

**MEETING OF THE ICFRA TR COMMITTEE
AT CONNAUGHT RANGE COMPLEX, OTTAWA, ON 14 AUGUST 2007
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM**

Present:

Tony Loughnan - Chair & New Zealand Representative
Stan Frost - ICFRA President & Canada Representative
Colin Cheshire - ICFRA Secretary-General & IRRG
Mitchell Maxberry – United States of America Representative
Dick Horrocks - ICFRA Vice President
Richard Van Lingen - South Africa Representative & IRRG
Bruce Scott - Australia Representative
Phil Harrison - IRRG
Josef Frey - Germany Representative and CPC proxy
Iain Robertson - Great Britain Representative
Serge Bissonnette - Chairman World Championship Committee
Darryl Crow - Meeting Secretary

Welcome:

The chairman welcomed the TR Committee and others to the meeting.

Secretary:

Darryl Crow was confirmed as the meeting secretary
Moved Tony Loughnan
Seconded Mitchell Maxberry

Apologies:

Netherlands & Japan
Moved Tony Loughnan
Seconded Bruce Scott

The Chairman spoke about the ground rules for the meeting outlining the need for personal decorum and respect

The Chairman expressed the committee's gratitude for the huge amount of work put into the preparation of the rules to date especially by Colin Cheshire, Richard Van Lingen and Phil Harrison.

The Chairman asked for confirmation of the agenda, which was agreed by consensus

Mitchell Maxberry asked for clarification of voting at the meeting. The Chairman advised his preference for decisions to be made by consensus where possible but explained that

he had New Zealand's vote only and no casting vote and that a tied vote would maintain the status quo.

The Chairman outlined the following items that had been decided by email before the meeting:

1. Agreement was reached on the responsibilities and authority of various levels of range staff. The wording is to stay as is.
2. The committee voted 4:2 against the use of wind ribbons on the mound.
3. It was unanimously agreed that the 6 x 6ft target can be used for matches in the USA
4. Shot calling - Mitchell Maxberry initiated discussion on the USA targets for which there are no colloquial names for the score values. It was agreed by consensus to insert, "if any" to the rule after the word "colloquial".
5. The US definition of a properly fired shot was accepted.
6. It was agreed by consensus that sponsors have the right to dictate the rules of a match only at the time that the trophy is presented.
7. It was agreed by consensus that competitors are not to be disturbed while shooting by range staff collecting rounds for testing.

Report on the role of IRRG:

Phil Harrison gave a report on the operation of the International Rules Review Group of Richard van Lingen, Colin Cheshire and himself. The IRRG has internally debated the wording of the rules and prepared their detail for consideration by the TR committee members. This procedure has facilitated the speedy conclusion of the committee's tasks and taken advantage of the extensive experience of all three members of the IRRG while leaving the decision making in the hands of the committee members themselves.

Sight Optics:

Dick Horrocks gave a report on the NRAGB lens trials. He strongly emphasized the GB opinion that full bore target shooting is an "iron sights" competition. He outlined the GB proposal as one that allowed the "correction of defect" compared to a rule that gave an "advantage".

GB proposed the rule be changed to allow an "eagle eye plus a prescription lens in the rear sight". The proposal was based on the results of their trials and the responses from the questionnaire in the NRAGB "Journal". Dick advised that younger shooters in particular were against the use of any combination of lenses in conjunction with eagle eyes.

In short, he considered that eagle eye plus lens is going too far and going against the spirit of iron sights competition. He felt that this also applied to the allowance of eagle eyes at all but accepted that it was too late to reverse history. He asked for a re-think of TR Committee sight optics rule.

Iain Robertson added comments to Dick's report and moved that the ICFRA TR Committee accept the GB Rule proposal. This was seconded by Tony Loughnan ("for the sake of a debate").

