

Update from the NSCA Executive Council

All NSCA Members:

In January of this year, the Advisory Council and Executive Council met for our annual winter meeting in San Antonio. There were a series of meetings over four days: In addition to the NSCA EC meeting, there were meetings of the NSSA-NSCA Long Range Planning Committee; the NSSA-NSCA Steering Committee, of which the NSCA EC are all members; the NSSA-NSCA Finance Committee; and, of course, the NSCA Advisory Council. I think everyone who attended would probably say that it was one of the most productive gatherings in recent memory.

The Advisory Council is chartered “to promote and guide the association”, and to accomplish this goal, committees are formed to focus on specific areas of interest. This year, the EC decided to change the committee structure a bit, feeling that the prior structure might have impeded efficient communication by over specializing in some cases. Six committees were formed: Awards, Competition, Finance, Governance and Rules, Instructors, and Marketing. Each met separately over a two day period and then concluded with reports and recommendations at a general meeting of the full Advisory Council.

We have recently conducted a vote by the National Delegates regarding 15 measures that were placed on the ballot by the Advisory Council and that will result in changes to our rule book. The vote count and voting records of each National Delegate are available elsewhere (and online), but the results were that all measures passed. Of the 15, the majority were clarification of existing rules, additional language to further define the actions to be followed in some corner case or another, or to provide missing definitions. There were two measures that generated more interest, however. All measures will be discussed below. To see the full 2011 Rules Change Ballot #1, go to the [NSCA website under SHOOTER INFORMATION – ADVISORY COUNCIL / DELEGATES](#) [bottom of page].

Measure 1 (passed 74-58): NSCA Target fees increased from \$.03 to \$.04, with the additional fees used to fund marketing programs specifically for NSCA membership and clubs. As can be seen by the vote count, this was clearly the most controversial item on the ballot. It is the first time in ten years (since 2001) that target fees have been increased. But more importantly, it is the first time that any revenue stream has been explicitly earmarked for additional marketing programs aimed at growing our association. All expenditures from the fund that this target fee increase will generate, around \$200K/year, must be approved by the NSCA AC Marketing Committee and the EC and are not to be used for any other purpose other than the stated purpose.

This increase will go into effect on April 1, 2011, but will be left to the discretion of event managers until July 1, 2011, at which time it will be mandatory for all registered shoots. It is hoped that most club owners and managers will implement this important source of funding to NSCA marketing programs as soon as practical. It will be implemented by the National Shooting Complex for the World English, for example.

Measure 2 (passed 107-26): The current rule book allows state associations to collect target fees up to the amount that NSCA collects. This measure separates the state association fee limit and the NSCA fees, going forward, and keeps the limit for the state associations at the current \$.03/target.

Measure 3 (passed 91-42): This measure is the rule book change that corresponds to the Regional Championship concept (see below) proposed jointly by the Awards and Competition Committees and approved by the AC and EC. The result of this proposal is that the states are assigned to five regions instead of seven zones. There are numerous references to “Zone” in the rule book which will simply be changed to “region”. For instance, we will have five All Region teams in 2012, versus seven All Zone teams, and five Regional delegates versus seven Zone coordinators.

For 2011, the Zone delegates for Zones 1, 2, and 3 will jointly coordinate the selection of the 2012 Northeast Regional Championship host club (see below).

In general, the zones were mapped into regions with one major exception: Zones 1, 2, and 3 were combined into the Northeast Region with the three westernmost states (Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan) being moved into the North Central Zone to balance the regional populations more closely. Zone 4 becomes the Southeast Region, Zone 5 plus the three states moved out of Zone 3 becomes the North Central Region, Zone 6 plus New Mexico becomes the South Central Region, and Zone 7 minus New Mexico becomes the Western Region. (The transfer of New Mexico was in response to requests by members from that state that have had to travel the 1700 mile diagonal of Zone 7 to attend their Zone Championships!)

Measure 4 (passed 106-27): This rule change prohibits reloaded ammunition at the seven Zone Championships in 2011, the five Regional Championships going forward, and the US Open and NSCA National Championships. It has been an unwritten rule for some time not to allow reloaded ammunition at the NSCA Nationals, and the US Open.

Measures 5 (passed 127-6) and 6 (passed 126-7): These measures remove references to Lewis Class events, since Lewis Class is no longer accepted as an event type. It remains a commonly used process to determine awards or option winners.

Measure 7 (passed 132-1): This measure proposes an addition to the rule book defining gun malfunctions for the first time. Four cases are specifically listed: (a) one or the other barrel fails to fire (must be verified by field judge or else it is deemed a shooter malfunction); (b) both barrels discharge simultaneously (true double); (c) the second barrel discharges after the first without shooter action (fan fire); and (d) an automatic fails to eject a spent shot shell.

Measure 8 (passed 128-5): This proposal simply adds a more timely definition of registered shoots, including the events that we already see at major shoots.

