

Shooting Summit – notes

31 January and 1 February 2020 at Inyathi Park

1. **Location of national shooting competitions** presented by André van der Merwe
 - 1.1. Presentation including participation in shooting activities at branch, regional and national level; and the reasons for holding the national President and Inter Branch Team Shooting Competition at Vrystaat Sandveld.
 - 1.2. The meeting noted a request to hold a national shotgun shooting event in Bloemfontein.

2. **Range officers at national shooting competitions and dealing with disputes** – presented by Nic Roets.
 - 2.1. Feedback/questions
 - 2.1.1. Who is the chairperson of the Dispute Committee? At smaller branches it is difficult to find an independent person to serve as chairperson. *Nic's comment: This is meant for ideal and perfect circumstances, but branches should try their best. Branches should take note that it is still a draft document.*
 - 2.1.2. The chairperson of the Dispute Committee must be an independent person that is not participating in the competition or has any personal interest in it. What does this mean? *Nic's comment: If I am one of the three people on the committee and my son participates in the Protea team and I am the match director of the world championship, I certainly will have a personal interest. Should anything happen that links me to a dispute, I will be obliged to withdraw. Procedure for such an eventuality should be established.*
 - 2.1.3. All disputes must be submitted to the dispute committee within 30 minutes. It might not be always possible. *Nic's comment: The idea was to indicate a time-frame for this action. There must be a specific cut off time. Immediately after the relays, the scores are taken which might take longer than 30 minutes. Nothing stops us from extending that to an hour. However, the time-frame must not be unlimited. The wording can be changed to 'as soon as possible'.*
 - 2.1.4. What is the cost to lodge a dispute? Some competitions ask as much as R1000 to lodge a dispute. *Nic's feedback: I do not think we should add a cost to this.*
 - 2.1.5. This procedure is to allow a shottist to lodge a dispute. If a range officer wishes to lodge a dispute, will the same rules apply as stipulated in this document? *Nic's feedback: The same procedure applies.*
 - 2.1.6. The documents pertaining to the above, will be finalised and distributed as soon as possible.

3. **Invitation to the President and Team Shoot Final** – presentation by André van Heerden
 - 3.1. Present options to the meeting:
 - Option 1: Current system - best score (just one) achieved at a regional event in the relevant year.
 - Option 2: The average of the two highest scores achieved at regional events in the relevant year.
 - Option 3: The average of the three highest scores achieved at regional events in the relevant year.

- 3.2. Result: eight tables voted for option 1 and three tables voted for option 2
- 3.3. Conclusion: The current system (option 1) is retained. The best score (only 1) achieved at a regional event in the relevant year will be used for the invitation to the national President Shooting and Inter Branch Team Shooting events.

4. **Universal Rules** Presented by André van Heerden

4.1. **Use of rifle slings** – we do not necessarily want to change this, but are testing your views.

Option 1: Current Universal Rule Item 3.5: Rifle slings may be used for support and must be attached at two places on the rifle – one in front, and one behind the trigger guard on the rifle stock to allow the rifle to be carried over the shoulder in a traditional fashion. The only exception is for the heavy calibre shooting exercise when rifle slings may not be used.

Option 2: Change to: Rifle slings may be used for support and have to be fixed to the rifle at two points – one point in front of and one point behind the trigger guard on the rifle stock, with the rifle sling positioned to enable the rifle to be carried in the traditional way over the shoulder. The sling may be placed round one arm and/or wrist but not round any other part of the shottist's body and may for example not be supported round the the shoulder/back or pressed down between a shoe and the ground. The only exception is the Big Bore exercise where the use of a rifle sling is not allowed.

Result: Seven tables voted for Option 2 and four tables voted for Option 1.

Conclusion: Option 2 was accepted.

4.2. **Trigger pull weight - take note**

4.2.1. Universal Rule item 11: **“Procedure for dealing with an unserviceable firearm” in the Universal Rules (Jan 2019) is expanded and a new item is added: Trigger pressure/pull weight** – there are no limitations on trigger pull, but it is the responsibility of the shottist to ensure that the trigger pull of the firearm is safe. Negligence, premature (early) or late firing of a shot are dealt with in item 15.4.

4.2.2. New Universal Rule item 15.4: **Negligent, early and late discharges and actions against the shottist.** The definitions were discussed and some amendments were made.

