

NATIONAL  
**SKEET SHOOTING**  
ASSOCIATION™

Official Rules & Regulations



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**2026**

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# **SKEET WELCOMES YOU**

The great sport of skeet shooting was designed in 1920 by a group of Andover, Massachusetts upland game hunters to improve their wing shooting. Skeet has developed into much more than just an aid for better wing shooting or a substitute for hunting. Over the years, Skeet has evolved into a popular recreational and competitive sport appropriate for anyone to participate. With its own international and state organizations, skeet is accessible to anyone interested thanks to the dedicated members and groups that have worked diligently to grow the sport.

Skeet is now a competitive sport equaled by few in universal appeal. Matches are conducted for all gun gauges, and under skeet shooting's universal classification system shooters compete against others of like ability, age, and other concurrents such as military status. While standard competitions include 12-gauge, 20-gauge, 28-gauge and .410 bore, shooters can easily compete in one or two events based on the guns they have access to.

Guns must be capable of firing two shots since four sets of doubles are included in a regulation 25- shot round. In addition, Doubles Events are offered at many tournaments. The gun may be a double barrel, pump gun, or an automatic, depending on the shooter's preference. Major manufacturers offer guns made specially for skeet, and it's wise to consult with those manufacturers or a trusted gunsmith before buying a shotgun. Details such as weight, chokes, drop, and fit of guns vary, so it's best to try out several types of guns before buying.

The National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by and for its members – sportsmen and women who are dedicated to the development and promoting of skeet shooting and related sports. NSSA members hold dear the qualities of patriotism and good sportsmanship which are the basic ingredients of good citizenship.

We believe that in skeet you will find the finest community of sportsmen and women in the world. This is a rewarding recreational adventure where the best of sportsmanship prevails, and we welcome you to join this exceptional organization.

Gratuities in skeet are not permitted.

## **NATIONAL SKEET SHOOTING ASSOCIATION**

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# SKEET SHOOTING ETIQUETTE

While skeet shooting has a robust Rule Book which follows, the sport is very social. Similar to golf, there is an expectation of etiquette and commonly accepted practices that will make time on the range more enjoyable not only for you but for those shooting with you. Below you will find what is generally accepted as proper etiquette while shooting skeet.

Remember first that safety is a paramount concern to everyone when handling firearms, so always keep your muzzle controlled and pointed in a safe direction. Always keep your action open and clearly empty for others to see! Load your gun only after stepping onto a shooting station and only point a loaded weapon at something you intend to shoot. Follow all the safety rules in the rule book carefully and do not be offended if you are corrected about a safety related topic. Range safety is everyone's responsibility. Remember also that both eye and ear protection are mandatory for everyone on a skeet field.

Most shooters will welcome you to shoot with them on a squad, which is typically a group of five individuals. Introduce yourself if you are new to the club or squad and conversely to a newcomer. If you are new to the sport, tell your squad mates that this is the case. If you are an experienced shooter, help make new shooters feel welcome by explaining any necessary rules and giving suggestions about conduct without being rude or too assertive. Typically coaching should only take place when requested, when others will not be disturbed or distracted, and never during competition.

If shooting is occurring on the field, remember that your behavior in the background, clubhouse porch, or parking lot can impact those on the field. Do your part to limit behavior that could be distracting or interruptive to those trying to concentrate on their shooting.

Never handle other people's guns without asking permission.

For registered shooting, be on time and do not delay your assigned squad. While on the field, be ready to step up and shoot when it is your turn, not delaying or chatting in the background. While shooting, be very careful what you do with your gun and shells. Do not eject your shells towards the referee, squad mates, or others. Never throw hulls in anger, because it is embarrassing. Many shooters reload shells so only pick up your own hulls and only after the round is over or when club rules allow.

If on the field, stay back where you are not in the shooter's peripheral vision. While shooting, turn off your cell phone and be quiet when a shooter is on the pad. Refrain from smoking during the round or on the field. During registered shooting, remember that other shooters on the squad are working hard so no matter how you may be shooting, do not let your behavior or actions become a distraction.

In all shooting, remember that the referee is there both to help and protect you. He/she needs your courtesy and support. Thank them for their job well done after the round or flight is over and thank your squad mates for the occasion to shoot with them.

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# **SECTION I - SAFETY**

## **A. Safety Precautions**

The safety of competitors, field personnel and spectators is of primary importance and requires continuous attention and self-discipline. On any part of club grounds, as well as on the shooting field, particular attention must be given to the safety procedures outlined in the following paragraphs and to other safe gun handling techniques. Caution must also be used in moving about the field and club grounds. Where self-discipline and attention to safety procedures is lacking, it is the duty of the field personnel to enforce them and the duty of competitors to assist in such enforcement.

### **1. Eye and Ear Protection**

- A.** All persons (including shooters, referees and trap personnel) must wear some form of adequate eye and ear protection on a skeet range at a shoot sanctioned by NSSA.
  - B.** Apple Air-pods and similar earbuds are not adequate ear protection unless custom molded to provide hearing protection. Earbuds specifically designed to offer hearing protection are acceptable.
  - C.** While on the skeet field, the referee must wear adequate eye and ear protection and is prohibited from using any type of listening device (e.g. "earbuds" or "headphones") in lieu of standard hearing protection.
- 2.** No gun shall be loaded until the shooter is on the shooting station. Loaded is considered as having any part of any shell in any gun.
  - 3.** Throwing of a gun will result in immediate expulsion from the shoot.
  - 4.** As a safety precaution, test shots will not be permitted without permission of the field referee. Such permission shall not unreasonably be withheld.
  - 5.** The loaded gun shall be kept pointed in a direction that will not endanger the lives of shooters, field personnel or spectators.
  - 6.** When not on the shooting station, the gun shall be carried with breech open and empty. Pumps and automatics will have the bolt open. Fixed breech (double barrels including over-and-under barrels and side-by-sides) will be broken open and empty.
  - 7.** When the shooter is on the shooting station and ready to shoot and a delay occurs, such as equipment breakdown, the gun shall be opened and all shells extracted.
  - 8.** During the shooting of single targets, management may permit the loading of two shells. However, no one will be allowed to load two shells to shoot their last singles target on any station. Management cannot compel the loading of two shells in the shooting of singles.
  - 9.** The loading of more than two shells in the gun shall not be allowed at any time.

10. A gun may not be used that will accept more than one (1) gauge of shells at the same time.
11. **Trigger Guard.** All shotguns used in an NSSA sanctioned event must be equipped with a trigger guard.
12. **Release Triggers**
  - A. A shooter will not be permitted to use a gun with a release-type trigger unless the referee and the other members of the squad are notified.
  - B. Guns equipped with release triggers must be clearly labeled with safety stickers that meet NSSA standards. Shooters may obtain official stickers with placement instructions by contacting NSSA Membership Services or use their own compliant stickers.
  - C. If the trigger is set as a result of a gun or ammunition malfunction, the shooter has the option of opening the gun or, with the referee's permission releasing the trigger with the gun pointed safely down-range.
  - D. Extra caution must be exercised if the gun is given to a referee who is unfamiliar with its operation. Guns with release type triggers must be clearly marked with designated safety stickers. Release trigger stickers, with instructions on placement, are available from NSSA headquarters. Please call or write to Membership Services.
13. Any shooter whose gun accidentally discharges twice within one round for mechanical reasons shall be required to change guns or, if time permits, have his/her gun repaired, before continuing to shoot the round or subsequent rounds.
14. When a shooter intentionally fires a second time at the same target, he/she shall be warned by the referee. The second time a shooter intentionally fires a second shot at the same target in any event, the penalty shall be automatic disqualification from the event.
15. The placement of markers other than those specified in the NSSA Rules Book shall be deemed illegal.
16. **Unsafe Conditions**
  - A. It shall be the responsibility of the shoot management and/or the chief referee to establish a process prior to the first event to suspend all shooting under clearly unsafe weather conditions such as, but not limited to: hailstorms, lightning and tornadoes. The system will be made known to all referees. Shooting may resume when the condition has passed.
  - B. **Lightning**
    - 1) The NSSA recommends the use of a professional grade weather detection system or network to identify the presence of lightning and that shooting be suspended when lightning is five (5) miles away or less.
    - 2) In those instances when a professional grade detection system or network is not in use, shooting will be suspended upon observance of lightning and in

accordance with the system designated by the chief referee and shoot management.

- 3) Suspension 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 ensure that all the fields are cleared of participants and staff, with all taking cover.
  - 4) Shoot management will continue to monitor lightning strikes, starting a new time clock with each detected/observed strike. After a duration of twenty (20) minutes with no strikes, or no lightning is showing within 5 miles on professional weather detection equipment, shoot management will begin the process of returning the participants and staff to the field(s) to resume shooting.
17. In the interest of safety, interference and time, only the club management's personnel shall be permitted to pick up empty shells from the grounds during a registered shoot, and extreme care must be exercised to prevent interference with other squads shooting.
  18. No spectator shall be allowed on the skeet fields, and the referee shall be responsible for the enforcement of this rule.
  19. The use of any drug, legal or illegal and including alcohol, prior to or during an NSSA sanctioned event by a registered competitor or referee is prohibited, with the exception of prescription or non-prescription over-the-counter medications that do not impair a shooter's or referee's ability to perform safely.
  20. 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.

## **SECTION II - RULES OF CONDUCT**

- A. Each member and club has access to the Official NSSA rules, on the NSSA website [www.nssa-nasca.org](http://www.nssa-nasca.org), with the understanding that the member/member club will read and understand each rule. All members and member clubs are responsible to know these rules and abide by them, for their own benefit and safety as well as that of other shooters.
  1. By paying the membership fee, entering a competition or holding a competition, every member and member club agrees to abide by these rules and to accept all official decisions of the NSSA interpreting and/or applying these rules.
  2. **IT SHALL BE A VIOLATION OF THESE RULES TO:**
    - A. Exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind, including but not limited to: falsifying scores or classification, cheating, verbal abuse, physical abuse of any shooter, referee, field judge, shoot official or protest committee.
    - B. Disobey the order of any referee, field judge or shoot official.

- C. Violate any safety rules as set forth in Section I or engage in any activity that is considered unsafe by the NSSA Executive Committee.
- D. Shoot at any place other than the designated station.
- E. Use a cell phone or other device on the skeet field to make or receive a call. If it is necessary to have a cell phone on or adjacent to a skeet field, the cell phone or other device must be kept in the vibrate mode or turned off.
- F. Interfere with the shoot management's procedures in conducting the shoot.
- G. Violate any rule or regulation of a club or range.
- H. Exhibit any conduct that is deemed by the Executive Committee to be harmful to the NSSA, its membership, or the sport as a whole. Exhibit offensive or unwelcome behavior that shows discrimination towards race, religion or sex, including sexual harassment.
- I. Failure of shoot management to submit a written report to NSSA of written complaints received along with a report of action taken.
- J. Violate any other rule or regulation of the NSSA as set forth in any other section or paragraph of the NSSA's rules and regulations.
- K. Tipping: Tipping of individual referees is not permitted.

### **3. SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS AND REINSTATEMENT**

- A. The Executive Committee may at any time at its discretion suspend or expel any member or member club or discipline any member or member club for violation of any NSSA rule or regulation.
- B. The procedure for suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action is as follows:
  - 1) Any member, shooter, referee, field judge, shoot official or owner or member of management of a club or range who witnesses a violation of any NSSA rule shall, if warranted, submit to the NSSA Director or Executive Director a written complaint within thirty (30) days of the alleged violation which shall include:
    - a) the name of the alleged violator;
    - b) the date and location of the alleged violation;
    - c) a reasonably detailed description of the alleged violation;
    - d) the names and addresses, if known, of any witnesses; and
    - e) the name, address, phone number and signature of the complainant(s).
  - 2) Upon receipt, the NSSA Director or Executive Director shall assign each complaint a complaint number consisting of the year of receipt and consecutive number of receipt, i.e. 07-01, 07-02, etc.
  - 3) The NSSA Director or Executive Director shall review the complaint within ten (10) days of receipt and determine if it meets the requirements set forth above. The NSSA Director or Executive Director has the discretion to consider and investigate or dismiss any complaint that does not meet the

foregoing requirements. Any complaint may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee within ten (10) days of receipt of rejection.

- 4) Within ten (10) days of receipt of a complaint, the NSSA Director, Executive Director, or anyone acting pursuant to direction from the Director or Executive Director, shall serve written notice of the complaint and a copy of the complaint on the alleged violator, by certified mail, return receipt requested. The written notice shall instruct the alleged violator of his/her right to submit a written statement, which must be signed and should include the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses not named in the complaint. This written statement must be received by the NSSA Director or Executive Director within ten (10) days of the alleged violator's receipt of the notice and complaint. All statements received after such date shall not be considered.
  - 5) The NSSA Director or Executive Director, or someone acting pursuant to direction from the Director or Executive Director, shall thoroughly investigate the allegations of the complaint by attempting to obtain written statements from all known witnesses. All witness statements must be in writing and signed by the witness.
  - 6) After the response period has ended, the NSSA Director or Executive Director shall review the complaint, the statement of the alleged violator, witness statements and any other relevant evidence. Upon such review, the NSSA Director or Executive Director shall recommend to the NSSA Executive Committee a specific disciplinary action. The recommendation shall include:
    - a) all evidence that was considered, including the names of any witnesses who submitted statements;
    - b) a determination of whether the alleged violation occurred; and
    - c) the disciplinary action, if any, the NSSA Director or Executive Director recommends that the NSSA Executive Committee impose.
  - 7) The NSSA Director or Executive Director shall provide each member of the NSSA Executive Committee with a copy of the complaint, the statement of the alleged violator, copies of any witness statements and a copy of the recommendation.
  - 8) The NSSA Director or Executive Director shall schedule a conference call between the members of the NSSA Executive Committee wherein the NSSA Executive Committee shall review all information provided by the NSSA Director or Executive Director and issue a ruling on the matter by majority vote. The NSSA Executive Committee's ruling shall include:
    - a) the date of issuance;
    - b) all evidence that was considered, including the names of any witnesses who submitted statements;
    - c) a determination of whether the alleged violation occurred; and
    - d) the disciplinary action, if any, imposed by the NSSA Executive Committee.
- 4. The NSSA Executive Committee shall have the discretion to suspend or expel a member or to impose any other disciplinary action it deems**

appropriate. Upon issuance of a ruling, the NSSA Director or Executive Director shall serve the ruling on the violator by certified mail, return receipt requested. The ruling shall become effective on the date of issuance and continue until a hearing, if any, is held.