Measure 9 (passed 129-4): The current wording in the rule book is not specific with regard to the method used to fill mid-term national delegate vacancies. This new language codifies what has been practice: proceeding down the list of other candidates in the same election that had a minimum of 5 votes, and in alphabetic order by last name in case of ties, to determine who to invite to fill the vacancy. If not filled by this process a mid-term election will be held. It should be noted that although it is not in the rule book, mid-term elections are generally not held to fill a vacancy after the winter meeting of an election year.

Measure 10 (130-3): This measure makes the minimum registered target requirement for National Delegates the same as for Advisory Council members. Candidates for either must have 500 registered targets in the year preceding their nomination and in each year that they serve.

Measure 11 (128-4): Changes here mirror the changes regarding filling mid-term national delegate vacancies, and, in addition, are specific as to continued eligibility when a member in the range owner or industry categories changes jobs and goes to another company in the same category. Generally, the Advisory Council membership stays with the individual, except in these cases when there is already a representative of the range or company the individual goes to on the Advisory Council. This avoids disproportionate representation from a single company or range.

Measure 12 (passed 130-3): This is an administrative change that moves language about the industry category of Advisory Council members from one section to another more appropriate to the subject material.

Measure 13 (passed 126-7): The existing language in the rule book regarding Advisory Council committees is very specific and potentially results in less than optimal focus on current problems. This proposal gives the EC the flexibility it needs to form committees as necessary in a timely fashion to focus on current issues.

Measure 14 (passed 127-6): The Executive Council generally meets a day or two ahead of the winter Advisory Council meeting and also meets with the NSSA-NSCA Steering Committee, the NSC Long Range Planning Committee, and the NSSA Finance Committee. It has been the standard practice that the election of the new EC follows as the last agenda item of the winter Advisory Council meeting. Therefore, in election years, the incoming EC does not have the opportunity to participate in the joint meetings or the EC meeting that takes place a day or so before the election. This measure changes the process such that nominations for the EC must be made between January 1 and January 15th, preceding the AC meeting and also changes the election timing to the afternoon of the first day of the AC meeting.

Measure 15 (passed 125-7): This measure provides clarification of the role of the last non-serving past chairman of the EC, the fact that the position can span the term of the EC (which happens when an EC member is re-elected but no longer serves as chairman), and that the position does not count towards term limits, since it is not an elected office. It also establishes a succession order when the past chairman is not able or willing to continue to the end of term. Language that was relevant only when the governance plan was put into place has also been deleted.

Regional Championships

Another significant proposal came from the Awards and Competition committees at the winter meeting. Historically, the State and Zone Championships, the US Open, and the NSCA Nationals were intended to represent the hierarchy of the major tournaments throughout the shoot year. Over the years the Zone Championships have not always been promoted in the fashion intended and, in fact, some zones just did not have the membership, as geographically defined, such that one would expect a large turnout. Add to that a mix of Team USA NSCA Sporting and FITASC International Sporting selection shoots as well as several large independent tournaments and it was felt that a change was needed to keep the membership from being pulled in too many directions.

In order to rejuvenate the whole championship structure, it was decided to re-allocate the states to five Regions, from the seven Zones, as described above. But more importantly, the five

Regional Championships are being given selection shoot status in 2012! Also a new points race will be launched called the NSCA Championship Tour. Here is how it works:

- (a) NSCA, in the form of the competition committee, will set minimum shoot criteria and requirements for all Regional Championship events, much like they already do for the US Open. The committee will work with Regional Delegates to coordinate these events (with the Open and Nationals) with a goal of having one major championship event every month for seven months of the calendar year.
- (b) Member clubs in each region will be eligible to bid for the Regional Championship event. National Delegates within the region will choose from amongst qualified bids with the approval of the Competition Committee and the Executive Council.
- (c) The Team USA NSCA Sporting selection shoots will consist of the main events at these Regional Championships, the US Open, and the NSCA National Championship.
- (d) The Team USA FITASC International Sporting selection shoots will consist of the FITASC International Sporting events at these Regional Championships, the US Open, the NSCA National Championship and the two World Cup events, the North American Cup and the North American Grand Prix.
- (e) With each Regional Championship on a non-conflicting date and open to all participants (do not have to be a region resident to win), they will also be events in the Pro Challenge competition, leading up to the finals at the NSCA Nationals.

NSCA Championship Tour Points Race

This new points race will be launched in 2012 and will award World Cup style points from each event of each Regional Championship, the US Open, and the NSCA National Championships. (World Cup points are normalized scores: raw score divided by HOA score x 100, and was the method used to break ties in the 2010 Team USA FITASC race.) Only those shooters that attend the US Open and/or the NSCA National Championship will be eligible, but there are no minimum participation requirements. Race results will be maintained for Open and all Concurrents.

As you can see, there was quite a bit of activity at the winter meeting. Add to that the energetic discussions that took place within the new Marketing Committee and it was contagious, to say the least! The various committees are chartered with action plans that outline activity over the year and it will be very interesting to see what sort of progress has been made when we meet again at the US Open in May.

Best regards,

Phil Murray, Chairman
Joe Kennedy, Vice Chairman
Brent Fleming
Tim Miles
Scott Robertson
Steve Schultz

Bob Lepor, Immediate Past Chairman