

NSSA Rules Committee Phone Conference January 5, 2019

1. **Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 10:03am EST by Committee Chairman, Trish Magyar (Zone 3). Members present were: Debbi Perry (Zone 2), Jim Tiner (Zone 4), Todd Swortzel (Zone 5), Clark Hartness (Zone 6), John Bratty (Zone 8), and Gary Burley (NSSA Director for Skeet). Absent, with prior notification, were Dick Dietz (Zone 1 & Chief Referee) and Dan Lewis (Zone 7).
2. **Approval of December 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Motion by Debbie Perry, 2nd by John Bratty, to approve the minutes; motion passed all in favor.**
3. **Agenda Items:**
 - a. **II-C-3. Residency Requirements.** Email (w/letter) from Jeff Bond and Rebecca Myers (VSSA) requesting a change in the rules that would permit a collegiate shooter to participate in the Zone shoot where they attend college without having to change their residency. **Motion by Todd Swortzel, 2nd by Debbi Perry to forward to the Executive Committee the following Rules change for a vote by the Board of Directors:**

Renumber current Rule II-C-3-c to II-C-3-d; and add new II-C-3-c: A Collegiate shooter may elect to shoot the Zone Shoot in the Zone where attending college, in lieu of the Zone Shoot in the Zone where they reside, without changing their residency.

Motion passed all in favor.
 - b. **III-A-4. Regular Target.** Letter from John Bulger recommending changes to the definition of a regular target. After lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to leave the definition of a regular target as is, but to review and revise the instructions for the use of a radar gun. **Todd Swortzel and Clark Hartness will work with Gary Burley to rewrite the instructions for use of a radar gun.** Additionally, Mr. Bulger's observation regarding targets set to a "higher plane" during a shoot-off could favor better shooters and, as such, referees and shoot management should place more emphasis on understanding and adhering to the rules was duly noted. **No further action taken.**
 - c. **III-A-15. Optional Shot.** Email regarding shooting optional shot out of order. The Committee agreed if a shooter failed to shoot his/her optional shot at the time of the first missed target that "technically" all shots following the first miss should be null and void. However, the shooter shouldn't be punished for the referee's error so, the "right" thing to do would be to simply go back to the station at the end of the round, or as soon as the error is caught, and shoot the optional shot, allowing the other shots to stand as is. A slight modification to the current wording would allow for this interpretation. **Adopt as Housekeeping, remove the words "In the latter instance" from the beginning of the last sentence of III-A-15.**
 - d. **III-C-3-f. Time Balk.** Email from John Pethybridge to re-word the "10 second" rule to make it clearer and enforceable. After much discussion the Committee felt the rule, as currently written, allows sufficient latitude to not call a time balk unless a shooter's repeated delays directly contribute to exceeding the "20 minute per round" allowance per III-B-7. **No action taken.**

- e. **III-D. Gun Malfunctions.** WYC? article (#29 Are You Ready?) regarding whether or not a barrel selector that was "locked" at the factory could be considered a gun malfunction if it became unlocked without the shooter being aware of it when the hammer falls on the empty barrel. The consensus of the Committee was that, even though the barrel selector was "locked" into position at the factory, the setting screw had loosened or backed out and the shooter then did "something" that changed the selector. Regardless of what is done at the factory, the shooter still has the responsibility to ensure that their safety is off and the barrel selector is selected to the correct barrel. **No action taken.**
- f. **III-F-2-d. Interference.** Email from Tom Keegan recommending revised wording so rule is clear that it applies to a "live" bird and not a target. The Committee felt that though the rule in question is intended to apply to "live" (feathered) bird, there could conceivably be an instance where a "target" (bird) from an adjacent field could fly along the path of the shooter's target, and that the referee made a correct call. If the rule was re-worded to specifically state a "live" bird, then the referee wouldn't have the flexibility to allow for an interference call when a "non-live" bird is in the flight path of the shooter's target. **No action taken.**
- g. **III-G. Safety Precautions.** Email from Andrea Lehr that it be considered a safety violation if a shooter, while on the station pad, loads his/her O/U shotgun while the gun is resting on their toe. The consensus of the Committee was that there wasn't a safety issue, since the gun is open while resting on the shooter's toe pad. However, should the shooter *close* a loaded gun while it rests on the toe pad, then the current rule (III-G-5), which states, "The loaded gun shall be kept pointed in a direction that will not endanger the lives of shooters..." is sufficient to warn the shooter of a safety violation, since a closed, loaded gun resting on the shooter's toe pad is **not** pointed in a safe direction. **No action taken.**
- h. **V-C-4. High Overall.** Add wording so that when a shoot has two separate 12 gauge events, for example, only one of the events can be used for HOA. Shoot management must designate which of the two events will be used. Since there are only three shoots that are using this format, and shoot management is now aware they must designate which of the two events will be used for the HOA event, the Committee decided there was no need to make any change to the rule. **No action taken.**
- i. **IV-C-17. Field Referee.** Email from Bruce Stilwell requesting clarification on who has authority for calling an irregular bird when a squad is "self-referring". Reword, as *housekeeping*, the third sentence beginning, "In such cases..." to, "In such cases, the squad leadoff shooter shall be responsible for carrying the score sheet to and from the field; ~~and~~ 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 an irregular target.*"
- j. **V-A-8. Running (Current) Average.** Assess changing from "last five" to "last five, dropping highest and lowest score and re-average based on remaining three." Also, to allow shooters to move up and down in class without limit, but not more than two classes below the class started in for the shooting year. Gary Burley will work with Data Processing to run a simulation using prior year data to

assess the proposal from the Executive Committee. He has looked at scenarios where two shooters shot the same scores, but in different order, and the resulting classification using the current method, making a sound argument that using five events to determine a shooter's class is not statistically significant. Gary will provide recommendations for at other classification/reclassification methods, which the Committee will then assess, **and provide input for the Summer Executive Committee meeting.**

4. **New Business.** Since the Committee has two new members, Debbi Perry reminded everyone that all Committee members need to respond to the draft monthly WYC? articles, since the *Committee* is the "author" of the articles.
5. **Referee Exam Review.** Annotated exam and answer key with changes were submitted to Headquarters for updating the 2019 versions. Additionally, during the course of the review, it was discovered when the rules underwent a major rewrite for the 2012 Rules Book, that the requirement for, "Mandatory markers (where geographically possible) be placed..." was inadvertently deleted from the Field Layout section (I-C). The Committee agreed verbiage to that affect should be put back in the Rules Book. **As housekeeping I-C-4 will be reworded to read:**
Markers specified in the Skeet Filed Layout on pages 32 & 33 are mandatory (where geographically possible) and the placement of any other markers shall be deemed illegal.
6. **Adjournment.** There being no further business to discuss, **motion by Jim Tiner, 2nd by Clark Hartness to adjourn; motion passed all in favor.** The phone conference was adjourned at 11:18am EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar
Chairman, NSSA Rules & Classification Committee