

To: NSSA National Directors
Date: March 5, 2012
Subject: 2012 Rules Ballot

The Rules and Classification Committee met in San Antonio on January 28, 2012. Their recommendations for 2012 Rules Changes were presented to and approved by the Executive Committee on their conference call on February 16, 2012

Therefore, the following items are being submitted to the National Directors for their vote.

NOTE: Your **SIGNED** ballot must be returned to NSSA in the enclosed envelope, by fax at 210-688-9269 or by email to ogracia@nssa-nasca.com no later than **March 24, 2012** and the changes will become effective immediately.

1. **Shooting of "Additional Targets"** – Change rules II-A-7-I, II-G-4 and V-B-1-f-1 to give shoot management the discretion to determine what increments additional targets are to be shot, and to make official the waiver granted for the World Shooting regarding shooting of additional targets.

Add to the beginning of the last sentence of II-A-7-I and II-G-4, "With the exception of the World Shoot..." and delete the last sentence of V-B-1-f-1 pertaining to increments.

For – 106 Against – 5 Abstain – 3

2. **Consolidate all protest procedures under one rule.** This change will improve the handling of protests, extend the current time requirements for initiate and handling a protest, and provide shoot management with the flexibility to deal with situations that might arise post-shoot. Shoot management *must* be proactive in dealing with incidents that (may) lead to a protest. Additionally, this change makes it clear that shoot management can correct an error in scoring that is discovered after the shoot is over.

Move current VI (International Skeet) to IX and consolidate II-E, IV-D-3 and all of (current) IX under VI, as follows:

VI. PROTESTS

1. Only a shooter, shoot management or referee may initiate a protest when:
 - a. If in his/her opinion the rules as herein stated have been improperly applied.
 - b. The conditions under which another shooter has been permitted to shoot.
 - c. Where he/she feels an error has been made in the compilation of a score.

A protest is not required for shoot management to take corrective action on an error in scoring upon discovery.

2. How To Protest

- a. A protest shall be initiated immediately when it is possible to do so upon the occurrence of the protested incident. No protest may be initiated by the shooter involved after thirty (30) minutes have elapsed after the occurrence of the incident for which a protest is desired to be made. Failure to comply with the following procedure will automatically void the protest.
- b. A protest involving the scoring of a target, if filed immediately on the station, a second shot, or shots will be fired and the results recorded and noted as a protest.
- c. The protest shall proceed in the prescribed manner:
 - 1) State the complaint verbally to the chief referee. If not satisfied with his/her decision, then:

2) File with shoot management a protest in writing, stating all the facts in the case. Such protest must be filed within **24 hours** after the occurrence of the protested incident. Shoot management must reply within **48 hours** of receipt of the protest. If not satisfied with the decision of shoot management, then:

3) File with the NSSA a written appeal, stating all the facts. Such appeal must be filed within **7 days** after the decision of shoot management has been made known to the protestor. The team captain must make protests in team events. Team members who believe they have reason to protest will state the facts to their team captain, who will make the protest if he/she feels such action is justified by the facts.

3. Referee Responsibility

Upon protest, the referee shall record the time of the incident, and will rule upon the occurrence, and then without delay, proceed with the round as if nothing had happened. At the completion of the round he/she shall notify the chief referee or shoot management.

4. Shoot Management Responsibility

In order that protests may be uniformly and fairly handled, the protesting shooter and the protest committee, which is defined as Shoot Management, or a judge appointed by shoot management, or a panel of judges appointed by shoot management, should observe the following guidelines.

a. Determine if:

- 1) An incident occurred.
- 2) A verbal protest was made to the field referee.
- 3) A verbal protest was made to the chief referee.
- 4) The chief referee ruled on the protest.
- 5) The protest committee's decision was made known to the protesting shooter.

b. Then:

- 1) If there was a chief referee, was the complaint brought to his/her attention by the protesting shooter?
- 2) Was the written protest tendered to shoot management within 24 hours of the protested incident?
- 3) Is the shooter not protesting a referee's decision of fact?
- 4) Is the shooter protesting: Improper application of the NSSA rules, or the conditions under which another shooter has been allowed to shoot or an error in score-keeping?

