

# **2017-2018**

Effective November 1, 2016 - October 31, 2018  
CHANGES EFFECTIVE 11/1/17 IN BOLD

## **OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND TRAPSHOOTING RULES**



**PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL  
TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 5276 • Twin Falls, ID 83303

Phone: (208) 312-0314

Website: [www.shootpita.com](http://www.shootpita.com)

E-mail: [info@shootpita.com](mailto:info@shootpita.com)

The Chairman of the PITA Rules Committee is the Chairman of the Central Handicap/Rules Committee.

Requests for Yardage Change Reviews in accordance with rules under HANDICAP YARDAGE REDUCTIONS, page 28 must be initiated with the Central Handicap Member in the shooter's respective State/Province as listed below. Any shooter residing outside these States/Provinces may send their request to the Central Handicap Chairman. The shooter must include a copy or listing of required scores with their review request.

Requests should not be mailed directly to the PITA office.

**CENTRAL HANDICAP COMMITTEE**  
**Nadene Pope, Chair**  
**P.O. Box 302, Prospect, OR. 97536**  
**541-890-6733**

**AK: Stubby Hughes, 511 Steele Crk Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99712**

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**kentdeadapair@cablone.net**

**NV: Dave Akins PO Box 5501 Fallon, NV 89407**

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**OR: Nadene Pope, PO Box 302 Prospect, OR 97536**

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**Phone: 253-857-5196, 520-237-3120 (cell)**

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Upon payment of dues a member receives a membership average card which must be presented at all shoots in order to participate. It is the shooter's responsibility to record all scores on their card and keep averages current per rules.

When a shooter receives a new average card, whether it is at the start of the year or after a yardage change, they are required to carry their old card(s) for a time sufficient to verify current averages or to justify a yardage change.

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## **SECTION A - INFORMATION**

### **MEMBERSHIPS (Nov 1 - Oct 31)**

Memberships are available in two classes, Life and Annual. Annual membership is \$20 for the online membership card or \$25 if a wallet-size card is requested. Life Membership is \$400, twenty times the annual membership. Annual membership for first time PITA members and those less than 18 years of age is half price (\$10-online card). Shooters renewing in October may pay only \$10 for the current year if they renew for the following year at the same time (\$30 total-online card). Life members shooting at least 2,500 targets annually receive the Averages & History book at no charge. Any life member not registering PITA targets for three consecutive years shall be considered as "inactive status" and will not receive the annual membership/averages card or other mailings from PITA. Life members will be considered as "active status" if they meet any one or more of these conditions:

- a. Register PITA targets at least every third year.
- b. Request in writing they remain as "active" and receive all ordinary correspondence.
- c. Sponsor one or more youth shooter's annual dues.
- d. Purchase the current Averages and History yearbook.
- e. Advertise or sponsor in the Grand Pacific program.

All annual members are considered "active".

All new applicants and renewing members must complete an application blank. Renewal of annual membership is available to members who mail their dues directly to the PITA office. Membership may also be purchased on the day of a shoot; in which case you will receive a receipt. ONLY shooters in good standing may compete in PITA registered shoots. However, the management of any registered tournament may, at its discretion or judgment, reject any entry. In all cases, except as otherwise provided in these rules, the authority of the management of a registered tournament is supreme and all contestants shall abide by its ruling.

### **PITA ALL STAR TEAM**

At the end of the target year, 11 five-person PITA All Star Teams consisting of a top five team, two men's teams, two ladies' teams, a veteran team (65-69 for the two major shoots), a senior team (70-74 for the two major shoots), an elder team (75 or older for the two major shoots), two junior teams (under 18 at the beginning of the target year) and a sub junior team (under 15 at the beginning of the

target year) will be named by the PITA Administrative Office. Members of the respective teams are required to have met the following minimum target requirements:

Category	16 Yard Targets Required	Handicap Targets Required	Doubles Targets Required
Top five	1700	1700	1100
Men	1700	1700	1100
Ladies	1200	1200	600
Veterans	1200	1200	600
Seniors	1200	1200	600
Elders	1200	1200	600
Juniors	1000	1000	500
Sub Juniors	1000	1000	500

Team placement will be determined as follows:

1. All shooters, not awarded a spot on the "top five" team shall be eligible for All Star Teams in any category for which they may be eligible; these being both gender and age related.
2. In the case of being eligible for two teams (these being gender and age categories) they shall be awarded a position on one team only, determined by whichever team they placed highest. In case the shooter qualifies for two teams at the same position, they shall be awarded the position in the age-related category.

Selection of the All Star Team is based on the shooter's ability as evidenced by their averages. The average is computed by dividing the sum of your singles average, handicap average and doubles average by three. Targets must include at least 100 singles, 100 handicap and 100 doubles each, shot at 5 different PITA hosted shoot locations. Cross registered targets shot at an ATA sanctioned event and submitted to the PITA will not be counted in the 5-club requirement for All Stars.

All members of the respective teams are required to participate in the High All Around events (200 Championship Singles, 100 Championship Handicap and 100 Championship Doubles) at two major shoots. Major shoots are the Grand Pacific, any PITA State/Provincial Shoot, the Western Canadian Championships and the Canadian Championships (when held in BC as a PITA shoot).

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## CROSS REGISTRATION

Cross registered targets shot at an ATA sanctioned event and submitted to the PITA will not be counted in the 5-club requirement for All Stars.

### ATA/PITA Letter of Agreement

(For the advancement of shotgun sports)

Whereas, the Amateur Trapshooting Association of America (ATA) and the Pacific International Trapshooting Association (PITA) both exist for the express purpose of promoting the safe and enjoyable conduct of the sport of trapshooting.

Now, therefore, the ATA and the PITA enter this Letter of Agreement (LOA) to provide a vehicle to allow targets shot under the rules of the ATA and/or the PITA to be registered in each other's association, hereinafter referred to as cross-registration.

This LOA is expressly intended to be applied only to those states and provinces who have both ATA and PITA state/provincial associations who conduct annual state/provincial tournaments and the guidelines are as follows:

1. Neither association will sanction a tournament on a date that will conflict with the date of a tournament previously granted to another club or association in close proximity. "Close proximity" will be defined on a state/ province by state/province basis.
2. The host club will present either an ATA or PITA sanctioned event with shooters having the option of their scores recorded by the other association. Shooters must be a current member in good standing, of each association, pay the daily fees of both associations, plus state/provincial association fees.
3. The rules of the host association will be accepted for cross-registration. Earned yardage will be awarded according to the rules/earned yardage chart of the host association and will apply directly to all cross-registered targets. Therefore, shooters cross-registering targets that earn yardage will have both their ATA and PITA cards punched accordingly. By cross-registering targets, shooters agree to accept the yardage increase criteria of the host association. If a score of 96 does not earn a punch in a PITA shoot, an ATA shooter cross-registering will have his/her ATA card punched to reflect a half yard increase.
4. Cross-registered targets will be used in computing the shooter's average.
5. In a tournament which offers cross-registration there must be a minimum number of shooters in the event as detailed by rules of the Host Association. Any number of shooters will be allowed to cross-register if they so desire.

6. Any club conducting a registered tournament under the rules of either ATA or PITA may provide for participating shooters to register all targets shot with the other association by doing the following:

a) Publish a program of events or post a copy of the official program on the gun club web site to ensure all shooters are notified of the availability of cross registration. A copy of this program must be included when submitting scores to the organization they are being cross registered to.

b) Sample announcement for a cross-registered program:

THE (Club Name) WILL HOST A (ATA or PITA) REGISTERED SHOOT ON (Date). TARGETS MAY BE CROSS-REGISTERED WITH THE (ATA or PITA) SUBJECT TO ALL FEES, RULES AND REQUIREMENTS.

a) Collecting the appropriate state/provincial and national fees for all shooters desiring to cross-register targets and insuring that their dues are current. Payment of those daily fees to the respective state/provincial and national associations.

b) Recording the membership numbers and scores of all such shooters.

c) Reporting the following information to the national office of the other association:

i. Names and membership numbers of all shooters cross-registering.

ii. Scores of all shooters cross-registering.

iii. Total number of shooters participating in each event, including those not cross-registering targets.

iv. Earned yardage for all handicap events.

v. Club official contact information.

vi. A copy of the official shoot program.

e) Reporting all information required by the respective state/provincial association.

f) Ensuring that a shooter wishing to cross-register targets shoots their longest assigned yardage and cross-registers all targets shot in the program. Cross-registered targets must be paid for before the contestant shoots their first event or no cross-registering will be allowed.

g) Ensuring that no shooter currently suspended by the ATA or PITA be allowed to cross-register targets.

This agreement is subject to an annual review by the ATA and PITA for problem resolution.

This LOA may be cancelled by written notification of either association with one hundred eighty (180) days prior notice.  
s/s Rob Taylor, ATA President-Jim Rankhorn, PITA President

## **AID TO STATE/PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Fifty cents of each respective State/Province daily fee received will be returned to them for their State/Provincial shoot. Fifty cents of each daily fee received will be added to the Annual Grand Pacific Trapshooting Tournament with the remainder of daily fees used for administration of the PITA. Effective 11/1/11 PITA daily fees are \$3.00. Any money, which in the opinion of the Executive Committee, is in excess of a safe amount will be returned to the shooters as added monies or increased trophies.

