

Lack of Interest in Rules and Procedures?

Mrs. Carolyn Anderson, of A.C.T., asks: "Don't pistol club members care about their apparent lack of interest in correct rules and procedures?"

In a letter to the ". . . Bulletin," Mrs. Anderson went on: "How can a shooter protect his rights if he is ignorant of the rules? When a shooter steps to the line, he/she is supposed to be conversant with the rules. How can one be a contestant in any game if one is not conversant with the rules of play?"

At a recent interstate shoot it was glaringly obvious what can happen when ignorance of the rules is the order of the day. I like to know that I am in the right when I challenge a decision when I am shooting—it is too upsetting if one becomes embroiled in a so-called fight over rights on the line and goodness knows what it does to one's score.

A recent letter to the Editor (from a person who does not hold an APSUA Range Officer Certificate) indicated lack of familiarity with the rules, otherwise the suggestions made and the questions asked would not have been put.

Here's a "red rag"! I believe that it should be a pre-requisite of State team membership to sit for the Range Officer examination.

A Team Manager cannot afford to upset the temperament of all his team members by any incident that is not conducive to concentration and good application to shooting. A shooter in any open competition can't expect the best result if he is concerned about anything other than the firing of his shots.

Like any conditioning I believe studying for the Range Officer examination should be part of the shooter's approach to the line: learn the rules, obtain and maintain your equipment to shoot, stance, breathing, etc.

It is a selfish attitude to be a participant all the time and never conduct a match; it is actually enjoyable to competently run a range and one does not have to be a genius to do so.

I do not wish to level adverse criticism at anyone, but I believe the scheme is an excellent one and the benefit to a shooter's performance would be a great gain.

Anyone wishing to participate in the scheme should drop me a line and I will arrange either for a Referee to contact you or I will arrange an examination for you, Mrs. Anderson said.

In her preamble to this comment, Mrs. Anderson said the Register of Certificates she has kept since the APSUA Range Officer scheme was launched in Canberra in 1973 indicates that there is a lack of qualified people in several States.

She wrote: "I have issued 232 APSUA R/O 10 APSUA Association, and 13 National Referee Certificates, plus the qualification of one N.Z. Association member as an Association referee."

A breakdown of these figures shows us where the majority of qualified people are:—

Range Officers — N.S.W. (84), Queensland (47), S.A. (31), Tasmania (21), A.C.T. (16), W.A. (6), Victoria (?), N.T. (nil). New South Wales has 4 National and 4 Association Referees; Queensland, 2 National and 4 Association; N.T., 2 Association Referees; Victoria, W.A. and A.C.T., 2 National Referees; Tasmania, one National Referee.

(The Editor asks that any comments on Mrs. Anderson's suggestion be confined to about 150 words. All enquiries regarding range officer examinations should be addressed to Mrs. Anderson at 4 Lipscomb Place, MacGregor, A.C.T. 2615) and the ". . . Bulletin" will obtain a summary at a later date.)