If VI-4-b-1 through 4 above can all be answered, "Yes", the protest committee should then decide whether to grant or deny the protest. If the answer to any of the questions VI-4-b-1 through 4 above is, "No", the protest is invalid.

5. Any appeal to the NSSA of the protest committee's decision should include:

- a. The facts outlined above.
- b. A copy of the written protest.
- c. A copy of the protest committee's decision.

Shoot management should be prepared to provide the information in VI-5-a through c above to the NSSA upon request.

For – 103 Against – 6 Abstain – 2

3. **Reduce time balk.** Per III-C-3-g it shall be considered a time balk if a shooter *deliberately* delays more than 15 seconds for each shot on a station and the referee shall warn him/her once each round without penalty. Mathematically, if every member on a squad were to take the allotted 15 seconds

per shot, it would take nearly 30 minutes to complete a round, not including the break. Per III-B-7, a round of skeet should be completed in 20 minutes, including breaks between rounds. Changing the time for each shot to 10 seconds will help ensure a 20 minute round, and will give the referee more authority to move the squad along.

Change III-C-3-g to reduce the time balk to 10 seconds.

For – 69 Against – 45 Abstain – 2

4. **Proof Doubles for both ammunition (III-C-7) and gun malfunctions (III-D-9.b.) when such malfunction occurs between shots.** If an allowable malfunction occurs and the first target is lost, it remains lost, but if the target was hit it has to be repeated. The current rules penalize the shooter for something beyond his/her control.

Change III-C-7 and III-D-9-b, such that if an allowable malfunction occurs between shots on doubles the result of firing upon the first bird is established, dead or lost, and a proof double will be shot to establish the second bird.

New wording for III-C-7: During a regular round or a doubles event, if the brass pulls off a hull, or defective ammunition occurs between shots on doubles, the referee *will score the results of the first shot* and a proof doubles shot to establish the second shot result.

New wording for III-D-9-b: During a regular round or a doubles event, if an allowable malfunction has occurred, the referee *will score the results of the first shot* and a proof doubles shot to establish the second shot result.

For – 73 Against – 39 Abstain – 0

5. **Streamline the Rules Book by deleting unnecessary phrases and outdated rules, and condense/revise wording.** The following changes to the Rules are *streamlining* but in effect change the rules or constitute a significant change in wording.

5-1. I-B. AMMUNITION. **Replace** I-B-1 and I-B-2 with:

1. Lead shot ammunition for skeet shall have a normal weight for 12 gauge of 1-1/8 oz; for 20 gauge: 7/8 oz; for 28 gauge: 3/4 oz; and for 410 gauge: 1/2 oz., but may weigh less. Each gauge has an allowable overweight allowance of 3%. Shot larger than 7-1/2 or smaller than 9 [2mm] may not be used. Reloads may be used.

2. Gun clubs are allowed to use alternate shot (other than lead) for registered shoots; alternate loads must meet industry standards for "target load" ammunition. *[No change from current wording.]*

3. Reloads. Any shooter whose loads are challenged as to weight shall have one shell selected and checked for weight of shot and the rest entrusted to the referee for use during the flight. Challenges may not be anonymous. Any shooter found to be using loads heavier than the maximum weights permissible as listed in I-B-1 will have his/her score disqualified for that event.

4. Factory Loads. Any shooter found to be using commercial loads heavier than the maximum weights permissible as listed in I-B-1 will have his/her score disqualified for that event.

For – 110 Against – 3 Abstain – 1

5-2. I-C. FIELD LAYOUT. **Replace** all under I-C with:

1. It is recommended and desirable for all NSSA registered targets to be shot on fields constructed according to Standard NSSA specifications shown in the diagram on the centerfold of this book.

2. Field layout deviation will not affect NSSA's consideration of scores.

3. Under no circumstances will protests based on alleged irregularity of field layout be considered.
4. The placement of markers other than those specified shall be deemed illegal. *[Old III-G-13.]*
5. Standard field specifications are available in the NSSA Club Manual; on the NSSA web site; or by request from the NSSA.

For – 100 Against – 9 Abstain – 1

5-3. I-E. RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR SHOOTERS. **Delete**, "Furthermore, shooters should stand at a minimum of six feet behind the shooter while waiting to shoot," since the reality is that the next shooter usually stands a few feet behind the back of the station.