5. **The *reporting party and subject of the complaint* shall have the right to appeal the NSSA Executive Committee's ruling by notifying the NSSA Executive Committee. Such notification of appeal must be in writing and must be post-marked no later than thirty (30) days from the date the ruling was issued.**
  - A. Upon receipt of the notification of appeal the NSSA Executive Committee shall hold a hearing on the matter, which will take place at the next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the NSSA Executive Committee.
  - B. At the hearing, the violator shall have the right to be present, the right to bring counsel, the right to testify and the right to present any evidence he so chooses. No record or transcript of the hearing will be made or allowed.
  - C. The NSSA Executive Committee shall review the complaint, the written statement of the violator, and any other evidence it deems appropriate. The NSSA Executive Committee may allow any and all witnesses to testify by telephone or in person. The Executive Committee may make inquiries of the witnesses, but no other persons may do so.
  - D. At the conclusion of such hearing, the NSSA Executive Committee shall have the authority to affirm, reverse or modify the disciplinary action imposed previously by majority vote.
6. **By paying the membership fee, entering a competition or holding a competition, every member and member club agrees to abide by any decision of the NSSA Executive Committee and further agrees and recognizes that as a voluntary amateur association, the NSSA has the right to impose, interpret and enforce its rules and regulations and that all decisions by the NSSA Executive Committee following a hearing are final.**

## **SECTION III - MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. General Membership Guidelines**

1. All competitors must be members of NSSA in good standing, with current dues paid.
2. Neither state champions nor provincial champions will be recognized by NSSA unless sanctioned by their respective state or provincial organizations, which must have proper bylaws on record at NSSA.
3. Amateurs. Before participating in any event, NSSA shooters who might want to maintain their amateur status in any sport shall be familiar with associations they are involved with as to the definition of an amateur to maintain their eligibility. It is the shooter's responsibility to know those rules before entering any event where prizes consist of money or prizes over a certain limit.

#### **4. Residency Requirements**

- A.** An individual must be a bona fide resident (permanent abode) of a state to be eligible for state championships or to shoot as a state team member and must be a bona fide resident of a state within the zone to be eligible for closed zone championships or to shoot as a zone team member. Persons with residence in more than one state must declare their eligibility by writing their state and club affiliation on the face of the current year membership card. Servicemembers, by the same act, may choose their home state or the place in which they are permanently assigned for duty. Persons who change their official abode shall become immediately eligible to shoot as an individual in the state or zone shoot. They should contact NSSA to update their membership record.
- B.** A Collegiate shooter may elect to shoot the Zone Shoot in the Zone where they attend college in lieu of the Zone Shoot in the Zone where they reside, without changing their residency.
- C.** No person shall be eligible for more than one closed state or zone competition during the NSSA shooting year.

#### **B. Classifications**

- 1. It is the shooter's responsibility to maintain their records and averages, to determine their classification and re-classifications.**
- 2. Classification of a New Shooter**
  - A.** The classification of a new shooter will follow the same procedure as a classified shooter but will include the events and scores from the previous three (3) years until the five-event limit is reached.
  - B.** The classification of a new shooter in each gauge is determined by the score shot in his/her first registered event. He/she is placed in the proper class for that event and for the next event of that gauge on the basis of percentage of targets broken using the classification tables.
  - C.** With each subsequent event in each gauge, both the targets fired upon, and targets broken will be totaled, including all events of the previous three years if any, in that gauge to determine a running average until five (5) events in that gauge have been shot.
  - D.** The total number of targets scheduled for an event are to be used each time the running average is calculated for classification, whether 50 birds, 100 birds or more, and whether or not the event is spread over more than one day.
  - E.** The new shooter's class will "float" either up or down freely without limit based on that average until after the fifth event in that gauge. After the fifth event the now classified shooter's class can move upward or downward without limit but not drop more than one class below where the fifth event placed him/her in each gauge during that shooting year.
  - F.** A new shooter may declare upward to the highest class offered (i.e., AA/AAA)

- G. A first-time NSSA member who has been classified by another clay target organization in Class A or above, is required to declare a class no more than one class lower than their highest class held within the last three years. Such a first-time NSSA shooter classified by another clay target organization below Class A shall follow the regular NSSA classification procedure for a NEW SHOOTER.

**Example 1 – Classification of New Shooter:** The first score was 85 putting him/her in class E for that shoot and the next shoot. The second event score was 89. His/her running average is now .8700 and is assigned to class D for the next shoot. The shooter next attends the World Shoot as a class D shooter, shooting only the 12 gauge, and shoots a 227/250. He/she has now shot three (3) events, totaling 401/450 giving a running average of .8911 and is still in class D. His/her classification card would look as follows for 12 gauge:

Date	Place/Shoot Name	Class shot in	Shot	Broke	Avg.	Class next shoot
xx/xx	xx/xxx	E	100	85	.8500	E
xx/xx	xx/xxx	E	100	89	.8700	D
xx/xx	xx/xxx	D	250	227	.8911	D

**Example 2 – Classification of New Shooter:** A new shooter has shot four (4) 100-bird 12 gauge events. He/she now shoots a 50-bird event. Having shot five (5) events, he/she now re-averages on the 450 targets of the five (5) events and is now a classified shooter. After the next event, he/she would be dropping the first 100-bird event and averaging the last five (5) events, the 2nd through 6.

**Example 3 – Classification of New Shooter:** A new shooter has shot 100 12 gauge targets year before last with a score of 89, placed in Class D. Last year he/she shot 200 more 12-gauge targets, scoring 92 and 96. Average on these 300 is .9233 and this year's classification card will show that he/she is in class C for this year's first shoot. He/she fires an 88 in the first shoot this year. Average on four (4) shoots is now .9125 and he/she stay in class C. Since he/she is still a new shooter the class is still floating and he/she could possibly drop back to class D or E after the fifth event for the three (3) years combined.

### 3. Re-Classification of a Classified Shooter

- A. A classified shooter must keep a running average of their last five (5) events in each gauge, dropping the earliest event each time and adding the recent event, such that the running average is based on the most current five (5) events thereafter, regardless of how many actual targets were contained in these events.
- B. If the event is the classified shooter's first of the current year, he/she must use the last four scores of the previous year(s) to obtain the five scores necessary for re-classification, and then three scores, two scores, or one score as necessary, until five events have been shot in the current year.
- C. If a classified shooter lacks the records to determine their proper classification, when they shoot their event after a lapse of a year or more, they may be

permitted to shoot for "targets only" for that shoot only, while they obtain this data from NSSA records, by phone, fax, NSSA website or from a new classification and records card. The scorecard will then become their most current score when their prior shoot scores are obtained. Falsification subjects the shooter to action under Individual Qualifications and Responsibilities (Section V-K-5).

- D. A classified shooter may reclassify upward or downward an unlimited number of times in each individual gauge or doubles during the shooting year. However, downward reclassification is limited to no more than one class below the shooter's starting class at the beginning of the year. For example, a shooter starting the year in Class A in the 12 gauge can reclassify upward thru to AAA, and downward to B, any number of times.
- E. If, after the final event of the shooting year a shooter's 5-event average places him/her in a class below the class shot in the last event, then the starting class for the new shooting year will be that lower class so long as it is not more than one class below the class started in in the previous year. For example, a shooter starts the year in Class B and at the end of the year the shooter's 5-event average places him/her in Class D, the shooter will then start the new year in Class C.
- F. A classified shooter who wishes to declare into a higher class than their average places them may do so, including into AAA. Such declaration does not affect a shooter's class in future events; that is, declaring up into a higher class does not preclude subsequently shooting in a lower class based upon the shooter's average, so long as such class is not more than one class below the shooter's starting class at the beginning of the shooting year.
- G. 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. It is a separate event however, and after the shoot, the preliminary event score and the main event score should each be entered in order separately on the classification card, and then the average of his/her last five events and appropriate class resulting entered for each entry and gun.

**Example - Re-Classification of a Classified Shooter:** The shooter's annual classification card lists his/her last five shoots of the previous year in 12 gauge as shown in the table below. He/she then shoots 100 straight in first shoot of the current year. The new average and class are: (dropping 95 at the top of the list)  
 $94+97+97+99+100=487/500=.9740$  and the shooter is still in class A for the next shoot:

Date	Place/Shoot Name	Class shot in	Shot	Broke	Avg.	Class next shoot
xx/xx	xx/xxx	B	100	95		B
xx/xx	xx/xxx	B	100	94		B
xx/xx	xx/xxx	B	100	97		B
xx/xx	xx/xxx	B	100	97		B
xx/xx	xx/xxx	B	100	99	.9640	A

#### **4. Classification of Shooters from Other Clay Target Organizations**

- A.** Participants who have shot in another clay target organization must provide their shooting average and classification for all gauges from the previous three (3) years for all organizations, along with titles won, upon registration at a NSSA shoot.
- B.** A first-time NSSA shooter who has been classified by another non-skeet clay target organization (i.e. NSCA, ATA, NRA) in Class A or above, is required to declare no more than one class lower than their highest class held within the last three (3) years. Such a shooter may not reclassify downward, only upward, until the end of the current shooting year. Such a first-time NSSA shooter classified by another non-skeet clay target organization below class A, or not classified in a particular gauge, shall follow the regular NSSA classification procedure for a NEW SHOOTER.
- C.** For a shooter who is classified by another skeet clay target shooting organization (i.e., CPSA, ACTA, etc.), their NSSA class shall be determined as follows:
  - 1)** If the individual is also a NSSA Classified Shooter (i.e., not a “NEW SHOOTER”) they shall shoot in their earned NSSA Class.
  - 2)** If the individual doesn't have sufficient targets to be an NSSA Classified shooter, their NSSA class will be determined using their highest average for the past three (3) years in the other skeet clay target organization using the NSSA classification tables. Such a shooter classified by another clay target organization in Class A or above, may not reclassify downward, only upward, until the end of the current shooting year. Those classified below Class A, or not classified in a particular gauge, shall follow the regular NSSA classification procedure for a NEW SHOOTER.

#### **5. Classification Cards**

- A.** Members will be able to download and print their current classification and membership cards via their online profile at <http://www.nssa-nsca.org> after mid-January of the new shooting year.
- B.** Classification for the beginning of the year shall be indicated in the appropriate place on each classification shoot record card.
- C.** These cards also shall contain columns in which the holders are to keep their up-to-date averages posted for each gun.
- D.** This classification card shall include provisions for date, club/shoot name, class shot in, targets shot, targets broken, average and assigned class for next shoot in each gauge. It will include:
  - 1)** Member's name, address, membership expiration date and membership number, and age concurrent and other concurrent status.
  - 2)** The date and scores for the most recent five (5) events of each gauge in the previous three (3) years, the running average of these and the shooter's

assigned class in each gauge for the first event of the current year.

- E. Any errors on shooter's new classification card, including those caused by failure of shoot reports to be received at NSSA Headquarters in time to be included on new card, must be promptly reported to NSSA by the shooter so that a corrected card can be downloaded. This is also to ensure proper inclusion in permanent record.

## **6. Maintaining Shoot Record Card**

- A. Each shooter shall bear the responsibility of promptly and accurately entering his/her own score with the date, and shoot, in the proper gauge division at the conclusion of each registered EVENT in which he/she participates. Where a single EVENT extends more than one day, he/she should enter the total, not the day-to-day scores. When a shoot extends over multiple days, the score from each event will be recorded on the shoot record card on the date each EVENT is completed. If a shoot starts in one year and ends in the next, then the score(s) will be recorded in the next shoot year, regardless of which day the event was shot.
- B. Each shooter shall promptly update his/her classification in re-classification spaces on his/her classification card after each event of each gauge shot.
- C. The shooter is required to carry his/her card to each registered shoot and present it at registration. In the case of a lost classification card, or accidentally forgetting a classification card, the shooter may sign an affidavit attesting to his/her classification, subject to specified penalties. Such affidavit must be attached to the shoot report when it is forwarded to NSSA for tabulation. The score shot will become his/her most recent event score.
- D. A shooter falsifying any entries or improperly using more than one classification card will be disqualified and reported to NSSA for action according to Individual Qualifications and Responsibilities (Section V-K-5).

## **7. Classification Review**

- A. A state association, director, club or shooter has the right to request a review of a shooter's record if it appears that he/she is unfairly competing in a class below his/her true level of ability. Upon review by a duly authorized national committee, the shooter may be assigned a higher class and may be required to disregard certain abnormally low scores for the purpose of classification and reclassification only.
- B. If a shooter has been assigned a higher class because of a classification review, he/she will not be allowed to shoot below that class until removed from classification review by the committee.

## **8. Universal Classification Tables**

- A. Use of the Universal Classification Tables shall be required for all registered shoots and shall be in accordance with the tables of averages shown below. Standard rounding procedures will be used to calculate an individual's average. Calculate the average to 5 digits and rounding to the 4th digit. If the 5th digit is

greater than or equal to 5, then the 4th digit will be rounded up.

- B. A shooter's correct class and average shall be posted on his/her shoot entry form.
- C. Classification in each gauge (including .410 and doubles) is independent and shall be treated without regard to classification in any other gauge.