### **CLUB RECORD RETENTION**

Clubs must keep all shoot records for a minimum of 2 calendar years.

### **LEWIS PURSE**

When all the shooting has been completed, the scores are listed in numerical order from the highest to the lowest. They are then divided into as many groups as listed in the shoot program Lewis option. For example, if there were 30 entries and 3 groups, (the use of 3 groups is only an example) there would be 10 scores in each group. The highest score in each group would then be a winner. Since there will often be odd numbers of entries and tie scores on the dividing line between the groups, the following rules have been established.

1. Where a short group is necessary, due to odd entry list, the short group or groups shall head the list.
2. Where the line of division falls in a number of tie scores, the contestants are assigned to the group in which the majority of the scores appear.
3. Where an equal number of tie scores appear on either side of the line contestants are assigned to the head of the lower group.
4. Where the original division is changed, due to tie scores, this change shall apply only to the groups directly affected and the original division shall continue in the other groups.

### **HIGH GUN DIVISION (20 pays)**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2 pays-60, 40%                                     | 3 pays-50, 30, 20%                |
| 4 pays-40, 30, 20, 10%                             | 5 pays-30, 25, 20, 15, 10%        |
| 6 pays-30,20,15,13,12,10%                          | 7 pays-25,20,15,13,12,10,5%       |
| 8 pays-25,20,15,12,10,8,5,5%                       | 9 pays-22,18,15,12,10,8,6,5,4%    |
| 10 pays-22,18,14,11,10,8,5,5,4,3%                  | 11pays-20,17,14,10,9,7,5,5,5,4,4% |
| 12 pays-20,16,13,10,9,7,6,5,5,4,3,2%               |                                   |
| 13 pays-18,14,12,10,8,7,6,6,5,5,4,3,2%             |                                   |
| 14 pays-18,15,12,10,9,7,6,5,5,4,3,2,2,2%           |                                   |
| 15 pays-16,13,11,8,7,7,6,6,5,5,4,4,3,3,2%          |                                   |
| 16 pays-16,14,11,9,8,7,6,5,5,4,3,3,3,2,2,2%        |                                   |
| 17 pays-15,13,10,8,8,7,6,5,5,4,4,3,3,3,2,2,2%      |                                   |
| 18 pays-15,13,10,8,8,7,6,5,5,4,3,3,3,2,2,2,2%      |                                   |
| 19 pays-14,12,9,8,7,6,6,5,5,4,4,3,3,3,3,2,2,2,2%   |                                   |
| 20 pays-14,12,9,8,7,7,6,5,5,4,3,3,3,2,2,2,2,2,2,2% |                                   |

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## **SECTION B: OFFICIAL RULES**

The Rules and Regulations governing the proper conduct of Shooting Matches or Tournaments registered with the PITA are intended to ensure fair competition to each and every contestant.

Any Club or Association may conduct as many registered tournaments as it may see fit upon meeting two conditions:

FIRST, it must conduct the tournaments in accordance with PITA rules and regulations.

SECOND, it must be affiliated with its respective PITA State/Provincial Association.

If there is not a PITA affiliated trapshooting association in the State/Province in which the Club is located, the Club may affiliate with another PITA State/Provincial Association until a PITA association is formed to encompass the Club's location.

State/Provincial Association Officials shall be called on to interpret these rules and to rule on any points not specifically covered by these rules. In the absence of State/Provincial Association Officials, Club Officials shall make such interpretations. The Central Handicap/Rules Committee Chairman and the PITA Executive Committee shall make all final decisions and interpretations. Every contestant entering a PITA registered tournament agrees that all decisions and interpretations so made are final.

To make application for a registered shoot or tournament request for official application blanks is addressed to the PITA Executive Secretary. The PITA will immediately forward to the Club, Association or designated officer, application blanks which, when properly filled out, are sent to the Secretary of the State/Provincial Trapshooting Association for approval. If approved, the State/Provincial Secretary will forward said blanks, properly signed, directly to the PITA office. Upon receipt of the approved application blank, the PITA will issue a registration certificate, providing all conditions in the official blank have been complied with and the granting of permission to hold the tournament on the date requested will not conflict with the date of a tournament previously granted to another Club or Association in close proximity. The question of close proximity must be left to the judgment of the officials of the PITA. A record of the issuance of this Certificate of Registration will be kept on file in the office of the PITA and prior to holding of the competition, necessary office supplies for the proper recording of scores will be sent free of charge to the Club or Association.

All programs issued by clubs holding PITA registered tournaments must contain the following statement signifying official sanction of the competition: "The (name) Gun Club has been



authorized to hold a registered shoot on (date). PITA rules will govern this shoot and scores shot will be included in the official record."

To schedule marathons or non-programed/non-calendared shoot dates, shoot management must request permission from their State/Provincial Secretary, with an email copy sent to the PITA Secretary to conduct this type of event 48 hours in advance of the shoot date requested. The event must comply with the close proximity requirements as stated in the Official Rules. Shoot management must post a notice of this event in or about the clubhouse. Cross registration is not permitted and all requirements of the section concerning "who may take part in registered tournaments", reporting requirements, etc. apply.

**Special category shoots may be held to register targets without posting public notices as long as the 48 hour notification is made to the PITA Secretary and the State/Provincial Secretary. Examples of special categories are Wheelchair Shooters, Youth (Sub-Junior and Juniors) Shooters, etc.**

### **ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS**

PITA Rule Changes are published annually. Rule changes effected in an even year will appear in a reissue of the PITA Rule Book. Changes effected in odd years will be published by addendum sheets mailed to the membership with their membership card. This method for altering, amending or adding rules, set forth in the organization by-laws as revised in 1997 is as follows:

(a) Proposed new rules and rule changes shall be submitted by the State/Provincial Organizations signed by the Organization's President and certified by the Organization's Secretary. The Rules Committee may submit proposed new rules and rule changes. The proposed new rules and rule changes, submitted by the Rules Committee, shall have been approved by a majority vote of the Rules Committee and certified to the PITA Executive Secretary by the Central Handicap/Rules Committee Chairman.

(b) All new rules and rule changes proposed by State/Provincial Organizations or by the Rules Committee shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Association by December 31, of each year. No later than January 31, of the following year the Executive Secretary shall cause copies of all proposed new rules and/or rule changes to be forwarded to the Secretary of each State/Provincial Organization and to each member of the PITA Executive Committee.

(c) The Board of Directors of each State/Province shall consider and determine its positions on each proposed new rule and/or rule change prior to the annual meeting of the Rules Committee.

State/Provincial members of the Rules Committee shall be required to vote in accordance with the decision of their State/Provincial Organization. In the instance of proposed new rules and/or rule changes initiated by the Rules Committee, the State/Provincial Rule Committee member's vote shall be governed by the represented State/Provincial decision of the past, if applicable.

(d) The annual meeting of the Rules Committee shall be held prior to the General Meeting of the Delegates at the Grand Pacific Trapshooting Tournament. The Chairman of the Central Handicap/Rules Committee will provide a report of all adopted new rules and approved rule changes at the General Meeting of the Delegates.

(e) Those rule proposals adopted at the Rules Committee meeting will be incorporated in the PITA Rule Book and become effective November 1st of the calendar year of their adoption.

## **WHO MAY TAKE PART IN REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS**

The PITA governs the conduct of all shoots registered with it, ONLY clubs affiliated with their State/Provincial Association will be permitted to hold registered shoots.

To constitute a registered shoot, the following requirements must be met:

1. All contestants must be members of the PITA at the time of their entry, and
2. Each contestant must pay the PITA and State/Provincial applicable fee(s), and
3. At least three (3) contestants must compete in and complete the same first event on the same day of competition. Note: Management shall assign a referee in addition to the scorer/puller on all one (1) and two (2) person squads.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS**

(a) State/Provincial and the Grand Pacific Championship will be determined on the following: Singles-200 targets; Handicap-100 targets; Doubles-50 pair of targets. The HIGH ALL AROUND will be determined on the above 400 targets.

(b) Each year at the Grand Pacific Tournament the States/Provinces will compete for a 6-person team trophy. This competition will be held in conjunction with the 200 target "Grand Pacific Singles Championship". The 6-person team will consist of one person from each Class, AAA, AA, A, B, C & D. A person is to be named by each State/Provincial President to be responsible for the registration of the teams. The 6-person State/Provincial Teams are to be named and posted prior to the start of the "Grand Pacific Singles Championship" event.

(c) In State/Provincial Championship events when the PITA provides the trophies the contestants must be allowed, if they so desire, to shoot for targets only and be eligible to win trophies.

(d) At the PITA Grand Pacific Tournament and PITA State/Provincial Shoots, Sub-Junior, Junior, Lady, Veteran, Senior and Elder shooters shall not be required to enter compulsory or perpetual purses. If they do not enter these purses, they are not eligible to win compulsory or perpetual purse money.

(e) The President shall appoint at least 4 members of the Central Handicap Committee to take care of problems that arise on the shooting line at the PITA Grand Pacific Tournament.

## **LADIES, JUNIORS, SUB-JUNIORS, VETERANS, SENIOR AND ELDERS**

**Shall choose only one category at initial classification if more than one applies.**

(a) A Sub-junior is a person who has not attained their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(b) A Junior is a person who has attained their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday but has not attained their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(c) A Veteran is a person who has attained their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday but who has not attained their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(d) A Senior is a person who has attained their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday but who has not attained their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(e) An Elder is a person who has attained their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(f) A wheelchair shooter (CH) is defined as being seated on a manually operated or electric wheelchair or cart when shooting.

