

# NATIONAL SPORTING CLAYS ASSOCIATION

## OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

SPORTING CLAYS,  
NSCA 5-STAND, &  
PARCOURS DE  
CHASSE

**2011**

**Updated: 7/1/11**



**S**hells handled safely

**A**ctions open

**F**irearms pointed in a safe direction

**E**ye and ear protection is required

**T**arget fragments can be dangerous

**Y** Why?

BECAUSE SAFETY IS  
EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

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Revised for the 2011 shooting year.  
Additions and corrections indicated in italics.

# **NATIONAL SPORTING CLAYS ASSOCIATION**

**5931 Rofit Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78253-9261**

## **OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL SPORTING CLAYS ASSOCIATION**

The National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) was formed in April of 1989, as a division of the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA), to promote sporting clays in the United States and other countries. The following is an informative summary of the organization of the NSCA, important official policies and rules that govern the NSCA, the shooting of registered targets, the conduct of shooters and the duties of shoot management. The NSCA has the responsibility for the formulation, regulation and enforcement of these rules. For any rules or policies not contained in this book, or in the official minutes of the NSCA Advisory Council meetings, refer to the bylaws of the NSSA. The NSCA reserves the right to make alterations in, or amendments to, these rules and policies at any time, when it deems it to be in the best interest of the National Sporting Clays Association and its members.

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A. PURPOSE OF NSCA**

The purpose of the National Sporting Clays Association is to promote and govern the sport of sporting clays throughout the United States and other countries, in a way which is beneficial to all who enjoy and participate in the game. The NSCA is dedicated to the development of the sport at all levels of participation. NSCA vows to create an atmosphere of healthy and safe competition and meaningful fellowship within its membership.

### **B. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **1. Individual**

- a.** Annual membership dues for an adult individual are \$40 and include monthly issues of Sporting Clays magazine, beginning with the first issue available for mailing after dues received at headquarters.
- b.** An Associate membership is available to other adults of a household when at least one regular annual membership exists for \$30, but does not include the magazine.
- c.** A Junior membership is available for \$20 per year and includes the monthly magazine. The Junior membership is available only to individuals under the age of 21.
- d.** Jr. Associate membership is available for \$10 per year and does not include the monthly magazine. The Junior

## **I-B-1-d**

Associate membership is only available to individuals under the age of 21.

- e. An International Shooting membership is available for \$20 per year to all foreign shooters who wish to compete in NSCA sanctioned events within the US. Sporting Clays magazine is not included.
- f. Six-year membership dues for an individual are \$200 and include a copy of the official magazine, *Sporting Clays* magazine, beginning with the first issue available for mailing after dues are received at headquarters. A Six-year Associate Membership is available to dependents of members for \$150, but does not include the magazine.
- g. Life membership for an individual is \$500 and a Husband & Wife Life membership is \$750. Includes annual Sporting Clays Magazine as long as member shoots 100 targets per year. A non shooting life member can get the magazine for \$20 per year.
- h. Senior Life membership for an individual 65 years of age or older is \$250 and a Senior Husband & Wife Life membership is \$375. Includes annual Sporting Clays Magazine as long as member shoots 100 targets per year.
- i. The membership and shooting year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of the same year.
- j. All memberships may be applied for by filling out an application provided at an NSCA club/range or by contacting NSCA Headquarters for an application. Also available on NSCA website [www.nssa-nasca.org](http://www.nssa-nasca.org).

### **2. Clubs and Ranges**

- a. Annual membership dues for a club or range are \$100 a year.
- b. The membership and shooting year begins on January 1 and ends December 31 of the same year.
- c. Annual Club/Range membership may be applied for by filling out an application provided by the NSCA. Also available on NSCA website [www.nssa-nasca.org](http://www.nssa-nasca.org).

### **3. Rules of Conduct**

- a. Each member and club will be furnished a copy of the Official NSCA rules, also available on NSCA website [www.nssa-nasca.org](http://www.nssa-nasca.org), with the understanding that the member/member club will read and understand each rule. All members and member clubs are responsible to know these rules and abide by them, for their own benefit and safety as well as that of other shooters.
- b. By paying the membership fee, entering a competition or holding a competition, every member and member club agrees to abide by these rules and to accept all official decisions of the NSCA in interpreting and/or applying these rules.
- c. It shall be a violation of these rules to:
  - 1. Exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind, including but not limited to, falsifying scores or classification, cheating, swearing, verbal or physical abuse of any shooter, scorer, field judge, shoot official or protest committee.

2. Disobey the order of any scorer, field judge or shoot official.
3. Violate any safety rules as set forth in Section II of these rules and regulations, or engage in any activity that is considered unsafe by the NSCA Executive Council.
4. Shoot at any place other than the designated station.
5. Interfere with the shoot management's procedures in conducting the shoot.
6. Violate any rule or regulation of a club or range.
7. Exhibit any conduct that is harmful to the NSCA, its membership, or the sport as a whole. Exhibit behavior that shows discrimination towards race, religion, or sex - including sexual harassment.
8. Failure to submit a written complaint to shoot management after witnessing the violation of one of the NSCA's rules or regulations.
9. Failure of shoot management to submit a written report to NSCA of written complaints received along with a report of action taken.
10. Violate any other rule or regulation of the NSCA as set forth in any other section or paragraph of the NSCA's rules and regulations.

#### 4. Suspensions, Expulsions and Reinstatement

- a. The Executive Council may, at any time at its discretion, suspend, expel or discipline any member or member club for the violation of any NSCA rule or regulation.
- b. The procedure for suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action is as follows:
  1. Any member, shooter, scorer, field judge, shoot official, owner or member of management of a club or range who witnesses a violation of any NSCA rule shall submit to the NSCA Director or Executive Director a **written** complaint within thirty (30) days of the alleged violation. The action of being disqualified from a shoot does not start disciplinary action. The complaint **must** be in writing to start disciplinary action. The written complaint shall include:
    - i. the name of the alleged violator
    - ii. the date and location of the alleged violation
    - iii. a reasonably detailed description of the alleged violation and a request for action to be taken on the situation
    - iv. the names and addresses, if known, of all witnesses
    - v. the name, address, phone number and signature of the complainant(s).
  2. Upon receipt, the NSCA Director or Executive Director shall assign each complaint a complaint number consisting of the year of the receipt and consecutive number of receipt, i.e. 07-01, 07-02, etc.
  3. The NSCA Director or Executive Director shall review the complaint and determine if it meets the requirements set forth above. Any complaint may be resubmitted so long as it is received within the described requisite time period noted above. The NSCA

Director or Executive Director has the discretion to consider and investigate or dismiss any complaint that does not meet the foregoing requirements.

4. Within ten (10) days of receipt of a complaint the NSCA Director or Executive Director, or anyone acting pursuant to direction from the Director or Executive Director, shall serve written notice of the complaint and a copy of the complaint on the alleged violator by Certified Mail, return receipt requested. The written notice shall instruct the alleged violator of his right to submit a **written** statement, which must be signed and should include the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses not named in the complaint. Such written statement must be received by the NSCA Director or Executive Director within ten (10) days of the alleged violator's receipt of the notice and complaint. All statements received after such date shall not be considered.
5. The NSCA Director or Executive Director, or someone acting pursuant to direction from the Director or Executive Director, shall thoroughly investigate the allegations of the complaint by attempting to obtain written statements from all known witnesses. All witness statements must be in writing and signed by the witness.
6. After time for the alleged violator to respond expires, the NSCA Director or Executive Director shall review the complaint, the statement of the alleged violator, witness statements and any other relevant evidence. Upon such review, the NSCA Director or Executive Director shall recommend to the NSCA Executive Council a specific disciplinary action. The recommendation shall include:
  - i. all evidence that was considered, including the names of any witnesses who submitted statements;
  - ii. a determination of whether the alleged violation occurred; and
  - iii. the disciplinary action, if any, the NSCA Director or Executive Director recommends that the NSCA Executive Council impose.
7. The NSCA Director or Executive Director shall provide each member of the NSCA Executive Council with a copy of the complaint, the statement of the alleged violator, copies of any witness statements and a copy of the recommendation.
8. The NSCA Director or Executive Director shall schedule a conference call between the members of the NSCA Executive Council wherein the NSCA Executive Council shall review all information provided by the NSCA Director or Executive Director and issue a ruling on the matter by majority vote. The NSCA Executive Council's ruling shall

include:

- i. the date of issuance
- ii. all evidence that was considered, including the names of any witnesses who submitted statements
- iii. a determination of whether the alleged violation occurred and
- iv. the disciplinary action, if any, imposed by the NSCA Executive Council.

**The NSCA Executive Council shall have the discretion to suspend or expel a member or to impose any other disciplinary action it deems appropriate.**

9. Upon issuance of a ruling, the NSCA Director or Executive Director shall serve the ruling on the violator by certified mail, return receipt requested. The ruling shall become effective on the date of issuance and continue until a hearing, if any, is held.
- c. The violator has the right to appeal the NSCA Executive Council's ruling by notifying the NSCA Executive Council. Such notification of appeal must be in writing and must be post-marked no later than twenty (20) days from the date the ruling was issued.
  1. Upon receipt of the notification of appeal, the NSCA Executive Council shall hold a hearing on the matter, which will take place at the next **regularly scheduled quarterly meeting** of the NSCA Executive Council.
  2. At the hearing, the violator has the right to be present, the right to bring counsel, the right to testify and the right to present any evidence he so chooses. The violator does not have the right to cross-examine witnesses.  
The violator does not have the right to make a record and no transcript of the hearing will be made or allowed.
  3. The NSCA Executive Council shall review the complaint, the written statement of the violator and any other evidence it deems appropriate. The NSCA Executive Council may allow any and all witnesses to testify by telephone or in person.
  4. At the conclusion of such hearing, the NSCA Executive Council shall have the authority to affirm, reverse or modify the disciplinary action imposed previously by majority vote.  
**By paying the membership fee, entering a competition or holding a competition, every member and member club agrees to abide by any decision of the NSCA Executive Council and further agrees and recognizes that as a voluntary amateur association, the NSCA has the right to impose, interpret and enforce its rules and regulations and that all decisions by the NSCA Executive Council following a hearing**

are FINAL.

### C. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

1. **National Delegate:** National Delegates shall consist of members in good standing to hold office as follows: National Delegates shall be bona fide residents of, and elected from, the various states of the United States and from the provinces, territories, or geographic subdivisions recognized by the Association. The ratio of one National Delegate for a member population of 25 to 150, two National Delegates for a member population of 151 to 300, three National Delegates for a member population of 301 to 500, four National Delegates for a member population of 501 to 750, and five National Delegates for a member population of over 750. This ratio of National Delegates to member population may be revised by a majority vote of the seated National Delegates in years ending in zero and five.
  - a. **Nominations.** Nominations for the position of National Delegate shall be opened in July of odd numbered years for a period of no less than 21 calendar days. A member in good standing may self nominate, may be nominated by another member in good standing, or be a write in candidate. A nominated candidate must be endorsed in writing by five (5) current NSCA members in the state where he or she is a bona fide resident. The election of National Delegates shall be held in August of odd numbered years.
  - b. **Votes Needed for Election.** A candidate for the position of National Delegate must receive the votes of five (5) NSCA members from the current state membership in order for the election to be valid.
  - c. **Term of Office.** The term of office for all National Delegates shall be two (2) years. It shall begin on the first day of the target year following their election and shall end on the last day of the second target year after their election or until a successor has been elected in a valid election.
  - d. **Vacancies.** Any National Delegate vacancies occurring among the various states, provinces, territories, or geographic subdivisions recognized by the association, shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term. *Persons receiving a minimum of five (5) votes in the last National Delegate election in the same state, province, territory, or geographic subdivision shall be eligible and will be invited to fill the vacancy in the order of the vote totals, highest number of votes first, or in alphabetic order by last name in the case of ties. If the vacancy cannot be filled by this process, a mid-term election shall be held within 45 days to fill the vacancy.*
  - e. **Meetings.** National Delegates shall meet annually during the National Championship. Notice of the time and place of the annual meeting shall be announced electronically and by mail at least 15 days prior to such meeting.
  - f. **Powers of National Delegates.** All changes made in rules, regulations, and governance shall be decided

by the National Delegates. All voting for changes in rules, regulations, and governance shall be by mail ballot. Where no state association exists, the National Delegates of that state shall also approve NSCA shoot dates and the location of the State *Championship*.

- g. Registered Targets.** *National Delegates are required to shoot a minimum of 500 registered targets each year, including the year immediately preceding their year of election. This requirement must be fulfilled by participation at registered tournaments, not league or monthly targets.*
  - h.** Annually, the voting record of all National Delegates will be reviewed by the NSCA Executive Council. Any Delegate found to have missed more than one (1) vote during the previous year will be removed from office and replaced as outlined in section I-C-1-d. A Delegate that has been removed from office may not run again for a Delegate position in any State for the next term.
- 2. Advisory Council:** The Advisory Council is composed of NSCA members exhibiting the highest devotion to the sport, the members, and the Association. There are 45 available positions, divided equally between representatives of Industry, Range Owners, and Shooters. *No range owner/manager or industry company can have more than one representative on the Advisory Council at one time.* The primary function of the Advisory Council is to promote and guide the Association and it has the responsibility to review and approve all committee recommendations to be made to the Executive Council.
- a. Eligibility.** *The Industry category is intended primarily for major manufacturers within the clay target sports to assist with the growth and promotion of our association. Every effort should be made to continue this practice when filling Industry positions. Any NSCA member who is a full-time employee, Promotion or Sales Representative, consultant or owner of a firm, company or corporation engaged in the manufacture of shotguns, ammunition and/or components, or any accessories/equipment used in the clay target sports is eligible for Industry category. Any NSCA member who derives the majority of their income by providing products or services to the clay target sports (except for Range Owners/Managers) or who is a full-time employee who represents an organization within our Industry is also eligible.*
  - b. Elections.** Advisory Council Members will be elected by the National Delegates.
  - c. Nominations.** Nominations for positions on the Advisory Council shall be open in November of odd numbered years for a period of no less than 21 calendar days. Advisory Council candidates must be endorsed by five (5) current NSCA Members. Election of Advisory Council members shall be held in December of the odd numbered years.
  - d. Votes needed for election.** A candidate for the position of Advisory Council must receive a minimum of five

(5) National Delegates votes.