**9. Classification Tables for Open Individual Classification:**

<b>12 GAUGE</b>		<b>20 GAUGE</b>		<b>28 GAUGE</b>		<b>.410 BORE</b>		<b>DOUBLES</b>	
<b>Class</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>AAA</b>	.9850 & over	<b>AAA</b>	.9825 & over	<b>AAA</b>	.9800 & over	<b>AAA</b>	.9650 & over	<b>AAA</b>	.9700 & over
<b>AA</b>	.9750 to .9849	<b>AA</b>	.9700 to .9824	<b>AA</b>	.9650 to .9799	<b>AA</b>	.9450 to .9649	<b>AA</b>	.9500 to .9699
<b>A</b>	.9600 to .9749	<b>A</b>	.9450 to .9699	<b>A</b>	.9400 to .9649	<b>A</b>	.9100 to .9449	<b>A</b>	.9100 to .9499
<b>B</b>	.9350 to .9599	<b>B</b>	.9100 to .9449	<b>B</b>	.9050 to .9399	<b>B</b>	.8600 to .9099	<b>B</b>	.8500 to .9099
<b>C</b>	.9000 to .9349	<b>C</b>	.8550 to .9099	<b>C</b>	.8550 to .9049	<b>C</b>	.8000 to .8599	<b>C</b>	.8000 to .8499
<b>D</b>	.8550 to .8999	<b>D</b>	.8549 & under	<b>D</b>	.8549 & under	<b>D</b>	.7999 & under	<b>D</b>	.7999 & under
<b>E</b>	.8549 & under								

**10. Compulsory Classes**

- A. Only Classes AA, A, B, C and D (and E in 12 gauge) shall be compulsory.
- B. Class AAA shall be optional and when AAA is not offered Class AA shall include all shooters who would be in Class AAA if it were offered.
- C. Class AAA is optional; however, it should be considered for use in any event where the number of entries exceeds 100, or where the number of entries eligible for AAA justifies doing so.
- D. It shall be the sole responsibility of shoot management to determine whether Class AAA shall be offered and its decision shall be published in the shoot program or posted before the shoot.

**11. High Overall Classification**

- A. Unless otherwise published in the program or posted at the shoot, a shooter's HOA class will be based on his/her 4 or 5-gun average, using the NSSA HOA Classification Table, at the time of their entry in the first event of the shoot and will not be changed as a result of a reclassification due to a preliminary event, except when a shooter's HOA class would be lower than their lowest gun class. When the HOA event is comprised of the four standard gauges (i.e., does not include Doubles), then the 4-Gun HOA Classification table will be used. Likewise, when the HOA event is comprised of the four standard gauges plus Doubles, then the 5-Gun HOA Classification Table will be used. When the HOA event is not comprised of the four standard gauges or the four standard gauges plus Doubles, a shooter's HOA class will be based on his/her highest class of the gauges included in the HOA event, unless otherwise published in the

program or posted at the shoot.

- B.** In no case will shooter's HOA class be any lower than his/her lowest gun class. For shooters who have voluntarily declared upward on any gun, or all guns, to calculate a HOA class, use the bottom percentage of the class in each gun.
- C.** For a new shooter (defined in glossary) in one or more guns 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 of the required gauges may only enter HOA in the highest class offered.
- D.** NSSA HOA Classification Tables
  - 1) Use of these tables is not mandatory. However, if no other method for determining HOA is listed in the shoot program or prominently posted prior to beginning of registration, the tables listed below will be used to determine HOA classification. It is important for clubs to remember that the method for determining HOA classification must be posted or published in the shoot program.
  - 2) Shoot Management has the discretion to offer, or not offer, Class E HOA as necessary.

**HOA CLASSIFICATION TABLES**

<b>4-GUN HOA (WITHOUT DOUBLES)</b>		<b>5-GUN HOA (WITH DOUBLES)</b>	
AAA	.9781 & over	AAA	.9764 & over
AA	.9638 - .9780	AA	.9610 - .9763
A	.9388 - .9637	A	.9330 - .9609
B	.9025 - .9387	B	.8920 - .9329
C	.8525 - .9024	C	.8420 - .8919
D	.7925 - .8524	D	.7820 - .8419
E	.7924 & under	E	.7819 & under

**12. Team and Other Concurrent Event Classifications**

- A.** Division of two-man team, five-man team, lady, junior and other concurrent events into groups is NOT MANDATORY. In cases where shoot management should desire to establish groups in these events, they may do so. When such groups are established, they should be designated by NUMBER rather than by letter, i.e., Group 1 (or I) XX - and over, Group 2 (or II) under XX.
- B.** Classification for team events shall be the combined average of team member's scores, carried to the fourth decimal place at their most recent reclassification (i.e. - .9525). Standard rounding procedures will be used to calculate an individual's average. Calculate the average to 5 digits and rounding to the 4th digit. If the 5th digit is greater than or equal to 5, then the 4th digit will be rounded up.

C. The average for a new shooter competing in a team or other event that has been divided into groups shall simply be his/her current average for the gauge entered. A new shooter who has not shot his/her first registered event and thus has no classification in the required gauge(s) may enter these events in the highest group.

**13. Re-Classification Limitations.** Any shooter who believes he/she is entitled to compete in a lower class due to illness, accident, age, etcetera, may appeal to the classification review committee of NSSA after prior approval of his/her request by his/her state association. In the absence of a state association in the shooter's state, his/her appeal may be made directly to the classification review committee.

### C. Concurrents

1. A shooter's eligibility for concurrent events (including age groups) shall be determined by his/her age or status on January 1.
2. No junior, sub-junior or collegiate shall be required to pay any part of any entry fee that is to be returned to the shooter in the form of money.
3. Where shoot programs offer special concurrent events based upon age, shooters entering such special events must shoot in the one for which they are qualified by age, if such a class is available. Example: Seniors cannot enter as sub-seniors if a senior event is offered. However, sub-juniors can enter a juniors event if a sub-junior event is not available.
4. In parent and child (PC) events, unless specifically stated otherwise in the shoot program, the child must be of junior or sub-junior eligibility age.
5. A sub-junior (SJ) is any person who has not reached their fourteenth birthday.
6. A junior (JR) is any person who has not reached their eighteenth birthday.
7. A collegiate (CL) shooter shall be defined as a full-time undergraduate student in an accredited degree-oriented learning institution up to a maximum of five (5) years of eligibility. This category may include a shooter 18 years old or older, who is still in high school, for a maximum of one year. For one time only, a shooter is eligible to compete as a collegiate shooter prior to his/her freshman year as long as he/she produces a letter of acceptance from a degree-oriented learning institution. At shoot entry, eligible individuals must provide a valid student I.D. card. The card must be valid on January 1.
8. A triple-sub-senior (TS) is any person 18-39 years of age.
9. A sub-sub-senior (SU) is any person who has reached their 40th birthday.
10. A sub-senior (SS) is any person who has reached their 50th birthday.
11. A senior (SR) is any person who has reached their 60th birthday.
12. A veteran (VT) is any person who has reached their 70th birthday.
13. A senior-veteran (SV) is any person who has reached their 80th birthday.

14. A super-veteran (VV) is any person who has reached their 90th birthday.
15. A military shooter (ML) is any member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Reserve Component or National Guard/Air National Guard, National Oceanic Administration Agency (NOAA), and U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) in possession of an Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Convention Identification Card.
16. A retired military (RM) shooter is any retired member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard or National Guard/Air National Guard.
17. A military veteran (MV) is any uniformed service member with an “honorable discharge,” who is not on active duty or on the eligible retired list; or is a uniformed service member fulfilling his/her Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) commitment.
18. 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.
  - A. 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
    - 3) The letter must be presented on the agency’s official letterhead, and
    - 4) Be signed by a supervising officer.
  - B. 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.
19. Where shoot programs offer concurrent events for any category of military shooters, shooters are only eligible to compete in the event for which they are qualified, even if that event is not offered (i.e., a military shooter (ML) cannot compete in a military veteran (MV) when ML is not offered and MV is offered; likewise, a retired military shooter (RM) cannot compete in a military event (ML) when RM is not offered and ML is offered).
20. Concurrent teams have no club and/or domicile restrictions to establish official or world records. Previously awarded World Records for concurrents will stand, i.e. will be "grand-fathered."

## **SECTION IV - SHOOTING PROCEDURES (Excerpts in Shooter Handbook)**

### **A. Ammunition**

Lead shot ammunition for skeet (target loads) shall not exceed:

<b>Gauge</b>	<b>Oz. Lead</b>	<b>Grains Std</b>	<b>Grains Max</b>
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

1. Gun clubs are allowed to use alternate shot (other than lead) for registered shoots; alternate loads must meet industry standards for "target load" ammunition.
2. 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 above will have his/her score disqualified for that event.
3. Factory Loads. Any shooter found to be using commercial loads heavier than the maximum weights permissible as listed above will have his/her score disqualified for that event.
4. Defective Ammunition

**A. Defective Ammunition will be defined as:**

- 1) Failure to fire, provided firing pin indentation is clearly noticeable.
- 2) When a target is missed in the case of an odd-sounding shell, which in the **sole judgment of the field referee** does not deliver the shot the distance to the target, and therefore does not give the shooter a fair opportunity to break the target. NOTE: If a target is broken with an odd-sounding shell, it shall be scored dead regardless and will not be considered defective ammo. Odd-sounding shells where the shot does travel the distance to the bird and provide the shooter a fair chance to break the target will not be considered defective ammo and the results of those shots will be scored.
- 3) Brass pulling off hull **between shots on doubles**.
- 4) Separation of brass from casing when gun is fired (usually accompanied by a whistling sound as the plastic sleeve leaves the barrel).
- 5) Wrong sized shells or empty shells shall not be considered defective ammunition.

**B. When a target is missed in the case of an odd-sounding shell, which in the sole judgment of the field referee does not deliver the shot the distance to the target, and therefore does not give the shooter a fair opportunity to break the target. NOTE: If a target is broken with an odd-sounding shell, it shall be scored dead regardless and will not be considered defective ammo. Odd-sounding shells where the shot does travel the distance to the bird and provide the shooter a fair chance to break the target will not be considered defective ammo and the results of those shots will be scored.**

## **B. Shooter's Right to Observe Targets**

1. At the beginning of each round the squad shall be entitled to observe two (2) regular targets from each skeet house and shall have the option of observing one regular target after each irregular target.
2. Shoot management, state associations, state chief referees and/or zone chief referee shall have the right, where topographically possible, to make it mandatory to use a hoop or other suitable device whenever a target adjustment is necessary.
3. When the targets thrown from any machine are repeatedly irregular, the referee shall suspend shooting and order the machine adjusted or repaired. At shooter's request, after such repair or adjustment, the referee should allow shooter to observe a target, if such request is reasonable and not excessive.

## **C. Recommended Positions for Shooters**

It is recommended for courtesy to 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.

1. Shooter must stand with any part of both feet within the boundaries of the designated shooting station.
2. Station 8 the designated shooting station is the half of the rectangular pad most distant from the respective high or low house.
3. Any shooter with one or both feet definitely off the shooting station should first be made to shoot over and, if he/she persists in standing off the station, he/she shall be penalized by loss of the target for each subsequent violation in that event. However, if the shooter missed the target while committing the first violation of shooting position, the result shall be scored "lost."

## **D. Squad Shooting Procedure for a Round of Skeet**

1. A squad shall start shooting at Station 1 in the order in which the names appear on the score sheet. The first shot scored lost in the round shall be repeated immediately as the optional shot.
2. It is the responsibility of the shooter to see that his/her safety is off and gun is properly loaded with unfired shells of proper size and loaded before calling for a target (for safety purposes).
3. The first shooter shall start shooting singles at Station 1, shooting the high house target first and the low house target second. Then, loading two shells, he/she shall proceed to shoot doubles (shooting the first shot at the target from the nearest skeet house and the second shot at the target from the farthest skeet house) before leaving the station. The second shooter shall then proceed likewise followed by the other members of the squad in their turn.
4. Then the squad shall proceed to Station 2 and repeat the same sequence as on Station 1.
5. The squad shall then proceed to Station 3 where each shooter will shoot at a high

house single target first and a low house single target second before leaving the shooting station.

6. The same procedure shall be followed at Stations 4 and 5.
7. Upon advancing to Station 6, the leadoff shooter will shoot singles in the same sequence as at the previous stations. Then, loading two shells, he/she shall shoot doubles by shooting at the low house target first and the high house target second before leaving the station. The other shooters will follow in their turn.
8. The same procedure will be followed on Station 7.
9. The squad will then advance to Station 8 where each shooter shall shoot at a target from the high house before any member of the squad shoots at a target from the low house.
10. The squad shall then turn to Station 8 low house and the leadoff shooter will shoot at the low house target.
11. The shooter shall repeat the low house target for his/her optional shot before leaving the station, provided he/she is still straight (no lost targets in the round). The other shooters will follow in turn.
12. At this time the shooter should verify his/her own score.

#### **E. Rules and Procedures for Doubles Events**

1. No less than a fifty (50) target event.
2. Shooting commences at Station 1 and continues through 7 and backwards from 6 through 5, 4, 3 and 2. Rounds 2 and 4 will end with doubles on Station 1 using the 25th shell from rounds 1 and 3. That is, rounds 1 and 3 will consist of 24 shots ending with doubles at Station 2, and rounds 2 and 4 will consist of 26 shots ending with doubles at Station 1.
3. When shooting doubles at Stations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, shoot the first shot at the target from the nearest skeet house and the second shot at the target from the farthest skeet house. When shooting doubles at Station 4 the shooter must shoot first at the high house target going around the stations from 1 through 7 and shoot at the low house 4 target first when coming back around the stations from 7 through 2 (or 1).
4. The rules for doubles in a doubles event are the same as the rules for doubles in a regular round of skeet.
5. All other NSSA rules apply.

#### **F. Progress from Station to Station**

1. No member of the squad shall advance to the shooting station until it is his/her turn to shoot, and until the previous shooter has left the station. No shooter shall order any target or shoot at any target except when it is his/her turn. Targets fired upon while shooting out of turn, without permission of the referee, shall be declared "no bird."

2. No member of a squad, having shot from one station, shall proceed toward the next station in such a way as to interfere with another shooter. The penalty for willful interference in this manner shall be disqualification from the event.
3. No shooter shall unduly delay a squad without good and sufficient reason in the judgment of the referee in charge of his/her squad. A shooter who persists in deliberately causing inexcusable delays after receiving a first warning from the referee shall be subject to disqualification from the event.
4. **Shooting Up.** The procedure of a late shooter shooting out of turn to catch up with his/her squad.
  - A. Where a shooter has registered in but does not show up to start an event with his/her squad, he/she will not be permitted to shoot up after the first man in the squad has fired a shot at Station 2.
  - B. He/she may join the squad for all later rounds, but the round missed because of lateness must be shot on the proper field in the first vacancy, or after all other contestants have finished.