(g) Any Sub-Junior (SJ), Junior (JR), Lady (LD), Veteran (VT), Senior (SR) or Elder (EL) must declare what trophy they wish to compete for before they enter a shoot off. Only one trophy may be won.

Clarification: Any Sub-Junior, Junior, Lady, Veteran, Senior or Elder involved in a class, handicap or championship shoot off who is high or tied for the special category trophy in that event may elect to shoot off for the class, handicap or championship trophy, but in so doing forfeits all rights to the special category trophy regardless of results of the shoot off, except as provided in item (i).

If a Sub-Junior, Junior, Lady, Veteran, Senior or Elder is eligible for class, handicap or championship trophy as well as the special category trophy for that event, the Sub-Junior, Junior, Lady, Veteran, Senior or Elder may choose to take either trophy for that event, but not both.

(h) When there is a Junior and a Sub-Junior trophy, the Junior must take the Junior trophy and the Sub-Junior must take the

Sub-Junior trophy regardless of the high score between the two of them.

(i) All shooters may shoot off for the championship trophy or the champion runner-up trophy and fall back to either class or special category trophies in a championship event. If a shooter is eligible for both a class and special category trophy in a championship event the shooter must declare before the championship shoot off begins which trophy they wish to fall back to if they lose the shoot off.

Championship trophy, for purpose of this, means the trophies awarded to the highest scoring event winner and any runner-up trophies, at championship events (200 singles, 100 handicap and 100 doubles used for high all around competition) at State/Provincial and Grand Pacific Tournaments, but does not mean class champions, special category champions or any other than the event high score winner and runners-up.

### **DUTIES OF SECRETARY OR OTHER DESIGNATED OFFICER SPONSORING REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS**

Secretaries or other designated officers are responsible for:

(a) The enforcement of the rules and regulations of the PITA.

(b) Cashiers and secretaries must include all membership applications and entry blanks with all shoot reports. Entry blanks must be signed or initialed by duly qualified PITA members selected to assume the duties of classifying and handicapping.

It shall be the responsibility of the host Club or Association to arrange for this committee. Qualified members of this committee shall be: Officers of the PITA, Officers and Directors of each State/Provincial Association or Club members of the Host Club whose integrity and knowledge of current PITA Rules qualify them for this all important duty.

(c) The prompt forwarding (10 calendar days from the last day of a registered shoot) of the scores and other data together with the money collected from the sale of membership cards and registration fees to the PITA Executive Secretary.

(d) Scores not received or not accompanied by the registration fees cannot be recorded.

(e) The management of a registered tournament shall provide competent referees and all disputes with reference to the competition shall be decided by these persons.

### **PULLER**

No Preferential Pullers Allowed. The shoot management must supply pullers and it will be illegal for squads to provide their own puller. The puller shall pull the trap promptly in response to the

contestant's call. The puller shall have an unobstructed view of the contestant at the firing point and the target or targets in flight.

If the Puller is negligent or inefficient, impairing thereby the equity of the competition, the management may forthwith remove him. Contestant can refuse to shoot until Puller is changed. Only shoot management can make the selection of a new Puller.

## **REFEREE**

(a) It is compulsory that a Referee call "lost" when the target is unbroken, or "no target" when it is such.

(b) It is recommended by the PITA that the Referee announce the number of "dead" targets broken by each shooter after that shooter has shot five or ten, if shooting 10 per post, targets in order. This announcement should be made as shooters move to their respective posts.

(c) It shall particularly be the duty of the Referee to see that the contestant, when firing at a target, is standing within the prescribed limits and at the correct post. (See "No Target" for clarifications). If a contestant skips a post during a sub-event (including a shoot off) the errant contestant must go back to the missed post as soon as it is noticed and as soon as practical. The overriding factor is that all contestants must remain in the same order of firing. The errant contestant may be required to finish the sub-event after the remaining members of the squad are finished. In all sub-events (include shoot offs) all contestants must shoot from all five posts and may not shoot twice from any one post.

(d) If the Referee is negligent or inefficient, impairing thereby the equity of the competition, the management may forthwith remove him. Contestants shall not be allowed to select their own referee unless authorized by the management to do so. Otherwise, only those referees assigned by the shoot management may be used.

(e) When the contestant calls "pull" and a whole target or piece appears, Referee must declare "dead", "lost" or "no target".

(f) If the contestant is dissatisfied with Referee's decision, he can ask for Shoot Management or other person who has been appointed to settle the dispute.

(g) It shall be the duty of the Referee to see that only shooters and authorized persons be allowed in the shooting area.

(h) Refereeing, scorekeeping and pulling may be done by one person if they are qualified.

## **CONTESTANT**

(a) A contestant may hold their gun in any position, pointed toward the trap house, when it is their turn to shoot. They shall not, in any manner, interfere with the preceding shooter by raising their

gun to point or otherwise attract attention until it is their turn to shoot.

(b) A contestant shall not load their gun until they are at the firing point, facing the trap. In single target shooting they shall place only 1 shell in their gun and must remove it or the empty shell before retiring from the firing point or moving from one station to another. The referee or the management may disqualify a contestant for violation of this rule.

(c) Contestants shall carry their gun open at all times while on the trap grounds.

(d) The management has the right and authority to disqualify any contestant who acts in an ungentlemanly or disorderly manner, disrupts the harmony of the shoot, or who handles their gun dangerously and to remove them from further participation in any competition in which they may have entered.

(e) The practice of tracking or following through of targets behind a shooting squad is prohibited.

(f) It is illegal for contestants to fire test shots while at their shooting station before their squad starts shooting a registered event. Test shots may be fired only when requested by the referee to verify apparent gun misfire, gun malfunction or broken gun.

(g) Gun actions must be opened at all times except when on the firing point or when in the gun rack.

## OFFICIAL SCORING

The "Official Score" is the record kept by the scorer (the Scorer may be the Referee or Puller) on the sheet or sheets furnished by the management for such purpose, and shall show in detail the scores made in the event or events for which furnished.

(a) The Scorer shall keep an accurate record of each shot of each contestant accordingly as the Referee indicates "dead" or "lost" and the Scorer shall promptly mark "/" or "X" for "dead" and the figure "0" for "lost". If a score sheet is marked incorrectly it must be corrected by the scorekeeper in such a manner as to leave no doubt of the score and must be initialed by the scorekeeper. Clear notations of the word "dead" or "lost" are acceptable corrections. Any correction must be completed complying with the requirements in subsection (e) of this section as it applies to either 5 or 10 targets per post events. If the intent of the scorekeeper is not clearly demonstrated, the score must be counted as lost. The Scorer will indicate an "F" in the box on the score sheet for each failure to fire (see Failure to Fire section) and a "G" for each ground shot (see Ground Shot section). The record of the competition so kept shall be official, and shall govern all awards and records of competition to which it relates.

(b) **DISPUTED TARGET:** If a single person is functioning as puller, scorer and referee, the call on the target can be changed by one shooter, other than the one who fired. The shooter who fired in case of dispute, may declare his/her target lost, but may not call his/her own target dead. In case a referee has been assigned or requested in addition to a scorer/puller, overriding the referee's call requires two or more squad members other than the person firing. Management shall assign a referee in addition to the scorer/puller on all one and two person squads.

(c) If the scorer is negligent or inefficient, impairing thereby the equity of competition, the management may forthwith remove him/her. The squad leader or shoot management may request assignment of a referee whenever accuracy of scoring or equity of the competition is in doubt.

(d) At any time during an event the official score sheet must be available for the contestant to review.

(e) It shall be the duty of the contestant to see that the correct result is recorded in accordance with the decision of the referee. In the case of error, it shall be the duty of the contestant in whose score the mistake has occurred to have the error corrected before they have shot at not more than 5 targets or 10 targets if shooting 10 per post, otherwise the score must stand as shown on the score sheet. The score must be corrected no later than before that shooter fires their first shot from the next firing point.

(f) It is manifestly an error when the scorer omits to mark the result of any shot in that section of the score sheet where it should have been recorded, and in such case it shall be the duty of the contestant in whose score the omission has been made to have the error corrected before they shall have fired at not more than 5 targets or 10 if shooting 10 per post. Failing to do so, they shall be held to have "lost" the target or targets not scored, and the management of the competition shall so record it. The score must be corrected no later than before that shooter fires their first shot from the next firing point.

(g) Each contestant in a squad shall be permitted to examine their score before the score sheet is sent to the bulletin board or to the cashier's office and whenever possible the individual scores shall be totaled on the score sheet before the sheet is removed from the scorer's stand.

(h) Errors in the details of the Official Score will only be corrected in strict accordance with paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section. Errors on the official score sheet that are obvious by their nature, they conflict with other sections of the PITA Official Rule Book, will be corrected when found, see paragraph (l). Errors in totaling each shooter's score may and will be corrected whenever they are discovered.

(i) The scores of any current member who takes part in a registered tournament shall be considered official scores, and registered with the PITA.

(j) A shooter may not shoot practice targets with a squad shooting registered targets.