- e. **Term of Office.** The term of office for all Advisory Council Members shall be two (2) years and shall begin on the first day of the target year following their election and end on the last day of the second target year after their election.
- f. **Meetings.** All Advisory Council members must attend the annual meeting (date determined by Executive Council) each year, and in addition, either the U.S. Open or the National Championship meeting, or lose his/her position on the Advisory Council.
- g. **Registered Targets.** *Advisory Council members are required to shoot a minimum of 500 registered targets each year, including the year immediately preceding their year of election. This requirement must be fulfilled by participation at registered tournaments, not league or monthly targets. Range owners are required to shoot their eligibility targets at ranges other than their own.*
- h. **Committees.** *The Executive Council will establish advisory committees as deemed necessary consisting of National Delegates, Advisory Council members, and no more than one (1) member at large, to address the needs of NSCA governance and administration. A minimum of two members of the Executive Council shall serve on each.*
- i. **Attendance.** Attendance at the annual meeting is mandatory. An absence from the mandatory meeting for illness or for good cause may be approved in advance of the meeting by the Chairman of the Executive Council. A member's seat on the Advisory Council shall automatically be vacated when the attendance requirement set forth in this section is not met. An appointment will be made by the Executive Council within 30 calendar days. The nominee with the next highest number of votes (with a minimum of five (5) National Delegates votes) will be eligible for the appointment.
- j. **Vacancies.** Any Advisory Council vacancies occurring among the various categories, shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term. *Persons receiving a minimum of five (5) votes in the last Advisory Council election shall be eligible and will be invited to fill the vacancy in the order of the vote totals, highest number of votes first, or in alphabetic order by last name in case of ties. If the vacancy cannot be filled by this process, a mid-term election shall be held within 45 days to fill the vacancy.*

*If a member of the Advisory Council from the range owner/manager or industry categories changes employment, they shall retain their position on the Advisory Council provided that they maintain their eligibility in the sector (range owner/manager or industry) they previously represented and provided that the range owner or industry company to which they are newly employed does not already have an employee on the Advisory Council.*

### **3. Executive Council:**

- a. **Number of Executive Council Members.** The Executive Council is elected from members of the Advisory Council and is composed of seven (7) members: two

*representing industry, two representing range owners, two representing shooters, plus the last past chairman of the Executive Council not currently serving on the EC. The immediate past chairman may cast a vote in matters before the Executive Council only in case of a tie. The tenure of the last past Chairman may span terms of the EC (2 years) and does not count towards term limitations.*

*In the event that a serving past Chairman is incapacitated or otherwise does not continue to the end of a term, the position will be offered to previous past Chairmen in order of their service (most recent first) or, if there isn't one available or willing to serve, to previous Vice Chairman, in the same order.*

- b. Elections.** *The Executive Council election will be held in conjunction with the annual winter meeting of the Advisory Council on even numbered years. Nominations for the Executive Council will be accepted, by written or printable electronic communication, between January 1st and January 15th, with the election to be the first order of business in the afternoon of the first day of the annual meeting. The Executive Council will elect annually a Chairman and Vice Chairman.*
- c. Term of Office.** *Term of office of the Executive Council is two (2) years, to begin at the time of election of the annual Advisory Council meeting. Members of the Executive Council may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.*
- d. Vacancies.** *Any vacancy occurring on the Executive Council shall be filled by an Advisory Council Member. An interim election will be conducted by the Director of the NSCA, for the balance of the unexpired term. Declaration of candidacy and balloting shall be conducted within 60 calendar days of the date the vacancy occurs.*
- e. Meetings.** *The Executive Council shall meet quarterly. Meetings shall be held during the U.S. Open Championship, The National Sporting Clays Championship, the annual Advisory Council (date to be determined by the Executive Council), and at one additional site and time as may be selected by the Executive Council.*
- f. Attendance.** *Attendance at the annual meeting and at least two of the remaining quarterly meetings will be mandatory. An absence from the mandatory annual meeting for illness or for good cause may be approved in advance of the meeting by the chairman of the Executive Council. A member's seat on the Executive Council shall automatically be vacated when the attendance requirement set forth in this section is not met. An election will be held to fill the vacancy.*
- g. Quorum.** *For purposes of conducting business of the association at any meeting, a quorum of the Executive Council shall consist of a majority of the elected members.*
- h. Powers.** *The Executive Council shall be responsible for establishing and implementing policy for the operation of the Association, including the National Championship. The Executive Council shall review the needs of*

the Association and prepare and submit a budget for the operation of the Association to the Executive Committee of the National Skeet Shooting Association. The Executive Council shall determine all rules, regulations, and ballot items to be submitted to the National Delegates for their votes

4. **State Associations:** An Association recognized by the NSCA, comprised of NSCA members and member clubs within each individual state. The primary function of the State Association is to work with the National Delegate (s) and member clubs to enhance and grow the sport.
  - a. **By-laws.** Each state association shall adopt by-laws in accordance with that state's laws of associations and shall submit the by-laws to the NSCA for approval. State by-laws must be in compliance, and are subordinate to any rule, regulation, or by-law of the National Sporting Clay Association. Any changes in by-laws must be submitted to NSCA for approval and to be kept on file.
  - b. **State Fees.** State associations may elect to assess residents and non-residents of that state a per target fee, *not to be greater than \$.03*. A state resident, who is a NSCA member in good standing, shall be considered a member of the state association. Funds accrued from per target fees may be used to enhance and grow the sport in that state through grants for range development, youth program developments, or assisting in promoting state and region championship events or such other programs approved by the state association. State funds may not be used for payment of personal services, an honorarium, or personal expenses of any member of the state association.
    - i. State Associations cannot charge membership fees. NSCA members in good standing are automatically members of their state Association, if one exists.
  - c. **Approval of Shoot Dates.** Recognized State Associations will be responsible for the approval of the shoot dates for clubs in their state.
5. **Regions/Regional Delegates:** *Regions are groups of states in a particular geographical area. One Regional Delegate is elected from each of the five regions by vote of the National Delegates in that region. Candidates for Regional Delegate must be currently elected National Delegates.*
  - a. **Nominations.** *Nominations for the positions of Regional Delegates shall be open in September of the odd numbered years, for a period of no less than 21 calendar days. A National Delegate in good standing may self nominate or be nominated by another delegate in good standing in that region. Election of the Regional Delegates shall be held in October of odd numbered years.*
  - b. **Votes Needed for Election.** *A candidate for the position for Regional Delegate must receive the majority of votes, but no less than five (5), from the currently serving National Delegate in his/her region in order for the election to be valid.*

- c. *Term of Office.* The term of office for all Regional Delegates shall be two (2) years. The term shall begin on the first day of the target year following their election, and shall end on the last target day of the second target year after their election or until a successor has been elected in a valid election.
  - d. *Vacancies.* An election shall be held within 45 days to fill any Regional Delegate vacancies that may occur among the various regions.
  - e. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Regional Delegates' duties and responsibilities are set forth in the NSCA Delegates Manual and include organization, coordination, and local oversight of the selection process of the Regional Championship host range, as well as other duties as may be assigned by the Advisory Council or Executive Council.
- 6. Amendments:** This Governance Structure may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the National Delegates by a majority vote of the entire delegate membership. They may be amended without a meeting by written approval, upon mail ballots, signed by a majority of the entire membership of the delegates.

## II. SAFETY

### A. SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. It is everyone's responsibility to report any unsafe shooting condition or action immediately to Shoot Officials.
2. **Mandatory Eye and Ear Protection**—All persons, spectators, shooters, field judges and trap personnel, must wear eye and ear protection on the course at a tournament sanctioned by NSCA.
3. The use of horizontal gun racks or horizontal gun cases are not permitted. Horizontal gun racks may not be used on any manner of conveyance or on a course where any part of the body of a shooter or guest may pass in front of a firearm's muzzle, whether the firearm is loaded or not. Failure to enforce this rule may subject the club to disciplinary action under Rule I-B-4.
4. **Trap Personnel Protection**—All trap personnel in front of the line of fire must be out of sight with screen protection able to withstand the charge of shot at the given distance.
5. All shooting stations must require the shooter (except wheelchair shooters) to engage all targets from the standing position.
6. Shooters must have the permission of a Field Judge to test fire any gun. Guns will be discharged only in attempt at competition targets.
7. The first person on every squad shall be allowed to view a good presentation of targets from within the shoot station. This is not limited to one pair. This person is the only person permitted to mount their unloaded gun and track the targets being viewed.
8. It is the sole responsibility of the shooter to begin any event, station and/or field with sufficient equipment, including safety equipment and ammunition. Failure to do so, which, in the opinion of the Field Judge will delay the shoot, will result in the loss of all targets as required to keep the shoot moving. Make-up targets will be provided only at the discretion of the Shoot Officials.

9. The shooting stations must be positioned in such a way that all shooters, trappers, and spectators are protected from shot/target fall. Additionally, the shooting stations must be designed to restrict dangerous gun hold/movement.
10. Target Drop Zones must be clear of ALL shooters and spectators.
11. Course Design Safety is the sole responsibility of the Range Owner/Shoot Officials.
12. The shooter must fire with his/her gun shouldered for all targets.
13. The use of any drug, legal or illegal, including alcohol, prior to or during an NSCA event by a registered competitor is prohibited with the exception of prescription medicine, which does not impair a shooters ability to perform safely. Alcohol may not be in any area where shooting activities are taking place.
14. Failure to comply with the NSCA Safety Rules may subject the Range Owner/Shoot Officials/Competitor to possible suspension.
15. Shotgun shooting safety is everyone's responsibility.
16. **Safety Zone** – When a shooter is in the process of shooting, no one (other than the Referee/Trapper) is allowed within three feet (3') of the shooter. There will be an imaginary line three feet behind the shooter that will extend along the entire station.

### **III. CLASSIFICATION**

#### **A. CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

A shooter's classification carries over from one shooting year to the next. All new shooters will be assigned a class. During the current year, a shooter is subject to reclassify UPWARDS ONLY (with the exception of appeals). A classification card will be provided to all shooters. This card must be shown at registration every time a shooter registers for an event. To maintain the integrity of the classification system, all NSCA members shooting on the course where a NSCA Registered Event is taking place must register their targets.

#### **1. Determining Class**

- a. There are seven (7) classes a shooter can classify into: Master-AA-A-B-C-D-E. All registered events using the NSCA Classification system will offer all classes (including Master).
- b. **Non-Classified and New Members**
  1. A shooter who has never shot any registered clay targets will be assigned Class "D".
  2. A first time NSCA member who has shot registered targets with any clay target organization other than a Sporting Clays Association (i.e. NSSA, ATA, NRA, International skeet or trap) and has been classified in "A", "AA" or "AAA" class will be assigned a NSCA class that is one class lower than his/her highest class attained in that clay target association. If the first-time member has not shot a sufficient number of targets in any other clay target association to be assigned a class, or if their class is "B" or below, they will be placed in NSCA "D" class.
  3. A shooter from another sporting clays organization, (i.e., USSCA/SCA, CPSA, F.I.T.A.S.C.,

Non-Registered Sporting Clay Events) will shoot their earned class or higher.

4. A person who purchases an International Shooting membership or a regular foreign membership will be placed one class higher than the highest registered class in sporting or parcours de chasse; whichever is higher in their country's association. If a new International Shooter or regular foreign member does not belong to CPSA, another recognized sporting clays organization or if there is no sporting clays organization in that country then the new member will be placed in the following classes:
  - i. AA Class or higher, if known ability applies, for those who qualify for NSCA concurrents.
  - ii. Master Class for all others.
5. A shooter may be classified based on his/her "known ability". (See rule III-A-3)

## 2. Moving up in Class

- a. Shooters earn their way out of class by shooting the high score(s) or tying for the high score (s) in class.
  1. **NSCA Nationals and U.S. Open (main event only):** The top five (5) scores and all ties in each class receive four (4); the sixth and seventh highest scores and all ties in each class receive three (3) punches; the eighth and ninth highest scores and all ties in each class receive two (2) punches; the tenth highest score and all ties in each class receive one (1) punch.
  2. **In all events using the NSCA classification system, except the NSCA Nationals and U.S. Open main events, shooters will earn punches based on the number of entries in their respective class. Punches are awarded as follows:**

Number of

Entries in class: Punches earned

HOA	The shooter with the highest score and all ties in an event, where there is a minimum of ten (10) total shooters, shall receive a minimum of one (1) punch no matter what class the shooter is in.
0-2	No punch
3-9	One (1) punch for high score and all ties
10-14	Two (2) punches for high score and all ties One (1) punch for the second highest score and all ties
15-29	Four (4) punches for high score and all ties. Two (2) punches for second highest score and all ties. One (1) punch for third highest score and all ties.
30-44	Four (4) punches for high score and all ties. Four (4) punches for second highest score and all ties. Two (2) punches for third highest score and all ties. One (1) punch for fourth highest score and all ties.
45+	Four (4) punches to first, second and third highest scores and all ties. Three (3) punches for fourth highest score and all ties. Two (2) punches for fifth highest score and

### III-A-2-a-2

all ties. One (1) punch for sixth highest score and all ties.

- b. It is the shooter's responsibility to determine these punches and move up one class after reaching the following number of punches:

E Class to D Class	4 punches
D Class to C Class	4 punches
C Class to B Class	6 punches
B Class to A Class	8 punches
A Class to AA Class	10 punches
AA Class to Master Class	16 punches

Note: Punches must be earned in Shooter's current class in order for them to be used in moving up in class. A person earning more than the necessary punches to move up in class enters the new class with no punches.

- c. In events of 100+ entries, it is the responsibility of shoot management to notify all shooters of their move up in class or punches received. The shooter is also **equally** responsible to shoot in his/her proper class and to inquire and inform shoot management of any move up at the next tournament entered.
- d. Upon entering a shoot with multiple events, a person will remain in the class he/she started in for all events held, and any punches he/she earns will be awarded at the conclusion of all of the events at that shoot. A shooter cannot be moved up more than one class at the conclusion of the registered events based on punches; however, a shooter can be moved up more than one class based on KNOWN ABILITY.
- e. All punches earned in a shooter's current class in 2010 will carry over into 2011. Carry over punches are for the target year just ended and the current year. **Punches from prior target years (2009 and before) will not carry over.**
- f. *All registered events of 50 or more targets, including sub-gauge events, will generate punches in accordance with other provisions of this section.*
- g. The NSCA National Championship, U.S. Open, *Regional Championships*, and *State Championships* must use the NSCA Classification system. NSCA strongly suggests that major shoots utilize the NSCA Classification system. (See rule IV-B-2)

### 3. Reclassification/Known Ability

- a. A shooter may be reclassified based on their KNOWN ABILITY. Known ability defined as:
- i. Known - past participle of know
  - ii. Know
    1. To have clear and certain perception; to have knowledge
    2. To be informed, sure or aware
    3. To take cognizance, to examine
- b. An NSCA club, State Association, National Delegate, member (shooter) or member of the Advisory Council has the right to request a known ability review of a shooter's record if it appears that he/she is competing in a class other than his/her true level of ability. This

request must be in writing. Upon review by the NSCA Classification Committee, the shooter may be assigned a different class.

- c. A shooter reclassified by NSCA will receive a new class card with the notice of the change from NSCA. The different class will become effective when it shows on the NSCA website, [www.nssa-nasca.org](http://www.nssa-nasca.org). Should the shooter wish to appeal this different class they must do so in writing within 30 days from receipt of the NSCA written notice. (See III-A-6)
- d. A shooter may voluntarily declare into a class higher than assigned; however, the shooter must stay in that higher class for the entire year, unless the shooter subsequently punches out of the self-declared class. This applies to all classes except for Master, which must be earned and not declared.

When the shooter so elects, they must (at a registered shoot) have their classification card marked before competing in the event in the class for which they are declaring. Their card shall be marked with the new classification by self-declaration in the class where they declared, and be entered on the Official Entry Form with notation self-declared.

- e. A shooter may also be reclassified to a higher class by Shoot Officials based on their known ability. This reclassification will be for that event only and shooter will return to his/her original class, with one exception. If the shooter is awarded a punch or punches in the higher class in which they have been placed based on known ability, they will remain in that higher class for the remainder of the shooter year. Example: If the shooter was originally in class E and the newly assigned higher class, based on known ability, is D class and if the shooter subsequently wins sufficient punches in the event, he will advance to class C.
- f. Any person who has experienced a permanent medical impairment may request a review on their classification during the shooting year. The request must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a doctor's statement.