Mitchell Maxberry spoke against the motion outlining the New Zealand average competitive age of 57, a lot of whom need optical assistance. A graphic of a lens with a central hole drilled through it was drawn to support his question on what constitutes a lens.

Bruce Scott gave his opinion of the Australian perspective and made particular mention of young people's preference for optic sights in all aspects of games, and indeed life, where applicable.

Mitchell Maxberry expressed the view that ICFRA Rules were for International competitions not individual countries and therefore a lot of the "younger" comments were perhaps not valid.

Richard Van Lingen gave his views on the tests and refuted some of the GB comments and test outcomes.

Iain Robertson expressed the view that NRAGB has "got it wrong" in what has been allowed to date. He confirmed that the rule is to be for International Competition but also expressed concern that the rule would be manipulated by some should "glass" become the norm.

Colin Cheshire expressed his view on the type of rules that ICFRA is trying to achieve. The goal is to provide simple, consistent and enforceable rules that can be used world-wide to facilitate travel and competition and eagle eyes have been accepted in many countries for a considerable time.

At this point Dennis Lee from Jamaica joined the meeting.

The Motion was put and lost.

Further discussion followed regarding sight optics and Mitchell Maxberry moved that Eagle Eyes be allowed to be used with any combination of lenses including a Variable Dioptre in the rear sight. This was seconded by Tony Loughnan. Further discussion ensued including reinforcement of the fact that the restriction on eagle eyes to a maximum of 0.5 dioptre combined with the maximum allowable sight base of 1.2m meant that a telescope could not be constructed.

The Motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 2.

Alternative Actions:

Mitchell Maxberry spoke on the possibility of accepting rifle actions other than those

using a bolt. General discussion followed with a consensus agreement to set up a technical committee to recommend wording on this and other technical issues.

Moved Tony Loughnan seconded Richard Van Lingen that Mitchell Maxberry be the convenor of this committee along with 2 others to be nominated by email - carried.

Terminology:

Discussion was held on what “commercially available” means. It was agreed to direct the technical committee to recommend appropriate wording.

Rifle Weight:

Mitchell Maxberry spoke on the current maximum rifle weight of 6.5kg and there was general discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of any weight limit.

Mitchell Maxberry moved the restriction of weight to be re-worded to read “unlimited”. This was seconded by Bruce Scott and the motion was carried with NRAGB and DCRA voting against.

Trigger Weight:

Mitchell Maxberry moved that “triggers must be capable of lifting vertically a minimum weight of 0.5kg - any safe trigger permitted with the exception of release and set triggers which are prohibited”. This was seconded by Bruce Scott.

The motion was discussed with points of views including “no interest in change” and “trigger weight is seen as one of the challenging aspects of the sport and we would be altering the nature of the game if we change it” from NRAGB.

“This is not a safety issue, NZ has used 0.5kg for ten or so years with no issues” from NRANZ. The general comment was made that “Technically good triggers will work OK at low weights and some poor triggers will not work too well even at 1.5kg”.

Consideration must be given to insurance issues. The NRAGB rule was originally drafted with cadets and safety in mind.

After further discussion the vote was put and carried. NRAGB voted against the motion.

Electronic Triggers:

After discussion on design and technical issues the committee agreed by consensus to refer this to the technical committee for their recommendations.

Hand Made Ammunition:

There was a query from USA on what constitutes “hand-made” bullets also asking why

hand-made bullets were banned. After discussion it was agreed by consensus with USA for new wording on bullet weights. Mitchell Maxberry moved, seconded Bruce Scott to remove the word “commercial’ from the rule. Carried

Specific military bullets:

The restriction on some bullet natures was referred to the technical committee for its recommendation.

Consensus was reached that pre-coated bullets be banned where issued ammunition is to be supplied by the host country.

Re-seating bullets:

It was moved by Mitchell Maxberry and seconded by Stan Frost that issued ammo may be further seated. In discussion this was considered by many to be a form of tampering. The motion was lost.