## G. Scoring

1. The score in any one round shall be the total number of dead targets.
2. Targets declared no bird shall not be scored.
3. **Option.** The first shot scored lost in any round shall be repeated immediately and the result scored as the twenty-fifth shot.
  - A. Should the first shot lost occur in a double, the lost target shall be repeated as a single with the result of this shot scored as the twenty-fifth shot.
  - B. If the first shot lost should be the first target of an irregular double, then a proof regular double shall be fired upon to determine the result of the second shot, and then the first target scored lost shall be repeated as a single and scored as the twenty-fifth shot.
  - C. Should the first twenty-four (24) targets of a round be scored dead, the shooter shall take his/her optional shot at low house eight only.
4. One lost target shall be scored on:
  - A. A balk or failure of gun to fire due to fault of shooter. Should this occur when firing upon the first target of a regular double, it shall be scored as first target lost, and a proof double shall be thrown to determine the result of the second shot only. If a balk should occur, or his/her gun fail to fire because of the shooter's fault, when a proof double is thrown and the result of the first shot has already been scored, the second target shall be scored as lost.
  - B. Each excessive instance of defective ammunition, or excessive malfunction or malfunctions of gun.
  - C. Doubles fired upon in reverse order.

D. Target fired upon after it is outside the shooting bounds.

E. Each successive foot position violation.

F. Each successive time balk. When a shooter steps onto a station and more than 10 seconds elapse before his/her call, it shall be considered a time balk. However, a time balk will not be called unless the shooter's repeated delays directly contribute to the round exceeding the 20-minute-per-round allowance, inclusive of breaks between rounds (see Slow Squads Section IV-H). The referee may warn the shooter once each round without penalty.

5. Two targets thrown simultaneously in singles is considered an irregular target and will not be scored.
6. If by error or for mechanical reasons doubles are thrown and the shooter shoots and breaks or misses the correct target, it shall be scored as in singles. It shall be the shooter's prerogative to elect to shoot or withhold his/her shot when doubles are thrown in the calling of singles.
7. If a shell having once misfired is used again, and fails to fire, the results shall be considered a fault on the part of the shooter and scored lost.
8. No claim of irregularity shall be allowed, either on singles or doubles, where the target or targets were actually fired upon and alleged irregularity consists of deviation from the prescribed line of flight, or because of an alleged quick pull or slow pull, unless the referee has distinctly called no bird prior to the firing of the shot. Otherwise, if the shooter fires, the result shall be scored. The referee shall have final say as to whether he/she called no bird before the shooter fired.
9. If the brass pulls off a hull between shots on doubles, score as defective ammunition but do not score it as a gun malfunction.
10. 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 double shall be shot to establish the second shot result.
11. **No Bird Call.** Any target thrown for which no score is recorded, or failure of a target to be thrown within the prescribed time limit of one second. This permits the throwing of instant targets but gives a short time period to prevent a contestant from refusing a target which does not appear immediately after his/her call. If a shooter fires upon a target which appears after one second has elapsed between his/her call and the emergence of the target, and also before the referee calls no bird, the result of his/her shot shall be scored. If he/she withholds his/her shot after such an alleged slow pull, the referee may declare the target no bird provided he/she, in his/her sole judgment, decides that the delay exceeded the one-second time allowance. The pull is not required to be instantaneous.

## H. Slow Squads

It is suggested that shoot management use substitute fields when breakdowns or unusually slow shooting squads are disrupting the normal sequence of squads. Under normal conditions, a squad should complete a round in 20 minutes, including breaks between rounds. Squads using more time cannot object to being transferred to a

substitute field.

## **I. Defective Ammunition Procedures**

- A.** Repeated Targets. A target shall be repeated for each allowable instance of defective ammunition.
- B.** Number allowed. A shooter will be allowed only two instances of defective ammunition from the first box of shells used in that round.
  - 1) After two instances of defective ammunition in a round or a shoot-off round, a shooter may obtain a FACTORY box of ammunition and is then allowed two additional instances per box of FACTORY shells in that round.
  - 2) If shells are not changed in a round after two ammo malfunctions have been ruled, the third and all subsequent occurrences in that round will be excessive.
  - 3) EXCEPTION: If a shooter is provided a proof shell by the referee and defective ammunition is ruled on that proof shot, that instance will not count against the shooter as defective ammunition.

## **J. Broken Gun**

When a gun breaks in such a manner so as to render it unusable, the shooter has the option of using another gun if such gun can be secured without delay, or dropping out of the squad until the gun is repaired and finishing the event at a later time when a vacancy occurs or after all other contestants have finished the event. Nothing shall prohibit the shooter from missing one round because of a broken gun, having the gun repaired and then rejoining the squad for all later rounds that the squad has not started. In that case the shooter will finish any or all rounds, starting with the shot where the breakdown occurred, that were not shot because of a broken gun, on the proper fields and in the first vacancy that may occur, or after the event has been finished by all other contestants.

## **K. Gun Malfunctions**

The shooter must not be considered at fault if he/she has complied with the manufacturer's operating instructions for loading the gun, and the gun does not fire. In the case of a gun going into battery (locking closed) for the first shot on doubles or any shot on singles, if the shooter has closed the action in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and if the bolt appears visually to be closed, the failure of a gun to fire shall be scored as malfunction.

### **1. Semi-Automatics**

- A.** On a semi-automatic, the shooter is not required to push forward or strike the breech bolt retraction lever to ensure locking the gun. This is a normal gun function.
- B.** The shooter must load the shell or shells into the gun and see that the action appears closed. If he/she loads two shells on singles or doubles, and if the second shell fails to go into the chamber or is thrown out of the gun, it shall be scored a malfunction unless a no bird is declared on the second shot.

## 2. Pump Guns

- A. The shooter is required to pump the gun, as recommended by the manufacturer, on doubles and to close the action completely forward (visually) on singles.
- B. If the shooter short-shucks the gun, the hammer will not be cocked-a fault of the shooter.
- C. If the lifter throws the second shell out of the gun, it shall be a malfunction.
- D. It shall be a malfunction if between shots on singles or doubles the gun returns the empty shell to the chamber provided the hammer is cocked.
- E. The referee shall check for a malfunction as instructed under that title and shall then apply forward pressure on the forearm to see if the shell is lodged (a malfunction). However, if the gun closes smoothly, without jiggling, it is not a malfunction.

## 3. Double-Barreled Guns

- A. The shooter is responsible for loading a shell in the proper barrel, or two shells for doubles.
- B. The shooter must close the action in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

- 4. **Shell-Catching Devices.** Where any device is attached to a shotgun which must be adjusted or removed to permit shooting doubles, it shall be the shooter's responsibility to perform such adjustment or removal. Failure to fire a second shot on doubles, due to such device, shall not be an allowable malfunction, and the bird shall be scored lost.
- 5. **Repeated Targets.** A target shall be repeated for each allowable malfunction and/or each allowable defective ammunition.
- 6. **Number Allowed.** Only two malfunctions of any one gun in the same round or shoot-off round shall be allowable. The third and all subsequent malfunctions of the same gun shall be excessive. However, when more than one person is using the same gun in the same round, this rule shall apply to each person separately.
- 7. **Loading Two Shells.** During the shooting of single targets, a shooter may load two shells except at Station 8 high house, or for the last single target on any station, or unless forbidden by club rules, and if the gun jams or malfunctions between shots, it shall be scored as a malfunction and the shooter permitted to shoot the target over. However, the shooter is still restricted to two allowable malfunctions with one gun in one round.
- 8. **Malfunction on Singles or First Shot Doubles.** To establish that a malfunction has occurred, the shooter must not open the gun or touch the safety before the referee's inspection.
  - A. If the shooter is holding the trigger pulled, the referee, after seeing that the gun is pointed in a safe direction, will place his/her finger over the shooter's and

apply normal pressure.

- B.** If the shooter has released the trigger, the referee, after seeing that the gun is pointed in a safe direction, will exercise extreme caution not to jiggle or attempt to further close the action and will apply normal pressure to the trigger.
- C.** The target shall be scored lost if the gun fires the first barrel as determined by the barrel selector or is opened before the referee's inspection. If the gun fired the second barrel without firing the first barrel, a malfunction will be ruled. A malfunction will be ruled if it does not fire and the referee's examination for ammunition, safety, barrel selection, etc. establishes that the shooter had fulfilled required responsibilities.
- D.** For a gun modified with a release trigger, the referee will not require the shooter to pull and then release the trigger. See Safety Section I-A-12. for appropriate procedure when a shooter holds down the trigger of a release trigger.

**9. Malfunction Between Shots on Doubles.** If an apparent malfunction occurs between the first and second shot on doubles:

- A.** The referee shall apply the same procedures as listed under malfunction on singles to determine if an allowable malfunction has occurred.
- 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.
- C.** If such malfunction is excessive (not allowable) and the first shot is a dead bird, it shall be scored first bird dead, second bird lost, but, if the first bird is lost then both birds shall be scored lost.

**10. Fan-Fire.** If a gun doubles or fan-fires while shooting singles or doubles, the referee shall rule a malfunction, and during a regular round or a doubles event, if the first target was a dead bird, nothing established, then a proof single or double shall be fired upon to determine the results. However, if the first target was lost, it shall be so established and a proof double shot to establish the second shot result.

#### **L. Doubles or Proof Doubles**

- 1.** If the first target emerges broken, the doubles shall, in all cases, be declared no bird and a proof double shall be thrown to determine the result of both shots.
- 2.** If a double is thrown but the whole legal targets collide regardless of the first target being fired upon, both targets shall be declared no bird, and the result of a proof double shall determine the score of both shots.
- 3.** If the first target of a double is thrown irregular as to deviate from the prescribed line of flight and is not shot at, a proof double shall determine the score for both shots, whether the second target is fired upon or not. The referee shall be the sole judge of irregularity.
- 4.** If the first target of a double is thrown irregular as to deviate from the prescribed line of flight, and is shot at, the result shall be scored for the first shot in

accordance with Section III-G-8 and if the shooter is deprived of a normal second shot for any of the reasons in paragraph 5 below the second target only shall be declared no bird and a proof double shall be fired to determine the result of the second shot.

5. If the shooter is deprived of a normal second shot for any of the following reasons, the result of the first shot shall be scored even if an apparent gun malfunction may have occurred on the second shot, and the second target only shall be declared no bird and a proof double shall be fired to determine the result of the second shot.
  - A. The second target is thrown broken.
  - B. The second target is thrown irregular as to deviation from the prescribed line of flight and is not shot at.
  - C. The second target is not thrown at all.
  - D. The second target is not thrown simultaneously.
  - E. Both targets are broken with the first shot.
  - F. The wrong target is broken with the first shot. (For proof double ruling see paragraph 8 below.)
  - G. The second target collides with fragments of the first target properly broken, before the result of the second target is determined.
  - H. The result of the first shot is determined, and interference occurs before the second shot is fired.
6. There shall be no penalty for withholding the first shot when either target of a double is irregular. A proof double shall determine the score of both shots thereafter.
7. If a double is thrown and an allowable gun malfunction or defective ammunition occurs on the first shot, it shall be declared no bird, and the result of a proof double shall determine the score of both shots. If such malfunction is excessive, (not allowable), the proof double shall be thrown to determine the result of the second shot only.
8. In shooting a proof double after the first target (of a double) is lost, if the shooter fires at, or breaks the wrong target first, said proof double shall be scored as both targets lost. If, in such a proof double after the first target (of a double) is dead, the shooter fires at, or breaks, the wrong target first, it shall be scored as first target dead and second target lost.

## **M. Interference**

1. Any circumstance beyond the shooter's control which unduly affects his/her opportunity to break any particular target is interference.
  - A. If a shooter fires his/her shot, the appearance of a target, or a piece of target, from an adjoining field shall not be ruled as interference, unless such target, or piece of target strikes or threatens to strike the shooter or his/her gun. It shall be



used.

## **B. Field Layout**

1. It is recommended and desirable for all NSSA registered targets to be shot on fields constructed according to Standard NSSA specifications shown in Exhibit 1.
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. Markers specified in the Skeet Field Layout in Exhibit 1 are mandatory (where geographically possible) and the placement of any other markers shall be deemed illegal.
5. Standard field specifications are available in the NSSA Club Manual; on the NSSA web site; or by request from the NSSA.

## **C. Procedure for Setting Distance on Targets**

1. Adjust the skeet machine spring to a tension that will just reach the 60 yard stake, passing near dead center on the target setting hoop, under a “**no wind**” condition. This distance setting has a plus/or minus two (2) yard allowance, but should be as close to 60 yards as possible. Once this setting is made, it is unnecessary to change the spring tension during a tournament unless the spring becomes defective. The prevailing wind during a shoot may cause the targets to fall short or long, but they are regular targets providing they pass through the setting hoop.
2. Use Of a Radar Gun: The use of a radar gun by shoot management for setting targets is permitted so long as the height and distance requirements specified within the definition of a Regular Target (see glossary), are complied with. Recommendations for the use of a radar gun are available from NSSA Member Services, posted on the NSSA website and are in the Gun Club Manual.
3. Use of Voice Release Systems (VRS)
  - A. The use of a VRS by shoot management for releasing targets during a registered tournament is permitted so long as done in compliance with the official rules and regulations contained within this book.
  - B. VRS must be available on all tournament fields at the start of the tournament.
  - C. Shoot Management must provide a means for "manual pulls" if the VRS does not work for a particular shooter.
  - D. If a VRS are to be used during a registered tournament and/or shoot-offs, Shoot Management must so stipulate in the shoot program and/or at the registration desk and must document and provide an "Opt Out" policy to all shooters. Such policy could be a squad, shooter or no opt out. Regardless of the policy, Shoot Management must still comply with paragraph c above and provide manual pulls when the VRS fails to work for a shooter's call.

## **D. Identification of Eligible Shooters**

Presentation of a classification card, indicating a member's shooting record, and a NSSA membership card are required for entry in a registered shoot.

### **E. Open Shoot Registration**

If a state or zone shoot is "Open" then gun titles and awards, both monetary and non-monetary, go to event winners, and the state title and awards are restricted to bona fide state residents. Two shoot reports must be submitted.