#### **4. Classification Review**

- a. A shooter who has moved up in class, based on punches, will not be reviewed for the year he/she moved up in and the following year (No review for more than 2 full target years.). This disqualifies the shooter from the 1,000 target review and the end of year review.
  - i. A shooter's classification may be reviewed after each 1,000 registered targets. Shooters must request such a review in writing. The 1,000 target review may be used to move a shooter down in class.
  - ii. An annual review will be done on each NSCA member with a minimum of 300 registered competition targets shot in their current class in the current shooting year.

- b. A shooter who is assigned to a lower class may reject the class if the shooter wishes to remain in a higher class. To reject the assigned class, the shooter must sign the refusal form, which will be at the bottom of the classification card and return it to NSCA Headquarters by the designated time.
  - c. A shooter may elect not to participate in the End of Year Review by making this request in writing to the NSCA. Staff will notate the shooters desire not to be reviewed during the end of year process in the shooters record. A member may change this back to the automatic End of Year Review only after notifying the NSCA in writing prior to December 1st of that target year.
- 5. Shooter's Responsibility**
- a. The shooter is responsible for presenting his/her classification card and/or additional documentation upon entry at any registered shoot and entering into the proper class. The classification card is intended for the purpose of providing Shoot Officials with up-to-date information regarding classification of each shooter entering a registered event.
  - b. The shooter is responsible for entering their scores with the date and score shot on the back of their classification card or, if more space is needed, on a supplemental record form, and to make certain that all placements and punches are properly recorded on their classification card at the conclusion of each NSCA registered tournament. Failure to accurately record scores and punches may lead to suspension from the NSCA.
  - c. A shooter who enters or allows themselves to be entered into a class lower than the one in which their record places them, unless the error is corrected prior to a specific time posted by shoot management, a time announced in the shoot program, completion of shoot-offs and/or the awarding of trophies and/or monies, shall be disqualified from the event and subject to the following:
    - 1. Forfeit all rights to all winnings he/she would have earned shooting in his/her proper class.
    - 2. For the first offense, be disqualified, entered as a re-entry for targets only, and forfeit all winnings earned while shooting in the wrong class. (see IV-S-3) Any punches earned in the lower class do not count.
      - a. If a club sends a correction to NSCA Headquarters 30 days after a shoot has been held, their shoot history will not be corrected as the correction will affect other shooters shoot histories in a negative manner. The shooter must forfeit all winnings earned while shooting in the wrong class. (See IV-S-3.) Any punches earned in a lower class do not count.
    - 3. The shooter must return all winnings within 15 days after notification by the host club, National Delegates, State Association or NSCA Headquar-

ters requesting the winnings be returned.

4. Failure to return the winnings within the 15 day period shall subject the shooter to suspension and/or being PERMANENTLY barred from registered competition.
5. In the case of a second or subsequent offense of shooting in a lower class, the shooter will forfeit all winnings and also be barred from registered competition for a minimum of one (1) year and/or terminated from the NSCA.

#### 6. Appeals

- a. The shooter's appeal **must be in writing** and state specific reasons why they think they should not be moved up in class. Pending a determination of the appeal all shoots entered by the shooter must be entered at the new higher class.
- b. The NSCA Classification Committee has 30 days from the receipt of the appeal to respond. At the Committee's option, additional information may be requested from the *Regional Delegate*, National Delegate(s) and/or State Association (if one exists) for additional input.

## IV. RULES & REGULATIONS FOR REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS

### A. PARTICIPATION

#### 1. Club

##### a. Eligibility and Responsibility

1. Only clubs affiliated with NSCA with current fees paid and in good standing with NSCA as well as their State Association (if one exists) shall be eligible to conduct registered shoots. A State Association has the authority to charge member clubs in their state an annual fee to belong to that State Association, no greater than that club's annual fees to the NSCA. Evidence of club's status in this regard must be displayed in the form of an official NSCA membership certificate for the appropriate year.
2. In applying for and holding a registered shoot, it is the responsibility of club owners, management and Shoot Officials to ensure that the shoot is conducted within NSCA official rules and safety regulations.
3. The club sponsoring a registered shoot shall check the NSCA membership card and classification card of each shooter before accepting his/her entry, and shall be responsible for the annual dues if they allow a participant to shoot when said participant's membership in NSCA has expired.
4. Shoot management may be billed by NSCA in all cases where expired members are allowed to shoot. Management may seek reimbursement from said shooters, but must first abide by IV-A-1-a-3 above.
5. Any club sponsoring a registered shoot accepts the

responsibility for any clerical errors made throughout the shoot and shall correct those errors. Any error found and corrected after the shoot report has been sent to NSCA must be submitted to NSCA in writing for the corrections to be made.

**b. Applying for a Registered Shoot Date**

1. The club should complete an NSCA registered shoot application and forward to the State Association (if one exists) or the National Delegate (s) for signature of approval at the state level.
2. The signed application should be forwarded immediately to the NSCA office for final approval. Shoot applications must be postmarked or received by NSCA at least ten (10) days prior to the shoot date.
3. A notice of the approval will be forwarded by NSCA to the club at the address on file.
4. Shoot dates may not be altered without prior approval at the state level and notification to headquarters.

**2. Individual**

- a. Only members who have paid their annual dues and are in good standing with NSCA as well as their State Association (if one exists) may participate in registered NSCA shoots. It is the shooter's responsibility to provide their current year classification card to Shoot Officials when entering a registered shoot. This ensures that name, address, and membership number are properly recorded so that errors in records and scores can be prevented.
- b. It shall be the sole responsibility of the shooter, upon entering the shoot, to see that they are entered into all the events desired on the official NSCA cashier sheet/entry form. Once entered, clerical errors are the responsibility of shoot management.
- c. **Residency Requirements:**
  1. An individual must be a bona fide resident (permanent abode) of a state to be eligible for State Championships or to shoot as a state team member, and must be a bona fide resident of a state within *the region to shoot as a regional team member:*
    - i. Persons with residence in more than one state must declare their eligibility by writing their home state on the face of the current year membership card. Servicemen, by the same act, may choose their home state or place in which they are permanently assigned for duty, and declare the state on the current year membership card.
    - ii. Persons who change their official abode shall become immediately eligible to shoot as an individual in the State or Regional Championship of their new permanent address. They should contact NSCA for a new membership card reflecting change of address and present same before entering shoot.
    - iii. *No person shall be eligible to win more than one*

*State Championship during the NSCA shooting year.*

- iv. A person that is a non-US citizen who holds a Resident Alien status from the Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (as evidenced by a "Green/Blue Card") and is a bona fide resident of a particular state is eligible to win the Main Event Open, Concurrent and/or Class Champion awards at their home State Championship or the US Open.
- v. Only bona fide US Citizens are eligible to win the Main Event Open, Concurrent and/or Class Champion awards at the NSCA National Championship. A US Citizen is defined as anyone who is eligible for a US Passport.

## **B. TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS**

**Registered Shoot** – *Shoots consist of one or more events and may include main and prelim sporting events (including SuperSport), International Sporting (FITASC), 5-Stand, gauge-specific events (e.g., 20g., 28g., .410 bore), and gun type-specific events (e.g., side by side, pump). Events generally consist of some multiple of 25 targets. NSCA member targets must be registered and an NSCA shoot report entry must be turned in for any event in which they participate.*

Non-members may participate, but in a separate category. Any non-member participating in a registered event in a separate category (Hunter Class) shall not be eligible for any NSCA awards or monies. If offered by shoot management, the separate category (Hunter Class) may have its own separate awards and/or monies. Hunter class shooters at events run concurrently with registered NSCA events will be charged the same entry fees as those paid by NSCA members including all target fees. Examples: If the total entry fee for an event is \$65, including NSCA and state fees, then anyone shooting Hunter Class would also pay \$65 to participate in the event. As the portion of the entry fee that would *otherwise represent* fees to the NSCA and/or state *association* would not be paid to *these* organizations, it *shall* be retained by the club. The NSCA recommends that the target fees collected from non-NSCA members be used to *encourage* those shooters to join the NSCA. For example, the Hunter Class winner *might be awarded* a paid one year membership to the NSCA.

Shoot date(s) must be submitted to the appropriate State Association (if one exists) or to the National Delegates *for approval* at state level, who will then submit to NSCA Headquarters for final approval.

**Charity/Fund-raising Events** - A range owner/shoot promoter hosting a charity/fund-raising event (ie. DU, QU, NWTF etc.) may award prizes in addition to NSCA awards at his/her discretion, combining scores with non-NSCA members for additional prizes.

1. **Registered Small Gauge Events**—Small Gauge Events may be registered, punches will be awarded and combined with punches earned in 12 gauge events for classification purposes. Small Gauges are .410, 28 and 20. The member's 12 Gauge classification will be used for all Small Gauge Event classes.
2. **Major Shoot**—A registered shoot, where by projection or past

experience, 100 or more shooters are expected to attend. NSCA strongly suggests that these shoots utilize the NSCA Classification system.

3. **State Championship**—An annual shoot held within each state, the location and dates of which are decided by the following process: Interested clubs (within the state) who are in good standing with the NSCA and the State Association (if one exists) should contact the State Association (if one exists), or the National Delegate(s). In the selection of the club for a *State Championship*, the State Association (if one exists) may apply their own process for that selection. The process must be in the State Association's By-Laws and those By-Laws must be approved by the NSCA. If a process does not exist, then Rule IV-B-3-a (below) must be followed.
  - a. The State Association and/or National Delegate(s) should then take a vote of (1) State Association members (if one exists) or (2) All NSCA clubs in good standing for a decision.
  - b. If the **second** method is used and the vote results in a tie, the National Delegate(s) shall cast a vote for the club they think should be awarded the tournament. This vote should break the tie; however, if there is still a tie, the *Regional Delegate* will be contacted. The *Regional Delegate* will in turn consult with the National Delegates Committee Chairman and, after discussing the situation; the *Regional Delegate* will cast a tie-breaking vote for the club they feel should host the state tournament.
  - c. All-State *Championships* must utilize the NSCA Classification system.
  - d. A person who is a legal Resident Alien and is a bona fide resident of a particular state is eligible to win the Main Event Open, Concurrent and/or Class Champion awards at their home State *Championship*. (See rule IV-A-2-c-1-iv)
  - e. To be eligible for class prizes, monies and/or awards at *State Championship*, a shooter must have shot a minimum of **300** registered targets in the current year, prior to the shoot. *League and monthly targets no longer count towards penalty class minimums*. Preliminary Events do not count towards minimum targets unless they are held under a separate shoot number. Example: If a shooter does not have a minimum of **300** targets, he/she shall shoot every event at the shoot and win prizes, monies and/or awards in a penalty class, one class above his/her current class. No *State Championship* shall require more or less than the 300 target minimum.
  - f. Following the *State Championship* all shooters who were placed in a penalty class as a result of their failure to meet the 300 registered target requirement, will return to their original class, with the following exceptions: If the shooter earns a punch or punches in the penalty class they will remain in that penalty class for the remainder of the shoot year. If the shooter was originally in class E and the newly assigned higher class, based on penalty class, is class D, and if the shooter subsequently wins sufficient punches in the event, he will advance to class C.
4. **Regional Championship**—An annual shoot held within each region, the location and dates of which are coordinated by the *Awards*

*Committee with the approval of the Advisory Council. Regional Delegates are responsible for coordinating the process for selecting the club hosting the event and oversight of the Regional Championships. This process consists of solicitation of bids, circulation of valid bids to the regional National Delegates, and coordination of the vote by the regional National Delegates.*

- a. *Any NSCA member in good standing may win a Regional Championship.*
  - b. *To be eligible for class prizes, monies and/or awards at Regional Championships, a shooter must have shot a minimum of 300 registered targets in the current year, prior to the shoot. League and monthly targets no longer count towards penalty class minimums. The Preliminary Events do not count towards minimum targets unless they are held under a separate shoot number. If a shooter does not have a minimum of 300 targets, he/she shall shoot every event at the shoot and win prizes, monies and/or awards in a penalty class, one class above his/her current class.*
  - c. *Following the Regional Championships, all shooters who were placed in a penalty class as a result of their failure to meet the 300 registered target requirement, will return to their original class, with the following exceptions: if the shooter earns a punch or punches in the penalty class they will remain in that penalty class for the remainder of the shoot year. Example: If the shooter was originally in class E and the newly assigned higher class, based on penalty class, is class D, and if the shooter subsequently wins sufficient punches in the event, he will advance to class C.*
- 5. U.S. Open**—An annual shoot awarded by the NSCA Advisory Council according to the criteria set for the upcoming year.
- a. Votes must be done in person by Advisory Council members in attendance at the A/C meeting.
    - i. All U.S. Open ballots will be pre-printed with Advisory Council member's names and are the only ballots that will be counted. There will be a second ballot printed at the Head Table in case of a tie. Those ballots will be pre-stamped "2nd ballot." All ballots must be personally turned in at the Head Table by the Advisory Council Members.
    - ii. Only Executive Council Members can review the ballots voted on by the Advisory Council Members.
    - iii. The Executive Council will tabulate the votes for the U.S. Open.
  - b. A person who is a legal Resident Alien and is a bona fide resident of a particular state is eligible to win the Main Event Open, Concurrent and/or Class Champion awards at the US Open. (See rule IV-A-2-c-1-iv)
  - c. To be eligible for open, class and/or concurrent prizes, monies and/or awards at the U.S. Open, a shooter must have shot a minimum of 500 registered targets in the current shoot year prior to the U.S. Open. *League and monthly targets no longer count towards penalty class minimums. The Preliminary Events do not count towards*

minimum targets unless they are held under a separate shoot number. If a shooter does not have a minimum of **500** targets, he/she shall shoot every event at the shoot and may win prizes, monies, and/or awards in a penalty class, one class above his/her current class.

- d. Following the U.S. Open all shooters who were placed in a penalty class as a result of their failure to meet the **500** registered target requirement, will return to their original class, with the following exceptions: If the shooter earns a punch or punches in the penalty class they will remain in that penalty class for the remainder of the shoot year. Example: If the shooter was originally in class E and the newly assigned higher class, based on penalty class, is class D, and if the shooter subsequently wins sufficient punches in the event, he will advance to class C.
- 6. National Championship**—An annual shoot held by the National Sporting Clays Association on its Home Grounds.
- a. Only bona fide US Citizens are eligible to win the Main Event Open, Concurrent and/or Class Champion awards at the NSCA Nationals and Junior Nationals. (See rule IV-A-2-c-1-iv) A US citizen is defined as anyone who is eligible for a US Passport.
  - b. To be eligible for open, class and/or concurrent prizes, monies and/or awards at the National Championship, a shooter must have shot a minimum of **500** registered targets in the current year, prior to the Nationals. *League and monthly targets no longer count towards penalty class minimums.* The Preliminary Events do not count towards minimum targets unless they are held under a separate shoot number. If a shooter does not have a minimum of **500** targets, he/she shall shoot every event at the shoot and may win prizes, monies and/or awards in a penalty class, one class above his/her current class.
  - c. Following the National Championship, all shooters who were placed in a penalty class as a result of their failure to meet the **500** registered target requirement, will return to their original class, with the following exceptions: If the shooter earns a punch or punches in the penalty class, they will remain in that penalty class for the remainder of the shoot year. Example: If the shooter was originally in class E and the newly assigned higher class, based on penalty class, is class D, and if the shooter subsequently wins sufficient punches in the event, he will advance to class C.
  - d. A program will be published each year, and posted on the NSCA website: [www.nssa-nasca.org](http://www.nssa-nasca.org), giving all details of the current year's tournament.
- 7. League** - A sporting clays, NSCA 5-Stand league may be approved as a registered event for NSCA members. Non-members may also participate in the league. A registered league's dates must be submitted by a club for approval by the appropriate State Association or National Delegate (where no State Association currently exists). A league will be conducted over a minimum 10 week period and is open to individuals or teams and may be conducted at one or more

clubs concurrently. The final results of the league may be submitted as a registered event. No punches will be awarded for leagues.

