

1970 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS . . .

Referees Report

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The 1970 Australian Championships and World Championship Team Eliminations for Phoenix were conducted at the Adelaide Pistol Club range over the period March 27th to April 2nd inclusive.

I had the honour of acting in the capacity of Chairman of the Range Jury who were nominated by their State Associations as follows:—

Western Australia — Ray Andrews.
Northern Territory — Peter Anderson
New South Wales — Alan Ducquet
Victoria — Allan Denham
Tasmania — Bob Morgan
South Australia — Bill Simmonds
Queensland — Keith Archos

Organising Secretary — Bob Warner
Range Controller — Hal Pascoe
Chief Scorers — Tom Davies and Ken Kendle.

These Range Officials and their staff were the real workers and are to be congratulated on their dedication and helpful co-operation during a solid seven days of top level competition.

There were numerous technical queries relating to the interpretation of various shooting regulations but official protests were minimal and this is indicative of a maturing attitude to high level competitive shooting. All shooters and their team officials are to be congratulated.



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lated in this respect.

The standard of range personnel was high and, although there were a few points requiring improvement, all officials are to be commended for their range procedures and knowledge of I.S.U. requirements.

Jury Decision:

1. On the morning of the first day of competition the Jury members were contacted regarding the authority of the scoring section in relation to Art. 25b of the I.S.U. General Regulations which states in effect that "the decision of the Classing Committee (Scoring Section) can be appealed against except that **the judging of doubtful shot-holes made in the target control is final**". All Jury members, with the exception of Mr. R. Anderson who could not be contacted at the time, were in favour of the proposal and the A.P.S.U.A. Secretary, Organising Secretary and Chief Scorer were immediately notified of the decision.

2. It was reported to the Jury that a cross fire condition appeared to exist in the Free Pistol event with one target having only nine shot-holes and the adjacent target having eleven shot-holes. The Jury agreed that a cross fire condition did exist and made the following decision.

The erring shooter was to fire one shot without sighters on a new target at the conclusion of the event. This shot could not be scored higher than the highest shot or lower than the lowest shot on the other target and a two point penalty would be applied.

The other shooter who was considered quite blameless and therefore should not be penalised, even to the extent of re-firing the 10 shot series, was to be credited with the ten highest shots on his target.

This decision was relayed to the Chief Scorer and the Range Officer and it is understood that this ruling was applied to all subsequent cross fires.

3. Following reports of further cross fire in the Free Pistol event the Jury examined the Free Pistol installation. It was agreed that

target identification left much to be desired, but suitable modifications would have been impossible without unduly delaying the shooting programme. The Range Officer was instructed to warn all details of this problem of target identification and advise competitors to bring any suspected cross fires to his immediate attention for on the spot clarification.

4. A protest was lodged against a nine shot target with the shooter claiming a double shot-hole. As the Chief Scorer had carefully checked the particular target and ruled that there were only nine shot-holes on the target, the shooter was advised that the decision taken in target control was final and could not be appealed against. (See Jury decision No. 1).

5. A shooter claimed poor lighting conditions in the Free Pistol Championships and requested that scores shot in this match not be included in the Elimination series. The Jury decided that scores shot in this match would be included in the Elimination series.

6. A Range Officer reported that he had received complaints regarding a competitor wearing a leather glove on the shooting hand. The particular competitor was requested to report to the Jury to have his glove examined. On examination the Jury decided that the glove did not constitute any form of support behind the hand, but directed the shooter to cut the glove back so as to fully expose the wrist.

7. The Range Controller reported that a shooter, who had not been present at his appointed time for the Rapid Fire event, had subsequently reported with a request that he be permitted to shoot at a later time due to illness. The Jury considered that the shooter had not intended to gain any advantage by his failure to appear and was permitted to shoot with a two point penalty.

8. Following the above decision a verbal protest was lodged stating that the squading cards stipulated that squading would not be altered. The Jury questioned the Organising Secretary who advised that this stipulation was

circulated to prevent frivolous squadding situation outside the control of the shooter, changes and was not intended to apply to a such as illness. The Jury re-affirmed its previous decision.

9. A protest was lodged on behalf of one shooter in relation to a disturbance created when a door opened along side the targets during a Centre Fire duelling series. The Jury acknowledged the disturbance and ascertained that the target had not been called prior to the initial verbal protest made on the range. The shooter was permitted to re-shoot that particular series on the clear understanding that the re-shot series would count irrespective of the score.

10. A protest was made against the grips used by two shooters in the Centre Fire event in that they contravened Art. 22.

The Jury called the two shooters and, on examination of their grips, found that one shooter's grips were questionable and the shooter was directed to modify his grips in accordance with the Jury instruction and report back to the Jury for re-examination before the next Centre Fire event. This instruction was carried out and the grips passed by the Jury.

The other shooter's grips were passed, but the shooter was advised that it would be in his interests to make sure that his grips were well within the laid down regulations.

In the case of the questionable grips the Jury was of the opinion that the fault was not of fundamental importance and the series fired was permitted to stand without penalty.

11. A subsequent appeal against the above decision to impose no penalty was heard by the Jury who re-affirmed their original decision that the fault was not of fundamental importance.

In concluding this report I wish to submit my personal recommendation on various points which I consider will result in further improvements to our National Competitions.

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National Referees:

The strain of responsibility imposed on Range Staff (Range Officers, Markers, Scorers etc.) would be eased if we followed normal International practice of nominating a Range Jury consisting of approved National Referees whose only function would be the supervision of all shooting activities.

The Referees' qualifications and responsibilities in relation to other Range Staff are detailed separately and it is suggested that the National Coaching Council should consider including the training of certified National Referees as a part of the Council's activities.

We have many knowledgeable members in the Australian Pistol movement who are basically interested in this most important aspect of shooting activities and, with suitable experience in local championships as National Referees, could well be considered by the I.S.U. to act as Referees in International events such as Olympic Games and World Championships and thereby obtain an International Referee's Licence.

Double Shot Holes:

Because of the authority vested in the Target Control section by the Range Jury, problems relating to double shot holes were not highlighted by Jury meetings. However double shot holes were quite numerous during the competitions and I repeat the recommendation included in my 1968 report that backing targets be used for all National Championships and Team Selection Trials.

This is the only method of removing the doubt that continually cloud decisions on double shot holes and the cost of installing a simple form of backing targets, such as those used at Wiesbaden, would not be great in comparison to the overall cost of a National Championship.

Spectator Interest:

Again I must repeat my 1968 suggestion in that every effort should be made to promote

