

Best Western Hotel  
Port Clinton, OH  
12 August 2015

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ICFRA TARGET RIFLE COMMITTEE  
HELD IN NRA HQ CAMP PERRY ON 1 AUGUST 2015

Present:

Iain Robertson	GB	Chairman
Bernard de Beer	RSA	
Catherine Berry	AUS	
Michael Creber	CI	
George Edser	AUS	
Ross Mason	NZ	
Emil Praslick III	USA	
Peter Westlake	CAN	

In Attendance:

Colin Cheshire	Vice-President ICFRA
Phil Harrison	Secretary General
Roger Mullin	IRRG

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting. The Minutes of the Meeting of 11 October 2011, previously approved electronically, were confirmed.
2. Matters arising.
  - a. That Rule T2.4 be amended by deletion of the words “Must fall within the envelope defined by the SAAMI or CIP minimum and maximum chamber drawing for .308 Winchester of .223 Remington as appropriate” so as to read

"T2.4 Chamber Dimensions: Bore groove and throat dimensions should be selected to suit the bullets used. A throat diameter smaller than the diameter of the bullet will significantly increase pressure and should not be used."
  - Incorporated in the rules**
  - b. That Rule T20.4 be amended so as to mandate two convertible sighting shots in a tie-shoot ie the first sentence to read “Tie shoots will comprise 2 convertible sighters and 5 shots to count at the longest distance of the match.”  
**Incorporated in the rules.**
  - c. That in the event of a challenge for a second shot on the target (Message 6), the competitor should not be required to ‘repudiate’ his shot and should be awarded the score for the shot of higher value, if a second one is found, failing which the original value stands.

**Incorporated in the rules.**

d. That the proposals permitting (but not requiring) the use of the “supervisee” outlined at Annexes T/D3 and T/C5 for targets in shared use for TR and FC firers be adopted.

**Incorporated in the rules.**

e. That, subject to the overriding effect of decisions on a to d above, the rule changes proposed by the IRRG in the draft rules [File TR Technical Rules 2011 TRC proposal. doc dated 03/08/2011] be adopted.

(1) The NZ representative proposed that rule T1.8 be amended by the deletion of the last three sentences, so as to place the responsibility for the safety of the firearm / ammunition combination exclusively with the firer. The Committee considered that consequential amendments, which could not be reliably settled during the meeting, would be required. Also, T1.8 was the enabler for inspections to ensure technical compliance with non-safety-related rules and that aspect of the rule needed to remain. The principle of the proposal was accepted.

**Agreed electronically subsequent to the meeting and incorporated in the rules.**

(2) The AUS representative stated that Australia would not support the draft amended form of rule T2.5 authorising the use of electronic triggers. It became apparent that there was no consensus within the Committee on this point and that some representatives saw a need to obtain instructions from their governing bodies.

**Agreed electronically not to proceed with the amendment.**

(3) The NZ representative proposed amendment of the dimensions of the short range targets as published in the draft table in Annex T/D3. It was considered that the underlying issue was one of arithmetic in preparing some elements of the table.

**Administrative change, incorporated in the rules.**

(4) That the IRRG consider and if thought appropriate propose rules allowing shelter to be provided for competitors.

**Rule agreed electronically; incorporated in the rules.**

(5) That the IRRG consider and if thought appropriate propose an Annex to the Rules to regulate electronic targets.

It was reported that IRRG had, as intended, been involved with the Australian Electronic Target Working group. Australia uses electronic targets widely and successfully, and that experience represented a valuable starting point. The highly unsatisfactory performance of electronic targets at the 2010 Commonwealth Games was noted. It was proposed that permission be sought to run at least one event on electronic targets during the test events in 2017 for the Gold Coast

Commonwealth Games 2018. That would provide data on which to base a draft Rules Annex for consideration in time to take a decision in 2019. It was pointed out that even with the Australian experience, there was yet to be a major team match shot on electronic targets, and that it was essential that the dynamics of team shooting be protected. There was a desire from NZ to have a decision in a timescale that might permit use of electronics at the 2019 TR World Championships. Against that, caution was needed in use of unproven systems that had not yet demonstrated the necessary level of reliability. Also, the arrangements for amending ICFRA rules had been set up quite deliberately to give a defined timescale for changes.

**Decision:** IRRG would proceed as described to produce a draft electronic targets rules Annex in time for consideration ahead of a formal decision in 2019. Thus the first ICFRA World Championship that might be shot on electronic targets would be the 2021 F-Class event.

3. Proposals by or through the IRRG

- a. Clarification of rule T11.1, relating to a target moving while on aim. IRRG has redrafted this rule as follows - new provision in red - and invites TRC to approve as a non-controversial amendment.

*If, at the moment at which a competitor fires, his target is moved in such a manner as to falsify the result of his shot and this can be evidenced to the satisfaction of the RO, he will cancel this shot and order the competitor to fire another in place of it. **The Competitor MUST a) Make the claim before the target is re-exposed and b) immediately call the range officer. The range officer will make enquiry of the shooter's partner(s), register keeper or scorer as appropriate and may make enquiry of the butt marker through the butt officer. A high strike on the target will not, of itself, be evidence that the target moved. If the shot concerned is a convertible sighter, the replacement shot will also be convertible.***

**Approved by consensus**

- b. Objections to published stats/prize lists

IRRG proposes **formalisation of the practice that provisional prize lists must give a deadline for protests**; and that protests outwith that time limit are time-barred. We do not propose a specific time period as circumstances can vary widely.