(k) If for any reason a contestant joins his assigned squad after the squad has completed shooting one or more sub events that contestant's subsequent scores will be recorded in the official records in the order actually shot. The sequence of sub events will be recorded for each individual shooter strictly in the order of occurrence.

(l) If and when there is a question concerning the Official Rule Book as it pertains to the proper scoring of a target, or a pair of targets, shoot a provisional target or pair of targets and mark the results in the margin or on the back of the score sheet. Use an asterisk (\*) system to reference when the situation occurred. Immediately after the event is complete the shooter with the contested target(s) and the squad leader (or another squad member) will take the score sheet to the office to obtain the correct resolution utilizing the Official Rule Book and qualified State/Provincial Board/Club management members.

### **DULY NOTIFIED**

A contestant must be at the firing point within 3 minutes when it is time for their squad to shoot. Failing therein they may be disqualified. The contestant is "duly notified" when their name is posted on the score board or when the Referee, Scorer, Puller or any other official calls out their name.

If a squad sign is used showing the squad number shooting, it will not be necessary to call for the shooter. It will be the shooter's responsibility to be on the firing line when it is their turn to shoot.

### **SHOOTING UP**

(a) At any registered trapshooting competition no person shall be permitted to "shoot up", that is, enter or take part in any completed or partially completed event or events after squad #1 shall have commenced the second event to be shot on trap #1.

(b) At any registered trapshooting competition when any event or events are to be shot "Section System", no part of this rule shall apply but a special ruling shall be made by the management of the competition as to when entries close for the event or events. Such special ruling must be plainly set forth in the program for the tournament or specially announced on the grounds, or in a Special Notice posted on the club bulletin board or other conspicuous place on the grounds.



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## GUNS AND LOADS

A contestant shall not use:

(a) A gun whose chamber is larger than 12 gauge. Any contestant using a gun which is smaller than 12 gauge shall stand at the same distance from the trap that the shooter would have stood had he used a 12-gauge gun.

(b) Any load of copperized or nickel plated shot.

(c) Any load with a maximum velocity greater than 1290 FPS (Feet per Second) with a maximum shot charge of 1 1/8 ounces (31.89 grams). For 1 ounce loads (28.30 grams) the maximum velocity is 1325 FPS; for 7/8 ounce loads (24.80 grams) the maximum velocity is 1350 FPS as measured in any individual shot shell. In addition, no load containing more than 1 1/8 ounces (31.89 grams, tolerance +3%) and shot larger than number 7 1/2 chilled shot can be used. The above standards replace the old standard of no load heavier than 3 drams equivalent of black powder.

(d) Any shell loaded with black sporting powder.

(e) Semi-automatic shotguns that throw ejected shells more than 8 feet.

Any contestant found guilty of violating any of the above shall be disqualified and removed from the competition by the management. A contestant may challenge the load of any other contestant. On receipt of a challenge the management shall obtain a cartridge from the challenged. If, after examination, the management finds the contestant violated the rule he may be disqualified or not depending on whether the offense is believed to be willfully committed.

Any contestant participating in registered competition is subject to shell inspection at any time by officials of the sponsoring Club or officials of the PITA.

## SQUADS

(a) For safety reasons there shall be no more than 2 yards difference between adjacent shooters within a squad shooting handicap events, and no more than a total difference of 3 yards in a squad. The highest whole yardage assignment shall be used for all squadding and competition purposes. This rule shall also apply to handicap shoot offs. If the shoot off involves shooters with handicap yardage variation of more than 3 yards, they shall be assigned separate squads. If this results in the shooter being assigned to shoot alone, pacers may not be used. A pacer is a person shooting non-registered or practice targets. At least one but not more than 5 shooters shall constitute a squad in registered competition. Management shall assign a referee in addition to the scorer/puller on all one and two person squads.

(b) To preserve the equity of competition, and to avoid as far as possible the balking of any contestant, no member of a squad shall move toward the next firing point until all members of the squad have shot their last shot for that post.

## TIES

It shall be the shooter's responsibility to be present until an event is finalized either by highest score, shoot off or by other mutually agreed disposition. If a contestant fails to respond to a public address announcement or other notice of a tie score or call for a shoot off and the other tied contestant(s) do respond, the missing contestant is deemed to have forfeited any award or trophy. In the event all tied contestants fail to respond to the announcement, shoot management shall make any award based on those contestants' long run score for that event. If still tied the winner will be determined by a coin toss, but in no instance awarded to a lesser score. "Notice" of a tie for the purposes of this section shall include a public address announcement or posting of shoot results with ties indicated. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the disposition of tie scores by any other mutually agreed method.

All ties shall, whenever possible, be shot off in such manner as the management of the competition may deem best suited to preserve the equity of competition. (Note: Ties in competition of 50 or more targets should be shot off in strings of not less than 20 or more than 25 targets per shooter.)

Each contestant shall shoot successively as follows at each firing point: At 2 targets in 10 target events, at 3 targets in 15 target events, at 4 targets in 20 target events or at 5 targets in 25 target events.

In High All Around competitions tie scores may be shot off with each competitor shooting 20 singles (4 per post), 10 handicap (2 per post) and 1 pair of doubles from each post. In High Overall competitions, tie scores may be shot off with each competitor shooting 10 singles (2 per post), 20 handicap (4 per post) and 1 pair of doubles from each post. The composite score of each added together shall determine the winner.

All shooters may shoot off for the championship trophy or the champion runner-up trophy and fall back to either class or special category trophies in a championship event. If a shooter is eligible for both a class and special category trophy in a championship event the shooter must declare before the championship shoot off begins which trophy they wish to fall back to if they lose the shoot off. If the shooter is eligible for both a class and special category trophy and does not declare before the championship shoot off, management will assume the shooter takes class over category.

Championship trophy, for purpose of this, means the trophies awarded to the highest scoring event winner and any runner-up trophies, at championship events (200 singles, 100 handicap and 100 doubles used for high all around competition) at State/Provincial and Grand Pacific Tournaments, but does not mean class champions, special category champions or any other than the event high score winner and runners-up.

In all handicap events when there is an event championship (and/or a runner-up) trophy plus yardage group trophies, the shooters will automatically fall back to yardage groups if they fail to win the event championship (and/or runner-up) trophy. This is based on high scores only and does not allow a fall back to special category. (The previous paragraph covers fall back for special category shooters in a State/Provincial or Grand Pacific championship event, when a true championship trophy is involved.)

If the management decides that the ties shall be shot off "miss and out", the procedure shall be as follows: All those in the tie shall shoot in the same sequence as their squad number at a single target from #3 firing point. The next target shall be shot at from #4 firing point, and the following targets from #'s 5, 1, and 2 successively until a decision is arrived at. Any contestant missing a target is out of the competition unless it should happen that all the contestants remaining should miss a target in the same round, in which case they shall continue the competition just as if they had all broken the target.

Ties in double target events are best shot off at either 5 pair per shooter, one pair from each firing point, or at 10 pair per shooter, 2 pairs from each firing point. If it is decided to shoot off the tie "miss and out" the procedure is the same as in the preceding paragraph of this section, with the exception that a pair of targets will be shot at from the several firing points instead of a single target. The competition will be continued until a decision is reached.

In shoot off competition the following will be the starting positions of the competitors, except where prohibited by unsafe yardage assignments.

One shooter – Post 2

Two Shooters – Posts 2 and 4

Three Shooters – Posts 2, 3 and 4

Four Shooters – Posts 2, 3, 4 and 5

Five Shooters – Posts 1,2,3,4 and 5

In shoot off competition, shooters will be assigned starting posts in the same sequence as their squad numbers, starting with the lowest number first. If shooters are still tied at the end of the first shoot off segment, the last shooter on the squad will become the leadoff shooter, with the balance of the squad rotating in the normal manner.

In all shoot offs based on registered events a scorekeeper and a referee shall be assigned. No one will be permitted inside the fence or trap area except authorized officials conducting the shoot off.

**In all handicap event shoot offs, the contestants shoot from the same yardage they were assigned for the event. The shoot off will be conducted the same day. If the contestants have yardage differences that does not allow them to shoot on the same trap then the shoot off should be conducted on different traps at the same time, if possible, to maintain fairness at all times. All handicap parts of shoot offs for High All Around and High Over All will be conducted from the initial classification yardage assignment.**

### **RESIDENCY**

A shooter's place of residence when competing for PITA trophies or titles in State/Provincial championship tournaments will be determined by their driver's license and/or their voter registration card. If lacking these documents or in conflict, a shooter may request a determination from the PITA Rules Committee. Sub Juniors & Juniors will be determined under their legal guardian's residency.

### **COMPETITION**

(a) When the word "competition" is used in these rules, the word is understood to refer to either a single event in a program, to an entire day's program, or to the program of any one tournament, and must be so construed by the management to whose charge the carrying out of such competition has been entrusted.

(b) Permission to enter an event more than once shall be at the SOLE DISCRETION of the club sponsoring a PITA registered shoot. The following shall apply:

1. All State/Provincial daily fees must be paid.
2. The sponsoring club determines the appropriate shooting fees.
3. The sponsoring club will determine whether or not the shooters must form a 3-man minimum squad to follow the last regular squad or to integrate any multiple time shooters into existing short squads.
4. Multiple time scores are not eligible for monies or prizes.
5. Scores shot will be entered on a shooter's permanent record for average.
6. A sponsoring club must identify and list separately all multiple time event scores.
7. A handicap score of 50 in a 50-bird event shall receive a half-yard punch and a score of 97 or more will receive a 1-yard punch in any handicap events of 100 targets.