For – 104 Against – 6 Abstain – 0

5-4. I-F. RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR SETTING DISTANCE ON TARGETS
Strike "RECOMMENDED" from title and "It is recommended to" from the beginning of the first sentence. **Change** "legal target" to "regular target" in the last sentence to conform to wording used throughout the Rules Book. This is the only occurrence of the term "legal target" in the Rules Book; all other references are to a "regular target".

For – 107 Against – 4 Abstain – 0

5-5. I-H. USE OF VOICE RELEASE SYSTEMS (VRS). **Change**, "Shoot management should provide...", to "Shoot management *must* provide...".

For – 91 Against – 9 Abstain – 10

5-6. II-A-7-b-1. **Delete**, "...and may not be altered within 10 days notice. Shoot applications, properly sanctioned, must be postmarked or received by NSSA at least 10 days prior to the shoot date", from the first sentence.

The reality is that NSSA can, and does, respond to electronic requests for shoot numbers the day before a registered shoot when all approvals are in order.

For – 107 Against – 4 Abstain – 1

5-7. II-A-7-c. **Delete** in its entirety. We state that advertisement of a shoot "should" be done, which doesn't make it mandatory, and then impose a penalty if it isn't done. In effect, ALL shoots ARE advertised, because they are published in the SSR and posted on the web.

For – 109 Against – 3 Abstain – 0

5-8. II-A-7-f. **Delete**, "...and enter on the shooter's classification card the classification in which it is entering him/her in each gun." The shooter's registration/entry indicates the class he/she has been entered in.

For – 110 Against – 1 Abstain – 0

5-9. II-A-7-k. **Delete.** Standard practice is to shoot all four rounds on the same field. Don't need to include a recommendation for shoot management to do so.

For – 108 Against – 4 Abstain – 1

5-10. II-A-8-c. **Reword** first sentence to read, "Each shooter must verify his/her *total* score and *one member of the squad* must initial the official score sheet before leaving the field."

Though all shooters are required to verify their scores before leaving the field, the practice is that only one individual on the squad initials the score sheet.

For – 109 Against – 2 Abstain – 0

5-11. II-A-8-d-1). **Delete,** "...by NSSA Headquarters..." Notifications that someone has shot in the wrong class and that winnings must be returned aren't limited to Headquarters.

For – 109 Against – 1 Abstain – 1

5-12. II-B-9-j. **Delete,** "In team shoot-offs, team members shall line-up adjacent to each other (i.e., shoulder-to-shoulder)." This rule conflicts with II-B-9-e, which gives shoot management the option of lining the shooters up shoulder-to-shoulder or not.

For – 109 Against – 4 Abstain – 3

5-13. II-D-2-d. **Delete;** an out-of-state team is never eligible to win a State title.

For – 92 Against – 17 Abstain – 3

5-14. II-D-6. Five-Man Teams.

Delete the first sentence of 6-a, "Five-man club teams and five-man state teams must shoot shoulder-to-shoulder, unless management publishes otherwise in their program or same is posted prior to accepting the first entry." The opposite is the norm today.

Delete II-D-6-c in its entirety; already addressed under II-A-8-c.

For – 102 Against – 7 Abstain – 5

5-15. **Delete** II-D-8 NSSA World Championship Five-Man Teams from the Rules Book, and ensure it is included in the World Shoot Program.

For – 102 Against – 12 Abstain – 3

5-16. Delete II-I-5 World Records and move to Records Annual.

For – 92 Against – 17 Abstain – 4

5-17. Delete III-B-6-c under "Shooting Up" since it is direct conflict with 6-a.

For – 101 Against – 9 Abstain – 2

5-18. Delete III-C-3-e. Each target fired upon and allegedly missed because the shooter's gun had a bent barrel, or a bent compensator, or any other bent tube or accessory.

For – 90 Against – 19 Abstain – 1

5-19. Reword IV-C-3 to read, "The chief referee has the responsibility..." to make it stronger.

For – 107 Against – 4 Abstain – 1

5-20. Delete V-F Alternate Award Systems. No one uses this award structure in the recent past.

For – 103 Against - 8 Abstain – 1