- 8. Monthly Targets** - A sporting clays, NSCA 5-Stand event beginning on the first day of a given month and ending on the last day of the same month where shooters are able to shoot any number of targets between the set days of the given month. Monthly targets may be approved as a registered event for NSCA members. Monthly target dates must be submitted by a club for approval by the appropriate State Association or National Delegate (where no State Association currently exists). Monthly targets will be held at one club, and final results may be submitted as registered targets only. No punches will be awarded for monthly targets.

### C. GAUGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Twelve gauge events shall be open to all shotguns of 12 gauge or smaller, using shot loads not exceeding one and one-eighth (1 1/8) ounces.
2. Twenty gauge events shall be open to all shotguns of 20 gauge or smaller, using shot loads not exceeding seven-eighths (7/8) of an ounce.
3. Twenty-eight gauge events shall be open to all shotguns of 28 gauge or smaller, using shot loads not exceeding three-quarters (3/4) of an ounce.
4. Four-ten events shall be open to all shotguns of .410 bore, using shot loads not exceeding one-half (1/2) of an ounce

### D. CONCURRENT EVENTS

These are events which are offered in concurrence with the seven (7) classes of shooters (Master, AA, A, B, C, D, E) that allow the participating shooters to compete and receive prizes or awards in these separate events in addition to their class. These events are based on age (Sub-Junior, Junior, Veteran, Super Veteran and Senior Super Veteran) or gender (Lady). Where shoot programs offer special concurrent events based upon age, a shooter entering such special events must be allowed to shoot in the one for which they are qualified for by age along with any other concurrent class for which they are eligible if such a concurrent class is available (i.e. Lady could also be a Veteran, Super Veteran, Senior Super Veteran, Junior or Sub-Junior).

1. A shooter's eligibility for concurrent events which are based on age is determined by the age of the shooter on the **1st day of the target year** and shall determine their eligibility for the entire upcoming shooting year. No contestant shall be eligible for more than one individual concurrent event based on age.

**Sub-Junior**—Any member who has not reached their 16th birthday on or before Jan. 1 of the target year.

**Junior**—Any member who has not reached their 21st birthday on or before Jan. 1 of the target year.

**Veteran**—Any person 55 years of age and over who has not yet reached their 65th birthday on or before Jan. 1 of the target year.

**Super Veteran**—Any person 65 years of age and over who has not yet reached their 75th birthday on or before Jan. 1 of the target year.

**Senior Super Veteran**—Any person 75 years of age and over

on or before Jan. 1 of the target year.

For concurrent eligibility for F.I.T.A.S.C. (See Section VI-F-1-c.)

**Lady**—A female shooter of any age.

See Team USA criteria for further details regarding concurrent age qualifications (page 41-42)

2. NSCA Nationals, U.S. Open, *Region*, State and Major shoots must offer all applicable Concurrent Events and provide some type of award.
3. Shooters are eligible to compete for both concurrent and class awards. Shoot Official (s) may specify in the tournament program that a reduced fee is offered for concurrent events. At time of entry the shooter has the option to pay the full entry fee and compete for both concurrent and class (open) titles, or pay a reduced fee and compete for concurrent titles only. If the shooter elects to pay a reduced fee and compete for concurrent titles only, they are still subject to earning punches, in their class, according to Rule III-A-2.
4. No Junior or Sub-Junior shall be required to pay any part of entry fee that is to be returned to the shooter in the form of money.
5. **Youth Teams**—This is a concurrent category that can be offered at the host club's discretion. If offered, this team event will be shot simultaneously with an already established tournament event.
  - a. Teams will consist of four or five members and are required to shoot as a group.
  - b. All team members must be in the Junior or Sub-Junior age group.
  - c. Each team must have a designated coach nearby.
  - d. For team competition, the lowest individual score will be dropped from a five-member team score even though there may be no four-member teams participating.
  - e. Even though the scores of all team members may not count toward the team's event score, all team members will be counted as participants in the shoot, and in their respective classes, and all individual scores will be registered.

## E. EQUIPMENT

1. **Targets**—Targets thrown in any event may include any or all of the following:
  - a. Regulation SPORTING CLAYS, SKEET or TRAP targets as specified by ATA, NSSA or NSCA.
  - b. Specialty targets—Mini, midi, battue, rocket or rabbit targets as specified by NSCA.
  - c. Any sporting clays target approved by NSCA.
  - d. Poison Bird—Not Allowed.
  - e. Pairs
    1. **Report Pair**—Two sequential targets where the second target is launched at the sound of the gun firing at the first target. Targets may be launched from one or more traps.
    2. **Following Pair**—Two sequential targets where the second target is launched at the official's discretion after the first target. Targets may be launched from one or more traps.
    3. **Simultaneous Pair (True Pair)**—Two targets launched simultaneously. Targets may be launched

from one or more traps.

- f. Target number, selection and order of presentation for any competition shall be at the discretion of the Shoot Officials, but must be the same for all shooters. It is recommended that 30 percent to 40 percent of targets for tournaments be specialty targets.
- g. No less than 80 percent of all targets in a shoot shall be presented with a reasonably consistent trajectory, distance and velocity to all shooters (See IV-E-2-d).

## **2. Traps**

- a. Targets will be propelled by, and launched from, any of a number of commercially produced, modified, or handmade devices which will propel an approved target in a manner to approach the characteristics (in the opinion of the Shoot Officials) of a game bird or animal typically taken by a sporting shotgun.
- b. Launching devices which provide for targets traveling at varying angles and distances to the competitors (i.e. wobble or oscillating traps) may not be used in registered tournaments.
- c. Devices which provide for propelling multiple targets are permitted.
- d. Devices propelling targets of more than one type, and devices capable of providing targets at varying angles and distances, shall be employed only as the varying aspects of these devices will be the same for all shooters and will be free of all human element of selection.

## **3. Shotguns**

- a. Shotguns of 12 gauge or smaller, in safe working order, and capable of firing two shots are to be used in attempting all targets. No more than two (2) shells may be loaded in the gun at one time.
- b. Shotguns fitted for multiple barrels (of various chokes and/or lengths) are permitted. The shooter is allowed to change barrels only between stations. Failure to comply will result in all targets on that station attempted after the infraction being scored as LOST or MISSED.
- c. Shotguns with interchangeable or adjustable chokes are permitted at the shooter's discretion. The first shooter on a station may view targets, then change chokes prior to shooting any targets. Only then chokes may be changed or adjusted between stations. Failure to comply will result in all targets on that station attempted after the infraction being scored as LOST or MISSED.
- d. Competitors may enter a shoot with various guns and attempt targets at various stations with different guns, or the gun of another competitor. Guns may be changed only between stations except in the case of a malfunction (IV-L-1-b). Failure to comply will result in all targets on that station attempted after the infraction being scored as LOST or MISSED.
- e. Guns with release type triggers are allowed and must be clearly marked and Shoot Officials notified of their presence. Safety stickers designating release trigger, with instructions on placement, are available at no charge

from NSCA Headquarters. Please send your request in writing.

- f. At no time may two different gauges be used in the same shotgun at the same time. (i.e. Use of a tube set with a 20 ga. in the top barrel and a 28 ga. in the bottom barrel).

#### 4. Ammunition

- a. *All shot shell ammunition including reloads may generally be used unless otherwise restricted by the shoot organizers. Reloads are not permitted at Regional Championships, the US Open, or the National Championships. Other Shoot Officials may also limit the ammunition to commercially manufactured shot shells. The National Sporting Clays Association assumes no responsibility in connection with the use of reloads or commercially manufactured ammunition.*

- b. Maximum loads for any gauge event may not exceed:

Gauge	Ounce Lead
12	1 1/8
20	7/8
28	3/4
.410 (2 1/2" Maximum)	1/2

- c. No lead shot smaller than U.S. No. 9 (nominal diameter 0.080) or larger than U.S. No. 7-1/2 (nominal diameter 0.095) shall be used in any load. No steel shot smaller than U.S. No. 9 or larger than U.S. No. 6 (nominal diameter 0.110) shall be used in any load.

- d. Shot shall be normal production spherical shot. Plated shot is permitted.

#### F. COURSE SETUP AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Station**—A shooting position from which one or more targets are attempted.
- 2. Field**—A group of stations from which targets are attempted sequentially. Once a squad or individual checks onto a field, all stations and/or all targets on the field are attempted before moving to another field. NSCA 5-STAND is a group of stations considered to be one (1) field. The Shoot Officials will provide direction for execution of shooting at each field.
- Registered events are required to throw a minimum of 25 targets. The course will provide for a predetermined number of shooting fields from which each competitor will attempt various targets.
- The number of stations and the number and characteristics of targets from each station, on each field, will be determined by the Shoot Officials, and will be the same for all shooters. Changes in target trajectory, distance, and/or velocity due to wind, rain, time of day or any other natural cause does not constitute a violation of this rule.
- Registered and non-registered events may not be held on the same course/field (ie. 3-gun shoot on the same course as prelim).
- Multiple events (12 gauge, small gauges, side by side, pump, etc.) may be held on the same course. If a single course is used for multiple events, shooters must have a significantly different presentation of targets for each event. This can be achieved by varying some combination of shooting location, trap set up and orientation, order of targets, or type of presentation (single, report, true, or following pair.) Station Example (using two traps) : 20 ga - A-B True, 28 ga - A on*

report B, .410 - B on report A. Station Example (using 3 traps): 12 ga - A-C true, 20 ga - B-C true, 28 ga - B on report A, .410 - C on report B, SxS - A-B true, Pump-A on report B.

## G. SHOOT OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL

1. **Shoot Promoter**—Individual (s) or entity which provides for the facilities and organization of the competition. Shoot Promoters may also act as Shoot Officials.
2. **Shoot Official**—Individual(s) appointed by the Shoot Promoter and responsible for course layout, target selection and appointment of Field Judges. Shoot Officials shall be responsible for both layout and testing of the course for safety. Shoot Officials are responsible for ensuring that competitors are not allowed to shoot the course prior to the competition.
  - a. Anyone who shoots the course prior to the competition is ineligible to compete in the tournament. They may shoot for registered targets only, but will not be eligible for awards or punches. Their scores will be *recorded* as a re-entry score and will not be included in their class when determining punches.
  - b. Any person who sets or designs a course shall be allowed to shoot that course for registered targets only, but will not be eligible for awards or punches. Their scores will be *recorded* as a re-entry score and will not be included in their class when determining punches. A person who sets targets at a State or *Regional Championship make an All-State or All-Region Team, provided that (a) they earned enough points in other tournaments to qualify and (b) they shot the Main Event of their State or Regional Championship for targets only.*
3. **Field Judge (Referee)**—An individual, who has integrity and a knowledge of NSCA Rules, assigned by the Shoot Officials to enforce the rules and score targets at any NSCA event. This individual can be the Chief Referee, a certified referee or any individual appointed by the Shoot Official (s).
  - a. Field Judges will be required at each station, in sufficient number, to competently enforce all rules for the shooter, as well as to score the attempts accurately.
  - b. Numbers and positions for Field Judges shall be determined by the Shoot Officials.
4. **Chief Referee**—A person may be appointed by shoot management who is responsible for the general supervision over all other referees at a tournament, and who shall be present throughout the shooting.
5. **Certified Referee**—A person who has completed and passed an NSCA Certified Referee Examination. Examination forms may be requested from NSCA Headquarters by recognized State Associations, National Delegate (s) and NSCA club owners/managers: all of whom may administer the test to an applicant in their presence. The completed examination should then be forwarded to NSCA Headquarters, with a fee of \$20 for processing. Certification will be for a period of three (3) years, ending December 31 of the 3rd year. The applicant may refer to the NSCA Rule Book to complete the examination; however, ALL questions on the examination must be answered correctly in order to pass. NSCA will issue Certified Referee credentials (patch and card) to applicants who pass the examination. This is a voluntary program. Level I and Level II Certified Instructor courses will automatically include this examination.

## H. SHOOTING ORDER/ROTATIONS

1. **Format**—Contestants shall proceed through the course and

competition in one of the following formats:

- a. **European Rotation**—Individual competitors or groups of two (2) through six (6) competitors will proceed to the various stations at random. Groups may shoot in any order of rotation selected by the shooters and may change the rotation from field-to-field. In European Rotation, a shoot start and shoot end time will be established. It will be the responsibility of each shooter to complete the entire event between these times.
- b. **Squadding**—At the discretion of the Shoot Officials, groups of three (3) to six (6) shooters will be formed to proceed from field-to-field in a fixed sequence. Unless specified by Shoot Officials, squads may shoot in any order of rotation selected by the shooters and may change the rotation from field to field.
  1. In squadding sequence, squads will be assigned a start time and it is the responsibility of each shooter to be ready on time, or within 5 minutes of that time.
  2. Time—Shots not attempted by the “shoot end time” (European Rotation), or shots not attempted by the shooter joining his squad after they have begun (squadding), will be scored as LOST. The Shoot Officials shall have the right to provide for make up targets if sufficient justification can be presented. Make up targets are provided solely at the discretion of the Shoot Officials.
2. A NSCA member may not compete in a non-NSCA event on the same course until that member has shot the NSCA event. For example, if there is a 3-shot event planned on the same course as a NSCA event, a member must shoot the NSCA registered event before shooting the 3-shot event.

## I. ATTEMPTING TARGETS

1. It will be the responsibility of each shooter to be familiar with these rules. Ignorance of the rules will not be a cause to re-attempt targets lost because of rule violations.
2. It is the sole responsibility of the shooter to begin any event, station and/or field with sufficient equipment, including safety equipment and ammunition. Failure to do so, which in the opinion of the Field Judges will delay the shoot, will result in the loss of all targets as required to keep the shoot moving. Make-up targets will be provided only at the discretion of the Shoot Officials.
3. **Call for Target**—The target **must** be launched immediately or with a delay of up to three (3) seconds.
4. **Shotgun Mount and Position**—The shooter may start with a low gun or a pre-mounted gun when calling for the target.

## J. TARGET PRESENTATION AND SCORING

1. Targets will be presented for attempt by the shooter and scored at each station in one or more of the following formats.
  - a. **Single Target**  
Two shots are allowed and the target will be scored DEAD if broken by either shot.
    - i. *On a single target (full use of gun): If the target is missed with the first shot and an ammo or gun malfunction occurs, preventing the second shot from being fired, the target will be reattempted. On the reshoot, the shooter must intentionally miss the target on the first shot. The second shot will count*

*for either dead or lost. If the shooter breaks the first target on the first shot of the reshoot in this scenario, the target will be scored as lost.*

**b. Pairs**

Only two shots are allowed. Pairs may be presented as report, following or simultaneous (true pair)

- i. In simultaneous pairs (true pair) the shooter has the right to shoot either of the targets first. If the shooter has missed the first target he may fire the second cartridge at the same target.
- ii. When shooting report or following pairs, the shooter will have the right, if missing the first target, to fire the second cartridge at the same target (the result being scored on the first target and the second target being scored as LOST).