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(c) Any Club or Association holding a PITA registered shoot may, at their discretion, move class winners and all ties in the 16-yard and Doubles, up a class for subsequent events. This action may only be taken if it is clearly printed in the program for that shoot only.

### **ADDED MONEY AND OPTIONS**

No tournament promoter shall in the advertisement on program covers mention any purses or monies in excess of the amount actually added in cash or guaranteed. At no time may a person "Pay" or "Pick-up" another person's option or purse, or enter a shooter for any option or purse. Only the shooter may play their own options. The only exceptions to this would be immediate family members where a parent could pay for a minor child's entry, purses and options and also pick up any purse, option and added money winnings for a minor child, and husbands and wives who could pay and pick up for each other. At every registered tournament the cashier or other official in charge shall be required to post on the outside bulletin sheets those contestants that have entered the options and/or purses. Any gun club or organization holding a registered tournament of 100 or more shooters is required to furnish a recap sheet to the shooters for any event not covered on the bulletin board.

### **CHECKS**

(a) Anyone who presents a check at any shoot that is returned for insufficient funds or other causes cannot compete in any registered event until full payment has been made to the individual or club to which the check was presented.

(b) The PITA Executive Secretary may be notified as soon as it has been determined a check issued for payment of shoot fees, PITA dues or other Association business, has been returned for insufficient funds or other causes. This establishes the one year and three-year clock.

(c) Anyone presenting a second bad check within the one-year clock must make the bad check good, pay all bank charges, and will automatically receive a written reprimand from the PITA, and be required to pay only in cash all fees to enter all PITA shoots for a one-year period.

(d) Anyone presenting a third bad check within the three-year clock will immediately make the bad check good, including paying all bank charges. They will be suspended from the PITA for a minimum of three months or longer, as determined by the PITA Executive Board, and will be required to pay a \$50 fee when the applicant applies for reinstatement.

(e) Any and all actions concerning the above will held in as much confidence as possible. General public knowing and sharing must not occur.

### **OFFICIAL PROTEST**

Any member in good standing may file a complaint utilizing the PITA OFFICIAL PROTEST FORM or reasonable facsimile that contains the following information:

- (a) Printed name and signature of complainant.
- (b) Name(s) of the person(s) against whom the complaint is made.
- (c) Applicable Rule Book section violated.
- (d) A complete description of the details of the alleged violation including, but not limited to:
  - (1) Date, time and location of the violation.
  - (2) Names and addresses of any witnesses.

The completed form/facsimile shall be delivered to any State/Provincial Official, any member of the PITA Executive Committee or the Secretary of the PITA within 5 days of the occurrence of the alleged basis for protest. Any such Official receiving an Official Protest Form shall accept the complaint for investigation. Any protest not delivered within the 5-day requirement is deemed not timely and shall be disregarded.

**The whole PITA Executive Committee shall be apprised of any rule violation, or claim of violation, of the PITA Official Rules of the Association. They will ensure the protest is processed in accordance with the stated review and response procedures. This is a requirement of the PITA Corporate By-Laws, Article 5, paragraph four.**

The initial investigation of the Official Protest shall be accomplished by a State/Provincial Official(s) and reviewed by the President of the State/Province involved as soon as feasible. The official(s) shall conduct an investigation appropriate for the nature of the complaint. Interviews or statements of the complainant, any witnesses and the alleged violator(s) shall be written or tape-recorded. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practical, but not more than thirty (30) days from assignment for investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, State/Provincial Official(s) shall make a determination as to the truth of the complaint and shall impose any appropriate sanction(s). The complainant shall not be involved in determining the disposition of the complaint.

In the case of an Official Protest against a State/Provincial Official or member of the PITA Executive Committee, the Official receiving the complaint shall immediately forward the complaint to the Chairman of the Central Handicap/Rules Committee who

shall assign 2 uninvolved members of the Rules Committee to investigate the complaint. The completed investigation shall be presented to the Executive Committee/Rules Committee to determine, by majority rule, a disposition and/or sanction(s) to be imposed.

The State/Provincial Official(s) findings related to the complaint and disposition shall be issued not more than 10 days from completion of the investigation. Copies of the complaint, investigation and Official(s) disposition shall be forwarded to the PITA Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall then supply a concise summary to each member of the Executive Committee and the Rules Committee for their review.

The complainant or any person the subject of an Official Protest may appeal the findings and/or sanctions imposed by the State/Provincial Official(s) within 10 days from the disposition to the PITA Executive Committee/Rules Committee. Upon written notice of such appeal the Committee shall schedule a review hearing of the Official Protest where the complainant and/or the alleged violator(s) may appear to be heard on the issues. A written or recorded statement by either party may be substituted for a personal appearance. This Committee shall render a final decision related to the Official Protest within 10 days of the hearing. Their written decision shall be sent to the complainant, State/Provincial Official(s) involved and the alleged violator(s).

The Executive Committee/Rules Committee shall have the authority to impose, modify or remove any sanctions, with or without an appeal by either party. Their decision shall be final.

All records related to an Official Protest, investigation and disposition shall be retained as an official record of the PITA for a period of 5 years from the date of final disposition.

Expenses to conduct the investigation of Official Protests shall be the responsibility of the PITA but must be pre-approved by the Treasurer of the PITA.

## **DISQUALIFICATION AND SUSPENSION**

Officials of State/Provincial Associations are authorized to disqualify and recommend for suspension, any contestant violating current PITA rules or whose conduct, in their judgment, is unsafe, unsportsmanlike or disruptive to the harmony of any registered tournament. Official suspension shall be issued only by action of the PITA Executive Committee.

Disqualification carries with it forfeiture of all entrance money and rights in the competition. A shooter may be disqualified for shooting in the wrong class or yardage. **All handicap targets shot from the wrong yardage and not resolved during the event will be**

**forfeited.** An error at the handicap table does not relieve a shooter of the responsibility of knowing the rules and shooting in the proper class and at the proper yardage.

Each shooter is required to list and average on their membership average card, furnished by the PITA, all of the scores for PITA registered targets shot during the year. This card shall be presented on demand to the Classification Committee at any registered tournament or to any member of the Central Handicap Committee.

Any shooter who knowingly falsifies their record or deliberately omits scores or falsifies their handicap yardage at any registered shoot or presents an illegal or void card may be suspended and barred from participating in PITA registered tournaments for a period of one year for such infractions.

In cases of flagrant or repeated violations of PITA rules the Executive Committee may invoke up to a lifetime suspension.

### **CLASSIFICATION RULES: 16-YARD CLASSIFICATION**

(a) Except as listed in paragraph (b) below, all male shooters 18 years old or older participating in PITA registered tournaments, shall be classified not less than "B" class until they have shot 500 PITA registered 16-yard targets and earned their classification. Thereafter they will be classed based on their current average. New lady shooters and new male shooters that have not attained their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday may be classified less than "B" class, at the option of the shoot classification committee, until they have shot their initial 500 PITA registered 16-yard targets. Thereafter, they will be classified based on their current average. No shooter shall be reduced in handicap yardage, singles or doubles classification during a shoot if it is because they meet minimum target requirements by counting any of the targets shot at that shoot.

(b) A shooter joining the PITA for the first time who can demonstrate that they have shot at least 500 ATA registered 16-yard targets will be classified based on their current ATA average. The existence of this rule does not relieve the requirements at State/ Provincial and Grand Pacific Championship Tournaments as listed in paragraph (c) below.

(c) At State/Provincial and the Grand Pacific Championships Tournaments all sub-juniors, juniors, senior and elders who have not shot at a minimum of 300 PITA registered 16-yard targets during the current and previous year combined shall be classified not less than Class "A". All others, including veterans and ladies, must have 500 PITA registered 16-yard targets during the same period of time, or must be classified not less than Class "A".



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**The class “A” penalty classification applies to tournaments utilizing five (5) or six (6) classes. If only four (4) classes are involved, then Class “B” would apply.**

At State/Provincial shoots and at the Grand Pacific, at the discretion of the State/Provincial Board of Directors, or in the case of the Grand Pacific, the PITA Executive Committee, the requirement for the stated number of PITA registered targets may be satisfied by the substitution of a like number of registered ATA targets. The use of this waiver shall be clearly stated in the program. Shooters unable to present adequate records of ATA registered targets will be classified according to the regular PITA Rules identified above.

(d) A shooter who has not shot 16-yard targets for one or more years shall resume shooting from their last assigned class. If the shooter has an established ATA classification that is higher, that average must be used.

(e) After a shooter has shot at 500 registered 16-yard targets they shall be classified based on their current average. All targets from 600 to 1,000 will be included in the progressive average. After a shooter has shot at 1000 PITA registered 16-yard targets in consecutive years, classification shall be based on the average of the last 1000 targets. In computing averages after 1000 targets, those scores 10 or more below the average in which they are included will be disregarded and an additional score(s) substituted to calculate the average. An odd number of 50 target events will cause the 1000 target average total to be increased to 1050. A 50-target event is calculated based on the actual score divided by 50. Combine this score with the previous scores to establish your overall average. The 10% rule for abnormally low scores applies. (Example: 1050 targets shot at i.e.;  $1015 \div 1050 = .9667$  which is a 96.67 average).

