

## **SAIRO & I Chairperson's Report – April 2017**

My opening statement last year was that "2015 was another tough year for SAIRO administration" – seems like every year is a tough year, with 'politics' and hidden agendas being particularly prevalent this past year. But some good news was that one of our own, viz. Chris Groenewald, was selected as an IROA official for both the Austral-Asian and European level IV handgun matches. Chris has also been selected as an IROA official for the rifle WS in Russia, as well as the handgun WS to be held in France later this year. Well done, Chris!

Lack of communication, lack of understanding and/or lack of ability (or willingness) to follow laid-down and accepted procedures remains a major problem and it would appear that it is the same provinces that do not communicate with their members and ignore call-up procedures. So I repeat what I said last year - your SAIRO Manco cannot 'serve' its members under these prevailing conditions so it is up to each and every one of you to please 'get on board' – literally – and assist us. We all do this on a voluntary basis and if you feel you do not have the time to make the commitment required, rather step down and let someone else take over.

There was once again an issue surrounding the use of 12-pellet buckshot. To clarify – according to the IPSC rules, 9 pellets is the **recommended** maximum but the SAPSA Council took a decision to make this mandatory at SAPSA-sanctioned level III or higher matches. So if you are officiating at a shotgun match, please pay attention to the SAPSA Council decision.

I also wish to bring to your attention the fact that any person, who is not a SAPSA / SAIRO member, **MUST** have prior approval from the RD in his region before he/she can be included in the list of match officials and/or competitors at a match.

There were also a number of incidents involving match officials and competitors – I believe this is just another symptom of the continuous lack of regard for rules and regulations that appears to be rampant at the moment.

On a brighter note, it is gratifying to report that there are a number of newly-qualified ROs who are keen and 'hungry' to officiate at our Level III matches – let's not lose them due to frustration with systems that are currently causing us headaches.

Two Level I and one level II IROA seminars were completed last year. There are 6 IROA seminars budgeted for this year.

As regards the First Aid seminar, this is a headache. IROA will not release the course material as they are busy re-vamping it; the guy who currently presents the First Aid seminars is willing to present one in RSA – all at our cost; and St. John's charge R850 per candidate.

## RO status as at end February 2017

	<b>Active</b>	<b>Trainees</b>
Boland	25	5
C Gauteng	24	18
E Cape	9	1
E Province	11	8
Free State	20	4
G West	3	1
KZN	7	14
Limpopo	18	17
Mpumalanga	8	16
N Gauteng	45	45
NKZN	4	
NW Province	6	1
V Triangle	11	6
W Province	23	11
	<b>214</b>	<b>147</b>

Do not be confused by these figures – active includes ROs who only officiate at Level I & II matches, which does not help with our continuous shortage of match officials at Level III matches. I also think the number of trainees is 'exaggerated' – the majority of these assist at Level I & II matches but will probably never be certified.

Last year there were 7 level III matches (3 handgun, 2 rifle and 2 shotgun) - the 'results' per discipline are as follows:

- There has been an increase in the number of handgun competitors from 293 to 340, rifle has increased from 68 to 81 and shotgun has remained at an average of 59
- It is difficult to assess reshoots and warnings as these are not always recorded in the RM reports. However, handgun (which is generally reported on) still indicates too many reshoots due to range equipment failure and/or incomplete score sheet, as well as warnings issued for 'sight picture / dry firing' and unauthorised walk-throughs.

As regards incomplete score sheets, these are generally the result of ranges that run late due to complex / gimmicky course design or equipment that is not robust enough. Range equipment failures – SAPSA needs to up its game as regards limiting gimmicky or inferior equipment at Level III or higher matches. Warnings – members need a better understanding of the rules – hopefully this will improve when the new 'system' is introduced.

- Handgun DQs are down slightly from 6 to 5.1%, rifle down from 1.5 to 1.2% and shotgun up from 1.7 to 8.4 %!

The shotgun DQs included 3 ADs – 2 during movement, 1 while loading / unloading / reloading; 2 DQs for handling ammo in a safety area, 2 x finger in trigger while moving, 1 dropped firearm and 2 for having a loaded firearm!!

The most common safety infringement remains 'breaking 90°' – generally not due to targets still being visible past 90° as final vetting removes as many of these as possible – the majority occur during movement from one position to another

FS, NG and NW have shown an increase in the number of members disqualified

- 2 arbitrations were reported, both of which were denied

- A total of 66 President's medals were handed out – 43 for handgun, 10 for rifle and 13 for shotgun.

As I mentioned last year, course design and construction play a role in the number of DQs but as also mentioned, training of shooters also plays a big part. SAPSA Council took a decision last year to implement a system of 'qualification' to participate in Level II or higher matches and SAIRO was tasked with putting a process in place and then administering this policy. Loosely summarised, this process will involve a written exam on the IPSC rules, as well as a practical assessment of a member's safety. This process will be based on the Dedicated Status procedure currently utilised in NW province and should have been implemented beginning of January. Unfortunately I misplaced the documentation handed to me at a SAPSA meeting so requested copies late last year. These were received in February. Hein and I have since been working on a draft Policy document as well as the actual 'tests' but the written exam is in the process of being revamped as the one supplied is based on the 2004 edition of the IPSC rules. We also still need input from the SAIRO Manco as to how SAIRO will administer this as the entire SAIRO Manco works on a voluntary basis. One point however is clear – this new policy will only apply to new members unless an existing member is disqualified twice within a 12-month period, in which case that member will need to re-qualify.

On a really positive note – match official remuneration for Level III or higher matches has been increased! From R1.50 to R2.50 per km (once-off round trip from home to the range) and the daily allowance from R150 to R200 per days worked.

In conclusion, I once again wish to thank the SAPSA Chairperson for his confidence in SAIRO, as well as his continuing support throughout the year. I also wish to thank my Manco for once again supporting and assisting me this past year, as well as all the Board members who have assisted the Manco during the year and all the match officials who have given selflessly of their time.

And so, I bid you a fond farewell.