**c. Scoring Pairs**

- i. Should the shooter break both targets with either the first or second shot then the result will be scored as two hits.
- ii. In the event of a NO BIRD on a simultaneous pair (true pair) or following pair, nothing can be established. Two good targets must be present to record the score. This will also apply for gun/ammunition malfunctions while shooting pairs. (See IV-L)
- iii. In the event of a NO BIRD on the second target of a report pair, the first bird will be established as DEAD or LOST and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair, the shooter must make a legitimate attempt at the first target.
- iv. In the event of a "shooter malfunction" on the first bird of a report pair, the first bird will be established as LOST and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair the shooter must make a legitimate attempt at the first target. The first target has already been established as LOST and the result of the second target will be recorded. (See IV-L-2)

**d. Multiple Targets**

Only two (2) shots are allowed; two (2) HITS or DEAD BIRDS maximum.

2. Timed reloads are not allowed in any NSCA competition.

**3. Shooters Viewing Targets**

The first person on every squad shall be allowed to view a good presentation of targets from within the shooting station. This is not limited to one pair. This person is the only person permitted to mount their unloaded gun and track the targets being viewed.

**K. SCORING PROCEDURE**

1. Each shooter will be assigned a score card to be presented to the Field Judges at the various stations or fields. Field Judges will score each shooter's attempts on the individuals score card. The total shall be tallied and the scores written in ink and initialed by the Field Judge.
2. Each shooter is responsible for his score card from assignment, at the start of the shoot, until the card is filed with the

Shoot Officials at the end of each day's shooting.

3. Scores made on re-entry will not qualify for prizes.
4. Shooters are responsible for checking the Field Judge's totals of HITS and MISSES at each station and/or field.
5. Field Judges may be assisted by markers to record scores on the shooter's score cards.
6. Targets shall be scored as HIT or DEAD and designated on score cards by an "X" when in the opinion of the Field Judge, a visible piece has been broken from the target. Targets not struck and broken by the shooters shot (pellets) shall be called LOST or MISSED and designated on score cards by an "O".
7. The call of LOST or DEAD, HIT or MISS shall be announced by the Field Judge prior to recording the score on every target.
8. If the shooter disagrees with the Field Judge's call, he/she must protest before firing at another set of targets or before leaving that station. The Field Judge may poll the spectators and may reverse his/her original call. In all cases the final decision of the Field Judge will stand.
9. During a registered event, each shooter must verify his/her score before leaving the station. Once the shooter has left the station, his/her score is final.

#### L. MALFUNCTIONS

The shooter shall be allowed a combined total of three (3) malfunctions per day, per event attributed to either the shooter's gun or ammunition. Targets not attempted on the three (3) allowed malfunctions shall be treated as NO BIRDS. Targets not attempted due to the fourth or later malfunctions shall be scored as LOST.

##### 1. Gun Malfunctions

- a. *Gun malfunctions include the situations where (a) the gun will not fire either barrel (The shooter must keep the gun pointed downrange and present it to the field judge who must verify that the condition persists as an inoperable gun. If the gun subsequently fires, it will be deemed a shooter malfunction.); (b) the gun had a true simultaneous discharge (gun doubles); (c) the gun fan fires (second barrel discharges without shooter action); and (d) a semi-automatic shotgun fails to eject the shot shell from the first shot and a second shot is required.*
- b. In the case of a gun malfunction, the shooter must remain in place, the gun pointed safely down range and must not open the gun or tamper with trigger, safety or barrel selector, until the Field Judge has determined the cause and made his/her ruling.
- c. In the case of an inoperable gun, the shooter has the option to use another gun, if one is available, or he/she may drop out of competition until the gun is repaired. The shooter must; however, finish the event during the allotted scheduled shooting time.

##### 2. Shooter Malfunctions

Targets shall be scored as LOST if the shooter is unable to fire because of the following examples which include but are not limited to:

- a. Shooter has left the safety on.
- b. Shooter has forgotten to load, loaded previously fired shells or failed to properly cock the gun.

- c. Shooter has forgotten to disengage the locking device from the magazine of a semi-automatic shotgun.
- d. Shooter has not sufficiently released the trigger of a single trigger gun having fired the first shot.
- e. Shooter not seeing the target.
- f. If the shooter fails to comply with item IV-L-1-a, the target (s) will be scored as LOST or MISSED.

### **3. Ammunition Malfunctions**

In the case of an ammunition malfunction, the shooter must remain in place, the gun pointing safely down range and must not open the gun or tamper with the trigger, safety or barrel selector, until the Field Judge has determined the cause and made his/her ruling. Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Failure to fire, providing firing pin indentation is clearly noticeable.
- b. One in which the primer fires, but through failure of the shell or lack of components, and consequently leaves part of or all of the charge of shot or wad in the gun. A soft load in which the shot and wad leave the barrel, is not a misfire and shall be scored as LOST or MISSED. In the event of a "soft load" on the first bird of a report pair, the first bird will be established as LOST and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair the shooter must make a legitimate attempt at the first target. The first target has already been established as LOST and the result of the second target will be recorded.
- c. Brass pulling off hull between shots on pairs.
- d. Separation of brass from casing when gun is fired (usually accompanied by a "whistling" sound as the plastic sleeve leaves the barrel).
- e. If the shooter fails to comply with item IV-L-3, the target (s) will be scored as LOST or MISSED.

### **4. Trap/Target Malfunctions**

- a. A target which breaks at launching shall be called NO BIRD and shooter will be provided a new target.
- b. A target which is launched in an obviously different trajectory shall be called NO BIRD and the shooter will be provided a new target.
- c. At a station of multiple targets (two or more - simultaneously launched), at least two good targets must be presented simultaneously (true pair) or NO BIRD will be called and the multiple targets will be attempted again. Multiple targets shall be shot as fair pair in the air, two new shots will be attempted and scored, no scores from previous NO BIRD attempts will stand.

### **M. WEATHER/MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

In the event of extreme weather conditions, power failure, trap failure or unusually early darkness, the shoot management may elect to continue the event some other time (i.e. the next morning or the following weekend) but must immediately notify NSCA, with a full explanation, who will sanction the change, provided it is deemed in the best interest of sporting clays.

### **N. SHOOT-OFFS**

In all registered NSCA tournaments, all ties shall be shot off un-

less otherwise specified by shoot management and published in the program or posted at the registration table. Procedures for shoot-offs and squads shall be posted prior to beginning of shoot. If shoot-offs are held, the shoot-offs must be held on targets or positions not previously shot by any participating competitor.

#### **O. PROTESTS**

1. A shooter may protest, if in his/her opinion, the rules as stated herein are improperly applied.
2. Any protest concerning calls or scoring of hits or misses must be made on the shooting station prior to leaving the station. The Field Judge's final decision will stand and no further protest allowed.
3. Protests shall be made immediately upon completion of the shooting at a given field with the Field Judge and with Shoot Official (s).
4. The Shoot Official (s) shall convene a predetermined JURY of three (3) to five (5) Field Judges or competitors who are known to be representative of the shooters present and knowledgeable about these rules. The Jury will decide on the validity of the protest and the resolution of the case. They will prescribe penalties or award bonuses as they determine to be fair and in the spirit of the competition.

#### **P. CHECKS/PAYMENTS/OVERPAYMENTS**

1. Anyone who presents a check at any shoot that is returned for insufficient funds, or other causes, must be notified by Registered Mail by the club to which it was presented and has fifteen (15) days to make full payment, plus penalty, to the club.  
Any club receiving such a check shall report name and address of the shooter issuing the check to the NSCA.
2. Any competitor at a registered shoot who, through error, has been overpaid on any purse, added money, optional or other prize money and who is notified of the overpayment by Registered Mail, must return the overpayment within fifteen (15) days of notification.  
Failure to do so shall result in disbarment from all registered shoots until repayment is made. See Section I-B-4.

#### **Q. OFFICIAL SCORES**

1. All scores or records, to be recognized as official, must be shot under all of the official NSCA rules.
2. Only the scores shot on scheduled dates, approved by NSCA, shall be registered. Scores made in shoot-offs shall not be registered, however, all NSCA rules shall apply in shoot-offs.
3. The scores of any NSCA member shooting on a course where a registered shoot is taking place shall be considered official, and shall be registered with the NSCA even though the shooter had given notice that it was not his/her intention to have their score recorded.
4. The score of a contestant who voluntarily stops or withdraws (without just cause), or who is disqualified by shoot management from an event which the contestant has started will be reported to NSCA along with the other scores of the event. This contestant's partial score for the station in which he/she is shooting shall be entered as the score for that station even though the contestant may not have actually fired on all targets. However, the total score for this contestant will

not include targets from any station where he/she did not actually fire on at least one target.

- a. In the event a shooter does not turn in his/her score card, the score recorded on the Master Score Sheet will be entered as the official score. If a Master Score Sheet is not available, then a score of one (1) will be entered as the official score. (see IV-S-6)
5. Scores for contestants who withdraw because of sickness or injury shall be based on and reported only on number of targets actually fired upon.
6. In the event that a station(s) must be eliminated from the competition and results must be determined on less than the original number of targets intended for the competition shoot officials must give all competitors (whether they shot the station(s) or not) credit for all targets planned for the eliminated station(s) and must report the total number of targets shot at as originally intended (i.e. 100, 150, 200, etc.) to NSCA Headquarters.
7. Scores in shoots on which complete records are not made by shoot management will not be recorded and the National Association shall not be liable to refund fees received in such cases.

## **R. REGISTERED SHOOT REPORTS**

1. **Reporting Requirements**—It is the duty of each club holding a registered shoot to fulfill the following obligations:
  - a. Make payments of all money, purses and options to the shooters. (See Section VIII)
  - b. All money collected for optional purses must be paid out 100 percent to the eligible shooter(s).
  - c. Range Owners are required to fulfill all registered shoot reporting requirements within fifteen (15) days of their event or a \$25 delinquent fine will be imposed for all shoot reports, financial statements and fees not received at NSCA Headquarters within that period. (See Section VIII)  
NSCA Headquarters will also have fifteen (15) days from the date the registered shoot report is received to have all scores input or be faced with the same \$25 fine to be returned to the club hosting the tournament.
  - d. Should a NSCA club not file a Shoot Report and pay the appropriate fees within 45 days from the date of the shoot, that club will be suspended from holding registered shoots until such a time as the report and fees are received by NSCA Headquarters. Upcoming scheduled shoots will be noted "SUSPENDED" on the web site notifying members that if they shoot, the targets will not be registered.
  - e. Shoot reports and financial forms must be sent to NSCA on all registered shoots. Standard forms available from NSCA Headquarters or any NSCA approved spreadsheet must include all information in rules IV-R-2 and 3.
  - f. If an approved State Association exists, clubs within the state must submit all required documents to their State Association within fifteen (15) days.
2. **Financial Report**
  - a. **Daily Fees**—List number of targets shot each day of shoot and remit to NSCA the required daily registration fee (in

U.S. Funds). *Daily fees are \$.04 per target.*

- b. **NSCA dues collected**—Remittance (in U.S. Funds) and original copies of receipts for all NSCA memberships sold at your shoot must be attached. Membership applications must be completely and legibly filled out with name and address.
3. **Shoot Report**—An individual entry form/cashier sheet must be submitted on every shooter unless the club is using an NSCA approved spreadsheet. For every event these reports must include:
    - a. NSCA membership number
    - b. Member's full name
    - c. Member's complete address
    - d. Number of targets shot
    - e. Number of targets broken
    - f. Class and Concurrent Status, if any in which member was entered
    - g. *Awards won. Winners must be determined and reported under NSCA Classification system. This applies even if no awards are made. Do not list winners above class champions unless such awards were made.*
      - i. Awards must be listed in the shoot report or the shoot will not appear in Sporting Clays Magazine.
    - h. Clubs are required to retain copies of scoreboard and/or field score sheets on file for 90 days after the end of the applicable shooting year. For the shooter's reference, they should keep an accurate record of the number of entries at each and every registered event.
    - i. It shall be the range owner's responsibility to keep on hand throughout the shoot year, a detailed list of shooters, scores and all monies paid out to shooters. If requested in writing by any participant in any event, it shall be the range owners responsibility to provide the participants with a detailed list of all participants, their scores and all money and prizes paid out and presented to shooters no sooner than within fifteen (15) days of the shoot report due date. All requests for such information shall be in writing accompanied by a stamped, self addressed envelope. Clubs are required to retain this information on file for 90 days after the end of the applicable shooting year.

## S. DISQUALIFICATION AND EXPULSION

A member may be disqualified or expelled from an event upon presentation of proper evidence of misconduct or violation of NSCA rule. Shoot management may disqualify or expel a member when a complaint has been filed in writing and after giving both parties (the party filing the complaint and the party complained of) an opportunity to be heard prior to disqualification or expulsion. When a member is disqualified or expelled from a NSCA event, a written record of the complaint, the response and the decision shall be forwarded to the NSCA Director.

Shoot management or a jury appointed by shoot management shall upon presentation of proper evidence:

1. Disqualify any shooter for the remainder of the shoot program for willful or repeated violation of gun safety precautions which endanger the safety of shooters, field personnel and/or spectators.
2. Elect to refuse the entry or cause the withdrawal of any

contestant whose conduct, in the sole opinion of shoot management, is unsportsmanlike or whose participation is in any way detrimental to the best interests of the shoot.

3. Disqualify any shooter from a shoot for misrepresentation of his/her status under the eligibility rules (SANDBAGGING).
4. Expel or disqualify any shooter physically assaulting a Field Judge or any shooter using abusive language to a Field Judge upon sufficient evidence presented.
5. The shoot management shall report to NSCA all cases of disqualification and expulsion and the reasons for the same. The circumstances under which any shooter is expelled from or disqualified from any NSCA function, event, or club will be reviewed by the Executive Director after giving the shooter involved an opportunity to be heard. The Executive Council will direct the Executive Director to notify the shooter, in writing, of his/her membership status: A) No action taken, B) Expulsion/loss of membership for a term to be determined by the Executive Council, or C) Probation for one (1) year and if any other mishaps, immediate expulsion and loss of membership for one (1) year. The Executive Council can amend the length of expulsion or probation. Members may be suspended for failing to pay for goods or services ordered from NSSA/NSCA Member Club or who give to NSSA/NSCA Member Club a check that is returned for insufficient funds or other cause. Members **MAY BE** reinstated upon receipt in full of the outstanding balance and any fees incurred, such as bank charges, as a result of the incident. The Executive Council can determine any penalties and/or suspensions as each case merits. (See I-B-4)
6. Any disqualified shooter or one that does not finish an event for any reason will remain as an entrant of said shoot for the purposes of awarding punches.

## V. NSCA 5-STAND SPORTING™

NSCA 5-STAND Sporting events consist of targets shot in 25 bird increments from five shooting stands with each shooter rotating from station to station. The game offers several different skill levels and utilizes six or eight automatic traps to simulate game birds. Targets are released in a predetermined set sequence marked on a menu card in front of each shooting cage. Targets are registered separately under a special set of rules; however, they utilize the NSCA Classification system and all targets are included for total targets shot for the year. NSCA 5-STAND Sporting rules must be followed at all times while conducting this event.