(f) Any member of the PITA Central Handicap Committee, Directors or Officers of any State/Provincial Association, while serving an elected term of office, or members of the Executive Committee may, after proper investigation, review of a shooters records of scores of any trapshooting competition and documentation, place a shooter in a proper class, according to the shooter's established ability. Honorary directors and gun club officers are specifically excluded from this authority. Documentation used in a reclassification shall accompany the shoot report. This reclassification may be protested by the shooter to the entire Central Handicap Committee. A shooter who accepts the reclassification at the immediate shoot will not prejudice their right of protest. Established ability may be determined from official registered average, non-registered scores, or a combination thereof. Abnormally low scores of 10

below the average shall be disregarded and an additional score must be substituted to calculate the average.

(g) When a shooter receives a new card, whether it is after a renewal of membership or a yardage change, they shall be required to carry their old card for a time sufficient to verify current average.

### **CLASSIFICATION RULES: DOUBLES CLASSIFICATION**

(a) Except as listed in paragraph (b) below, all shooters participating in PITA registered shoots shall be classified not less than B class until they have shot at 200 PITA registered doubles targets. Thereafter, they will be classified based on that average. After 200 targets are registered, all targets from 300 to 1000 will be included in the progressive average. After the shooter has shot at 1000 PITA registered doubles targets, the last 1000 targets will be used for classification. In computing averages after 1000 targets have been registered, abnormally low scores (those scores 10 or more targets below the average in which they are included) will be disregarded and an additional score must be substituted to calculate the average. An odd number of 50 target events will cause the 1000 target average total to be increased to 1050. A 50-target event is calculated based on the actual score divided by 50. Combine this score with the previous scores to establish your overall average. The 10% rule for abnormally low scores applies. (Example: 1050 targets shot at i.e.;  $964 \div 1050 = .9181$  which is a 91.81 average).

(b) A shooter joining the PITA for the first time who can demonstrate that they have shot at least 200 ATA registered double targets will be classified based on their current ATA average. The existence of this rule does not relieve the requirement at State/Provincial and Grand Pacific Championship Tournaments as listed in paragraph (c) below.

(c) At State/Provincial and Grand Pacific Championship Tournaments all sub-juniors, juniors, senior and elders who have not shot at a minimum of 100 PITA registered double targets during the current and previous year combined shall be classified not less than Class "B". All others, including veterans and ladies, must have 200 PITA registered double targets during the same period of time, or must be classified not less than Class "B".

**The class "B" penalty classification applies to all tournaments utilizing four (4), five (5) and six (6) classes.**

This requirement may be waived at State/Provincial shoots and the Grand Pacific, at the discretion of the State/Provincial Board of Directors, or in the case of the Grand Pacific, the PITA Executive Committee. The requirement for the stated number of PITA registered targets may be satisfied by the substitution of a like

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number of registered ATA targets. The use of this waiver shall be clearly stated in the program. Shooters unable to present adequate records of ATA registered targets will be classified according to the regular PITA Rules identified above.

(d) A shooter who has not shot doubles targets for one or more years shall resume shooting from their last assigned class. If a shooter has an established ATA classification that is higher, that average must be used.

(e) Any member of PITA Central Handicap Committee, Directors or Officers of any State/Provincial Association, while serving an elected term of office or members of the Executive Committee may, after proper investigation, review of a shooter's records of scores of any trapshooting competition and documentation, place a shooter in the proper class, according to the shooter's established ability. Honorary directors and gun club officers are specifically excluded from this authority. Documentation used in a reclassification shall accompany the shoot report. This reclassification may be protested by the shooter to the entire Central Handicap Committee. A shooter who accepts the reclassification at the immediate shoot will not prejudice their right of protest. Established ability may be determined from official registered average, non-registered scores, or a combination thereof. Abnormally low scores of 10 below the average shall be disregarded and an additional score must be substituted to calculate the average.

# OFFICIAL CLASSIFICATION TABLES

## 16-Yard Classification

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>(6 classes)</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>(5 classes)</b>
AAA	97.50% and above	AA	97.00% and above
AA	96.00% - 97.49%	A	94.50% - 96.99%
A	94.50% - 95.99%	B	91.50% - 94.49%
B	92.50% - 94.49%	C	88.50% - 91.49%
C	88.00% - 92.49%	D	Under 88.50%
D	Under 88.00%		
	<b>(4 classes)</b>		<b>(3 classes)</b>
A	96.00% and above	A	95.00% and above
B	92.50% - 95.99%	B	89.00% - 94.99%
C	88.50% - 92.49%	C	Under 89.00%
D	Under 88.50%		

## Doubles Classification

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>(6 classes)</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>(5 classes)</b>
AAA	95.00% and above	AA	93.00% and above
AA	92.00% - 94.99%	A	89.00% - 92.99%
A	89.00% - 91.99%	B	85.00% - 88.99%
B	86.00% - 88.99%	C	78.00% - 84.99%
C	80.00% - 85.99%	D	Under 78.00%
D	Under 80.00%		
	<b>(4 classes)</b>		<b>(3 classes)</b>
A	90.00% and above	A	89.00% and above
B	85.00% - 89.99%	B	83.00% - 88.99%
C	78.00% - 84.99%	C	Under 83.00%
D	Under 78.00%		
			<b>(2 classes)</b>
		A	86.00% and above
		B	Under 86.00%

## HANDICAP RULES

### HANDICAP YARDAGE ASSIGNMENT

(a) Membership average cards are issued annually by the PITA Administrative Office. Except as outlined in paragraphs (f) and (h) below all shooters will be assigned handicap yardage equal to that shown on their current PITA handicap card.

(b) Yardage limits to be utilized shall be 19 to 27 yards. Nineteen yards may be initially assigned only to shooters who are 65 years or older, the physically handicapped, ladies or sub-juniors. Sub-juniors will not be moved to 20 yards on their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(c) Except as outlined in paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section, a new shooter shall be assigned a 20-yard handicap yardage.

(d) If a shooter is a member of the ATA and has shot handicap targets in such association in the current or previous target year he/she shall be assigned handicap yardage of whichever association shows the greater yardage. The existence of this rule does not relieve the requirement at State/Provincial and Grand Pacific Championship Tournaments as outlined in paragraph (f) below.

(e) A shooter who at any time has been a member of ATA but has not shot handicap targets in that association during the current or previous year must shoot their greatest assigned yardage unless the shooter has received a PITA target review and been granted a reduction.

A shooter who is a member or has ever been a member of the ATA and is joining the PITA for the first time will be assigned yardage equal to their ATA or other trapshooting association yardage.

(f) At State/Provincial and Grand Pacific Championship Tournaments, all shooters who have not shot at the below listed quantity of PITA registered handicap targets during the current and previous year combined shall be assigned yardage as follows:

Category	Quantity of PITA Targets	Minimum Assigned Penalty Yardage
Sub-Juniors	300	20 yards
Juniors	300	22 yards
Ladies	500	20 yards
Veterans	500	22 yards
Seniors	300	22 yards
Elders	300	22 yards
All Others	500	22 yards

At the discretion of the State/Provincial Board of Directors, or in the case of the Grand Pacific, the PITA Executive Committee, the requirement for the stated number of PITA registered handicap targets may be satisfied by the substitution of a like number of registered ATA handicap targets. The use of this waiver shall be clearly stated in the program. Shooters unable to present adequate records of ATA registered handicap targets will be classified according to the regular PITA Rules identified above.

(g) A shooter rejoining the PITA after an absence of one or more years shall resume shooting from their previous PITA handicap yardage assignment. The two exceptions will be:

1. A shooter with a greater current established ATA handicap yardage assignment.

2. A shooter with a lesser current established ATA handicap yardage assignment if the shooter has a minimum of at least 800 ATA handicap targets per year in the last four consecutive years.

(h) It will be the responsibility of the shooter to notify the handicap committee if they hold or have held a card of another trapshooting association. Failure to notify the handicap committee of other trapshooting cards may be cause for penalty action resulting in forfeiture of entry fees and all monies and possible suspension from all PITA shoots for one year.

(i) The highest whole yardage assignment shall be used for all squading and competition purposes. For squading and competitions any one-half yard assignment will be disregarded and only the highest yardage assigned/earned will be used. The utilization of this requirement shall have no affect when awarding earned yardage.

### **HANDICAP YARDAGE REDUCTION**

(a) Handicap yardage reductions may be granted only upon request of the shooter, submitted to the member of the Central Handicap Committee in the shooter's respective State/ Province. The name and address of the members of the PITA Central Handicap Committee are listed on the inside of the front cover of this Rule Book. "Request for Yardage Review" forms are available at the handicap table at all PITA registered shoots, online or from members of the Central Handicap Committee.

(b) After a shooter has shot their initial 500 PITA registered handicap targets with an average of less than 89%, they may request a yardage reduction. Thereafter, reductions shall be based on each 1,000 PITA registered handicap targets or on 2,000 targets for a two-yard reduction with an average less than 89%. A shooter may earn an unlimited number of yardage reductions in any target year.

