



Memo

To: NSSA iShoot Clubs
From: Clark Hartness
Date: Jun 7, 2020
Subject: 2020 Essential iShoot June 27 – 28 June 2020

Greetings,

I am Clark Hartness, NSSA Zone VI Executive Committeeman. I am a NSSA life member and have shot registered Skeet since 1992. Since 1993 I have been involved in some facet of tournament management from a club, state, or zone level including the World Skeet Championships. I am also the President of the Starkville Gun Club so I see first hand the challenges of our member clubs at this time.

In 2014 the Zone VI Executive Committee voted to take on an internet based format for our Zone VI Championships and at that point I made the initial development of what is currently known as iShoot (<https://ishoots.org>).

In 2019 the NSSA Executive Committee agreed to team with Kolar Arms to host the 2020 Kolar US Open (<https://nssausopen.com>) in the iShoot format. The format was embraced as 817 NSSA members preregistered to compete at 10 Host Clubs from Maryland to California.

In March 2020 the entire world was almost ground to a halt with the Covid-19 pandemic. The NSSA was forced to re-schedule the Inaugural Kolar US Open to 25-27 June 2021.

Since I believe that it is **Essential** we return to some semblance of normal, even if it is a new normal, I registered The 2020 Essential Open iShoot (PDF Program available at: <https://ishoot.ishoots.org/isreg/>) to take place on June 27-28, 2020 when the Kolar US Open was supposed to be held.

Flexibility is the key as The 2020 Essential iShoot is intended to offer any interested NSSA host club the ability to offer their membership and local area shooters a low cost event in accordance with any state and local executive orders or mandates in place at the time of the event. It is not intended to draw shooters to your club that you cannot support. I honestly envision 5-15 shooters at many clubs across the US and Canada.

I would like to cordially invite your NSSA club with at least 5 interested shooters to be a part of the 2020 Essential Open iShoot., or perhaps there are multiple clubs in your local area who can work to host the event together. If you have any other circumstances feel free to contact me directly.

The club has to be an NSSA affiliated club and the club needs to have a licensed copy of Mike Valerio's Skeet Manager Application (<http://www.skeetsoftware.com>). I am willing to help if your club is not familiar with the application and needs to come up to speed. Please contact Mike Valerio about specifics of a club license. If the license is the only limiting factor in your involvement contact Clark Hartness and we can discuss options.

The club needs to have internet access. This internet access does not have to be fast, just stable. I have used 3G Cellular hot-spots with only 1-3GB data plans. You can and I have used a cellphone as a hot-spot if your data plans allow it.

There is now a background process that senses changes in the .dbf tables as entries are made in Skeet Manager and it automatically updates the iShoot website. So basically, you run the shoot like you always run the shoot with Skeet Manager and this process takes care of the update in the background.

Shoot Management will need to access the shoot-offs on the iShoot Site and should make some availability to the ONLINE Scoreboard (Preferred) or at least print the EVENT-WIDE scoreboard for the shooters at your club. Shooters can use their own cell data to access the site. Bottom line, the bandwidth requirements are light for iShoot.

If your club is interested in being a part of the 2020 Essential Open iShoot, or you have other questions reply to this email or contact me at:



Below is some specific information about the 2020 Essential Open ishoot as well as some past lessons learned over the years of hosting iShoot Format skeet tournaments.

Essential iShoot budget for Club Flexibility

	Cost	Per 100	Targets	Total Entry	
				5 Guns	4 Guns
		\$40.00	100	\$160.00	\$120.00
NSSA	\$4.00	\$36.00	NSSA Target Fees .04 per target.		
State	\$2.00	\$34.00	This may be 3.00 depending on States, comes out of the club portion. Suggest negotiation.		
Purse	\$0.00	\$34.00	No Purse for this Event.		
Ref	\$7.00	\$34.00	Budget for club flexibility. See Referee discussion.		
Added Money	\$0.00	\$27.00	No Added Money for this event.		
Trap Help	\$0.00	\$27.00	Club pays trap maintenance and		
Admin	\$1.00	\$27.00	Admin includes Texts, Wrapup Postage and Option Checks Costs for the Event.		
		\$26.00	Gross Profit Per Event – Does not include any other costs. Includes all raw target costs.		