### A. LAND

1. Minimum area 50 yards wide along shooting stand line.
2. Minimum 300 yards deep left and right of the center of shooting stand line creating an 80 degree arc for safe shot fall. (Game can be overlaid on a skeet and/or trap field.)

### B. EQUIPMENT

1. Six (6) or eight (8) automatic traps are recommended.
2. Machines should include a rabbit trap and a vertical trap (minimum 60 percent).
3. Five shooting stands not less than seven (7) feet tall and not more than 54 inches across the front opening.
4. One tower not less than twelve (12) feet in height is recom-

mended.

5. Controller (any NSCA approved).
6. Target sequence menu cards.
7. Trap location numbers.
8. Shooting stand numbers.
9. Safety rules sign.

### C. LAYOUT

1. Shooting stands must be in a **STRAIGHT LINE** (for safety) not less than four (4) yards apart or more than six (6) yards apart (recommended five (5) yards) center-to-center.
2. Trap placement and target flight paths may be arranged to include the following:
  - a. Left to right crossing and/or quartering away target.
  - b. Right to left crossing and/or quartering away target.
  - c. Vertical target (Springing Teal).
  - d. Rabbit target.
  - e. Tower target going away.
  - f. Incoming target.
3. For safety reasons, traps must be placed in a position that prevents broken targets from hitting the competitors or causing a competitors gun to be pointed in an unsafe direction. Traps placed parallel or too close to the shooting stand line can create a serious hazard. Recommended five yard minimum for any traps placed in front of shooting stands. Tower placement must be a sufficient distance back or to the side of the shooting stand line to prevent broken targets from falling on the competitors. Traps placed to the side of the shooting stand line should be a sufficient distance forward or behind the shooting stands to prevent competitors from selecting a hold point too close to the shooting stand line when calling for the target.
4. Multiple Layouts- When the squad moves to the next layout, the original first shooter will rotate to the end of the line; the rest of the shooters on the squad will move up (toward the first cage) one position, thus rotating who is the first shooter at each subsequent layout.

### D. RULES

1. Gun must be open and empty while changing stands.
2. Shooters may not leave their station until instructed to do so by the referee or until the last shooter has fired his/her last shot.
3. May only load gun while in shooting stand in ready position.
4. Shooter's feet must be behind the front opening of the shooting stand except when changing stands. Shooters will be warned, a NO-BIRD will be called, continued disregard will result in losing a target or being disqualified.
5. No chokes may be changed after the round has begun. Failure to comply will result in loss of all targets attempted (in that round) after choke changed.
6. Target sequence menu cards must be posted.

## VI. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### A. ALL-AMERICAN

1. *In 2012, NSCA will recognize up to three All-American Teams in each of the seven categories for five different points races. Ten members will be assigned to each team for a total of 30 members per category, provided that a sufficient number of shooters qualify.*

*There will be five separate points races:*

**All-American Team:** points from all events.

**12 Gauge All-American Team:** points from 12 gauge events.

**20 Gauge All-American Team:** points from 20 gauge events.

**28 Gauge All-American Team:** points from 28 gauge events.

**.410 Bore All-American Team:** points from .410 bore events.

2. *Teams will be selected solely by the All-American Point system.*
3. *To be eligible for the All-American Team, you must be a citizen of the United States and be eligible for a U.S. passport.*
4. *Eligibility:*

**a. Targets (All-American Teams):**

**Open Team:** Minimum 1,200 registered targets.

**Lady, Veteran, Super Veteran, and Senior Super**

**Veteran Teams:** Minimum 1,000 registered targets.

**Junior and Sub-Junior Teams:** Minimum 800 registered targets.

**b. Targets (12g., 20g., 28g., and .410 All-American Teams):**

**Open Team:** Minimum 200 registered targets.

**Lady, Veteran, Super Veteran, and Senior Super**

**Veteran Teams:** Minimum 200 registered targets.

**Junior and Sub-Junior Teams:** Minimum 200 registered targets.

**c. NSCA All-American Team members are not eligible for the NSCA All-Region Teams nor NSCA All-State Teams.**

**d. NSCA All-American gauge specific team members are eligible for all teams (12, 20, 28, .410).**

### **C. NSCA All-Region TEAM**

NSCA will annually select an NSCA All-Region Team for each *Region* in order to recognize more shooters for their shooting ability. Selection is based on the following criteria:

1. Team consists of 18 All-Region members as follows:
  - Five from the Open = 5
  - One person from each class = 7
  - One person from each concurrent = 6
2. Persons who have been selected for an All-American would be ineligible in order to recognize an entire new category of shooters.
3. A minimum number of 500 registered targets must be shot annually within the home *region* by each individual.
4. Mandatory participation is required at the *Region* Championship for all categories. If there was not a *Region*

Championship, no team will be selected for that *region*.

5. NSCA All-*Region* Teams may be in addition to any team that may have been selected by the State Association.
6. Team selection priority: Open, concurrent, then class.
7. Selection is based on wins, *Regional Championship* score and total shoot performance.
8. Team selection for each class is based on a shooter's beginning year class.
9. To be eligible for the Open Team, shooters must have attained Master or "AA" classification by year end.
10. End of year residence determines region status.

#### D. NSCA ALL-STATE TEAM

NSCA will annually select an NSCA All-State Team for each state in order to recognize more shooters for their shooting ability. Selection is based on the following criteria:

1. Team consists of 18 All-State members as follows:  
Five from the Open = 5  
One person from each class = 7  
One person from each concurrent = 6
2. Persons who have been selected for an All-American or All-*Region* Team would be ineligible in order to recognize an entire new category of shooters.
3. A minimum number of 500 registered targets must be shot annually within the home state by each individual.
4. Mandatory participation is required at the State Championship for all categories. If there was not a State Championship, no team will be selected for that state.
5. NSCA All-State Teams may be in addition to any team that may have been selected by the State Association.
6. Team selection priority: Open, concurrent, then class.
7. Selection is based on wins, State *Championship* score and total shoot performance.
8. Team selection for each class is based on a shooter's beginning year class.
9. To be eligible for the Open Team, shooters must have attained Master or "AA" classification by year end.
10. End of year residence determines state status.

#### E. TARGET PARTICIPATION PIN

An annual target participation pin provided to recognize shooters who have shot 1,000 or more targets during the year.

#### F. TEAM USA (F.I.T.A.S.C. & SPORTING) THESE RULES ARE VOTED ON BY THE AWARDS COMMITTEE OF THE A/C AND APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

##### 1. F.I.T.A.S.C

Five (5) teams will be selected for Team USA (F.I.T.A.S.C.) – Senior (Open), Lady, Junior\*, Veteran\* and Super Veteran\*. There will be only four members on the open team and three members on each of the concurrent teams.

##### **Minimum criteria for annual Team USA F.I.T.A.S.C:**

- a. Must be a U.S. citizen. A U.S. citizen is defined as anyone who is eligible for a U.S. passport.
- b. NSCA will annually publish a list of Team USA FITASC selection shoots. Points from the main FITASC event at these

*selection shoots are calculated the same as All-American Points. In case of ties, the World Cup style points from the same events are used to break ties. Shooters should check the specific points procedures published on the NSCA website.*

**\*Concurrent Eligibility for Team USA (F.I.T.A.S.C.):**

The NSCA International Committee will select individuals to Team USA (F.I.T.A.S.C.) using international concurrent rules.

**Junior**—a shooter who is less than 21 years of age, and who will not have their 21st birthday during the year of the competition.

**Veteran**—a shooter who had their 55th birthday the year before the competition and who is less than 66 years of age the year of the competition.

**Super Veteran**—a shooter who had their 65th birthday the year before the competition.

## **2. Sporting**

Five (5) teams will be selected for Team USA (Sporting) – Open, Lady, Junior\*, Veteran\* and Super Veteran\*.

There will be only five members on the open team and three members on each of the concurrent teams.

**Minimum criteria for annual Team USA Sporting:**

**a.** Must be a U.S. citizen. A U.S. citizen is defined as anyone who is eligible for a U.S. passport.

**b.** *NSCA will annually publish a list of Team USA Sporting selection shoots. Points from the main sporting event at these selection shoots are calculated the same as All-American Points. In case of ties, the World Cup style points from the same events are used to break ties. Members should check the specific points procedures published on the NSCA website.*

**\*Concurrent Eligibility for Team USA (Sporting):** If you are 54 or 64 and will be 55 or 65 on or before the following January 1, you will be awarded points as if you were already in next year's concurrent so that you do not have to sit out a year. Anyone who has not reached his or her 21st birthday on or before January 1st the year of the competition will be considered a Junior. Senior Super Veterans will be competing to make Super Veteran Team.

The Teams will be completely selected by this point system. The top 5 shooters in Open and the top 3 shooters in Junior, Lady, Veteran and Super Veteran will make the Team. Alternates, if needed, will be chosen by the shooter with the next highest points in their respective concurrent. Refer to Section IV-D-1 for concurrent breakdown.

Refer to Section IV-D-1 for concurrent breakdown.

## **G. MASTERS PIN**

A pin sent to those shooters who have earned their way into Master Class honoring their accomplishment.

## **VII. CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS PROGRAM**

Members who have participated in and passed an NSCA Instructor Certification Course. There are three levels of Instructor Certification available: Level I, II and III. Levels I, II & III must be taken

## VII

in sequence. Level I - teaching the beginner to novice, Level II - teaching intermediates and Level III - for advanced teachers. It takes a minimum of five (5) years and over 1,900 hours of teaching to complete the certification program.

## VIII. NONPAYMENT PENALTIES

### A. CLUBS

1. Failure to fulfill the reporting and payment requirements shall carry the following penalties:
  - a. Cancellation of all subsequent shoot dates for the offending club.
  - b. Denial of right to apply or reapply for any further registered shoot dates for a period of thirty (30) days in case of first offense, or ninety (90) days in case of second or subsequent offense or until obligations have been met.
  - c. Owners, officers and managers of any delinquent club may be barred from shooting registered targets and from all functions of the NSCA either certified, elected or appointed (for example but not limited to: Advisory Council positions, National Delegate positions, *Regional Delegate*, Certified Instructor) until which time as written verification is provided that all required obligations of said club are met to the shooters and NSCA.
2. Club membership may be suspended for any member club who fails to pay for goods or services ordered from NSCA or who gives to NSCA a check that is returned for insufficient funds or other cause. Membership may be reinstated upon receipt in full of the outstanding balance and any penalties incurred, such as bank charges, as a result of the incident.
3. Nothing in this section shall affect, modify or overrule the provisions in Section I-B-4 or the rights and powers of the NSCA as set forth therein.

### B. INDIVIDUALS

1. Members may be suspended for failing to pay for goods or services ordered from NSCA or who give to NSCA a check that is returned for insufficient funds or other cause. Members may be reinstated upon receipt in full of the outstanding balance and any fees incurred, such as bank charges, as a result of the incident.
2. Nothing in this section shall affect, modify or overrule the provisions in Section I-B-4 or the rights and powers of the NSCA as set forth therein.

## IX. PARCOURS DE CHASSE

USA FITASC RULES 1/1/2008

### Chapter 1 - Definition of FITASC

FITASC is a shooting discipline reproducing hunting situations and practiced with a hunting gun and artificial targets. The discipline uses all the features of a terrain and artificial targets of different types that are launched in order to highlight the shooters' technical and sporting skills. The layouts reproduce hunting trajectories with varied levels of difficulty.

The organization of a FITASC layout must take into consideration the safety of all those present, the protection of the flora and

management of the environment. Shooting at live animals is not permitted.

## Chapter 2 - FITASC Layouts

### 2.1 Layout

Depending on the configuration of the competition terrain, a FITASC layout must be equipped with enough traps for the competitors to be able to shoot under conditions that resemble natural game shooting as much as possible; Partridges, ducks, pheasants, rabbits, etc. Target trajectories should include: incoming, outgoing, crossing and quartering at low and high levels, in the open or in woods, obscured or not by trees and shrubs.

### 2.2 Traps

At least four traps are required for each old system layout and at least three for each new system layout. Traps may be either manual, automatic or mixed, identified by alphabetical letters (A, B, C and D) from left to right from the first peg.

### 2.3 Targets

The targets to be used are: normal standard targets, rabbit, midi, super mini, battue, flash and ZZ targets. Targets must be in colors that stand out clearly from the background.

### 2.4 Pegs

Pegs are to be one meter squares or one-meter diameter circles. If possible, pegs should be level ensuring competitors must at least be able to stand up without slipping. (Safety)

### 2.5 Trajectories

2.5.1 FITASC layouts must comply with hunting ethics and shooting distances, i.e.

- No shooting at close range because the game will be unfit for consumption;
- No shooting beyond the effective range of the shotgun or cartridge otherwise the animal would be wounded.

It must be possible to fire two cartridges at each single target.

**We in the US will only enforce the following part of this rule during a World Cup event.**

The difficulty of each trajectory is ranked as follows:

The percentages shown in each class must correspond to the results of the targets broken by the average shooter:

Difficulty	Class A	Class B	Class C
More than 80%	from 60% till 80%	from 40% till 60%	

Varied trajectories are recommended for each peg, defined by a scale of difficulty from class "A" to class "C".

- One "A" trajectory
- Two "B" trajectories
- One "C" trajectory

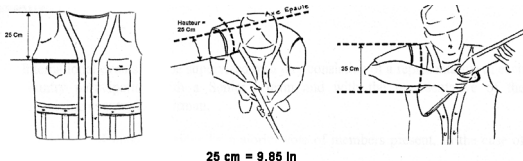
In the case of a peg with five single targets, the additional target may solely be a class "A" or "B".

2.5.2 Doubles must be shot at targets already launched as singles from that peg. Moreover:

- A "C" trajectory can be used once only for the double or doubles on a peg, best associated with an "A" target.
- Two "B" trajectories can be used for a double, or a single "B" could be associated with an "A" trajectory.

**Chapter 3 - Shooting rules****3.1 Shooting position**

- 3.1.1 Shooters must adopt the ready position, i.e. standing with both feet within the limits of the peg, with the heel of the gun stock touching the body under a horizontal line marked on the shooter's jacket. This line is 25 cm (9.85") below the axis of the shoulder and in parallel with this axis (see diagram below). Shooters must remain in this position until the target is released and is visible.



Height: 25 cm Shoulder axis  
25 cm = 9.85 inches

- 3.1.2 Shooters must not shoulder their gun until the target appears. Shooters must fire with their gun shouldered on all targets, including rabbits.
- 3.1.3 In a doubles on report, simultaneous or rafale double, shooters may position their gun as they please between the first and second targets only. Gun must be shouldered at the time of attempting the second target.
- 3.1.4 Testing guns  
Under no circumstances may a gun be tested on a FITASC layout, except in the case of a gun malfunction and with the express permission of the Referee. Before going onto a layout, shooters may, if they wish, test the operation of their guns on an area specially designed and laid out for this purpose near the clubhouse.

**3.2 Hearing protection**

See "Rules of conduct / Safety" chapter, Article 8.9.

**3.3 Safety glasses**

See "Rules of conduct / Safety" chapter, Article 8.10.

**Chapter 4 - Definitions****4.1 Definition of a single target**

Any single target, of any clay type, is launched by a trap. It must be possible to fire two cartridges at each single target.