### **F. Night Shooting**

Registered shooting at night is permissible. All scores recorded for night registered shoots will receive the same treatment as any other registered shoot. Participants in night registered shoots must accept the conditions at the club where the shoot is held and no protest concerning shooting conditions; e.g., light conditions, natural or artificial, etc., will be allowed. At registered night shoots, all orange targets will be used unless otherwise published in the program or posted at registration.

### **G. Shooting Order**

The management shall determine the shooting order of the individuals in each squad at the beginning of the round, and the shooters shall adhere to this order. If the order is changed during any succeeding round of the same event, each squad member shall be responsible that his/her name be in the proper order on the respective score sheet, and that the change be plainly indicated for the attention of the final recorder. Each squad shall report to the field at its appointed time. Upon failure of a shooter to appear at the appointed time, where a regular schedule has been posted in advance, or after proper call, the squad shall proceed without the absent shooter and the offender be dropped to the first vacancy in the schedule, or if there is no vacancy, to the bottom of the list. Weather conditions shall not be deemed sufficient excuse for delay in taking the field or proceeding with the round, unless all shooting has been officially suspended at the discretion of management.

### **H. Squadding Restrictions**

Pacer(s) for a lone participant in a shoot-off shall not be permitted.

### **I. Checks, Payments, Over-Payment**

Anyone who presents a check at any shoot that is returned for insufficient funds or other causes, may not compete in any registered shoot until full payment has been made to the individual or club to which it was presented. Any club receiving such a check shall report the name and address of the shooter issuing the check to the NSSA and to its own state, territorial or district association. Upon notification by NSSA, the shooter has 15 days to make the check good, or he/she will be suspended for six months. A second offense will result in indefinite suspension, and the shooter must petition the Executive Committee for reinstatement. The Executive Committee will determine penalties and suspensions as each case merits. Any competitor at a registered shoot who, through error, has been overpaid on any purse, added money, optional or other prize money and who is notified of the over-payment by registered mail, must return the over-payment within 15 days. Failure to do so shall result in disbarment from all registered shoots until repayment is made.

## **J. Club Qualifications and Responsibilities**

- 1.** Only clubs affiliated with NSSA with fees currently paid up for the year concerned shall be eligible to conduct registered shoots. Evidence of the club's status in this regard must be displayed in the form of an official NSSA membership certificate for the appropriate year. Only clubs also affiliated and in good standing with their state or territorial association will be permitted to hold registered shoots in areas where such associations are active. No registered shoot may be held at a facility which has been suspended or is in violation of NSSA rules.
- 2.** Where state or territorial associations exist, application for a registered shoot must be made through those bodies, which, in turn after giving approval, will submit application to NSSA. NSSA will then issue proper certification. Shoot software and forms can be found on the NSSA website. When an area association does not exist, clubs will apply directly to NSSA.
  - A.** The application form furnished by NSSA shall include the scheduled shooting dates. Shoot applications, properly sanctioned, must be postmarked or received by NSSA prior to the shoot date. Note: A registered shoot may take place over a maximum of a 31-day period. Any shoot conducted over 5-31 days must submit the event dates with their shoot report to NSSA.
  - B.** In the event that a shoot starts in one shooting year and ends in the next shooting year, the scores will be recorded in the shooting year of the last day of the shoot, including preliminary events. This applies to all events in the shoot regardless of the day on which they are shot. In this case, management must post in the printed shoot program or at registration that the scores will be recorded in the shoot year of the last day of the shoot.
  - C.** Applications for night-registered shoots must designate on the face of application that it will be a night shoot and all promotion by club shall clearly indicate that it is a night shoot.
  - D.** Applications for registered shoots to be held during both daylight and nighttime must be designated on the face of application and all promotion by the club shall clearly indicate that intent. Shoot management and/or the Chief Referee will determine when lights will be turned on. However:
    - 1)** All lights must be turned on simultaneously for all fields and prior to the start of a flight.
    - 2)** When the shoot transitions to being held under lights, all orange targets will be used unless otherwise published in the shoot program or posted at registration.
- 3.** It shall be the responsibility of the management of the club, association or other organization granted a certificate of registration, to see that each shoot is conducted in accordance with the official rules of the NSSA
- 4.** The group or club sponsoring the shoot shall check the NSSA membership of each shooter before accepting his/her entry and shall be responsible for the annual dues if they allow a participant to shoot when said participant's membership in NSSA has expired.

- A.** All individual shooters in all registered shoots must be members in good standing of the NSSA. **It shall be the responsibility of the club holding a registered shoot to check cards of all participants and enforce this rule rigidly.**
- B.** Management will be billed by NSSA in all cases where expired members are allowed to shoot. Management may seek reimbursement from said shooters.
5. Management shall check the shooter's classification card to ascertain the proper classifications in which he/she should compete.
  6. Class winners must be reported if they are to be included in online reporting or the magazine.
  7. Scores in shoots on which complete records are not made by shoot management will not be recorded and the national association shall not be liable to refund fees received in such cases.
  8. It is the shoot management's responsibility to appoint a chief referee.
  9. In the interest of safety, interference and time, only the club management's personnel shall be permitted to pick up empty shells from the grounds during a registered shoot, and extreme care must be exercised to prevent interference with other squads shooting.
  10. Shoot management has the right to determine the rotation and shooting sequence of events as well as shooting mixed guns in squads, unless their state association rules otherwise. With the exception of the World Shoot when a participant is allowed to shoot an additional increment of 100 targets above those shot in a program event, the first increment shot shall be the targets registered for the program event.
  11. All two-man and five-man team events must be limited to club teams unless management exercises their prerogative of holding open or state team events duly announced in the program, or posted prior to acceptance of the first entry.
  12. Shoot management has the right to change, add, delete from or correct the shoot program, provided the changes are posted at registration before the event has started.

## **K. Individual Qualifications and Responsibilities**

1. Residents of a state or territory must be members in good standing of their own state or territorial association before they can register targets shot in that state.
2. It shall be the sole responsibility of the shooters to see that they are entered into all events desired, including HOA, Concurrent and Team events prior to firing the first shot of the event and in the appropriate shoot year.
3. Each shooter must verify his/her totaled score and one member of the squad must initial the official score sheet before leaving the field. It shall be the responsibility of every shooter to enter in his/her proper class or classes at each shoot, including advancing himself in class when required by the rules based on averages at the

completion of each representative event.

4. A New Shooter at their Initial Shoot: Shoot management may reserve the right to restrict such a shooter from entering purses and/or class options, but if they do, may not require such a shooter to pay any portion of the purse returned to the shooters in cash or other tangible awards. Such a shooter will not be eligible for cash or tangible awards for which they have not paid the required entry fee prior to entering the event.
5. A shooter who fails to keep all of his/her correct scores posted on his/her card and shoots in a lower class than the one in which his/her record places him/her shall forfeit any winnings earned while shooting in the wrong class for the first offense, and for the second offense shall forfeit all winnings and also be disbarred from registered competition for one year.
  - A. A shooter winning trophies or money by shooting in a wrong class or lower class, including concurrent age groups, than the one in which he/she was entitled to shoot must return his/her winnings within fifteen (15) days after notification that said winnings must be returned. Failure to comply within this 15-day period shall subject the shooter to suspension as an NSSA member and permanent disbarment from registered competition.
  - B. A shooter who enters, or allows himself to be entered into an event, in a class lower than the class in which he/she was entitled to shoot forfeits all rights to any trophies or purses he/she would have earned shooting in his/her proper class unless the mistake is corrected prior to the distribution of such trophies or purse money.

## **L. Standard Event Specification**

For the purpose of uniformity in records, averages, etc., the following provisions shall apply to all shoots registered or sanctioned by NSSA.

### **1. Gauge Specifications**

- A. Twelve gauge and Doubles events shall be open to all guns of 12 gauge or smaller, using shot loads not exceeding one and one-eighth (1-1/8) ounces.
- B. Twenty gauge events shall be open to all guns of 20 gauge or smaller, using shot loads not exceeding seven-eighths (7/8) of an ounce.
- C. Twenty-eight gauge events shall be open to all guns of 28 gauge or smaller, using shot loads not exceeding three-quarters (3/4) of an ounce.
- D. Four-ten events shall be open to all guns of .410 bore or smaller using shot not exceeding one-half (1/2) ounce.
- E. A gun of larger gauge, which has been converted to take a smaller gauge shell may be used in an event for which it has been converted providing that the shell itself complies with the rule requirements for that event.
- F. No shot smaller than No. 9 (2mm) or larger than 7-1/2 shall be used in any load. 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.

## **2. Awards Eligibility**

- A.** Anyone that participates in an individual event or HOA must complete all required targets in the event(s) to be eligible for tangible or intangible awards.
- B.** A new shooter, shooting targets only, is not eligible for any awards.
- C.** Anyone that participates in an individual gauge for a reduced entry fee (i.e. a new shooter or any shooter that shoots for targets only), where allowed by shoot management, shall not be eligible for tangible (i.e. purses, trophies) or intangible awards (i.e. event champion, sub-senior champion), except when an individual sponsor or the club pays the difference between reduced/free entry and full entry fees. Such a shooter may not enter any concurrent events in this gauge where they entered for a reduced entry fee. This rule does not prohibit junior, sub-junior or collegiate shooters from participating in an event without paying that portion of an entry fee to be returned in the form of money, as outlined in paragraph 3-b below. Junior, sub-junior and collegiate shooters who elect not to pay into any purse, or who elect not to pay that portion of the entry fee to be returned in the form of money, are still eligible to win intangible awards (listed above) and tangible awards, except money. Shoot registrants who enter and pay the normal gun fees for each gun ARE eligible to enter the concurrent HOA and other concurrent events. Entry in open/class HOA is not required for entry in a concurrent HOA. However, entry in all of the individual concurrent events comprising the concurrent HOA is required.

## **3. Concurrent Events**

- A.** Events designated for veterans, senior-veterans, super-veterans, seniors, sub-seniors, sub-sub-seniors, triple-sub-seniors, ladies, juniors, sub-juniors, military service, retired military, military veteran, first responder, two-man team or five-man team may be shot concurrently with the corresponding event on the regular program or separately, at the discretion of the management.
- B.** No junior, sub-junior or collegiate shall be required to pay any part of an entry fee that is to be returned to the shooters in the form of money, including open purses and concurrent purses, but not to include team events if the involved junior, sub-junior or collegiate is shooting as part of an open team.
- C.** All concurrent events will be "Honors Only" and will not require a separate entry fee. However, a minimal entry fee may be charged when there are tangible concurrent awards (e.g., medals) such as at a State, Zone or U.S. Open, as well as the Mini World and World Championships or any other shoot that offers tangible awards. Optional concurrent purses may be offered.

- 4. Concurrent Event Awards.** Any shooter charged an entry fee for a regular event and entered into an honors only concurrent event shall be eligible to win in both events unless clearly stipulated in the written program.

- 5. HOA Titles.** HOA titles are an aggregate of 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 defined in Section V-L-1 or doubles and a total of at least 2 events; i.e., a HOA could be 100 20 gauge and 100 doubles, or 50 28-gauge and 50 .410 bore, 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.

6. **Minimum Number of Targets.** No event of less than fifty (50) targets shall be designated as a championship or title event.
7. **Targets Only**
  - A. Targets shot in increments of 100 targets, or 50 targets for 50-target programs, on the day of a registered shoot, or targets shot above the number scheduled for the event, and for which no winner is declared and no tangible prizes awarded. Targets only will be recorded on the day shot, and reported by the club with their report.
  - B. Those registered targets shot by a sub-junior, junior, collegiate or new shooter if they do not pay any portion of the mandatory purse. A new shooter shooting targets only, is not eligible for any awards. (see II-B-2)
8. **Monthly Targets** are registered targets shot on all or selected days of the month. They must be shot in 50 or 100-bird increments and will be recorded on the shooters' classification card and used for classification on the day and order shot. Monthly targets will be accumulated and reported by the club within 15 days after the end of the month. Monthly targets are shot for the purpose of acquiring lifetime targets, fulfilling annual minimum requirements, classification purposes and for fun.
9. **League Targets** are targets shot during a regularly scheduled NSSA or club skeet league. The shooter must declare registering of his/her targets prior to the start of the league. All registered targets will count towards lifetime and annual minimum requirements and will be recorded at the end of the shooting year for classification purposes. Multiple gauges and /or leagues may be shot during the year. Each gauge of each league is considered a single event. It is the shooters' responsibility to record all league targets on their classification card, in the order shot, as their final event or events for the year.
10. **High Gun System.** In explanation of the high gun system: If, for example, in a class, three should tie for high score and two tie for a second high score, the top three scores would divide evenly the monies for first, second and third places, and the two tying for second high score would divide evenly the monies for fourth and fifth places.
11. **Method of Breaking Ties.** In all registered NSSA tournaments, ties shall be decided in a uniform manner. In the absence of a shoot program announcing how shoot-offs will be conducted, or posting of notice of deviation conspicuously at the place of registration, thus informing all shooters of deviation before accepting entry fees, the following methods shall be used to break ties:
  - A. Shoot management may elect to use regular skeet or a doubles event and shall follow NSSA rules for whichever event elected.

- B.** All ties for championship titles, such as event champion, two-man and five-man teams, veterans, super-veterans, senior-veterans, seniors, sub-seniors, triple-sub-seniors, ladies, juniors, sub-juniors, junior ladies, military or any other concurrent title designated by the management, must be shot off by miss-and-out (sudden death). When the same individuals are tied for concurrent titles, such as event champion and senior champion, only one shoot-off will be held to determine both titles unless the shoot management announced in advance of the first shoot-off that separate shoot-offs will be held. Management may combine other shoot-offs only with the approval of all the individuals involved in same.
- C.** After determining the position of all persons involved in shoot-offs, all other awards shall be decided on the basis of the longest run in the event.
- D.** Long runs in an event shall be determined by using the shooter's FRONT or BACK Long Run (WHICHEVER IS LONGEST). If longest runs are tied, the Long Run from the opposite end shall be used to break the tie. If Long Runs are still tied, miss-and-out shoot-offs must decide.
  - 1)** A shooter's FRONT LONG RUN is figured by counting all targets shot in the event before the first miss.
  - 2)** To determine the BACK LONG RUN, count all targets broken after the shooter's last miss in the event. The optional shot must be counted in the proper sequence where it was fired.
- E.** Long runs for team scores shall be the sum of the individual long runs for each team member. That is, the individual team member's front long runs will be totaled to determine the team's front long run, and the individual back long runs totaled for the team's back long run.
- F.** All ties for all-around championship must be decided by a miss-and-out shoot-off using the smallest gauge gun of which the all-around score is comprised.
- G.** All other tied scores for all-around awards shall be decided on the basis of the longest run from front or rear (whichever is longest) in that all-around event. If this also results in a tie, a shoot-off using the smallest gauge in the all-around event shall determine the winner of all places.
- H.** Shoot-offs take precedence over long runs, so all persons competing in a shoot-off must continue to shoot off for all places beneath the event championship for which they may be tied.

