

Lothian & Borders Target Shooting Association – ‘World Cup’ Competition

Here are the rules governing this competition. Unless otherwise stated, NSRA rules apply.

SECTION A

1. Entries

Open to all. This is an unclassified competition and there is no handicapping system. Entries are limited to the first 72 applicants, although special arrangements can be put in place if there are more (see Appendix). The closing date is normally around the middle of September each year.

2. Targets

NSRA indoor targets proportional to the shooting distance of the range used and those cards must have the ‘-18’ designation (or any later equivalent). Electronic targets may also be used – see Rule B2.2 below.

SECTION B

1. Qualifying Stage

The total entry is drawn randomly into up to twelve groups with six competitors per group. If numbers dictate it, groups may consist of five shooters and a bye. Each competitor in each group shoots one 20-shot match against each of the others in the group. Bye rounds are not shot. Two points are awarded for a win, one for a draw. These matches are shot in five 2-week periods from October to December.

Groups will have either two or three qualifiers depending on the number of entrants. Groups with a bye will always have two qualifiers, but as there must be exactly 24 qualifiers in total, then other groups will be randomly selected prior to the start of the competition to have either two or three qualifiers to make up the numbers.

If there is a tie for the last qualifying place in a Group, then the top gunscoer(s) among those tying will qualify. If gunscores are equal, then countback by card will be used on all the qualifying cards of those tying.

The qualifiers in each group go through to the shoulder-to-shoulder final, which is normally held in early March in Edinburgh.

If any shooter does not complete three or more matches then that competitor is deemed to have withdrawn. This will be evaluated after all matches have been scored, and if it is found that anyone is in this situation then all their scores will be nullified and any points won will be re-allocated to the original opponents.

2. Scoring

Shot cards should be sent to the organiser to reach him by or on the Saturday following each last date for shooting.

If desired, either local scoring or electronic targets may be used. Here are the rules governing these concessions:

2.1 Local Scoring

2.1.1 Cards may only be scored by NSRA-accredited scorers. If there aren't any in the club then one from another club may be used. If none are available, then shot cards must be sent to the organiser for scoring.

2.1.2 Local scorers must not themselves be competing in the same qualifying group as any of those whose targets are to be locally scored, but condition 2.1.1 is waived if that is not possible, for example if that scorer is the only accredited scorer in the club. However, no scorer should score

their own cards, so in this situation only, another suitably experienced club member may score that competitor's cards.

- 2.1.3 All locally scored cards for round 1 (or the first round that is locally scored if not round 1) must be so scored and the cards sent to the organiser by the deadline given above for checking along with a photocopy of the scorer's NSRA Scorer's Certificate or, if the scorer is not an accredited scorer as per para 2.1.2 above, a short summary of the scorer's experience of scoring. The copy of the certificate or the summary only needs to be sent in once (they will carry forward to subsequent seasons).
- 2.1.4 In subsequent rounds, only the scores of locally scored cards need to be sent to the organiser, preferably by email to world-cup@lbtsa.org.uk, by the deadline given above. Cards may be physically marked as points on or off as the scorer prefers, but points off must be sent to the organiser. For each competitor, score submissions should contain the round number, the competitor's name, their group number and group code letter along with their scores. It is not necessary to include previous rounds' scores. See www.lbtsa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/worldcupcurrent/WorldCupScores.xlsx for the score file the organiser prefers to be used for submitting scores.
- 2.1.5 The organiser reserves the right to call in at any time any subsequent set of locally scored cards from any club for checking. All locally scored cards apart from those sent to the organiser must be retained by the club for three weeks after the end of round 5.
- 2.1.6 Local scoring is entirely voluntary as long as these conditions are met, and all cards may still be sent to the organiser as usual for scoring if desired, whether or not any previous round had been locally scored.