**4.2 Definition of doubles**

Shooters are allowed only two cartridges per double. Both cartridges may be shot at the same target.

**4.2.1 Doubles on report**

Two targets are launched from one or two traps, with the second target launched within a maximum period of 0 to 3 seconds after the first target has been shot at.

**4.2.2 Simultaneous double**

Two targets are thrown simultaneously by one or two traps. The targets may be shot in any order.

**4.2.3 Rafale double**

The targets are thrown from the same trap on the same trajectory, at the reloading sequence of the

arm of the trap. The targets may be shot in any order.

## **II. Competition Refereeing**

### **Chapter 5 - Referees**

5.1 Referees taking part in an international competition solemnly swear to:

- Adhere to the rules and ensure that the rules are adhered to;
- Make their decisions in an honest and impartial way;
- Disregard their nationality and home federation during international competitions;
- Place themselves at a spot enabling them to judge observance of the rules under optimum conditions;
- Announce their decisions clearly and loudly enough for the shooters to hear them;
- Listen to shooters' protests respectfully but without allowing themselves to be influenced by the shooter or other competitors.
- Have in their possession an up-to-date copy of the FITASC rules, in his/hers countries official language.

5.2 Each referee must be in possession of a valid referee's certificate issued by his/her national federation or, in the case of the chief referee, an international referee's certificate issued by FITASC. Otherwise, the referee concerned may act solely as an assistant referee, on condition of prior approval by the jury for the current competition.

5.3 Referees must ensure good order and proper conduct on the layouts and also during shoot-offs.

5.4 When a competitor is ready to shoot, he/she calls "ready" or "pull" to the referee, who passes on the shooter's command to the trapper as quickly as possible via an audio signal. The target must be launched within three seconds after that signal.

5.5 In exceptional circumstances the referee may interrupt shooting if there is a sudden heavy shower or violent storm likely to be of short duration. If the referee subsequently decides that the interruption may be longer than initially thought the jury must be informed.

5.6 A shooter is not entitled to refuse a target unless he/she has not called for it. Solely the referee has the authority to rule on whether a trajectory or a "No Bird" complies with the rules.

### **Chapter 6 - Target refereeing**

6.1 Referees make their decisions alone.

6.2 Squad shooters are not entitled to intervene or express their opinions on target rulings.

6.3 The target is called "kill or one":

When it has been launched and the shooter has fired at it in accordance with article 3.1 and at least one piece is visibly shot off or it is completely or partially destroyed. This also applies to flash targets.

6.4 The target is called "zero":

If the shooter fails to fire at the target without any valid

reason (rafale or simultaneous double zero & zero).

If the shooter fires but the target is not hit and no piece visibly comes off or only particles of dust are visible (smoking targets or target dust).

If the shooter, in the case of a gun malfunction, opens the gun him/herself or touches the safety catch before the referee has checked the gun.

If there is a second malfunction of the gun or ammunition during the same round.

## 6.5 “NO BIRD”

### 6.5.1 “NO BIRD” due to the gun or ammunition

The table below applies in the case of the first incident in the same round.

The shooter receives a warning for the first incident and the target is called “NO BIRD”. After the first incident, all targets not shot at for the same reasons as the first incident are counted as “zero”.

Defect	Type	Action
Two shots at the same time (double discharge)	At a single target	<<No Bird>>, target to be repeated
	At the first target of a double on report	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
	At a simultaneous double	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
	At a rafale double	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
Malfunction with the first shot*	At a single target	<<No Bird>>, target to be repeated
	At a double on report	<<No Bird>>, target to be repeated
	At a simultaneous double	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
	At a rafale double	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
Malfunction with the second shot	At a single target	<<No Bird>>, target to be repeated. The target can be broken only with the second shot and is counted zero if broken with the first shot.

Malfunction with the second shot	At a double on report	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated. Result of the first shot noted. (When the pair is repeated, if the first target is missed again and both targets are broken on the SECOND shot it would be scored KILL/KILL).
	At a simultaneous double	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
	At a rafale double	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated

\* If the second shot is fired, the result is recorded as “kill or one” or “zero”.

#### 6.5.2 «NO BIRD» due to the target

The table below applies in the following cases:

- if a broken target is thrown;
- if the target is not thrown from the correct trap;
- if two targets are launched from traps on the same shooting stand;
- if the target is not of the correct color, size or type;
- if the trajectory is ruled incorrect by the referee;
- if the target is thrown more than three seconds after the referee's command;
- if the shooter has not called for the target;
- if the referee rules that the shooter has clearly been disturbed;
- if the referee is unable to give a ruling on the target.

Type	Action
Single target	<<No Bird>>, target to be repeated
Rabbit broken after being missed with the first shot and before the second shot.	<<No Bird>>, rabbit to be repeated. The target can be broken only with the second shot and is counted zero if broken with the first shot.
First target of a double on report	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
Double of report if the first target (or pieces of it) break(s) the second one before the shooter has fired the second shot.	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated. Result of the first target recorded.

Second target of a double on report.	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated. Result of the first shot noted. (When the pair is repeated, if the first target is missed again and both targets are broken on the SECOND shot, it would be scored KILL/KILL).
Simultaneous double target	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated
Rafale double target	<<No Bird>>, double to be repeated

In all doubles, if both targets are broken with one shot, the results is «KILL or ONE» and «KILL or ONE »

## Chapter 7 - Gun and ammunition

### 7.1 Definition

All hunting shotguns, including semi-automatics, are permitted provided that the caliber does not exceed 12 gauge, with a minimum barrel length of 66 cm.

All shotguns, even unloaded, must be handled with the greatest care. Guns must be carried open (semi-automatic guns must be carried with the breech open), with the muzzle pointing straight upwards or downwards.

Straps or slings on guns are not permitted.

When shooters are not using their guns, they must be placed vertically in a gun rack or in a similar place provided for this purpose. The breech must be open for semi-automatic guns.

### 7.2 Other shooters' guns must not be touched without their permission.

Two shooters in the same squad are not permitted to use/share the same gun in an official competition or championship.

### 7.3 In exceptional circumstances, a shooter may, in the event of his/her gun malfunctioning, borrow another shooter's gun, with the latter's agreement, in order to complete the round.

Complete or partial replacement of a weapon, mobile choke or barrel is allowed during the same round, between pegs, or between single and double targets, though this must not cause any delay.

### 7.4 Once shooters are on the peg, they are not allowed to make any of the changes provided for above, unless they are the first shooter of singles. The first shooter of each peg will bring everything to the peg with them.

### 7.5 The maximum time allowed to shooters between single or double targets is twenty seconds. This time starts after the shooter has attempted a target. If a shooter exceeds this time the referee will issue a warning to the shooter and then apply Article 12.2.

### 7.6 The referee will call "No Bird" for the first gun malfunction. Following malfunctions for the same round are scored

zero. If the gun is repaired before the sequence on that stand is finished by his/her squad, the shooter may shoot last with the referee's permission. If the fault cannot be repaired, the shooter is entitled to continue with his/her squad with the referee's agreement and provided that he/she immediately obtains another gun (cf. Article 7.3). Otherwise, the shooter must leave his/her position and squad and can shoot the remaining targets only once there is a free place in another squad and the jury authorizes him/her to do so.

- 7.7 Should both barrels fire simultaneously (double discharge) due to a gun malfunction for a single target or the first target of a double, the target is called "No Bird" and no result is recorded (Article 6.5).
- 7.8 The cartridge shot load must not exceed 28 grams with a maximum tolerance of +2%. Shot must be spherical, of a regular diameter of 2.0 to 2.5 mm.
- The use of dispersers or any other unusual loading device is strictly forbidden, as is the use of reloaded cartridges.
  - Mixing different shot of differing dimensions and/or qualities is strictly forbidden, as is the use of black powder and tracer cartridges.
- 7.9 If both targets are broken by one shot in a double, they are scored "kill or one" and "kill or one".
- 7.10 The referee may ask the shooter to supply two cartridges for checking before the shooter starts at a shooting stand, taking one cartridge from the right pocket of the shooter's vest and the other from the left pocket or at referee's choice.

## **Chapter 8 - Rules of Conduct / Safety**

- 8.1 If a shooter acts in a manner demonstrating that he/she has lost his/her self-control (throwing down the gun, abusive language or acting violently towards the referee or other competitors, etc), the referee must refer the matter to the jury as quickly as possible (13.4).
- 8.2 A shooter may shoot only in his/her proper turn and only when a target has been launched.  
Shooters are not permitted to aim or fire at other shooters' targets or to aim or fire knowingly at live animals (13.4).  
No pretence/mock shooting is authorized on the pegs or any where on the layouts. If a shooter, before calling "ready", engages in mock shooting (e.g. shouldering the gun and following the theoretical line of the target trajectory) or fires a shot involuntarily, the referee must give the shooter a warning. After the first warning, any further occurrence is scored "zero" for the next target hit.
- 8.3 Shooters must be ready to shoot immediately when called and must have the necessary ammunition and equipment for their round. Under no circumstances should a shooter move forward to the stand until the previous shooter has left it and it is his/her turn to shoot.
- 8.4 Shooters must not load until they are in place in the peg, with

the gun aiming down the range, and only once the referee has given permission to start firing.

- 8.5 All guns may be loaded with a maximum of two cartridges.
- 8.6 Shooters must not turn around on the shooting range before breaking their guns and removing the cartridges from the chambers, whether they have been fired or not.
- 8.7 During the presentation of targets or when shooting is interrupted, shooters must break and unload their guns. They may close their guns only when given permission by the referee.
- 8.8 If a shooter fails to fire or in the event of another gun or cartridge malfunction, the shooter must remain at his/her place with the gun pointing down the range, without breaking it or touching the safety catch, until the referee has checked the gun.
- 8.9 Hearing protection  
Hearing protection is compulsory for all shooters, referees, staff and members of the public on or in the proximity of a layout. Any shooter on a layout without hearing protection is considered absent and Article 16.7 applies. In all circumstances outside the clubhouse, children present on a range must wear hearing protection, regardless of age.
- 8.10 Safety glasses  
Safety glasses are compulsory, without any exceptions, for all shooters, referees, staff and anyone else in the immediate vicinity of a layout. Any shooter on a layout not wearing safety glasses is considered absent and Article 16.7 applies. In all circumstances outside the clubhouse, children present on a range must wear safety glasses, regardless of age.

## **Chapter 9 - Appeals**

- 9.1 The onus is upon the shooters to break their targets at places that are visible to the referee so that he/she can give a ruling.
- 9.2 If the referee rules that a target has been shot behind a natural obstacle or shooting limit, no appeal against the referee's decision is admissible.
- 9.3 Under no circumstances will shooters be permitted to leave their positions or pick up a target to check whether it has been hit.
- 9.4 By calling for the following target, the shooter accepts the referee's ruling on the previous one.
- 9.5 If the shooter disagrees with the referee's decision, the appeal must be made immediately on the shooting stand by saying "appeal" or "protest".  
The referee must then interrupt firing and the shooter must give the reason for the appeal.
- 9.5.1 If the referee, in all conscience, is convinced that his/her ruling is correct, he/she immediately confirms the decision, which then becomes enforceable without any possibility of recourse (Articles 10.1 and 10.2).

9.5.2 If the referee has any doubts about his/her decision, he may consult one of the following in a consultative capacity before making a definitive ruling:

- another referee present;
- the trapper;
- the shooters belonging to the squad concerned.

The referee is not obliged to agree with the opinions given.

9.5.3 Following consultation as specified above, the referee gives his/her definitive ruling, which then becomes indisputable and is therefore binding on the shooter (10.1 and 10.2).

9.6 For any reason other than a trajectory ruled as correct or a “No Bird” or a target recorded as “kill or one” or “zero”, the referee’s decision can be appealed before the jury.

9.7 To appeal against a referee’s decision, a shooter must protest in writing to the jury, with a deposit posted by shoot management.

9.8 If the jury finds in the shooter’s favor the deposit is returned, otherwise it is donated to the club in charge of the shoot. If the jury finds that the protest is justified, though for a reason other than those referred to in Article 9.6, it may instruct the referee to change his/her ruling. The jury may also appoint a new referee or amend the referee’s ruling (Article 9.6).

### **Chapter 10 - Refusal to Comply**

10.1 Shooters must resume firing within twenty seconds of the referee’s final ruling.

10.2 If a shooter fails to resume firing within twenty seconds of the referee’s final ruling, this is considered as a refusal to comply and the penalties specified in Chapter 13 will apply.

10.3 If a referee decides that a competitor is deliberately delaying before firing or is acting in an obviously unfair manner, this will be considered as a refusal to comply.

### **Chapter 11 - Attempting to Influence the Referee**

11.1 Shooters are considered as attempting to influence the referee where:

11.1.1 the shooter concerned continues to challenge the referee’s final ruling, via his/her attitude or verbally, despite the resumption of firing;

11.1.2 the shooter concerned conspicuously challenge the referee’s rulings;

11.1.3 the shooters present conspicuously express their opinion or criticism of a ruling without being permitted to do so by the referee.

### **Chapter 12 - Warnings**

12.1 If a shooter takes up an improper position, i.e. not in accordance with Chapter 3.1 of these rules, or if he/she shoulders the gun before the target appears, a warning is issued.

12.2 After the first warning, for any further occurrence on the same layout the target(s) is/are declared:

- “zero” for a single target;
- “zero” and “No Bird” for a double on report;
- “zero” and “zero” for a simultaneous double;
- “zero” and “zero” for a rafale double.

12.3 A target declared “No Bird” by the referee may not be fired at under any pretext. Any shooter breaching this rule after a first warning is penalized as follows:

- “zero” for a single target;
- “zero” and “No Bird” for a double on report;
- “zero” and “zero” for a simultaneous double;
- “zero” and “zero” for a rafale double.

### **Chapter 13 - Penalties**

13.1 All shooters taking part in a competition accept all the FITASC’s rules and declare that they accept the present FITASC rules. They also agree to accept sanctions and any other consequences of breaking the rules, disobeying referees’ orders, and rejecting referees’ rulings.

13.2 For a first breach of an article of the rules, the referee or jury will issue a warning.

13.3 In the event of a repeat offence, refusal to comply or an attempt to influence a referee, the jury may penalize a shooter as follows:

- loss of one target;
- loss of a round of twenty-five targets;
- Expulsion from the competition.

13.4 On referral by a referee, the jury may immediately expel from a competition any shooters who have lost their self-control or who have been guilty of refusal to comply and/or attempting to influence a referee or deliberately firing at live animals.

13.5 Any expulsion in accordance with Article 13.4 is notified to the shooter’s home association and the FITASC head office, which will keep a record of the expulsion for a period of five years.

13.6 In the event of a second expulsion within a period of three years of the first expulsion, the offender may, exclusively by decision of the FITASC International Committee, be definitively refused entry to any competition organized under the FITASC’s auspices.

13.7 Shooters expelled from a competition will not be reimbursed or receive any financial compensation under any circumstances.

### **Chapter 14 - Scorecards**

14.1 Scorecards are kept by the referee or, under his/her supervision, another person selected by the referee. Each referee must have a different colored pencil for each peg on the same layout.

14.2 Only targets scored “zero” are noted on the scorecard. Each target scored “zero” is written down in chronological order from left to right on the scorecard.

