committee to send to the Board of Directors for a vote.**

Shooters wishing to participate in the First Responder concurrent will be required to submit proof of eligibility to the NSSA Skeet Director for review and approval. Shooters will be required to demonstrate their credentials by providing:

1. An official department or agency ID; or
2. A letter from the shooter's home agency indicating his/her status with that agency, and
  - a. The letter must be presented on the agency's official letterhead, and
  - b. Be signed by a supervising officer.

Shooters who have been approved to participate in the First Responder Concurrent are also responsible to notify the NSSA Skeet Director if he/she no longer meets the eligibility requirements.

Shooters that are unsure if they meet the eligibility requirements may also send a request to the NSSA Skeet Director for a review and determination of their specific credentials.

4. **III-A-5 & III-C-5. Irregular Target.** Email from Steve Johnstone and John Trant regarding irregular targets under windy conditions, and the inconsistent application of the definition of an irregular target.

The Committee agreed that the definition for an irregular being one that doesn't conform to a regular target can, and does lead, to different interpretations not only between the referee and shooter, but from referee to referee. However, trying to definitively define an irregular target is impossible given the wide variety of conditions under which targets are shot. What we can do is provide some "guidance" in the referee handbook with an aim towards improving consistency. **Action: Develop appropriate revisions/additions for Referee Handbook.**

5. **III-B-3. Shooter Right to Observe Targets.** Email recommending to not allowing the gun to be mounted when observing targets, as it gives the (lead-off) shooter an unfair advantage.

The Committee disagreed with the premis. **No action taken.**

6. **III-G. Safety Precautions.** Email from Gil Phetteplace concerning an individual who didn't have a trigger guard on his shotgun.

Though no one on the Committee had ever encountered such a situation, or had ever seen a shotgun without a trigger guard, all agreed that it could be a potential safety issue. **Motion by Woody Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tiner, to add to III-G:**

**III-G-11. Trigger Guard.** All shotguns used in an NSSA sanctioned event must be equipped with a trigger guard.

**Renumber current III-G-11 thru III-G-18 to III-G-12 thru III-G-19, respectively.**

**Motion passed all in favor for the Executive Committee to send to the Board of Directors for a vote.**

7. **III-G-15. Unsafe Weather Conditions.** Email from Gay Smitha requesting more definitive guidance as to when to resume shooting after lightning has been observed.

There have been a number of instances where shoot management has continued shooting under clearly unsafe conditions (i.e., lightning). Such actions could lead to injury, or even death. The Committee agreed that more definitive guidelines are needed in the rules. **Motion by Jim Tiner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Schusteff, to strike from the first sentence of III-G-15, "with shoot management concurrence" and add to the end of III-G-15:**

**When lightning is observed by any shoot staff a cease fire will be called *immediately*. This can be done by an announcement over the PA system, a long blast on an air horn and/or cutting the power to all the fields. Shoot management will insure that all the fields are cleared of participants and staff, with all taking cover. Shoot management will continue to monitor lightning strikes, starting a new time clock with each observed strike. After a duration of 20 minutes with no strikes, shoot management will begin the process of returning the participants and staff to the field(s) to resume shooting.**

**Motion passed all in favor for the Executive Committee to send to the Board of Directors for a vote.**

8. **II-A-7-b-1 & V-B-1-g. Monthly Targets.** Request from NSSA to review the requirement for individual shoot certificates for monthly targets.

Though the targets are recorded on the shooter's classification card on the day shot, when would the club report them to HQ under a "single shoot number" scenario? If the reporting were still monthly, wouldn't the data be overwritten when using the same shoot number for subsequent month? Using the same shoot number for an entire year for monthly targets could be done but II-A-7-b-1, which states that the maximum length for a registered shoot is 31 days, would have to be changed. Additionally, there might be some IT limitations to a "single shoot number" for monthly targets. One suggestion put forth would be to allow clubs to throw monthly targets without going through the official application process and use their club number plus a 4-digit number indicating the year and month. For example, Detroit Gun Club (#15586) throws some monthly targets in March 2018. The shoot

number they would use would be 155861803. This way they would have a unique shoot number for any monthly targets and HQ wouldn't have to go through the process of cancelling shoot certificates when a club doesn't throw monthly targets.

9. **V-C. Universal Classification Tables.** Email from Neil Vann recommending adding Class E to Doubles.

The Committee reviewed 2017 shooter classification data. Though we agreed that shooting Doubles is more difficult than shooting the 12 Gauge, it doesn't justify adding another class, especially given the participation level in Doubles is less than half of that for the 12 Gauge. Even given the number of 12 Gauge shooters, we felt that eliminating Class E from the 12 Gauge was a more logical action. However, since most shooters start registered shooting with just a 12 gauge, having a Class E gives newer shooters an additional opportunity to compete against others of similar ability. **No action taken.**

10. **Referee Exam Review.** Given that rules for doubles events and doubles during a regular round have been the same for well over 25 years, T/F question #28 should be eliminated.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35pm EST.**

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar  
Chairman, NSSA Rules & Classification Committee

APPROVED