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(c) In computing the average for a yardage reduction the Central Handicap Committee member shall disregard any abnormally low scores. Abnormally low scores are those scores 10 targets below the average in which they are included. Such scores will be removed from the computation and an additional score must be substituted for reduction consideration. An odd number of 50 target events will cause the 1,000-target minimum number average to be increased to 1,050. A 50-target event is calculated based on the actual score divided by 50. Combine this score with the previous scores to establish your overall average. The 10% rule for abnormally low scores applies. (Example: 1,050 targets shot at i.e.,  $895 \div 1050 = .85238$  which is an 85.24 average.)

(d) The PITA Executive Secretary will grant handicap yardage increases or reductions upon the request of the shooter and the Central Handicap Committee member concerned only if the officially recorded scores and yardage indicate that such an increase or reduction is justified.

(e) Special Circumstance Handicap Relief: The shooter must first request handicap relief from a local club that holds registered PITA shoots. (This insures that those who are familiar with the hardship or special circumstance review the request.) On approval at the club level the request will be forwarded to the shooter's State/Provincial Central Handicap Representative for review. Upon approval at the State/Provincial level the request with the recommendation of the State/Provincial Central Handicap Representative will be forwarded to the PITA Executive Committee for final decision.

(f) Change of yardage of any shooter may be made at any time during the target year on recommendation of the State/Provincial Handicap Representative or at the discretion of the PITA Central Handicap Committee. However, a shooter may not be granted a yardage reduction during any registered tournament after the shooter has entered and shot in the first event of that tournament.

(g) No shooter (except as detailed in "Honoring ATA Yardage Reductions") will receive a yardage reduction by the Central Handicap Committee, who has not shot at 1,000 or more registered targets after receiving a yardage punch or a reduction. Handicap targets shot will accumulate regardless of the length of time since the last yardage change.

(h) If the applicant earns yardage during the time a yardage reduction is applied for and subsequently received, the reduction shall be null and void.

(i) When disagreement regarding a shooter's yardage exists, the shooter may contact the Chairman of the Central Handicap Committee. In the event that no agreement can be reached

between the shooter and the Chairman, the entire Central Handicap Committee is to be contacted for a final decision.

### **HONORING ATA YARDAGE REDUCTIONS**

(a) PITA shooters in good standing with a PITA handicap yardage that is greater than their ATA yardage may apply for a PITA reduction to match their ATA yardage by submitting a yardage reduction request to the Central Handicap Committee representative of their State/Province.

(b) If the shooter's handicap average for the last 1000 PITA handicap targets or the last 1000 PITA/ATA combined handicap targets is less than 89%, the shooter may be granted up to a two-yard reduction toward matching his ATA yardage.

### **HANDICAP YARDAGE ADVANCEMENT**

(a) Any shooter shall be moved back one yard if they have an average of 92.5% or more on 1000 consecutive PITA handicap targets since receiving a yardage change. In computing this average the Central Handicap Committee may disregard any abnormally low scores.

(b) Any shooter who has a greater earned handicap yardage in the ATA than the PITA may, upon request to the Central Handicap Committee, have their PITA yardage increased to equal that of their ATA handicap yardage. An application for said increase is to be submitted on the PITA form for Reduction/Increase. The Central Handicap Committee Member will approve and forward the form to the PITA Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will then issue a Revised Average Card to the advanced yardage. Such advancement will be the assigned yardage and the shooter, so applying, shall be subject to all the applicable rules related to yardage reductions and/or earned yardage from the date such advancement is granted.

(c) A shooter earning a yardage increase while shooting penalty yardage shall have their cards punched from the yardage from which they shot.

(d) Any member of the Central Handicap Committee, Directors or Officers of any State/Provincial Association, while serving an elected term of office or members of the Executive Committee may after proper investigation, review of a shooter's records of scores of any trapshooting competition and documentation increase a shooter's handicap yardage assignment according to the shooter's established ability. Honorary directors and gun club officers are specifically excluded from this authority. This increase shall become the shooter's handicap yardage assignment and his/her averages card or temporary receipt punched accordingly, subject to the appeal process below. The Official making the determination shall forward to the PITA



Executive Secretary in the shoot report a completed Yardage Advance/Reduction form along with a copy of the documentation used. This yardage change may be protested by the shooter to the entire Central Handicap Committee. A shooter who accepts the increased yardage assignment at the immediate shoot will not prejudice their right of protest. Established ability may be determined from official registered averages, non-registered scores, or a combination thereof.

(e) When disagreement regarding a shooter's yardage exists, the shooter may contact the Chairman of the Central Handicap Committee. In the event that no agreement can be reached between the shooter and the Chairman, the entire Central Handicap Committee is to be contacted for a final decision.

(f) A handicap yardage advancement, not to exceed 25 yards, may be requested by a shooter to any yardage greater than their earned yardage by application to the Central Handicap Committee member of their State/Province. Application for increase is to be submitted on the PITA form for reduction/increase. The Central Handicap Committee member will approve and forward the form to the PITA Executive Secretary. The Secretary will then issue a revised Averages Card to the advanced yardage. Such advance will be permanent and the shooter, so applying, shall be subject to all the applicable rules related to yardage reductions and/or earned yardage from the date such advance is granted. There shall be no provision for a temporary yardage advance and once granted a requested yardage advance shall become the shooter's assigned yardage.

### **EARNED YARDAGE**

Yardage shall be automatically earned and the shooter's card punched accordingly to the following schedule:

#### 100 Target Handicap Events

High Scores and All Ties:	1st	2nd	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>
10 to 24 shooters	½	0	0	0
25 to 49 shooters	1	0	0	0
50 to 99 shooters	1	½	0	0
100 to 199 shooters	1	1	0	0
200 to 349 shooters	1	1	½	0
350 to 499 shooters	2	1	½	0
500 plus shooters	2	1	1	½

A score of 97 or better earns a minimum of 1 full yard regardless of the number of shooters.

### **50 Target Handicap Events**

High Score and all Ties:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
10 or more shooters	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0

A score of 50 in a 50-bird event earns a  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard punch regardless of the number of shooters.

NOTE: When a shooter ties for high but loses the shoot off, he/she still earns the same punched value as the winner.

If a 50 bird Multiplex event is conducted within a 100-bird handicap event, it shall be considered an "option". Yardage advance will be awarded first on the 100-bird event. Yardage advances for those entering the Multiplex "option" shall apply to any shooter not earning yardage in the 100-bird handicap event. In no case, will more than one yardage advance be awarded to the same contestant. Those entered in the Multiplex "option" and earning the automatic yardage by scoring 50, shall be advanced one-half yard at the conclusion of the 100-bird handicap only if not earning yardage in that event.

### **SINGLES AND HANDICAP TARGET RULES**

The squad leader may ask to see no more than 2 free targets before the squad commences firing for record on each sub-event or trap. In cases where the trap can be determined to be throwing illegal targets, additional free targets may be called for.

After there has been a disruption of the squad during a sub-event or when 1 illegal target, or 1 broken target, or 1 no target is thrown the contestant affected by the disruption may ask to see a legal target.

Shoot management may elect to shoot 16-yard singles events in sub-events of 25 (5 per post) or as sub-events of 50 (10 per post). If the decision to shoot the event as sub-events of 50 is not specified in the program and is announced after shooters have entered, they must be allowed the option of withdrawing with a refund or changing their option entry.

### **NO TARGET - SINGLES/HANDICAP**

It is no target and the referee shall allow another target respectively:

- (a) When a contestant shoots out of turn.
- (b) When 2 contestants, or when a contestant and a non-contestant shoot at the same target.
- (c) When a broken target is thrown, regardless of whether the shooter shoots at the target or not, it is declared "no target".
- (d) When the trap is sprung without any call of pull, or when it is sprung at any material interval or time, before or after the call of the contestant, providing the contestant does not shoot. If the contestant shoots while the target is in flight it shall be assumed to have been fired at the target unless the shot hits the back of the

trap house below the lid or hits the ground somewhere between the contestant and the lines parallel to the back of the trap house. If there is no objective evidence of a "ground shot" then the results will be scored based on the target breakage. Contestants will be allowed a maximum of two "ground shots" or any "accidental" firings in any sub-event. Any "ground shots" or "accidental" firing in excess of two, in any sub-event, will be scored as lost targets.

(e) When 2 targets are thrown at the same time regardless of whether the contestant shoots or not.

(f) When an "illegal" target (a target more than 20 degrees outside the prescribed limits) or what is described as a "flipper or freak target" that may have slipped on the throwing arm of the trap or had not been properly placed on the throwing arm, provided the contestant does not shoot. If the contestant shoots, the result of the shot shall be scored.

(g) When firing, the contestant's feet must be immediately behind the whole yardage assigned them, disregarding any fraction of yardage assigned/earned, unless specially permitted by the referee to do so by reason of inequalities in the ground, platform or other good and sufficient reason. The contestant must straddle an imaginary straight line drawn from the trap through the firing point and continuing indefinitely. Should the contestant fail to observe the above rule, it shall be the duty of the referee to call any target so shot a "no target".

(h) All contestants must shoot in regular order of sequence according to their position in the squad. A contestant who does not shoot in regular order is "out of turn".

(i) When a referee calls "no target" for any contestant, the next contestant is not "in turn" until the preceding contestant has shot and result has been scored. When a referee calls "no target" for any contestant who has shot one or more targets at a post from the wrong yardage only that shooter must shoot those targets over to be considered back in turn.