Targets are numbered in shooting order at each peg e.g.:

Peg 1:

Target No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4, double No. 5 and

No. 6

Peg 2:

Target No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, double No. 4 and No. 5,  
double No. 6 and No. 7

### **III. Competition organization**

#### **Chapter 15 - Competition Organization**

15.1 The national federation concerned must approve layouts for national competitions, while the international federation must approve layouts for international competitions.

15.2 A federation in charge of organizing an international championship that wants to hold the competition on a course or terrain that has not been approved, must present the terrain and the organization details to a FITASC representative at least eight months before the date of the competition. FITASC may, if it thinks fit, oblige the federation to appoint a course designer, responsible for the design and organization of layouts.

15.3 A FITASC member federation may delegate responsibility for organizing a competition to one of its clubs but it will still be considered by FITASC as wholly responsible for the application of all the specifications previously approved.

#### 15.4 Jury

15.4.1 International events are supervised by a jury formed by members of the FITASC commission present at the event and one representative from each participant nation entering a senior team. The jury is chaired by the representative of the organizing FITASC member. FITASC Management Committee members automatically belong to the jury except for those sitting on the appeal jury.

15.4.2 The jury makes decisions by a majority of the members present. In the event of a split decision, the chairman or his/her representative has a casting vote.

15.4.3 In order to be valid, decisions must be made in the presence of the jury chairman or his/her representative and at least one quarter of the members.

15.4.4 In an emergency (e.g. risk of shooting being stopped), two jury members appointed by the chairman or his/her representative may make an exceptional decision subject to the jury's subsequent ratification of this decision.

#### 15.5 Role of the jury

15.5.1 The technical commission members on the jury must check, before shooting starts, that the layouts comply with the rules and specifications.

15.5.2 After the opening ceremony, the organizing federation announces the firing times determined by the jury.

15.5.3 The jury must ensure that the rules and safety requirements are observed during shooting.

- 15.5.4 The jury may check guns, ammunition and targets using technical testing equipment.
- 15.5.5 The jury must make the necessary decisions in the event of a technical defect if the Chief referee has not made them.
- 15.5.6 The jury must examine appeals and decide on the necessary penalties given to any shooters failing to observe the rules or behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- 15.5.7 The jury must ensure that there are always at least two of its members present on the shooting terrain.
- 15.5.8 If a jury member observes something against the rules, he/she must inform the jury.
- 15.6 Responsible persons for the layouts
- 15.6.1 During the days preceding the start of the competition, the course designers will present the settings of the layouts with their trajectories as well as the proposed and recorded different type of targets, to the following persons:
- the jury members “Being the responsible persons for the layouts,”
  - as well as the Chief referee.
- 15.6.2 The proposals specified in paragraph 15.6.1 may be amended to comply with technical, refereeing, safety and environmental rules and, more generally, the spirit of FITASC competitions.
- 15.6.3 All layouts are finalized only after being validated by the jury members and the chief referee.
- 15.6.4 The chief referee passes on the refereeing instructions to each layout/peg referee.
- 15.6.5 Trajectories selected in calm weather conditions may be amended to take account of any exceptional change in the weather.
- 15.6.6 Practicing is not permitted before the events take place on the layout(s) defined by the layout officials.
- 15.7 Appeal jury
- 15.7.1 An appeal jury may be created for each international competition to hear any protest to jury decisions by shooters or by FITASC.
- 15.7.2 The appeal jury is formed by the Chairman of the FITASC (or his/her representative), the Chairman of the technical commission (or his/her representative) and the Chairman of the organizing FITASC member (or his/her representative).
- 15.7.3 The appeal jury is created at the same time as the jury.
- 15.7.4 If no appeal jury is created, the jury’s decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

## **Chapter 16 - Championship Procedure**

- 16.1 An international competition comprises of two hundred targets and a round comprises twenty-five targets, though in exceptional circumstances the number may be changed

by the jury if this proves essential, in which case the shooters are reimbursed by the organizer for the targets not used on the basis of the price of the practice targets.

- 16.2 Shooting takes place in squads of six shooters, after drawing lots, with the shooters rotating at each stand and also when shooting doubles. At international competitions, members of teams from the same nation are divided between different squads as far as possible. The organizing committee announces the times and the squad members in advance.
- 16.3 At each peg, each shooter in the squad shoots first at single targets and then at doubles on rotation. (Unless the jury decides otherwise).
- 16.4 All the trajectories are presented at each peg to the first shooter in each squad, who must be ready on the shooting stand.
- 16.5 No firing or mock firing is permitted on presentation of the targets otherwise Articles 12.1 & 12.2 applies.
- 16.6 No double on report targets are presented to shooters. Solely simultaneous and rafale double targets are presented to the first shooter in each squad.
- 16.7 Shooters must arrive on time at the shooting stand. If a shooter is not present when his/her name is called, the referee must call out the name and number three times within the time of one minute. If the shooter has not missed his/her turn to shoot the singles on the first stand, he/she may rejoin the squad without penalty. If the shooter fails to join the squad before his/her turn, all single and double targets not shot at are scored "zero". If a shooter attends one of the following pegs (2, 3, 4 etc), all clays not fired at on the previous pegs are counted "zero". Under no circumstances may the shooter shoot the layout for which he/she has missed one or more pegs, in another squad.
- 16.8 If a shooter considers that he/she has a good reason for being late and that the lateness was outside his/her control, he/she must:
- a) Not rejoin his/her squad during the round;
  - b) Appeal to the jury in writing;
  - c) Abide by the jury's decision;
  - d) Shoot his/her round in another squad if authorized by the jury.

If the jury finds that a shooter's reason is not admissible, the shooter is penalized by twenty-five "zeros" for each layout not shot.

- 16.9 In the event of a trap machine malfunctioning or a firing interruption lasting more than ten minutes, the referee must present the stand targets to the shooters again.
- 16.10 At international competitions, the results are recorded by the referee or his/her representative, who may be a shooter. The results of each round are then displayed on a central scoreboard.
- 16.11 On leaving each peg, shooters must check that their scores have been correctly recorded on the scorecard. Any

shooter challenging the recorded score must inform the referee immediately but the final decision rests solely with the latter, who may nonetheless seek information and take advice (Article 9.5.2) before making his/her final decision. No appeals are admitted once this consultation process has been completed.

### **Chapter 17 - Dress**

17.1 Competition participants must be properly dressed. Short shorts are not permitted; only long shorts (Bermuda type at most 5 cm above the knee) are permitted. It is not permissible to be naked under a skeet vest. Shirts must have at least short sleeves and a collar or, without a collar, must have a round neck (like a tee shirt). Wearing sandals is not permitted for safety reasons. The shooter's number must be attached to his/her back and be fully visible. Any failure to observe these rules is penalized by a first warning from the referee and, if the shooter fails to rectify his/her dress, subsequent penalties may extend to expulsion from the competition by decision of the jury.

### **Chapter 18 - Shoot-offs**

- 18.1 In the event of a shoot-off for the top three individual places, a new layout is set up by the jury (if there is enough time to organize the shoot-off).
- 18.2 Shooters finishing below third place with the same scores are ranked as equals, by counting back the squads from layout 8 to layout 1.
- 18.3 Shoot-offs take place via a round of twenty-five targets. If the shooters cannot be separated they shoot a second round, where the shooter scoring the first "zero" is eliminated ("sudden death" principle) provided that all the shooters have shot at the same number of targets, the winner being the shooter remaining after all his/her competitors have been eliminated. In the case of equal scores and solely in the case of a shoot-off (applying the sudden death principle), a double on report is considered as a combination of two targets without taking account of the position of a "zero" target, whether the double is "one" and "zero" or "zero" and "one".
- 18.4 Shooting takes place in accordance with the previous rules, though the empty places in the squad are not filled.
- 18.5 If the shoot-offs have not been planned in advance as part of the event, the shooters concerned must remain in contact with the jury so that they are ready to shoot within fifteen minutes of being called. Shooters absent at the time of the shoot-off are disqualified.
- 18.6 The jury may decide that shoot-offs have to be postponed until the following day for reasons of force majeure, in which case absent shooters are disqualified.
- 18.7 For the team ranking, teams with the same scores are separated by counting back the squads from layout 8 to layout 1.

## X. GLOSSARY

**Squad:** Group of six shooters maximum drawn at random and shooting at the same time on the same installations.

**Round:** A round comprises 25 targets shot on the same layout or line.

**Trap:** Machine or device for throwing targets.

**Shot:** Corresponds to firing one cartridge.

**Target:** See Article 2.3

**Trajectory:** Line followed in space by a target.

**Layout:** One layout is composed of some shooting pegs, forming a 25 target layout

**Shooting peg:** Position for shooting (circle or square)

**Kill or One:** Target broken according to the rules

**Zero:** Target missed according to the rules

**Course designer:** Person in charge of the setting of layouts

**No Bird:** Target or trajectory irregular according to the rules

**Sonopull:** Acoustic equipment triggering the trap at the sound of the shooter's voice.

**Range:** All the sporting installations.

**Parcour:** a field consisting of 25 target presentations with 3 shooting pegs or stations.

## XI. CONVERSION CHART

METRIC	STANDARD IMPERIAL
One (1) M	3.281 ft. 39.37 in. 1.094 yd.
2.54 cm	One (1) in.
.0254 M	One (1) in.
One (1) cm	.3937 in.
30.48 cm	One (1) ft
.3048 M	
One (1) g	.035274 oz.
cm - centimeter	ft- feet
M- meter	in - inches
	yd - yard
g - gram	oz - troy ounces

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# F.A.Q.

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**Q:** Are punches awarded for Nationals & U.S. Open different than punches awarded at regular weekend tournaments?

**A:** Yes; punches are awarded at NSCA Nationals and U.S. Open (main event only): The top five (5) scores and all ties in each class receive four (4); the sixth and seventh highest scores and all ties in each class receive three (3) punches; the eighth and ninth highest scores and all ties in each class receive two (2) punches; the tenth highest score and all ties in each class receive one (1) punch.

.....

**Q:** How many punches are awarded based on number of shooters in class?

**A:** HOA The shooter with the highest score and all ties in an event, where there is a minimum of ten (10) total shooters, shall receive a minimum of one (1) punch no matter what class the shooter is in.

- 0-2 No punch
  - 3-9 One (1) punch for high score and all ties
  - 10-14 Two (2) punches for high score and all ties.  
One (1) punch for the second highest score and all ties
  - 15-29 Four (4) punches for high score and all ties. Two (2) punches for second highest score and all ties. One (1) punch for third highest score and all ties.
  - 30-44 Four (4) punches for high score and all ties. Four (4) punches for second highest score and ties. Two (2) punches for third highest score and ties. One (1) punch for fourth highest score and all ties.
  - 45+ Four (4) punches to first, second and third highest scores and all ties. Three (3) punches for fourth highest score and all ties. Two (2) punches for fifth highest score and all ties. One (1) punch for sixth highest score and all ties.
- .....

**Q:** How many punches does it take to move from one class to another?

- A:**
- |                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| E Class to D Class       | 4 punches  |
| D Class to C Class       | 4 punches  |
| C Class to B Class       | 6 punches  |
| B Class to A Class       | 8 punches  |
| A Class to AA Class      | 10 punches |
| AA Class to Master Class | 16 punches |

Note: Punches must be earned in Shooter's current class in order for them to be used in moving up in class. A person earning more than the necessary punches to move up in class enters the new class with no punches.

.....

**Q:** Can a shooter self declare to Master Class?

# F.A.Q

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**A:** No; a shooter must earn their way into Master Class.

.....

**Q:** If a person is put in a higher class based on known ability, does he/she have to stay in that class for the rest of the year?

**A:** No; This reclassification will be for that event only and shooter will return to his/her original class, with one exception. If the shooter is awarded a punch or punches in the higher class in which they have been placed based on known ability, they will remain in that higher class for the remainder of the shooter year. Example: If the shooter was originally in class E and the newly assigned higher class, based on known ability, is D class and if the shooter subsequently wins sufficient punches in the event, he will advance to class C.

.....

**Q:** Does Penalty Class apply to all shoots?

**A:** No; Penalty Class only applies to shooters who are attending State Championships, Regional Championships, the U.S. Open, or NSCA Nationals.

.....

**Q:** What is a Penalty Class?

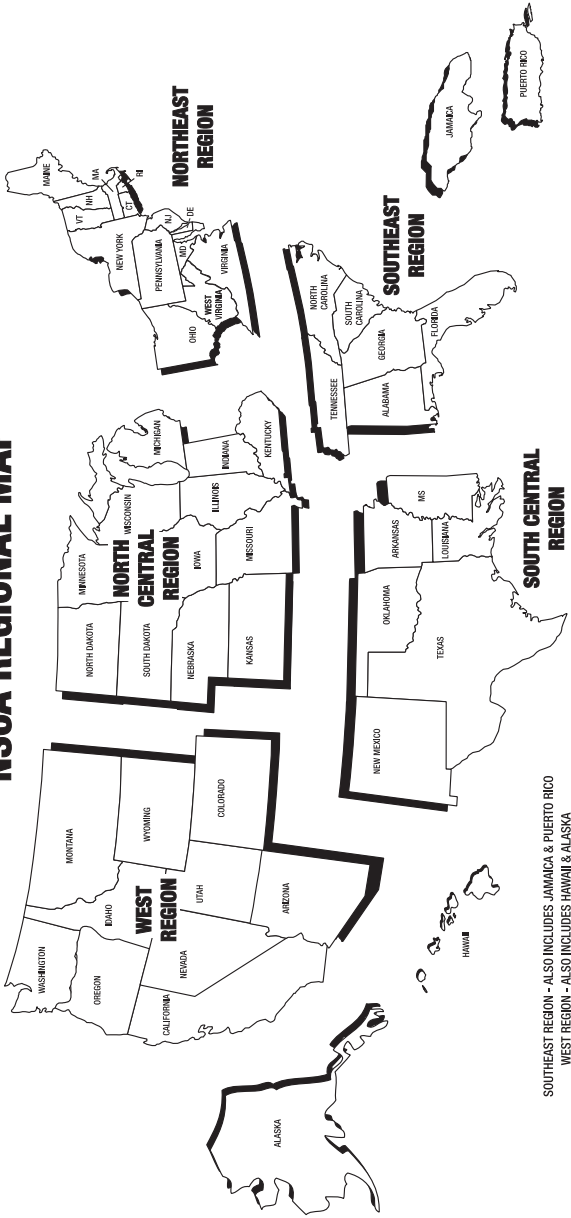
**A:** To be eligible for class prizes, monies and/or awards a shooter must have met his/her target minimums for State Championships (300 targets), Regional Championships (300 targets), U.S. Open (500 targets) or Nationals (500 targets), or they are placed in a penalty class, which is one class higher than their current class, for all events.

**Q:** How long does a shooter have to stay in Penalty Class?

.....

**A:** Following the State Championship, Regional Championship, U.S. Open, or Nationals, all shooters who were placed in a penalty class as a result of their failure to meet the 300 or 500 registered target requirement, will return to their original class, with the following exceptions: If the shooter earns a punch or punches in the penalty class they will remain in that penalty class for the remainder of the shoot year. If the shooter was originally in class E and the newly assigned higher class, based on penalty class, is class D, and if the shooter subsequently wins sufficient punches in the event, he will advance to class C.

# NSCA REGIONAL MAP



SOUTHEAST REGION - ALSO INCLUDES JAMAICA & PUERTO RICO  
 WEST REGION - ALSO INCLUDES HAWAII & ALASKA



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