4.3. **Sitting position** – Two options were suggested:

4.3.1. Option 1: The sitting position as described in the Universal Rules (Jan 2019)

4.3.2. Option 2: NRA definition of sitting position. The weigh of the body is supported on the buttocks. No part of the body above the buttocks to touch the ground or any other object. Legs may be apart or crossed and may be in front of the front edge of the firing point. The firearm may be held in any convenient way, provide the butt is in the shoulder or armpit or against the biceps muscle.

Result. Seven tables vote for option 2 and four tables vote for option 2 with conditions. After a second round of voting, option 2 was accepted without any changes as described in item 4.3.2.

4.4. **Kneeling position** – the following options were suggested:

4.4.1. Option 1: the kneeling position according to the current Universal Rules (Jan 2019)

4.4.2. Option 2: the kneeling position according to Universal Rules (May 2016)

4.4.3. Option 3: NRA definition of kneeling position: No part of the body may touch the ground or any other object except one foot and the other leg from the knee downwards. The forward elbow may rest on the knee.

Result: The majority voted for Option 3 on condition that shottists may stand on both knees.

New definition for the kneeling position: No part of the body to touch the ground or any other object except one foot and the other leg from the knee downwards. The forward elbow may rest on the knee. A shottist may have both knees on the ground as shown in the alternative but may not sit down on his foot.

4.5. **Shooting sticks** – for noting

If more than one set of shooting sticks are used for different height settings during the shooting competition where the sticks are weighed, every set of sticks must be weighed.

4.6. **Muzzle brakes** – for noting

Several requests were received to review the ban on muzzle brakes/silencer combinations. The Shooting Committee decided that the current restriction on the use of muzzle brakes and silencer/muzzle brake combinations will remain **unchanged at regional and national shooting competition.**

There is only one exception, i.e.: Branch management committees may use their discretion to allow muzzle brakes/silencer combinations at branch shooting days and fun shooting competitions (the branch's policy or decision will apply) on condition that a minimum distance of 5m be allowed between shottists and ensuring that the shottist adjacent to the shottist using a muzzle break or muzzle break/silencer combination, is not disadvantaged or inconvenienced by sound, muzzle blast, dust etc.

4.7. **Count out process** - The following options were suggested:

- 4.7.1. Option 1: the count out process according to the current Universal Rules (Jan 2019)
- 4.7.2. Option 2: the count out process according the Universal Rules (May 2016)
- 4.7.3. Result: six tables voted for option 1
- 4.7.4. Regarding the method when there are too many shots on the target, three tables voted for option 2, one table voted for option 3 and one table voted for option 4.
- 4.7.5. Final result: majority prefer option 1, but the -10-penalty rule must be dropped.

4.8. **Implementation of the amendments to the Universal Rules** was discussed and it was decided to implement by making a **new official version of the Universal Rules available on 1 March 2020.**

4a) 'Super' President Shooting Event – Proposal by Kobus Maree, presented by André van Heerden

Process and Criteria – Ranking lists include shottists that achieved national platinum levels at the previous year's President Shooting event, Top 50 on this list are invited to national President shooting event to participate in the last/4th relay. The shooting positions of the current plain and bushveld shooting exercises are amended to increase the standard of the shooting competition.

Result: After voting, it transpired that the majority is of the opinion that the time was not right for such a competition.

Celox demonstration

Saturday 01/02/20

5. Shooting discipline: What fits where?

5.1. Hunting based shooting exercises – presented by André van der Merwe

- 5.1.1. Branch level - all standard hunting-based shooting exercises on animal targets.
- 5.1.2. Regional level – President, Inter Branch Team Shooting and Inter Branch Challenge Team Shooting competitions
- 5.1.3. National level – President and Inter Branch Team Shooting competitions
- 5.1.4. Request for a 4-person team at Inter Branch Team shoot instead of a 5-person team. This item was not on the agenda but delegates' opinion on this matter was sought. 64 persons voted for a 4-person team and 20 people voted for a 5-person team.