(j) When shooting and a target of a distinctively different color is thrown, regardless of whether the contestant shoots or not.

(k) Shooting at more targets than the rules call for at any one firing point.

### **LOST TARGET OR TARGETS-SINGLES/HANDICAP**

(a) When the contestant shoots and fails to break the target.

(b) A "soft" load, from which the shot and wad leave the barrel, shall not entitle the shooter to another shot and if the target is not broken it shall be declared "lost".

(c) When a score sheet shall come into the bulletin board or cashier's office with one or more targets that are not scored at all, they shall be scored "lost targets" by the management.

(d) When target is missed cleanly or only dust falls from it.

(e) If a contestant, after having shot at any number of targets in an event, voluntarily withdraws, or is disqualified by the referee from further participation in the event, the number of targets broken by the shooter will be officially recorded as his score for the number of sub-events in which the contestant participated. This rule to apply unless, upon authority from the PITA, the event has been declared canceled.

### **FAILURE TO FIRE-SINGLES/HANDICAP**

A contestant will be allowed two failures to fire per sub-event. Examples include: Flinches, broken gun, unloaded gun, indented primer, dud shell when the wad remains in the barrel, malfunctions of any kind, etc. The scorer will indicate an "F" in the box on the score sheet for each failure to fire and another target will be allowed. After two "F's" per sub-event all subsequent failure to fire will be declared lost and scored accordingly.

### **DOUBLE TARGET RULES**

The squad leader may ask to see no more than 2 pairs of double targets before the squad commences firing for record on each sub-event or trap. The squad leader may also ask to see a pair of doubles targets before starting to shoot each subsequent post of a sub-event or trap. In cases where the trap could be determined to be throwing illegal targets, the squad may ask to see additional free pairs.

After there has been a disruption of the squad during a sub-event or when 1 illegal pair of targets, or 1 broken pair of targets, or 1 no target is thrown, the contestant affected by the disruption may ask to see a legal pair of targets.

### **CONTESTANT-DOUBLES**

A contestant may hold their gun in any position, toward the trap, when it is their turn to shoot. The contestant shall in no manner interfere with the preceding shooter by raising their gun to point or otherwise attract attention. The contestant shall place only two shells in their gun, facing the trap house, and remove them or the empties before leaving one position for another. The referee or management may disqualify a contestant for a violation of this rule.

### **NO TARGET-DOUBLES**

(a) When both targets are broken by one shot.

(b) When only one target is thrown.

(c) When the target or targets are broken. A contestant must shoot when both targets are good (not broken) unless they are declared a slow or fast pull by the referee or are illegal targets or for some obvious reason they are declared no target by the referee.

(d) When one target follows the other after a material interval of time instead of taking flight simultaneously.

(e) When one or both targets are thrown at a wider or narrower angle or angles than set forth in the rules; providing the contestant does not shoot. If the contestant shoots the result must be scored.

(f) When the referee declares "no targets" the contestant shall be allowed another pair of targets.

(g) Shooting in any position, other than authorized.

(h) Shooting out of turn.

(i) When two contestants, or a contestant and a non-contestant shoot at the same targets.

(j) When shooting and a target of a distinctively different color is thrown, regardless of whether the contestant shoots or not.

(k) When a contestant shoots at more targets than required at any one post.

### **LOST TARGET OR TARGETS-DOUBLES**

(a) When the contestant shoots and fails to break the target.

(b) When the contestant deliberately shoots twice at the same target, call both targets lost.

(c) When a score sheet shall come into the bulletin board or cashier's office with 1 or more targets that are not scored at all, they shall be scored "lost targets" by the management.

(d) When a target is cleanly missed or only dust falls from it.

(e) If a shooter after having shot any number of targets in an event, voluntarily withdraws from the event or is disqualified by the referee from further participation in the event, the number of targets broken by the shooter will be officially recorded as his score for the number of sub-events in which the contestant participated. This rule will apply unless upon authority from the PITA the event has been canceled.

### **FAILURE TO FIRE-DOUBLES**

A contestant will be allowed two failures to fire for a sub-event. When the first target is broken and a failure to fire occurs on the second target, the contestant will receive a new pair, which will be scored as shot (for that pair). The first pair will be disregarded (for score). A failure to fire will be allowed on the second target if the first target was shot at and missed and you have a failure to fire on the second target. It will be scored as follows: on your second pair of targets your first target will be marked lost and your second target will be scored as appropriate. The shooter must shoot at both targets, not just the second target. Examples of failure to fire causes include: Broken gun, indented primer, dud shell when the wad remains in the barrel, flinches, malfunctions of any kind, etc.

When a contestant breaks the first target and his gun malfunctions by automatically firing again immediately after the

first shot in what is commonly described as machine gunning or doubling, the pair will not be scored and the contestant will receive a new pair. The second pair will be scored as shot. A malfunction of this nature shall be recorded as a failure to fire with two per sub-event allowed. All subsequent doubling malfunctions will be declared as lost a pair.

The scorer will indicate an "F" in the box on the score sheet for each failure to fire and another pair of targets will be allowed. After two "F's" per sub-event all subsequent failure to fire will be declared lost and scored accordingly.

## **LEGAL TARGET FLIGHT AREA**

### **16 YARDS (Singles) AND HANDICAP SHOOTING**

(a) Targets shall be thrown level and a distance of not less than 48 yards or more than 51 yards in still air, at a height of not less than 8 feet or more than 10 feet at a distance of 10 yards in front of the trap, on an imaginary line through firing point #3 and the trap, level with the grade of firing point #3.

(b) Targets shall be thrown from an automatic angling trap that has been set in the equivalence of the #2 target spread hole of a Winchester model #1524 hand set trap. All automatic angling traps not having the ability to be placed in the #2 target spread hole will be set to throw targets at angles of, no less than a straight away from firing point #1½ to the right and firing point #4½ to the left, or more than a straight away from firing point #1 to the right and firing point #5 to the left of the imaginary line through firing point #3 and the trap.

(c) The five firing points at 16 yards are on a radius from the trap and spaced 9 feet apart at 16 yards and 15½ feet apart at 27 yards. The target field arc shall not exceed a straight away from firing point #1 to the right and firing point #5 to the left of the imaginary line through firing point #3 and the trap.

(d) A calibrated radar gun may be used to determine distance of target flight. Targets will be thrown a speed of 42-43 mph. This speed will be set on a straight away from firing point #3, while the target setter is standing on the 16-yard line pointing the radar gun at the roof of the trap house, as the target first leaves the trap house. To ensure consistency, the trap mainspring tension should be decreased and then increased to reach the desired speed.

(e) As an alternative to paragraph (d) above, when you have a 50-yard stake you may validate a radar gun to read the speed of targets set at 48 to 51 yards in still air. These readings will be taken from a straight away at firing point #3 on the 16-yard line while the radar gun operator points the radar gun at the top of the trap house as the target first leaves the trap house. Once a radar gun has been validated in this manner the obtained readings may be utilized

by that trap club for the shoot year. Different radar guns require re-validation at the same trap club and each trap club requires re-validation if this method is utilized.

(f) When one or more targets during a sub-event are shot at with the oscillation feature of the trap machine not activated the targets shall be scored as shot. The machine will have the oscillation feature activated immediately when it is noted to be not functioning.

### **DOUBLE TARGETS**

(a) Targets of a pair of doubles shall be level with one another and thrown a distance of not less than 44 yards or more than 46 yards in still air.

(b) The height of a pair of doubles targets shall be, no less than 8 feet or more than 10 feet high at a point 10 yards in front of the trap on an imaginary line through firing point #3 and the trap. Targets will be level with the grade of firing point #3.

(c) Targets shall be thrown at known angles of, no less than a straightaway from firing point #1½ to the right and a straight away from firing point #4½ to the left, or more than a straight away from firing point #1 to the right and firing point #5 to the left, of the imaginary line through firing point #3 and the trap. The target field arc will be no more than a straight away from firing point #1 to the right and firing point #5 to the left of the imaginary line through firing point #3 and the trap.

(d) A calibrated radar gun may be use to determine the distance targets are thrown. Targets will be thrown a speed of 38-40 mph. This speed will be set on the left target of a pair of doubles as it first leaves the trap house. The target setter must be standing on the 16-yard line of firing point #4½, pointing the radar gun at the roof of the trap house to set this speed on a straightaway. To ensure consistency, the trap mainspring tension should be decreased and then increased to reach the desired speed.

(e) As an alternative to paragraph (d) above, when you have a 45-yard stake you may validate a radar gun to read the speed of targets set at 44 to 46 yards in still air. These readings will be taken from a straightaway at firing point #4½ on the 16-yard line while the radar gun operator points the radar gun at the top of the trap house as the target first leaves the trap house. Once a radar gun has been validated in this manner the obtained readings may be utilized by that trap club for the shoot year. Different radar guns require re-validation at the same trap club and each trap club requires re-validation if this method is utilized.

### **TRAPS, PITS AND SCREENS AND TARGETS**

TRAPS: An automatic angling trap shall be used. The automatic angling trap throws targets at unknown angles.

**PITS and SCREENS:** Pits and screens that are used to afford proper protection for the trappers shall not be higher than is necessary for such protection.

**TARGETS:** No targets shall measure more than four and five-sixteenths inches in diameter or more than one and one-eighth inches in height.

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