

NSSA Rules Committee Meeting Minutes January 15, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 11:02am CST by the Committee Chairman, Trish Magyar (Zone 3). Members present were: Woody Anderson (Zone 6), John Bratty (Zone 8), Don Kelly (Zone 5), Dan Lewis (Zone 7), Sid Miller (Zone 1) and Debbi Perry (Zone 2). Also present was Gary Burley (NSSA). Dick Dietz (NSSA Chief Referee) and Jim Tiner (Zone 4) provided advanced notification they would be unable to attend.

Motion by Don Kelly, 2nd by Woody Anderson, to approve the minutes; motion passed all in favor. It was noted the Rules need to be updated as a result of one housekeeping item. Also, the Executive Committee needs to approve forwarding the rules change to allow any shoot to register Champion of Champion targets, so long as it is conducted as a separate event (not concurrently with the main events). The event would be conducted as an "Event 6" with the targets going to lifetime totals, only.

1. Release Triggers. Jim Tiner was tasked with reviewing the email from Paul Giambone, Jr. to add to the Rules Book specific procedures regarding release triggers, and to look for other instances where release triggers need to be highlighted. For example, if a shooter has released the trigger but the gun failed to fire for the second shot on a double, how is the referee supposed to ascertain the trigger was actually set? If the trigger was set and released, and the ammunition malfunctions, the ejector would normally extract the un-shot shell. However, if the gun "malfunctions" it's impossible to determine if the shooter simply forgot to set the trigger or if the trigger was set and released, short of the shooter admitting the trigger wasn't set. Jim Tiner recommended we add procedures to the rules to allow for the safe discharge of the shotgun, should it be necessary, when a shooter is deprived of firing at the second target of a double. Also, that we separately call-out the release trigger rules in the Referee's Handbook, as well as recommend that referees indicate on the score sheet next to a shooter's name if using a release trigger (i.e., "R/R" for release-release; "R/P" for release-pull; or "P/R" for pull-release).

Housekeeping: Add to the end of III-D-8-d, "See III-G-11 for appropriate procedure when the shooter hold downs the trigger of a release trigger."

III-G-11. Make the first sentence III-G-11-a.

Add III-G-11-b: 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.

Make the last four sentences III-G-11-c.

2. I-D. Mandatory Positions for Referees. Our rules permit the referee to stand behind stations 3 & 5 when requested by the shooter if the referee is in the shooter's peripheral vision. The same leeway should be allowed for station 8.

Housekeeping: Reword the "exception" at the end of I-D-1 to read, "*Exception: A shooter may request the referee to move behind the station, or out of the peripheral vision of the shooter, at Stations 3, 4 and 8.*"

3. II-A-5. Squadding Restrictions. The wording concerning non-registered shooting during a registered event and the use of "pacers" needs to be improved.

Housekeeping: Reword the first sentence of II-A-5 to read, “The squadding of practice shooting within a squad shooting a registered event shall not be allowed.” Also, under the exception, replace “two additional shooters” with “two pacers”.

- 4. II-B-4. Concurrent Event Awards.** Mandate Concurrent Event entry be “No Charge” (i.e. Honors Only). Exception would be allowed when there is a tangible award as is the case at a lot of State & Zone shoots, as well as the Mini World and World. There were strong feelings for and against mandating “honors only” for concurrent events.

Motion by Debbi Perry, 2nd by John Bratty, to make concurrent events “honors only” with exceptions when tangible prizes (such as medals) are awarded and optional purses. Motion passed, with two opposed, for the Executive Committee to forward the change to the full Board of Directors for a vote.

II-B-2, 3 & 4 would be affected as follows:

Strike, “..., even if there is not a separate entry fee for those concurrent events” from second to last sentence in II-B-2.

Change II-B-3-c to read:

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.

Change II-B-4 to read, “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.

Housekeeping: II-B-3-a add, “military veteran” before “retired military” in the first sentence.

- 5. II-C-4-e, f & g. Concurrent Determination for Sub-Juniors, Juniors & Collegiate.** With the increasing participation of registered shooters from the SCTP ranks, recommend we consider changing from “age” to year in school. Thus, a Sub-Junior would be an individual who is in Grade 8 or under on January 1st; a Junior would be an individual in Grades 9-12; a Collegiate would be an individual enrolled full-time as an undergraduate in an accredited university or college. After discussion, it was decided that only the definition for junior would need to be changed to “protect” those shooters who turn 18 prior to January 1st and are still in high school.