## **12. NSSA Procedures for Shoot-offs**

- A.** In employing doubles for shoot-offs, a 50-target event is not required.
- B.** Doubles shoot-offs shall be conducted doubles stations 3-4-5, miss-and-out by station. This means that a shooter must break both targets on a station in order to beat a shooter who only broke one target (i.e. if one shooter breaks the first target and another shooter breaks the second target, they are still tied).
- C.** If shoot management has elected to conduct shoot-offs using the total score of

a complete round, the shooter with the highest score shall be determined the winner. Tied high scores must continue to shoot complete rounds until the tie is broken and the winners determined. Lesser place winners shall be decided by the highest scores and if a tie exists, long run from the front shall determine these winners; if still tied, continue to shoot until the tie is broken.

- D.** In regular skeet miss-and-out shoot-offs, long run from the front shall determine the winners. Ties shall continue to shoot the round until the tie is broken.
- E.** For team shoot-offs, management may combine or separate teams for shoot-offs. Not all team members have to be present for the shoot-off. However, any team member not present will be moved to the last position(s) on the team shoot-off, and their targets will be scored as lost. Methods for different types of shoot-offs are as follows and should be noted in the shoot program. If not noted in the program, "miss-and-out by station" will be used.
  - 1)** If "miss-and-out," team winners shall be determined by the full team shooting until the first miss and comparing this long run with other teams involved. Any teams tied with long runs shall continue to shoot their rounds until the tie is broken.
  - 2)** If "miss-and-out by station," team winners shall be determined by counting a team's total score on a station and comparing it with that of the other teams involved. Any teams still tied shall continue until the tie is broken.
  - 3)** If "total score," the total of the team scores shall determine the winner.
- F.** Shoot management shall post notice of time of shoot-off as soon as possible during each event and shall also announce same by the public address system if possible.
- G.** Contestants involved in shoot-offs forfeit all rights to the shoot-off if absent or if they do not report within five (5) minutes of the time the shoot-off is called. However, any such person shall be entitled to any award he/she would have won by finishing last in the shoot-off. It shall be the shooter's sole responsibility to determine the time of the shoot-off before leaving the grounds. Shoot-offs may not be held prior to the completion of an event (registration for the event has closed and no possible ties or winners left on the field) or of events of that day UNLESS ALL PARTIES INVOLVED AGREE.
- H.** If completion of shoot-offs is prevented by darkness, as defined in Section VI-B-4 (Chief Referee), the management and the contestants concerned shall determine the champion by a mutually agreeable method, but if no mutually agreeable method can be decided upon, then the shoot management shall determine in what manner ties shall be decided. Management should make every effort to schedule the last squad of the day early enough to permit normal shoot-offs.
- I.** If shooters involved in a shoot-off offer management a mutually-agreed-upon method of determining the places, management may accept. If management does not accept, shoot-offs must continue and any shooter or shooters who refuse to continue forfeits as in paragraph g above. Declaring of event co-champions at the World Championship shall not be permitted. Contestants must

continue to shoot or forfeit.

- J. The shooting order for shoot-offs shall be the sequence of finishing the event, where possible. Each leadoff person, or team, shall be dropped to the last position on subsequent rounds.
- K. Where shoot-offs are held under lights, all orange targets will be used unless otherwise published in the shoot program or posted at registration.
- L. A shooter involved in a shoot-off with a broken gun shall be allowed a ten (10) minute time limit to repair or replace a broken gun, and then must continue in the shoot-off.

## **M. Team Eligibility**

The spirit and intent of these rules shall be interpreted to include all bona fide teams properly organized in pursuance of club and/or domicile requirements, and to exclude all teams of makeshift or pickup character, organized on the grounds and seeking to take advantage of technicalities either herein or in program stipulations or omissions.

### **1. Team Representation**

- A. The members of a team must be designated before the team begins the event.
- B. Team members shall be accredited by NSSA to the state in which they reside, but irrespective of residence, team members must not have represented any other club in a team event in any NSSA registered shoot at any time during the current year. A shooter who shoots on one club team, either two-man or five-man, shall by that act elect that club as the only club he/she shall represent in club team events during the current year. Exception: Service personnel who have, within this period, shot on teams sponsored by military organizations, such as division teams or teams representing specific departments of the same branch of the service, and have been required to do so as a duty assignment, may immediately shoot on teams representing individual military clubs, providing that said former teams have been definitely disbanded and also providing that they have been members in good standing of the clubs they are about to represent for a period of at least 90 days prior to the shoot.
- C. No individual may shoot on more than one team in any one event, even though both teams represent the same club, except in re-entry events where the program states that it is permissible.
- D. Team members shall not be eligible to shoot for any state championships except in the state in which they reside.

### **2. State Teams**

- A. A state five-man team shall consist of five (5) individuals; a state two-man team, two (2) individuals.
- B. Each member of a state team must have resided in the same state for at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the shoot.
- C. State teams may shoot in national competition, or in state shoots if approved by

the state organization.

### 3. Club Teams

- A. A club five-man team shall consist of five (5) individuals; a club two-man team, two (2) individuals.
- B. Team members must have been fully paid members of the club they represent for a period of at least 90 days prior to the date of the shoot (honorary, inactive, non-resident members or members whose dues or assessments are in arrears are not eligible).
- C. No person shall reside more than 100 miles from the club he/she represents unless he/ she resides in the same state in which the club he/she represents is located.
- D. The club represented must be affiliated and in good standing with the NSSA with dues currently paid.

### 4. Exceptions to Domicile and Club Membership Requirements. The provisions of domicile and club membership of individuals on club teams do not apply to:

- A. Shooters who have affected a bona fide change in place of domicile with resultant change in club membership affiliation.
- B. Clubs organized within less than 90 days prior to the date of the shoot, provided that members representing such clubs comply with Section VI-M-1-b.
- C. New members of any club who have never previously fired in a team event in an NSSA registered shoot.
- D. Privately-operated clubs, which require no paid membership, may, with the approval of NSSA, be represented by either two-man or five-man teams if the members of such teams meet all of the other requirements except those applying to club dues and club membership. Such team members must be certified by management of such club as having been active shooters of the club for a minimum of 90 days before they are eligible to shoot for that club.
- E. Former members of college teams and school teams who have become members of senior clubs after their graduation.
- F. Concurrent teams have no club and/or domicile restrictions to establish official or world records. Previously awarded World Records for concurrents will stand, i.e. will be "grand-fathered."

### 5. Open Teams. Records established by open teams shall not be accepted to establish official records.

### 6. Five-Man Teams

- A. To be eligible for tying or establishing world records, any five-man team MUST shoot shoulder-to-shoulder.
- B. Each five-man club team and state team shall designate a team captain who

shall be the team representative.

**7. Two-Man Teams.** Two-man teams may shoot in separate squads.

**8. Armed Forces Team Representation**

- A.** For team representation, the domicile of members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, USPHS and NOAA members shall be defined as the place of permanent assigned duty.
- B.** If a Service does not have five Military (ML) members entered in the shoot, shoot management may allow the team to include one Retired Military (RM) or one Military Veteran (MV) member, from the same Service as the ML members, to form a 5-man Armed Forces team. A team, so formed, is not eligible to establish any World record scores. The RM or MV member is not required to shoot shoulder-to-shoulder with the other four ML team members. (See Concurrent Events section for definitions of ML, RM and MV.)

**N. Official Scores**

- 1.** All scores or records, to be recognized as official, must be shot under the official NSSA rules.
  - A.** All scores shall be recorded as having been shot with the gun in which event they shot (e.g. scores shot with a 20 gauge gun in a 12 gauge event must be recorded as 12 gauge scores.) Such scores may not be included as part of a 20 gauge long run or average.
  - B.** When a shooter has started an event and realizes during or after the event the incorrect ammunition was used (e.g., 1 oz. 20 gauge shells in the 20 gauge event, etc.), that shooter must immediately notify the field referee or shoot management of the error. If possible, the competitor will be allowed to re-shoot the targets incorrectly fired upon and continue with the proper ammunition or re-shoot the entire event. If that is not possible, the shooter is disqualified from that event and the targets will not be registered. All targets incorrectly fired upon will not be reported to or recorded with NSSA.
- 2.** Only the scores shot on scheduled dates, approved by NSSA, shall be registered. Scores made in shoot-offs shall not be registered; however, all NSSA rules shall apply in shoot-offs.
- 3.** No shooter will be permitted to enter the same event more than once, even though his/her score has been disqualified. EXCEPT as noted and allowed in paragraph 1.b. above. With the exception of the World Shoot when a participant is allowed to shoot an additional increment of targets (50 or 100 targets) above those shot in a program event, the first increment shot shall be the targets for the program event.
- 4.** The scores of any shooter who takes part in a registered shoot shall be considered official, and shall be registered with the NSSA even though the shooter had given notice that it was not his/her intention to have his/her score recorded.
- 5.** While the management may refund the entry fees and permit withdrawal of shooters who would be required to compete under drastically changed and clearly

intolerable weather conditions or darkness not confronted by a majority of participants in an event, scores of all shooters who do participate must be recorded. In the event of extreme weather conditions, power failure, trap failure or unusually early darkness, the shoot management may elect to continue the event some other time (e.g. the next morning or the following weekend) but must immediately notify NSSA, with a full explanation, who will sanction the change, provided it is deemed in the best interest of skeet.

6. If a contestant stops or withdraws voluntarily, or after disqualification by the management, his/her partial score for the round in which he/she is shooting shall be entered as his/ her score of targets broken for that full round of twenty-five targets. He/she shall not be penalized; however, for any of the remaining full rounds of that particular event. Where such withdrawal is the result of sickness, injury, unrepairable gun, time delay beyond the shooter's control (for example due to weather, equipment breakdown, or shoot management) or for safety reasons, the shooter withdrawing shall be charged only with the targets actually fired upon in compiling and reporting his/her score. It shall be the shooter's responsibility to verify that the reason for this withdrawal is recorded on the score sheet or notifies shoot management. The target(s) and score(s), as reported, will then be used as an event for the purposes of classification. Withdrawal, regardless of the number of targets shot, is considered an event.
7. When a contestant stops or withdraws without finishing an event in which he/she has started, his/her partial scores shall be reported to the NSSA along with the other scores of the event.
8. The shoot management is responsible to see that each shooter's score is posted on the scoreboard within approximately 30 minutes after the last squad of each flight.

## **O. Registered Shoot Reports**

1. **Reporting Requirements.** It is the duty of each club or association holding a registered shoot to fulfill the following obligations.
  - A. Payments and reports must be received by NSSA Headquarters no more than 15 days after the last day of the shoot.
  - B. Make payments of all money, purses and options to the shooters.
  - C. Submit fees and reports due to state association.
  - D. Two reports (Financial Report and Registered Target Official Report) must be made to NSSA on all registered shoots. Standard forms available from NSSA Headquarters, or equivalent approved by NSSA Headquarters, must be used.
2. **Penalties.** Failure to fulfill the reporting requirements shall carry the following penalties:
  - A. All shoot reports and wrap-ups **MUST** be received at NSSA Headquarters within fifteen (15) days of the last day of the shoot. A \$25.00 DELINQUENT FEE will be charged to all clubs that have not submitted a registered shoot report and financial report (including all payments due) within the 15 days. For the second

and all subsequent late shoot reports, a \$100.00 fine will be imposed. Shoot reports from the previous year received past January 15 will have the fine, plus additional fees imposed depending on the lateness of the report. Also, after the second offense, suspension by NSSA from further sanctioned registered shoots is possible at the discretion of NSSA.

- B.** Cancellation of all subsequent shoot dates for the offending club or association.
- C.** Denial of right to apply or reapply for any further registered shoot dates for a period of thirty (30) days in case of first offense, or ninety (90) days in case of second or subsequent offense or until obligations have been met.
- D.** Officers of any delinquent club or association shall be barred from shooting registered targets until all required obligations of said club association are met to the shooters, to the state association and to NSSA.

### **3. Financial Report**

- A.** Daily Fees: List number of targets shot each day of shoot and remit to NSSA the required daily registration fee (in U.S. funds).
- B.** NSSA Dues Collected: Remittance (in U.S. funds) and duplicate copies of receipts for all types of NSSA memberships sold at your shoot must be attached. Membership applications must be completely and legibly filled out, including complete and accurate mailing address of purchaser. (Shooter buying membership receives original receipt.)

### **4. Registered Target Official Report.** An individual entry form/cashier sheet must be submitted on every shooter. Such report may be in either paper or electronic form and must include:

- A.** NSSA membership number
- B.** Full name or initials, corresponding to NSSA membership records
- C.** Member's city and state of residence
- D.** For each gauge in which the member participates (and HOA if appropriate) you must enter:
  - 1)** number of targets shot
  - 2)** number of targets broken
  - 3)** class in which member was entered
  - 4)** awards won. Regardless of what method was used in making awards, winners must be determined and reported under NSSA classification system. This applies even if no awards are made. Do not list winners above class champions unless such awards were made.
- E.** Clubs are not **REQUIRED** to deliver or mail a copy of official shoot reports to the shooter. They are, however, required to retain copies of scoreboard and/or field score sheet on file for 90 days after the end of the applicable shooting year

## P. Disqualification and Expulsion

The shoot management shall upon proper evidence:

1. Disqualify any shooter for the remainder of the shoot program for willful or repeated violation of gun safety precautions which endanger the safety of shooters, field personnel and/or spectators. For example, throwing a gun is considered a willful violation of the gun safety precautions.
2. Elect to refuse entry or cause the withdrawal of any contestant whose conduct in the opinion of the shoot management is unsportsmanlike or whose participation is in any way detrimental to the best interests of the shoot.
3. Any shooter may be disqualified from a shoot for misrepresentation of his/her status under the eligibility rules.
4. Expel any shooter physically assaulting a referee or any shooter using extreme, abusive language to a referee upon adequate evidence presented by the chief referee.
5. The shoot management shall report to the NSSA all cases of disqualification and expulsion and the reasons for same. Subsequent action by the Executive Committee could result in being expelled and barred from further membership in the NSSA, after the shooter has had the opportunity to appear before the Executive Committee and present his/her case.