2.2 Electronic targets

- 2.2.1 The make and model of the equipment to be used must have NSRA approval and have been already registered with the NSRA and be declared to the organiser at least ten days before round 1 is shot.
- 2.2.2 The equipment must be set up with the manufacturer's correct target size and scoring ring dimension software for the range distance used.
- 2.2.3 NSRA Rules governing electronic target shooting apply.
- 2.2.4 The original printed output as produced by the equipment providing the scores immediately after shooting and with the original sticker(s) attached must be received by the organiser by the standard deadline as given above. Photocopies or any other kind of electronic reproduction of any printout such as an emailed scan will also be accepted.
- 2.2.6 The printout(s) must show scores in ten-shot strings.
- 2.2.7 The equipment as declared must be used for all rounds in any season, and if used, competitors may not use paper targets for any round except in the case where the electronic equipment has broken down and is unusable, in which case a statement from the witness confirming the breakdown must accompany the cards for each round where paper targets are used while it is out of action. Such cards may be locally scored, subject to rule 2.1 above. If stickers had already been affixed to paper sheets in readiness for use in the ETS, then those sheets should be stapled to the back of a target and shot through.

- 3. Cards or scores reaching the organiser later than the Saturday following the last date for shooting are liable to be disqualified. Packets with underpaid postage will have to be collected by the organiser from the depot at the organiser's convenience and expense and may well result in lateness and consequent disqualification. The organiser will seek to be reimbursed by the sender for the charges paid plus a mileage and inconvenience charge of £2. Reasonable excuses for lateness *provided in advance* will be looked on sympathetically, but the one given after the event beginning "I forgot..." will not normally be accepted. (See Section E.) The organiser's aim is to publish the results as soon as possible after the deadline for the benefit of all competitors. (See Section E, again.)

4. Challenges

Challenges to published scores in the postal qualifying stage may be made to the organiser (no fee), but not after the results of the round following have been issued or after one week following the issue of the results of round 5. The cards for all disputed scores will be handed for review to an independent scorer whose decision is final.

SECTION C

1. Final Stage. The following applies if there are 24 qualifiers. Suitable adjustments will be made if there are only 16 if the entry is too low to allow 24.

- 1.1 Composition of Final groups

The 24 finalists will be drawn into six seeded groups of four as follows: All the qualifiers are arranged into the order of their average from the qualifying stage, and separated into four 'seed pots', with the top six averages in the first pot, the second six in the second pot and so on. One name is then drawn randomly from each pot to make up each of the six Final groups.

If any finalist calls off, then the first available reserve will be invited to attend. Reserves take the direct place of the finalist they replace: the seeding is not adjusted.

The reserves list is compiled as follows:

- 1) Those who came third in groups with two qualifiers, in average order
- 2) Those who came fourth in their group, in average order
- 3) Those who came fifth in their group, in average order

Equality of average is resolved using countback by card. Those with zero points are not considered.

- 1.2 Group Stage

Each group member will shoot three separate 10-shot matches, one each against the others in their group, on a pre-determined schedule of details on pre-allocated firing points. All four members of each group will shoot together on the same firing platform. Two points for a win, one for a tie. The final order in each group will be determined by (1) points (2) gunscore then (3) the use of graduated gauges on all the cards. The top two in each Group plus the four best third-placers (determined on the above basis) will proceed to the knock-out stage.

- 1.3 Knock-out Stage

The sixteen qualifiers from the Group stage proceed to Round 2 – the first knock-out round. The draw (i.e. who shoots against whom) is governed by a standard pre-determined schedule. Firing points for all rounds of the KO stage will be drawn so that each match-pair will shoot side-by-side (apart from any left-handers, who should swap with whoever is on FP 4 or 8 as and if appropriate).

Ties will be split firstly by one extra 10-shot card ("extra time") then secondly, if still tied, by shot-for-shot sudden death ("penalty shoot-out"). Existing firing points are retained. ISSF Final-style commands will control the shooting. Up to two sighters may be shot in the competitors' own time, and 30 seconds are allowed for each counting shot. If there is equality, then the process is repeated on a fresh diagram until one competitor scores a higher-value shot than the other. If there is no decision after ten pairs of shots, then a new card will be commenced, in which case no further sighters are permitted.

The quarter-finals, semi-finals, final and 3rd/4th-place match will take place in the same manner as above.

- 1.4 Bowl

The eight competitors who did not qualify for the knock-out stage proceed to the Bowl competition. There will be draws to determine who shoots against whom and for firing points. This is a knock-out competition, and competitors will shoot one card per round except in the Final,

which is two cards. Ties will be split by graduated gauges, except in the Final, which will be determined by one tie-card, followed by shot-for-shot sudden death as for the main competition.

1.5 Plate

The eight competitors knocked-out in the first KO round of the main competition go into the Plate competition. This has a pre-determined draw and firing points are drawn. The conditions of shooting this competition are as for the Bowl above.