Retained by HostClub for distribution	Sent to iShoots for distribution
\$33.00	\$7.00

The budget above accounts for the entire entry fee for the event.

Host clubs will also send all OPTIONS and NSSA Membership fees and forms.

Host clubs may choose to pay their State Associations directly. If so, coordinate with iShoot or otherwise, send all STATE target and membership fees and forms and iShoot will close with the State Associations on your behalf.

Reality is that if your CLUB only has 5-10 shooters you likely will not be able to support a Traveling/Master/Paid referee. This is where the budget has given your club some flexibility. Some notes on referees.

- **Self-Referee** -- Self-Pulling Squad that also keeps up with the Scoresheet - This is the most **undesirable** situation. The Squad pulls and Scores their own targets - As a shooter I LOATH this option. I will only agree to do it at my home club, or impromptu event/registered practice/type events, and only then when every other option has been exhausted. If you are going to ask me to **Self-Referee** you should cut my entry fee by offering to reimburse me and by buying me BEER, lots of BEER, I will need it after I shoot.
- **Self-Pulling Squad with Scorekeeper** - As a shooter, I don't mind this. I shoot and practice with the same squad all the time, we know each other well. We know not to give the pull cord to certain unnamed squad members. It is just like shooting practice. I know when I give someone a bad pull. I know the rules. I consider myself an above average Referee. The honesty is that EVERYONE is not a good puller though and especially in a situation that makes you

uncomfortable. With single shooter entries, your club will likely have to squad AAA – E class shooters. BCDE class shooters are often not comfortable pulling for AAA – A class shooters. The honesty is that many AAA and AA shooters are not necessarily the best pullers. These items need to be weighed where they can.

From some of my years of experience shooting and refereeing, if you give someone a bad pull you have to treat it like a lost target, forget it and move on, if you don't you are going to give them 3 more as you try not to give them another. As a shooter you have to know that poor pulls are a fact of life you either learn to deal with or you use them as an excuse.

This said you need to have a pool of Scorekeepers to support the Squads. You need to pay/barter/accept volunteer effort from Scorekeepers. Scorekeepers can and hopefully will become Gun Club Refs, Shooting Refs and maybe even Master Refs it is a good tool for cultivation. Scorekeepers may not have ANY knowledge of the rules, or etiquette so often the squad may have to direct them on rules and calls. Thus, if you are going to ask me to SELF-PULL you need to offer the option of knocking part of the budgeted amount off my entry-fee or get agreement that you are going to use that to pay for things for the betterment of the EVENT or your club.

- **Shooting with a Gun Club Referee who pulls and keeps score.** -- Gun Club referees are members or employees of the club willing to help you run your shoot. Life has taught me you can only exist on volunteer effort for a maximum of two years. So I strongly suggest you reimburse these referees. You have 7.00 in your budget. The honesty is that a Gun Club referee will SELDOM merit the \$7.00, more like 3.00 which actually is \$10.00-12.00 per hour assuming a 5 man Squad shooting 500 targets in 1.5 or less. They are local so they have no travel costs. If you are paying them to do other things you can negotiate adding to their tasks. One way is to barter for practice rounds. Pull and score 100 targets and you get a practice round credit or some such arrangement that is equally beneficial to both the referee and the club.
- **Shooting with a Shooting Referee who pulls and keeps score.** -- Shooting Referees are usually good, and they have skin in the game because they don't want to be labeled as a poor referee. They can command the 5.00 to 7.00 referee fee. They do require time management. If at all avoidable they should not have to pull just before they shoot. This is purely good etiquette. Preferably pulling right after they shoot and on the fields they shoot on. This adds complexity and for that complexity you could say hey as a shooting referee I will pay you 5.00 or 6.00 per 100 where a full-time referee is paid 7.00 to 8.00 per 100.
- **Shooting with a Master/Paid Referee who pulls and keeps score.** -- This is of course the best option but it requires money 7.00-9.00 per 100 to support. Shooters expect to pay more, shooters may expect better service than is realistic

at times.

These are some referee options you have based on these definitions.