## Q. Protests

1. **ONLY A SHOOTER, SHOOT MANAGEMENT OR REFEREE MAY INITIATE A PROTEST** when:
  - A. In his/her opinion, the rules as stated herein have been improperly applied.
  - B. The conditions under which another shooter has been permitted to shoot are improper or otherwise questionable.
  - C. He/she feels an error has been made in the compilation of a score.
2. **A protest is not required for shoot management to take corrective action on an error in scoring upon discovery.**
3. Failure to comply with the following requirements and procedures will automatically void the protest.
  - A. A protest shall be initiated immediately, when it is possible to do so, upon the occurrence of the protested incident.
  - B. Any protest involving an incident occurring on the field during a round must be made within thirty (30) minutes of the occurrence of the incident.
  - C. Other protests (not involving an incident occurring on the field during a round) shall be filed in writing directly with shoot management as soon as possible; but in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after the discovery of the incident the shooter wishes to protest.

**D.** 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.

**4.** Protest Process:

**A. Protests involving an incident occurring on the field:**

- 1)** Should an incident occur during the shooting of a round, the initial protest shall be filed verbally with the field referee. A protest involving the scoring of a target, if filed immediately on the station, shall result in a second shot, or shots, being fired and the results recorded and noted as being associated with a protest. For other types of protests not involving the scoring of a target, the referee shall record the time of the incident, will rule upon the occurrence, and then without delay proceed with the round as if nothing had happened.
- 2)** After the completion of the last round, the referee shall state the complaint verbally to the chief referee (or shoot management when there is no chief referee) who shall then rule on the protest. In cases where the shooter is unsatisfied with the decision made by the chief referee, the shooter may file a written protest with shoot management, stating all the facts in the case. Such protests 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.
- 3)** Shoot management/protest committee responsibility with a protest: In order that protests may be uniformly and fairly handled, the protesting shooter and the protest committee (defined as either shoot management, or a judge or panel of judges appointed by shoot management, and delegated with the authority to fulfill shoot management's protest responsibilities as defined herein) should observe the following guidelines.
  - a)** Determine if:
    - i.** An incident occurred.
    - ii.** A protest was made in a timely manner in accordance with Section V-Q-3.
    - iii.** A verbal protest was made to the chief referee (when appropriate).
    - iv.** The chief referee ruled on the protest (when appropriate).
  - b)** Then:
    - i.** If there was a chief referee, was the complaint brought to his/her attention by the protesting shooter (when appropriate)?
    - ii.** Was the written protest tendered to shoot management within 24 hours of the protested incident?
    - iii.** Is the shooter not protesting a referee's decision of fact?

- iv. 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?
- v. If the above questions (i. through iv.) can all be answered "Yes," the protest committee should then decide whether to grant or deny the protest.
- vi. If the answer to any of the questions above (i. through iv.) is "No," the protest is invalid.

**B. Protests not involving an incident occurring on the field:**

- 1) Protests not involving an incident occurring on the field shall be filed in writing directly with shoot management/protest committee as soon as possible but in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after the discovery of the incident the shooter wishes to protest.
- 2) Shoot management/protest committee must reply within 48 hours of receipt of the protest.

**C. Final Recourse.** If not satisfied with the decision of the shoot management/protest committee, the shooter may file a written appeal with the NSSA Headquarters stating all the facts. Such an appeal must be filed within seven (7) days after the decision of shoot management has been made known to the protestor. Any appeal to the NSSA Headquarters 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 Section V-Q-4 above to the NSSA upon request.

**R. Event 6**

In an effort to promote and introduce shooters to skeet shooting without causing additional expense to gun clubs, "Event 6" can be used to host a variety of different skeet shooting matches. These matches can be tailored to members' and non-members' wants and desires. Event 6 is designed to put the fun back into local skeet shoots. Anyone can shoot and be eligible for all awards. You don't have to be a member of the NSSA to shoot, and the awards are based on a class system similar to Lewis Class, so anyone can win. The targets are registered for NSSA members and count towards lifetime targets only and are not to be recorded on the classification card.

**1. Rules**

- A. Any gun or gauge may be used.
- B. Pulling/scoring/refereeing and following NSSA rules can be the responsibility of the squad.

- C. All targets will be registered separately and will only be counted towards lifetime-registered targets.
- D. Anyone and everyone can shoot and be eligible for all awards.
- E. All NSSA Safety Rules apply.
- F. It is permissible to squad Event 6 registered with regular registered shooters.

## 2. **Shoot Applications**

- A. Handle the same as in the Club Qualifications section. Designate shoot as an Event 6 shoot. This will provide for standardization and effective management of shoot and financial reports.
- B. When application is received and a shoot number is assigned applicable shoot, financial report forms and award order forms will be forwarded to clubs.

## 3. **Fees.** Standard NSSA and state fees apply for both NSSA members and non-members. Fees for non-members go for daily membership to be eligible for prizes.

## 4. **Shoot Report**

- A. Report all NSSA member scores by name and NSSA member number this will ensure targets are added to lifetime target totals.
- B. Report winners list. This list includes NSSA members and non-members as applicable. This list will be published in the Clay Target Nation.

## 5. **Types of “Event 6” Matches:**

- A. Regular Skeet and Doubles: It is permissible to squad Event 6 registered with regular registered shooters.
- B. NSSA Vintage Skeet: The same format used in standard NSSA skeet with the following possible exceptions:
  - 1) Only pump/slide action or side-by-side guns are to be used.
  - 2) After mounting the gun the stock can be dropped slightly before calling for the target.
- C. Champion of Champion: When conducted as a separate event, 25 targets each in 12 gauge, 20 gauge, 28 gauge and .410 bore.

## 6. **Determining Awards: Both NSSA and Daily Members Are Eligible to Win.**

- A. Example: Your program (or poster) has promised 1 award every 6 entries. You have 22 entries divided by 6 = 3.66 or 4 awards.
- B. Score below line is winner; however, if more than one score exists either above or below the line there is a tie. Ties may be divided by shoot-off or combined total of either long runs (forward and backward) or coin flip/draw card or any other method you may choose.

C. Club must decide how to determine winners when ties exist and post this information before the shoot starts!

D. Example of scores:

98            Winner  
97  
95  
95  
94\*  
94\*            \*Tied for Winner

94\*  
93  
92  
92  
92  
91\*\*            \*\*Tied for Winner

91\*  
91\*  
90  
90  
89  
88\*\*\*            \*\*\*Tied for Winner

88\*\*\*  
88\*\*\*  
88\*\*\*  
82

## SECTION VI - REFEREES (Excerpts in Referee Handbook)

### A. Licensed Referee

1. NSSA official referees shall pass prescribed written examinations (with the aid of a rule book) and also eye tests, using glasses if necessary. For the eye test, a visual card system will suffice and save cost of a professional eye examination. Eye test cards are available through NSSA Member Services.
  - A. These examinations will be given by their state associations or NSSA affiliated clubs.
  - B. Applications for official NSSA referee cards and emblems shall be approved by the applicant's state association, where one exists, or by an NSSA affiliated club where there is no state or district association.
  - C. It is recommended that all state organizations adopt the policy of using only NSSA official referees as chief referees.
2. Referees for NSSA World Championship Shoots
  - A. All applicants must be licensed NSSA referees for the current year.

- B.** Each applicant must be recommended in writing by two current officers of his/her state association or by one NSSA director from his/her state or zone.

## **B. Chief Referee**

When shoot management designates a chief referee, he/she shall have general supervision over all other referees and shall be present throughout the shooting.

1. It shall be his/her responsibility to appoint the necessary assistant chief referees, and all other referees shall meet with his/her approval.
2. The chief referee shall designate and assign the referees to the fields and shall be held responsible for their conduct at all times during the shoot.
3. It is recommended that the chief referee has the responsibility of instructing all other referees and being certain they are acquainted with the rules and approved interpretations. This also applies to any VRS, selected for use by Shoot Management. Shoot Management and/or the Chief Referee should ensure that all referees have been properly trained on the use of the VRS so they can consistently release targets without interference to the shooter. This training must contain guidelines on when to revert to a manual release of targets when a shooter's call fails to activate the VRS.
4. It shall be the chief referee and/or shoot management's responsibility to stop a shoot or shoot-off when darkness or other conditions prevent a fair chance to shoot. This action must be carried out simultaneously on all fields. Example: Use of public address system or the shutting off of power; or a suitable signal, the significance of which is known to all referees.
5. Use of the referee's eye test card - 5/16" dot at 21 yards - is MANDATORY. Eye test cards are available through NSSA Member Services.
6. Where practical, each state association should appoint a chief referee for its state. It is suggested that this chief referee be placed in charge of all referees in the state and that he/she conduct training courses to develop better referees.

## **C. Field Referee**

The field referee is responsible for the conduct of shooting on the field to which he/she has been assigned. On this field, he/she shall have jurisdiction over the area in rear of the field (that used by other shooters and spectators) as well as over the actual shooting area.

1. He/she shall be completely familiar with the shoot program, any VRS used during the tournament, and the NSSA rules.
2. He/she must be constantly alert, impartial and courteous (though firm) in the handling of shooters.
3. Upon protest, the referee shall rule upon the occurrence, and then without delay, proceed with the round as if nothing had happened. After the completion of the last round, he/she shall notify the chief referee.
4. The referee shall distinctly announce all lost targets and all no bird targets.

5. The referee shall see that each shooter has a fair opportunity to shoot in his/her turn, and if a shooter has been unduly interfered with while shooting, he/she shall declare no bird and allow the shooter another shot.
6. The referee shall declare no bird as soon as possible when:
  - A. The shooter's position is not according to the rules. The shooter shall be warned by the referee of his/her illegal shooter's position, but if he/she continues to violate the position, he/she shall be penalized by the loss of one target for each subsequent violation in that event.
  - B. Target does not emerge within the allowed time after the shooter's call.
  - C. Target emerges before shooter's call.
  - D. An irregular target is thrown in singles, doubles or proof doubles.
7. It shall be the referee's first duty to declare "no bird" as quickly as possible when he/she determines that an irregular target has been thrown.
  - A. If the shooter fires before the no bird call, the result of the shot shall be scored.
  - B. In the case of doubles or proof doubles, if the referee's call of no bird occurs after the firing of the first shot the result of the first shot shall be scored and a proof double shall be thrown to determine the result of the second shot only.
  - C. No result of firing on a broken target shall be scored.
8. The result of shooting at a target after it has been declared no bird shall not be scored and the shot will be repeated in all instances.
9. Dusted targets or perforated targets that are retrieved after landing shall be declared lost.
10. When the targets thrown from any machine are repeatedly irregular, the referee shall suspend shooting and order the machine adjusted or repaired. At shooter's request, after such repair or adjustment, the referee should allow shooter to observe a target, if such request is reasonable and not excessive.
11. The referee shall grant a shooter permission to shoot out of his/her regular turn where it is justified.
12. The referee shall disqualify, for the event:
  - A. A shooter who in his/her opinion has willfully interfered with another shooter while the latter is shooting.
  - B. Any shooter who repeatedly violates any of the safety precautions listed in Section I or for any act that in the referee's opinion endangers the safety of shooters, field personnel or spectators.
13. It shall also be the field referee's responsibility to supervise the keeping of correct scores and to see that all scores are verified by the respective shooters before the score sheet is taken from the field.

- A. Every regular target fired upon shall be shown on the score pad and it is recommended that the mark / or "X" be used to signify dead and "O" to signify lost.
  - B. If an error in score-keeping is discovered on the field, the field referee shall remedy it promptly at the time of discovery.
  - C. In the event there is any question as to the correctness of a score after the score sheet leaves the field, shoot management shall check with the field referee and order the score corrected if it is determined that an error has been made.
  - D. The referee's responsibility in seeing that shooters verify their scores is to announce after each round, please check your scores.
14. The referee shall be the SOLE judge of decision of fact. For example, his/her decision as to whether a target is dead or lost shall be irrevocable, regardless of the opinion of spectators or other members of the squad.
15. It is better for a referee to continue to officiate at the same field.
- A. Relief referees shall not take over the fields until the shooters have completed the round, except in cases of emergency, such as illness, etc.
  - B. Any changes to a field referee must receive prior approval from shoot management or the chief referee.
  - C. An incapacitated referee, upon replacement, relinquishes all responsibility for officiating and scoring to the replacement referee.
  - D. No NSSA official referee may be disqualified in the middle of a round, but he/she may choose to disqualify himself.
16. Only assigned field referees, as designated by shoot management or the chief referee, may pull, score or referee registered targets. A voice release system may be used but requires a trained field referee releasing the targets. At the beginning of a round, with the permission of the Chief Referee or shoot management, a squad may self-pull while the assigned field referee continues to officiate and score.
17. Whenever possible, have assigned field referees at registered shoots. However, in an effort to offer reduced shoot entry fees, shoot management may elect to have squads self-referee IF it is published in the shoot program and/or at the shoot registration desk. In such cases, the squad leadoff shooter shall be responsible for carrying the score sheet to and from the field; having each shooter initial his/her final score at the end of the final round; and instructing the squad that the shooter pulling targets will act as the field referee, i.e., calling lost /dead targets and "no bird" for a fast/slow pull or and irregular target. In cases of any dispute or protest situation, these should be taken to shoot management immediately upon completion of the last round. Any protest to be filed must follow existing procedures as published in Section V-Q.

