

FRONTIER NGPSA

PROPOSAL IN RESPECT OF RANGE OFFICERS

INTRODUCTION.

We have all noticed and discussed on various occasions the problems that exist regarding the lack of Range Officers and that few new Range Officers volunteer for the job.

We hope that this proposal will be the start of some meaningful discussions and that it will assist in the creation of an environment in which normal shottist would want to become Range Officers.

Some of the main issues that we think is the cause of Range Officers becoming inactive or not joining the ranks of the Range Officers Corps are listed below:

- Cost
- Support
- Recognition

1. COST.

Range Officers always incur extra costs in comparison to normal competitors.

A Range Officer that wants to shoot in the pre match at a national, has to take at least two extra days off work and has to make provision for at least two extra days of accommodation if they travel from far away. If they do not live far away or choose to shoot the weekend before, they have to travel twice to the competition.

Northern Gauteng Leagues are normally presented over two days – thus Range Officers have to travel twice if the Province wants to make use of static Range Officers. This has resulted in roving Range Officers and therefore created a problem of consistency.

The current structures that assists Range Officers goes a long way but is not adequate. The proposals that is being made excludes any existing assistance.

1.1 PROPOSAL.

1.1.1 Northern Gauteng leagues.

- The Province pay actual travelling costs to the Range Officers who make themselves available to work as static Range Officers.

The costs can be determined on a formula based on one of the following options:

- (a) Actual distance travelled to the range multiplied by a fixed rate per kilometre based on AA rates.
 - (b) Actual distance travelled to the range divided by average fuel consumption (10km/l) multiplied by actual petrol price per litre.
- In the event that Range Officers travel together, only the owner of the vehicle will be entitled to the travelling costs envisaged above.
 - Range Officers who are compensated on actual travelling costs, pay the FULL entry fee when the return the next day to shoot the match.
 - Where leagues are presented on one day only due to circumstances at the hosting club.
 - (a) The principle of roving Range Officers can be maintained but must be only applicable to the Range Officers. The Range Officers working that match can shoot the match either before or after all the competitors.
 - (b) If the current roving Range Officers practise is maintained, then provision must be made for two Range Officers per detail. The problem is that it is not addressing the issue of consistency.
 - In the event that the Range Officer is unable to shoot the match on one day but still work the other day, an average score based

on his previous performances at the leagues, can be allocated for the Range Officer log purposes. This option can only be exercised once during the year.

- Alternatively, the Range Officer can rush through all the stages after all competitors have been through his range.

2. SUPPORT.

Range Officers feel that they are not supported in their efforts to make their work easier.

Course designers set up shoots without considering the Range Officers. Many course of fire do not “flow” in the running of a specific course of fire. Range setup and scoring takes time that creates bottlenecks that in turn frustrate competitors as well as other Range Officers.

Some range equipment makes it difficult for the Range Officer to enforce rules. The last National at Golden City can serve as an example where shade netting was used as barricades but targets were visible behind the barricade. The fact that targets was visible, allowed competitors to “index” on the target and thus there was movement with the finger inside the trigger guard. If Range Officers applied the letter of the law, they would have disqualified in excess of 50% of the competitors. This would result in a number of negative issues e.g. arbitrations, ill feeling towards the Range Officer, poor reputation of the Range Officer, stages being scrapped etc.

When the issue was raised at the RO debriefing, The SAPSA Chairman just quoted the rule and refused to discuss the problem of the see-through barricades. This clearly illustrates the lack of support that we are referring to.

2.1 PROPOSAL.

SAPSA and Provincial Associations must be seen to actively support Range Officers by ensuring the following:

- (a) Course design to be friendlier towards Range Officers. Consider scoring, patching. These aspects includes but is not limited to resetting of the range and the potential for competitors to do “stupid”

things e.g breaking the 90° rule, movement with the finger inside trigger guard etc.

- (b) Ranges must be properly evaluated after construction and before shooting commences. Top shooters, experienced Range Officers and the course designers must be made part of this process.
- (c) Obscure targets where the potential exist that a competitor can see the target through the barricade in order to prevent indexing.

3. RECOGNITION.

Range Officers feel that they are not appreciated and their efforts are not recognised by SAPSA and Provincial Associations.

Some Provincial Associations have already started to recognise these efforts and have implemented some system to award Range Officers Provincial Colours.

The proposal that we would like to table should run concurrently with existing award schemes.

3.1 PROPOSAL.

Create a system where Range Officers can be competitive amongst themselves in order to achieve normal Provincial Colours as competitors (over and above the current systems).

This can be achieved by the creation of an additional National Log and Provincial Logs for Range Officers. The scores of the Range Officer who shoot and work at a match, will thus be reflected on the Provincial / National Log as well as on the Range Officer Log.

The top 4 Range Officers in each division (Open, Standard and Production) will be automatically selected as a Team to represent the Range Officers of their Province at National events in the respective divisions. The Range Officers must shoot the pre-match and officiate at the event in order to become eligible for team selection.

Range Officers who shoot as a team for their Province during the pre-match, will be entitled to wear Team Shirts. This must be enforced by the respective Provincial Associations and will create pride amongst those selected.

Colours can then be awarded by the Province on the same basis as currently applied. The Range Officer must be selected the same number of times to represent his Province as is done with normal competitors.

Recognition could be further extended in the awarding of medals for the Range Officers on the same basis as being done for normal competitors.

3.1.1 National competitions.

We do not have an adequate proposal in respect of national competitions but SAPSA could consider something based on the proposal above.

CONCLUSION.

We believe that the implementation of these proposals can create an environment where the Range Officer is recognised, appreciated and adequately awarded, for his sacrifices and contributions to the sport.

We hope that we have created a meaningful discussion document.

Looking forward to your constructive response and feedback.

Billy Egleton
Chairman