Annex E:

Tony Loughnan moved, seconded by Richard Van Lingen that Annex E be removed from the rules but with the addition of dimensional requirements at an appropriate place within the rules – carried.

Rifle & Ammo Checks:

The onus for safety is on the competitor – the consensus of the meeting was that the required checks be written into the rules by Phil Harrison for future approval.

Empty Chamber Indicators:

The use of ECIs (empty chamber indicators) was discussed and considered to be already covered in the rules as an alternative to removing the bolt where the host country allowed their use.

Targets:

The following sizes were moved by Tony Loughnan and seconded by Richard Lingen and carried unanimously

Standard aiming marks:

300 yards - 560mm

300m - 600mm

500 and 600 yards - 915mm

500m and 600m - 1000mm

Long ranges 44inches (1120mm)

Scoring Rings

It was agreed that no change was required to the scoring rings already agreed for the short and mid range targets.

For the long range targets it was moved by Tony Loughnan and seconded by Mitchell Maxberry that the ICFRA target be substituted with the USLR target with the exception of the 9 ring which shall be increased from 30" to 32" - carried.

5 Versus 10 Bullseye:

Moved Tony Loughnan seconded Mitchell Maxberry that ICRFA targets be based on the 10 point system for all targets. Various points were discussed, with particular attention to whether the motion also covered short range targets.

The motion failed and it was accepted that bullseyes would be 5 points at all distances.

Target for 700yds/metres:

This was considered to be already covered

Non convertible sighters:

It was agreed by consensus that a consistent approach be taken to both individual and teams matches. Phil is to prepare the rules accordingly for approval.

Screening:

It was agreed by consensus that the rule be re-written to recognize the practicalities of coaches etc on the mound providing shielding inadvertently.

Cut off dates for age-related matches:

It was agreed by consensus that eligibility for age-related matches should be based on the shooter's age at first day of the match and this should be written into the rules.

Election of TRC Chairman:

Tony Loughnan was nominated by Richard van Lingen and seconded by Bruce Scott - carried.

Closure:

The meeting closed at 1.05pm with thanks from the chair to all attendees.

Signed:

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(Chairman)
Date:

**ADDITIONAL MEETING OF THE ICFRA TR COMMITTEE
AT CONNAUGHT RANGE COMPLEX, OTTAWA, ON 31 AUGUST 2007
COMMENCING AT 12.30PM**

Present:

Tony Loughnan - Chair & New Zealand Representative
Stan Frost - ICFRA President & Canada Representative
Mitchell Maxberry – United States of America Representative
Richard Van Lingen - South Africa Representative & IRRG
Bruce Scott - Australia Representative
Phil Harrison - IRRG
Josef Frey - Germany Representative and CPC proxy
Iain Robertson - Great Britain Representative

Draft Minutes:

A draft of the minutes of the meeting of 14 August had been circulated. Comments were received and discussed and have been incorporated above.

Technical Report:

Mitchell Maxberry reported on his discussions with John Carmichael (GB) and John Hastie (NZ) on the technical issues which had been referred to the technical committee by the 14 August meeting. These were provided in electronic form and will be forwarded to Phil Harrison for inclusion into the next draft of the rules which will then be circulated for approval.

There was considerable discussion about the correct wording of the calibre of the rifles and whether it should be .308WIN/7.62x51 or otherwise. It was agreed Mitchell would write a background paper for the committee's consideration.

Agreement was reached on the appropriate wording for electronic triggers, prohibited bullet natures and dimensional tolerances for projectiles, barrels and chambers.

Election of TRC Chairman:

Tony Loughnan stood down from the position of chairman because he had since been elected ICFRA President. He advised he wished to stay on the committee as the NZ representative subject to his continued appointment by NRANZ.

Iain Robertson was nominated for chairman by Richard van Lingen and seconded by Bruce Scott - carried.

The meeting closed at 1.10pm.

Signed:

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(Chairman)
Date: