

**Rules & Classification Committee Meeting
National Shooting Complex
San Antonio, Texas
February 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, King Heiple at 8:30am. Members present were: Woody Anderson; Don Kelly, Trish Magyar, Debby Perry, Louise Terry and Ron Wilson. Also present were: Bill Batty, NSSA President; Rick Stockstill, NSSA Director and Brad Jones, IT Department. Sid Miller submitted his resignation, because he is unable to travel due to health issues. However, his many years of service make him a valued member, so it was decided to have him remain on the Committee; he will attend via phone conference for future meetings, should he be unable to travel.

Motion was made by Woody Anderson, 2nd Ron Wilson, to approve the January 31, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion passed all in favor.

Item 1. Management of Age Concurrent Requests. To date, 15 requests have been received under the new rule. Management will require manually adjusting the member's birth date at the beginning and end of the shooting year. Eight individuals requested to be changed from Senior to Veteran; six from Veteran to Senior Veteran; and one from Senior Veteran to Super Veteran. Rick Stockstill will be responsible for maintaining the master file of members' requests and disposition that have had their effective date adjusted.

Item 2. Five Years Age Concurrent Range for VT and SV. After researching the impact and detailing the number of shooters affected, it was determined there were a number of implications to changing the break-points; Rick Stockstill will respond to Fred Boenheim's letter. No action taken.

Item 3. Doubles at 3, 4 and 5 in Regular Skeet. Adding doubles at stations 3, 4 and 5 as part of the format for a regular round of takes the opportunity *away* from lower class shooters to be in shoot-offs for a Championship; shooters *like* shooting good scores. The best interests of our sport are not served by making such a change, especially given the impact on scores in the smaller gauges. No action taken.

Item 4. Shooting Year for Oct 31-Nov 1 Shoot Dates. Shoot results have long been processed at NSSA Headquarters based upon when the shoot is completed (shoot end date). The results for a shoot that starts on October 30th or 31st, and ends on November 1st or 2nd, will be recorded under the shooting year in which the shoot ends. The following clarification will better explain this:

II-A-7-b – Change II-A-7-b-2) to II-A-7-b-3), and add as new II-A-7-b-2):

If 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. This applies to all events in the shoot regardless of the day on which they are shot, including preliminary events. In this case, management must call this to the shooters' attention by posting 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.

II-A-8-b – Add to end of the first sentence, "and in the appropriate shoot year (see II-A-7-b-2).

V-B-1-a – Add to end, "If a shoot starts in one shoot 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."

Motion by Don Kelly, 2nd by Ron Wilson, that the above changes be handled as housekeeping, since they clarify the current rules. Motion passed all in favor.

Item 5. Firing Twice at Singles Targets. Motion by Don Kelly, 2nd by Woody Anderson, to take no action. Motion passed all in favor. No action taken.

Item 6. Lower Shot Weight Requirements. A question as to whether or not there has been any effort to reduce shot loads. This has been looked at in the past, and the response from industry was that they were not going to make any changes to ammunition loads in this regard. *No action taken.*

Item 7. Open Shoot Designations. Motion by Debbi Perry, 2nd by Woody Anderson, to add to the shoot application form three boxes, "Open, Closed and Invitational," one of which must be checked prior to NSSA issuing the shoot certificate. Motion passed all in favor. *Housekeeping item.* The listing of shoots in the SSR and on the web site will include open, closed or invitational as part of or appended to the shoot name and on the shoot certificate.

Item 8. Shoot Results Reporting Requirements. We share the concerns about inconsistent results reported by various clubs to the detriment of the shooters, and we will take steps to educate the clubs and shoot management about the implications of not reporting event and/or class winners. We plan on writing a series of articles for the SSR, which will hopefully result in standardized reporting of shoot results. The letter from Gerry Dick also asked why monthly targets didn't count towards minimums. This isn't the case; the only time monthly targets are not included in the minimum target requirements is for the Schatz annual high average leader for the awards.

Item 9. High Over All Titles. The request is to revise the events that comprise the HOA event to allow Doubles as one of the events, in order to give shoot management more flexibility when organizing shoots, especially those that are only one day long (i.e., by allowing Doubles as part of the HOA, a shoot could consist of Doubles and two of the other gauges and recognize HOA awards). Another part of the issue is that there are no All American points for High All Around (HAA). The Rules Committee did not want to alter the definition for HOA, so made a request of the All American Committee to consider awarding points for HAA. Past concerns that winners would be awarded "double" points for an HOA and HAA, could easily be handled by using a different factor (i.e., multiplier) for HAA points. Additionally, the question was raised to "officially" recognize HOA events comprised of less than three of the standard gauges (i.e., four 100 bird events in the same gauge). The Committee felt it would be a good idea to appoint a sub-committee to look at the issues of recognizing HOA/HAA awards that don't fit into current rules.

Item 10. AAA Class Points. The concern was shooters earning All American points, even for Class All American, when there is only one shooter. The Class All American point system was recently revised so that the number of points awarded is now based on the number of entries. *No action taken.*

Item 11. Disqualification for Safety Violation. Under Rule II-F-1, a shooter can be disqualified from the remainder of a shoot for a *willful* (emphasis added) violation of gun safety precautions. Throwing one's gun is considered a willful violation of the gun safety precautions. Add to end of II-F-1, "For example, throwing a gun is considered a willful violation of the gun safety precautions." Renumber III-G-3 through 16, and add as III-G-3, "Throwing of a gun will result in immediate expulsion from the shoot." Motion by Trish Magyar, 2nd by Don Kelly, to include the above changes as housekeeping; motion passed all in favor.

Item 12. Self-Pulling Squads. Instances when squads have decided to pull their own targets (i.e., they take the button from the referee) *appear* to be in conflict with our rules (IV-D-16), since the rule states that only assigned field referees may pull. Taking the button from the referee is different than the provision under IV-D-17 that allows squad to self-referee; with permission from the Chief Referee or shoot management, a squad may self-pull. Motion by Debbi Perry, 2nd by Don Kelly, to add as housekeeping to IV-D-16 after the first sentence, "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.” Motion passed all in favor.

Item 13. Parent/Child Concurrent Event at Junior World. It was noted that teams comprised of coaches and students were entered, and recognized in the results, in the Parent/Child concurrent at past Junior World shoots. The Junior World Committee has agreed to report a separate category for Coach/Student at future shoots.

Item 14. Review of Referee Exam. Completed a review of the referee exam; no corrections were required. A new multiple choice question will be added next year concerning expulsion from a shoot for violation of safety precautions.

Since, at the conclusion of the meeting, there were no items requiring a Director’s vote, the Housekeeping changes will be made ASAP by Rick Stockstill in the Rule Book as posted on the NSSA web site and will also be incorporated into the Rules published in the 2010 Records Annual.

There being no further business to discuss, **motion made by Woody Anderson, 2nd by Debbi Perry, to adjourn. Motion passed all in favor.** The Rules Committee was in session from 8:30am to 2:00pm, with a recess for lunch from 12:00-12:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

King Heiple, Chairman