

**Rules & Classification Committee Meeting**  
**Phone Conference**  
**January 10, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM EST by the Committee Chairman, Trish Magyar. Members present were: Bill Batty (MA); John Bratty (CAN); King Heiple (OH); Don Kelly (WI); Sid Miller (NY); Debby Perry (MD); Jim Tiner (NC) and Mike Dowling (NSSA). Woody Anderson (TX) and Dan Lewis (CA) provided advance notification they would be unable to attend.

**Motion made by Bill Batty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sid Miller, to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2014 Rules and Classification Committee phone conference. Motion passed all in favor.**

**1. Registered Target Official Report (II-H-4).** Don Kelly recommended we modify II-H-4 to include electronic submission of shoot reports. **Motion by Sid Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tiner, to reword the second sentence of II-H-4 so it reads:**

Such report may be in either paper or electronic form, and must include:

**Motion passed all in favor. [Housekeeping]**

**2. Smoking on the Field.** Debby Perry requested we revisit the issue of shooters and referees smoking during a round. Wording was in the "Skeet Etiquette" portion of the Rules Book, but somewhere along the way was deleted. Upon further review, the wording is still present. Recommend we include specific language in the "Referee Handbook" that referees should not smoke during a round, but it is permissible to smoke between rounds. **No further action necessary.**

**3. Time Balk (III-C-3-f).** There have been numerous inquiries as to HOW to apply the rule; i.e., when does the 10 seconds start; what if only one individual is slow, but the squad as whole completes a round, including breaks, in 20 minutes or less? The rule, as it is currently written, has caused a lot of angst, especially where newer, as well as older, shooters are concerned. Though responsibility rests with the leadoff shooter to keep the squad moving, and the referee is in charge of the field, there is little either could really do if we were to eliminate the time balk rule in its entirety, and focus solely on III-B-7 (Slow Squads). If the squad as a whole is shooting in the required time, then it's not an issue. However, if the slowest shooter or shooters on the squad make it so the squad is not able to comply with III-B-7, then they need to be held accountable. **Motion by Don Kelly, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debby Perry, to reword III-C-3-f to read:**

Each successive time balk. When a shooter steps on 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 contributes to the round exceeding the 20 minute per round allowance, inclusive of breaks between rounds (see III-B-7). The referee may warn the shooter once each round without penalty.

**Motion passed all in favor. [Housekeeping]**

**4. Adjusting Targets During a Round (III-B-3 and IV-D-10).** John Bratty has noticed an increase in the number of squads that want to adjust targets during the round due to wind changes. Though there is nothing in the rules that precludes this, there's nothing that permits it, either. Most shooters believe they can only adjust targets at the beginning of the round, unless there's an issue with the trap. **Motion by Sid Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Batty, to change the first sentence of IV-D-10 to read** (changes underlined):

When the targets from any machine are repeatedly irregular due to a mechanical malfunction, the referee shall suspend shooting and order the machine adjusted or repaired...

**Motion failed; four in favor and five opposed.** Per I-F, a target can fall short or long of the distance marker due to the wind, but if it would pass through a setting hoop, it's a regular target. Per IV-D-10, if a trap is consistently throwing irregular targets (i.e., they wouldn't pass through a setting hoop), a mechanic should be called to the field to either adjust or repair the trap. The referee determines if the targets are irregular.

**5. Proof Double (III-A-8).** Last year we discussed instances where a shooter would intentionally place a spent or defective shell in the first chamber of a gun when shooting a proof double. The definition of a proof double is a repeat of a double, which implies two live rounds. To reiterate last year's recommendations:

**Revise the wording to III-A-8 to read, "A repeat of a double requiring two live rounds of ammunition." [Housekeeping]**

**The Referee Manual will specify that proof doubles must be shot with two live rounds of ammunition.**

If a spent or defective shell is used for the first shot of a proof double, the second shot will be scored as lost. III-C-3-a would apply in this instance (failure of gun to fire due to fault of shooter).

**6. Referee Exam Review.** The Committee members had no corrections or changes to the referee exam.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar  
Chairman, Rules and Classification Committee