Motion by Woody Anderson, 2nd by Debbi Perry, to change the definition for a Junior (II-C-4-f) to, “A junior (JR) is any person who has not reached their eighteenth birthday OR has not yet graduated from high school and has not reached their nineteenth birthday.” Motion passed all in favor for the Executive Committee to forward the change to the full Board of Directors for a vote.

6. II-C-4-o & q. Concurrent Definitions for Military (ML) and Military Veteran (MV).

A revision, which can be handled as a "housekeeping" item, to the definitions for ML and MV was submitted by the Zone 9 Executive Committee Representative, Chris Naler so the correctly reflect the military status. *Note: Gary Burley will confirm wording with Chris Naler.*

Housekeeping: Reword II-C-4-o to read, "A military shooter (ML) is any member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserve Component or National/Air National Guard, National Oceanic Administration (NOAA) or U.S. Public Health Service (USHPS) in possession of an Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Convention Identification Card.

Reword II-C-q to read, "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 uniformed service member fulfilling his/her Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) commitment.

7. II-F-7. Official Scores. Add wording that permits a shooter to withdraw from an event for safety reasons. There have been reports of shooters being told to continue shooting when there was lightning in the area.

Housekeeping: Reword II-F-7, "Where such withdrawal is the result of sickness, injury or unrepairable gun..." to "Where such withdrawal is the result of sickness, injury, unrepairable gun or *for safety reasons...*"

8. III-B-3. Shooter's Right to Observe Targets. Received recommendation to add that target adjustments made during the course of a round can only be done after all squad members have completed the station. The consensus of the Committee was this isn't practical, since there are a number of circumstances that could preclude the whole squad from completing the station. **No action taken.**

9. III-D-8-c. Malfunction on Singles or First Shot on Doubles. (WYC? Article October CTN) Email from Duane Parker suggested that if a double barrel gun is being used if both shells are extracted/ejected then that, too, would indicate a misfire. The Committee agrees, but we can't address every possible scenario in the rules. Though Wyatt Hampton's interpretation that if the gun fires the target is lost is correct, referees should assess the circumstances to confirm if the gun otherwise did or didn't malfunction (i.e., determine if the first or second barrel fired).

Housekeeping. Change III-D-8-c to read as follows:

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, etcetera, establishes that the shooter had fulfilled required responsibilities.

10. III-E-2. Doubles or Proof Doubles. Consider a "no bird" call with nothing established when the targets collide after firing upon the first target, which appeared to have been missed, because there isn't the opportunity to "watch the (first) target to the ground." **No action taken.**

11. VI-B. How to Protest. WYC? article #8 was put on hold until we could address the wording in the Rules regarding the timing for protests when, after the completion of shooting an event, a shooter feels an error was made.

Motion by Sid Miller to revise VI-B to specifically permit shooting of protest targets *after* the shooter has completed the event. Motion withdrawn due to lack of a 2nd.

The Committee agreed that common sense should prevail, and if Headquarters is presented with a situation similar to the one described where shoot management agrees the referee made an error and allows the affect individual to re-shoot the protested target after the completion of the event, that is the correct decision.
No action taken.

12. Proposals Submitted to the Executive Committee in September 2016

- i. **Create a “Professional Division”.** We had, many years ago, a separate category for “Industry” shooters that was eliminated because the consensus was that they did NOT have an advantage over other shooters. The Committee agreed that “sponsorship” of a shooter by gun and ammunition manufacturers doesn’t make that individual a “better shooter” or give him/her an unfair advantage over non-sponsored shooters. Those individuals would still be top shooters without the sponsorship; their ability is what gets them the sponsorship – not the other way around. ***No action taken.***
- ii. **Create/promote Teams.** The inclusion/promotion of team events is already available to shoot management. ***No action taken.***
- iii. **Change Shoot-offs.** Our rules already allow shoot management to conduct shoot-offs however they choose, so long as the deviation is published in the shoot program or posted at registration. ***No action taken.***

13. Referee Exam Review. It was noted there were some “extraneous” characters in the exam provided for review. Gary Burley will ensure the version made available will be corrected. John Bratty and Dick Dietz will develop a new question to include on exam on the proper handling of ammunition/gun malfunctions when a release trigger is involved.

There being no further business conduct, motion by Woody Anderson, 2nd by Debbi Perry, to adjourn. Motion passed all on favor. Meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar
Chairman, NSSA Rules & Classification Committee