#### **D. Mandatory Positions for Referees**

1. Using Manual Pull Devices
  - A. For shooting Station 1 (1R), stand six feet to the right and three (3) feet back of the front of Station 1 where possible.
  - B. For shooting Station 2 (2R), stand six (6) feet back and three (3) feet to the right of Station 2.
  - C. 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.
  - D. 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.
  - E. For shooting Station 8 (8R), stand on center line of the field, not less than six (6) feet from shooter (and not more than 10 feet).
  - F. 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.
  - G. Exception: A shooter may request the referee to move behind the station, or out of the peripheral vision of the shooter, at Stations 3, 5 and 8.
2. Using Voice Release Systems: While a referee must stand as close as possible to the mandatory positions detailed in section VI-D above, 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.

## SECTION VII - RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

### A. High Average Leaders

For the purpose of determining yearly champions and High Overall Leaders on the basis of average alone, leaders will be recognized if they have shot the following standard requirements of registered targets.

	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>.410</b>	<b>Dbls</b>
<b>Open Team</b>	1000	1000	1000	1000	500
<b>All Concurrents</b>	800	800	800	800	500
<b>Sub-Jr/Sr-Vet</b>	700	500	400	400	300
<b>Sup-Vet</b>	500 regardless of gauge or Dbls				

1. For consideration for Annual High Average Leader recognition, only targets shot at registered shoots with ten or more entrants per event will be counted. Monthly targets and targets only are excluded from the calculation, except where a sub-junior, junior or collegiate shooter chooses not to pay the mandatory purse portion of an entry fee. This rule applies ONLY to the seven (7) Jay Schatz Annual High Average Leader awards for Open 12, 20, 28, 410, Dbls, HOA, Lady HOA, and the Robert Nesbitt Veteran HOA award.

## B. All-American Team

Candidates for All-American selection must have shot standard target requirements in the .410, 28, 20, 12 and doubles events.

	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>.410</b>	<b>Dbls</b>
<b>Open Team</b>	1000	1000	1000	1000	500
<b>All Concurrents</b>	800	800	800	800	500
<b>Sub-Jr/Sr-Vet</b>	700	500	400	400	300
<b>Sup-Vet</b>	500 regardless of gauge or Dbls				

## C. Long-Run Records

1. Only scores shot in registered events, other than monthly targets or targets only, shall be included in official long run records. Scores shot with a smaller gun than the one for which the event is scheduled shall not be accredited as part of a long run with the smaller gun.
2. Shoot-off targets and other non-registered targets shall not be counted as part of a long run.
3. All long runs shall be compiled in the order in which the scoring appears on the official score sheets except the optional shot shall be counted in the proper sequence where it was fired. The sequence in which the official score sheets are posted must coincide with the sequence in which the scores were broken.

## D. High Overall Averages

For purposes of determining yearly all-around averages, divide by 4 the total of a shooter's year end averages in all four gauges.

## E. Rookie

For All-American honors, is defined as an individual who shoots NSSA standards as required for concurrent categories, was not a "classified shooter" [see glossary] in any gauge with receipt of their current-year classification card or in any prior shooting year, nor has ever held an "initial classification" or "regular classification" under previous classification systems in any gauge or doubles. A shooter is only eligible to compete for Rookie All American Honors for one shooting year during their lifetime. Such a shooter may shoot their initial registered targets of a shoot year and, if they do not become a "classified shooter" in any gauge or doubles by December 31 of that year, will be eligible for Rookie All-American honors and may enter single-shoot rookie concurrent events the following shoot year. In the spirit of this concurrent event, a shooter is eligible to compete in shoots as a rookie and be eligible for Rookie All-American honors only once in a lifetime based on this maximum two consecutive shoot years.

## F. Honor Squad

Is comprised of those individuals who have shot NSSA standards in their open or concurrent categories in the current and previous year.

## **SECTION VIII - INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING**

- A.** The NSSA no longer hosts international shooting events as international shotgun shooting events are now sanctioned and held by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) and USA Shooting.
- B.** For more information contact the ISSF (<https://www.issf-sports.org>) or USA Shooting (<https://usashooting.org/>).

## SECTION IX - CHANGE LOG

<b>Date</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
Jan. 17, 2026	I.A.12.D	Clarified release trigger labeling requirements.
Jan. 17, 2026	II.A	Editorial update reflected electronic access to Rule Book.
Jan. 17, 2026	X.Y	Clarified Regular Target definition regarding wind conditions.
Apr. 20, 2026	V.J.2.D	Clarified procedures for shoots transitioning from daylight to nighttime.

## SECTION X - GLOSSARY

- A. Balk.** Failure to shoot at a regular target or double due to the fault of the shooter.
- B. Class Assigned.** The assigned class of any shooter is the class he/she would be required to shoot in a subsequent event, whether or not he/she ever shot an event in that class.
- C. Classified shooter** in each gauge is any shooter who has fired five (5) or more events in that gauge in the current and previous three (3) years combined.
- D. Current Year:** The twelve month period January 1 through December 31 of the year for which classification is being determined.
- E. Dead Target.** A target from which, in the sole judgment of the referee, a visible piece is observed before the target hits the ground as a result of having been legally fired upon.
- F. Defective Ammunition.**
- A.** Failure to fire, provided firing pin indentation is clearly noticeable.
  - B.** When a target is missed in the case of an odd-sounding shell, which in the sole judgment of the field referee does not deliver the shot the distance to the target, and therefore does not give the shooter a fair opportunity to break the target.  
NOTE: If a target is broken with an odd-sounding shell, it shall be scored dead regardless and will not be considered defective ammo. Odd-sounding shells where the shot does travel the distance to the bird and provide the shooter a fair chance to break the target will not be considered defective ammo and the results of those shots will be scored.
  - C.** Brass pulling off hull between shots on doubles.
  - D.** Separation of brass from casing when gun is fired (usually accompanied by a whistling sound as the plastic sleeve leaves the barrel).
- 2.** NOTE: Wrong sized shells or empty shells shall not be considered defective ammunition.
- G. Event.** An event for purposes of classification is the gauge event as defined by the shoot program. This could be 50 or more targets as scheduled by the club for the event except in the case of monthly targets which must be shot in 50 or 100-bird increments. Thus, a 200-bird shoot could be either one or two events as defined by the shoot program. Preliminaries and additional registered targets in any gauge will be considered separate events for classification purposes. 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). Exceptions:
- 1.** Although the Mini-World is not considered a preliminary, you do not reclassify before shooting the Main World, but you do use it separately as a different event when reclassifying after the World. Note: Monthly Targets are events of 50 or 100-

bird increments only. For League Targets, each league is an event consisting of the total birds shot for that league.

2. Champion of Champion targets are not registered targets and none of the various gauge scores will be used in classification or reclassification.

**H. Gauge.** The term gauge used in this classification section includes International skeet and doubles as well as 12 gauge, 20 gauge, 28 gauge and .410 bore.

**I. Gun Position.** Any safe position which is comfortable to the shooter.

**J. Interference.** Any circumstance beyond the shooter's control which unduly affects his/her opportunity to break any particular target is interference.

**K. Irregular Double.** Either or both targets of a double thrown as irregular targets or only one target is thrown.

**L. Irregular Target.**

1. An unbroken target that has not conformed to the definition of a regular target.
2. Two targets thrown simultaneously in singles. See Section IV-G-6 for details about to shoot or withhold their shot.
3. Target thrown broken. Under no circumstances shall the result of firing upon a broken target be scored.

**M. League Targets** are targets shot during a regularly scheduled NSSA or club skeet league.

**N. Lost Target.** A target from which, in the sole judgment of the referee, no visible piece is broken as a result of having been fired upon.

**O. Malfunction of Gun.** Failure of gun to operate or function through **no fault of the shooter.**

**P. Monthly Targets** are registered targets shot on all or selected days of the month.

**Q. New shooter** in each gauge is any shooter who has not fired five registered events in that gauge during the current and previous three (3) years combined, even if he/she was previously a classified shooter in that gauge

**R. No Bird.** Any target thrown for which no score is recorded, or failure of a target to be thrown within the prescribed time limit of one second.

**S. NSSA Shooting Year.** The NSSA shooting year shall be any twelve month period running from January 1 through the following December 31.

**T. Open Teams.** An open team is one which is composed of members with no restriction as to club or domicile.

**U. Optional Shot.** The shot fired after the first 24 targets have been scored dead in any one round (Station 8 low house only); or fired following the shooter's first lost target. It must be fired from same station and at the same house as the one first missed.

**V. Previous Year.** The twelve month period immediately preceding the current shooting year, (i.e. January 1 - December 31).

**W. Proof Double.** A repeat of a regular double requiring two live rounds of ammo.

**X. Regular Double.** A regular target thrown from each skeet house simultaneously.

**Y. Regular Target.** A regular target is one that appears after the shooter's call and within a period not to exceed one (1) second, and **which passes within a three-foot circle centered at a point fifteen (15) feet above the target-crossing point.** The target-crossing point shall be measured from the level of Station 8. The target, in still air, must carry to a distance equivalent, on level ground, to 60 yards from the skeet house **when passing through the center of the hoop, with an allowance tolerance of plus or minus two yards.** The prevailing wind during a shoot may cause the targets to fall short or long, but they are regular targets providing they pass through the setting hoop.

**Z. Round of Skeet.** A round of skeet for one person consists of twenty-five (25) shots, the object being to score the greatest number of dead targets.

**AA. Running (Current) Average.** A classified shooter's running (current) average, is the average of their most recent five events that they have shot in that gauge. It is the total of those five (5) scores divided by the total number of targets shot

**BB. Shooting Bounds.** For Stations 1 to 7, inclusive, an area forty-four (44) yards in front of the skeet house from which the target is thrown. For Station 8, the distance from the skeet house to a point directly over a line with Station 4, 8 and the target crossing point.

#### **CC. Skeet Squad**

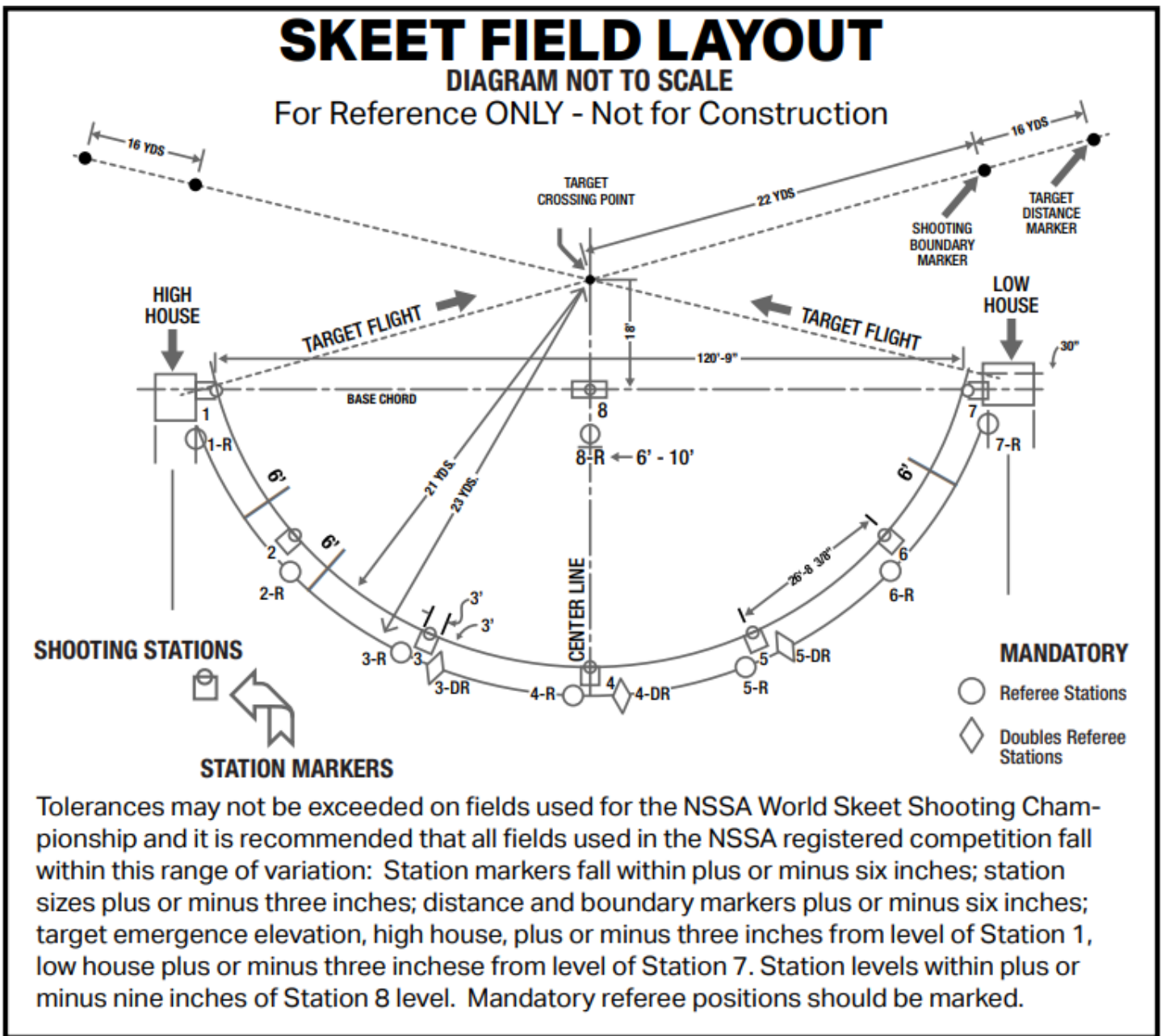
1. A normal skeet squad is composed of five (5) shooters.
2. Any five (5) shooters may designate themselves as a squad. All shooters shall be formed into squads of five (5) shooters each, as nearly as possible. Less than five (5) is permissible for expedience, but more than six (6) should not be squadded for safety reasons.

#### **DD. Targets Only**

1. Targets shot in increments of 100 targets, or 50 targets for 50-target programs, on the day of a registered shoot, or targets shot above the number scheduled for the event, and for which no winner is declared and no tangible prizes awarded. Targets only will be recorded on the day shot, and reported by the club with their report.
2. Those registered targets shot by a sub-junior, junior, collegiate or new shooter if they do not pay any portion of the mandatory purse.

# SECTION XI - EXHIBITS

## A. Exhibit 1. Skeet Field Layout.



B. Exhibit 2. Zone Map