1.6 Challenges and Disputes

Challenges to scores (no fee) must be made before the next stage of the competition has started. That is, challenges in the Group stage must be made before the KO stage or the Bowl has commenced, and those in the KO stage or Plate or Bowl must be made before the next round of the relevant competition has started.

Challenges to scores will be carried out by a suitable person who is not the original scorer.

Procedural disputes not initially resolved by the organiser and appeals against unsatisfied scoring challenges will be passed to a Range Committee of three, all of whom should ideally be members of the LBTSA Management Committee and not involved in the dispute. If there are insufficient such Committee members present, the organiser will nominate other suitably experienced persons present to make up the number required, possibly but not necessarily including himself. Range Committee decisions are final.

SECTION D

1. Results.

The results of both the postal Qualifying Stage and the Final Stage will be published on the Association's website, and a notification that they can be seen there will be sent by email to club representatives as given on the entry form and to as many competitors that the organiser has addresses for. Paper copies may be requested as long as a stamped addressed envelope is provided for their return.

All prizes will be presented at the conclusion of the final.

SECTION E

Unless otherwise specified, NSRA Rules apply.

These Rules along with the NSRA Rules specify, among other things, the commitments and obligations that the competitors who enter the competition must make for it to work properly (i.e. sending cards/scores in by the deadlines). The current organiser affirms that he assumes a reciprocal commitment and obligation to ensure that the competition runs smoothly and to the timetable specified while also ensuring the rules are followed. This means producing results with as little delay as possible and keeping all entrants updated with timely and relevant information about the progress of the competition. The co-operation of all involved is required for this to happen, so you do your bit and I'll do mine.

WFH, December 2014

Last updated September 2021

Appendix

This Appendix is not part of the Rules as such, but informally addresses the problem of the total entry exceeding 72 and will be of interest to many readers (well, perhaps some). This situation has happened twice in the history of the competition (which started in 1990), and it took some thinking about how to deal with it the first time. Various scenarios were considered but the procedure described below was settled upon and implemented both times. However, this is not to be taken as the definitive method although it may well be invoked again if the situation recurs.

In both cases there were under 78 entries, so the full entry was accepted and 13 postal qualifying groups were run, each with two qualifiers. That obviously meant that there would be 26 qualifiers instead of the required 24 (neither the range capacity nor the timetable for the Final can take any more). The hope and expectation was that at least two of those 26 would call off from the Final, leaving the required 24. The rationale was that in all the years this competition has been running there have always been some call-offs from the original list of qualifiers, so it was not necessarily a risky strategy to take. Airlines overbook as a matter of course, and it usually works for them (but causes great inconvenience to their customers if it doesn't).

However, in order to cover all the bases in this situation, a procedure was devised to kick in at the end of the Qualifying stage to deal with the situation where more than 24 qualifiers are left, as follows:

At the end of the final qualifying round in mid-December, the results were sent out before New Year. This left the best part of two full months before the Final in early March. It was obviously not possible at that stage, as in normal years, to make up the six Groups for the Final, but instead all 26 qualifiers were asked to inform the organiser by the end of January whether or not they would be able to attend the Final. If at least two say they could not, then everything would be ok and the draw for the Groups to contest the Final could be issued forthwith.

However, if at the end of January there were still more than 24 Qualifiers, it would be playoffs time (to keep the footballing analogy going). All the remaining qualifiers would be listed in average order (countback to decide equality), and the bottom 3 or 4, depending on whether there were 25 or 26, would be invited to shoot two extra cards with the top two qualifying for the Final. The playoffs loser(s) would become the first reserve(s). If anyone called off after that, then reserves would be called in as usual.

It was appreciated that qualifiers would have to commit themselves to attending the Final considerably earlier than normally. Things can happen, sometimes at the last moment, which prevent someone who had fully intended to attend from doing so, but in this unusual situation it is unavoidably necessary to ask for confirmation five weeks or so before the Final.

It might be noted that on the two occasions where the entry was oversubscribed and 26 qualifiers were produced, two finalists did indeed call off before the end of January and the playoff stage has never actually been run. It was a close-run thing in 2008 as the stickers had already been printed for the playoffs and were about to be sent off when the second call-off came through.

WFH

December 2014

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