- 1) You can rebate shooters the 7.00 per 100 ask them to self-referee which in most cases will mean you will not have many shooters, and if you do have them at this event they will not return to future events. There needs to be understanding of the rules with the Squad.
- 2) Coordinate some scorekeepers, ask the squads to Self Pull and scorekeeper track the scores. You need to pay/barter/accept volunteer effort from your scorekeepers. There needs to be understanding of the rules with the Squad and the Scorekeeper. Pay Scorekeepers some portion of the budget. Offer to rebate some portion of the budget to the shooters or offer what that portion will be used for to better the event or the club. Do not assume everyone will understand why you are doing if it is not explained to them prior to the event.
- 3) Pay Gun Club / Shooting Referees
- 4) Pay a Paid Referee.
- 5) Any combination of 2-4 that can be managed.

iShoot Life Cycle

iShoot Admin (iSAdmin) – The overall iShoot Administrator. For this event, Clark Hartness.

Hostclub Admin (Admin) – Hostclub primary event administrator. Normally, the overall Skeet Manger operator or their designated person.

Shooter (Shooter) - Event competitors.

- 1) iShoots includes the event and then host clubs to ishoot.ishoots.org
- 2) Registration at ishoot.ishoots.org/isreg
- 3) iShoot Admin and Hostclub Admin coordinates the management of the shooter registration.
 - Squad POC Shooter and Admins Receive an Email when registration takes place
 - Admin Assigns Squad
 - Admin enters squad shooters into Skeet Manager
 - iShoot Admin announces Pre-Entry with email.
 - Shooters enter the Class, Averages, Options etc into pre-entry, registration form.
 - Hostclub Admin enters the provided Class, Averages, Options etc into Skeet Manager.
 - Enter shooter provided CELL Phone into Skeet Manager.

- 4) Sign-In at the Shoot.
- 5) Shooter Shoots
- 6) Admin enters Scores, iSync data moves to the iShoot website.
- 7) iShoot Admin sets Shoot-Offs
- 8) Hostclub Admin facilitates shoot-offs.
- 9) Hostclub Admin enters SO scores and uploads SO Scoresheets.
- 10) iShoot Admin does Shoot closure tasks – reports, fees, email to all shooters with links to Options, winners PDFs etc Results posted.

How do the shootoffs-work?

With out a doubt, the **most** asked question about the iShoot Format. So much so it was added to the [ishoot procedures](#) page. Please visit the procedures page for explanation.

How do we get involved?

The first step is to get a Host Club iShoot account. This allows you to view all the [iHelp](#) documents including the setup of iShoot_iSync to update your host club scores. Overs 6 years of information is available on the [iHelp](#) section of iShoots.org and you will be included in iShoot announcements to be invited to participate in iShoot events.

Who does the iShoot format benefit?

1) The Shooter benefits

- MORE opportunity to compete at larger events closer to home.
- LESS Time and Expense with reduced travel.
- Comfort, to shoot at the closer clubs they are most accustomed.
- Choice, to shoot at any qualified club. This drives clubs to provide greater value.
- BETTER club membership value.
 - Better club management, targets, services, etc., as more clubs develop registered shooting across a region to provide the best value to their membership and visiting shooters.

2) The Club benefits

- LESS Risk as event fixed costs are spread across more clubs.
- MORE profit, often with LESS effort with management spread over more clubs.
- Participate as hosts in events that are beyond their single club capabilities.
- Gained experience from a large expertise pool to develop registered shoot processes.
- MORE Practice and Non-Registered shooting, as their membership has more opportunity to shoot registered targets across larger more competitive events.
- MORE Clubs Developing Registered Shooting across regions.
 - Better Shoot Administration across regions.
 - More/Better Shooters because of more participation.

- More/Better Referees because of more interest/participation
- More/Better Shoots because of more interest/participation
- More Interest from recreational shooters as more registered shooters increase at their clubs.

3) State Associations benefits

- MORE Clubs Developing Registered Shooting across state. (Same as Club benefits)
- BETTER State Championships with more participation.
- BETTER out of State Draw to better run clubs and shoots.

4) NSSA benefits

- CLOSE THE GAP on NSSA/NSCA registered targets.
- MORE crossfire shooting as NSCA membership fills in at better registered events that are generally less expensive.