5.2. Shotgun shooting exercises – presented by Boetie Kirschner

- 5.2.1. Branch level, pheasant, rock pigeon, duck, guinea-fowl and Kompak/Sporting shooting exercises are offered at branch level during normal shooting days.
- 5.2.2. At regional and national level, it differs from inter branch hunting rifle shooting competitions. The 'Inter branch' idea for shotgun refers to shotgun shooting opportunities, and not to competitions among various branches. It includes regional shooting events.
- 5.2.3. Question after the presentation: How does the scoring work at the regional shooting event? Two ranges of 25 or five ranges with ten clays?. Answer: Work on a total of 50 clays and process the score as a percentage
- 5.2.4. Gerhan Archer requested that a shotgun competition are hosted centrally in South Africa.

5.3. Junior shooting exercises - presented by Nic Roets – junior shooting exercises are offered at branch, regional and national level.

5.4. Sport shooting exercises – Nic Roets gave a presentation on shooting exercises that can be offered at branch, regional, national and international level.

- 5.4.1. Question: When will the 2020 trials be held? Communication is not so good. How will the system work? *There will not be trials this year because we will not participate in an international event. The national championship will serve as the first leg of next year's trials. This will still be communicated. With regard to registration, we have been under pressure to register earlier because of the world championship. It will be normal practice for registration to take place from January to March.*

6. Challenge series – expanding to national level – presentation by André van der Merwe on the participation in branches and regions, and the current rules.

6.1. Request to expand to national shooting competition – proposal for the development as follows:

- 6.1.1. Annual announcement of the first 3 teams on SA Hunters' website and the newsletter;
- 6.1.2. Annual request to branches and regions to develop and present the Challenge Team shooting event;

- 6.1.3. A national shooting competition can be established when at least 8 of the 15 regions offer annual competitions;
- 6.1.4. A request to change to a 4-person team instead of 5-person teams, was discussed. Ten tables voted for a 4-person team and one table voted for a 5-person team. The change to a 4-person team will be implemented in 2021.
- 6.1.5. Stellaland requested a trophy at branch level for the Challenge shoot. The Shooting Committee will consider it.
- 6.1.6. Request for medals for the Top 3 teams that can be handed out at branch level from 2020. The Shooting Committee will investigate.

7. Existing national competitions, trophies and medals

- 7.1. **President an Inter Branch Team Shooting competition** – André van der Merwe gave a presentation on divisions, medals, certificates, badges, floating trophies and invitation to the congress dinner.
 - 7.1.1. There was a request that national medals should be bigger and better than ordinary medals.
- 7.2. **Shotgun shooting competition** - Boetie Kirchner gave a presentation on divisions, medals, certificates, badges, floating trophies and invitation to the congress dinner.
 - 7.2.1. Request for consideration for a 4-person team and a badge/pin for a full score/straight.
- 7.3. **Junior shooting competitions** – presentation by Nic Roets on divisions, medals, certificates, badges, floating trophies and invitation to the congress dinner
 - 7.3.1. Request that regional medals for junior shooting competitions be made available as soon as possible.
- 7.4. **Sport shooting competition** presentation by Nic Roets on divisions, medals, certificates, badges, floating trophies and invitation to the congress dinner.
 - 7.4.1. A request for regional medals for sport shooting competitions to be made available as soon as possible.
- 7.5. **MDS event** -presentation by Nic Roets on divisions, medals, certificates, badges, floating trophies and invitation to the congress dinner.

8. **MDS event** – presentation by Joggie Swanepoel on the current format and the proposed format of classes, divisions, ladies and juniors, grading, invitation to the national championship and format of national championships

- 8.1. A request that more information be made available and whether grading is done annually.
Joggie's comment: *SA Hunters still working on the format, but shottist can move one level up or down annually. A regional competition will be considered and shottists will be invited to national competitions.*
- 8.2. There are numerous categories, which means that many medals must be ordered after a competition. There was a request that extra medals could be returned to the national office for credit. The Shooting Committee will consider this request.
- 8.3. Question: Can branches offer training for MDS range officers? Joggie explained that training is done at regional level and that some regions already have trainers.
- 8.4.

- 9. Provincial colours** – André van Heerden gave a presentation on the SASSCO structure to obtain provincial colours and he explained the alternative proposal for a SA Hunters structure of regional colours.

Eleven tables voted unanimously for the proposed SA Hunters' structure for regional colours.

- 10. Platinum shooting blazers** presentation by André van Heerden on the green sport blazer and the two new shooting jackets – one with long sleeves and a waistcoat type. The samples, final costs, ordering process and policy for the use will be finalised shortly and information distributed.