**Approved by consensus.** IRRG would formulate specific words for electronic approval, and would initiate corresponding changes in the F-class rules.

- c. Changes of rifle mid-match in Team Matches (and definition of 'Match').

A change so as **specifically to state that a rifle failure can only be met by a change of rifle and NOT by a change in Team personnel.** Wording will be offered to define 'Match' for the purpose of Rifle Changes.

**Approved by consensus.** IRRG would formulate specific words for electronic approval.

- d. The question of whether warnings of time elapsed should be given in ICFRA Team Matches.

**Does TRC wish to take a position for future ICFRA Team Matches?**

After discussion, **it was agreed that a 10-minute warning** of expiration of time should be given by or on behalf of the official timekeeper. Notwithstanding the universal opinion that timekeeping was a team management task, the possibility existed of an error in the official timing, and it was appropriate to mandate a warning so that if there was an error it could be rectified before a critical failure ensued. IRRG would formulate specific words for electronic approval.

- e. Chronographs, especially those fitted to rifles.

IRRG believes that load development should be clearly independent from competition, and one Nation (at least) has already banned the use of chronographs (especially, but not limited to, barrel mounted) in competition. **Does TRC endorse this stance?**

The committee **agreed that an explicit ban should be included** in the rules. IRRG would formulate specific words for electronic approval

- f. Flagpole positions

As a consequence of having had to specify the last three Commonwealth Games Ranges, there is now a standing specification for Flagpole locations for new-construction ranges. **Should this go into TR Rules as a 'guidance only' item**, perhaps at an Annex?

**Approved by consensus.** IRRG would formulate an Annex for electronic approval.

4. Proposal by the USA regarding the rules on chamber dimensions.

That **the final sentence of rule T2.4 and the whole of rule T2.22 be removed**, since they were not prescriptive and thus not a “rule”, and

the safety issue they were intended to address was adequately dealt with by rules T1.8 and T7.2.

After discussion, it was agreed that there was merit in maintaining a warning in the rules regarding the use of factory ammunition (T2.22). The proposal was therefore amended to the removal of the final sentence of T2.4 and removal of the corresponding sentence annotated (T2.4) in T2.22. GB raised a reservation that the result might permit exploitation of rifle and ammunition dimensions to enable a competitive advantage.

**Decision.** The amended proposal was approved. GB would provide a document for discussion under the 1-yr rule to consider whether there was a competitive advantage resulting, and if there was, whether a corresponding rule could be effectively policed. If both propositions were accepted, insertion of a corresponding rule would be considered.

5. Proposal by the USA – **that the rules be amended to permit the use of monometallic bullets.**

There were two main reasons to consider such a change. Firstly, that environmental legislation had been enacted in some States of the USA to prohibit use of lead ammunition, and the possibility existed of such prohibitions being widely extended. It was noted that the US Army now used lead-free ammunition. Secondly, that the sport be allowed to advance through application of developing technology. It was recognised that the rule-based restrictions on use of such ammunition, eg on most ranges with safety rules derived from the UK MoD regulations, were a substantial counter to change. It was accepted that the issues were complex and challenging, and could not be considered without authoritative information. USA offered to provide a peer-reviewed paper on the technical issues, with particular reference to the structure of ranges that would allow use of such projectiles in safety. Subsidiary issues raised included a precise definition of an appropriate term; currently neither “monolithic” nor “monometallic” were accurate descriptors and agreed defined terms were needed. IRRG requested sight of the structure of the proposed paper at the earliest possible stage so as to provide advice on specific issues ICFRA might need to be explored.

**Decision:** it was decided that:

USA would provide a peer-reviewed paper as described.

USA would provide an early outline of the paper’s structure to IRRG as soon as possible and would consider amending the content of the paper to deal with any specific issues identified by IRRG.

USA would ensure the report was authoritative and would take the time needed to achieve that, but would make best efforts to submit it by August 2016.

In parallel, Chairman TR would facilitate electronic discussion to obtain formal input from interested parties.

On the basis of the report and discussion, USA would submit a formal proposal for decision at the 2019 TRC meeting.

6. Any other business.

USA raised concerns with the rule prohibiting wireless communications on and around the firing point. Technology had developed to the point where wired communication systems were difficult and expensive to obtain compared with wireless devices. Discussion widened to associated issues with electronic devices on and around the FP. It was the general view that the rule on communication devices had been overtaken by technological development, was probably unenforceable and risked restricting numerous desirable developments such as provision of match progress to spectators and the use of electronic targets. The issue impinged on the rules in a number of ways and detailed study would be required to identify the ramifications.

**Decision:** IRRG was requested to produce a document defining the scope of the issues around electronic communications, to enable the matter to be addressed by electronic discussion.

7. That **the Committee elect a Chairman** to serve from the conclusion of the Championships in accordance with Standing Order 20.

The NRA of GB has confirmed that Iain Robertson will continue as the GB representative to the Committee. Iain Robertson is willing to continue in the post of Chairman if the Committee so decides. There were no other nominations.

**Decision:** Iain Robertson would continue as Chairman.

Meeting closed at 1120 hrs

## Iain Robertson

I W ROBERTSON  
GB representative  
Chairman ICFRA TR Committee

### Actions:

Chairman	3b-f, 5
GB Representative	4
USA Representative	5
IRRG	2e(5), 3a-f, 4 (to incorporate), 5, 6