

Happy New Year Everyone!

I have a detailed discussion recently with our Eastern Zone VP Wayne Morris on a few issues and wanted to share them with you

1. There will be a change to the "lost target" rule in doubles. Currently, if a shooter misses the 1st target on a doubles and there is a malfunction on the 2nd shot – both targets are "lost" Now, the pair will be re thrown, with the 1st target shown as "lost" but the 2nd target will be scored either a hit or a loss depending upon the actual result.

2. I will shortly be in receipt of a comprehensive list of Ontario shooters whose average in handicap is less than (90 – I believe). All on the list will be given a 2 yard reduction. Shooters may refuse the reduction – their choice, or I (as Ontario delegate) may provide on a case by case basis. I have given alternate delegate Verne Higgs a heads up on this and my suggestion to Verne is that we (together) go through the list. There may be no overrides at all but time will tell. Reductions will not go below minimum permitted yardage and won't apply to coded shooters. The theory behind this initiative is that shooting numbers are down, the economy is bad and the ATA wants to do something to encourage people to do more shooting. If they get a couple of yards of a reduction, their scores may improve, they may enjoy the sport a little more and they may shoot more.

3. Finally, there are changes to categories.

New categories have been added for a 3 year trial period. I am enclosing the "special categories" which include the new ones of:

- Junior Gold (18 years but under 23)
- Lady I (under age 55)
- Lady II (55 and older)
- Sub Veteran – over 55 but not yet 65.

I am still looking at the implications. You need to as well.

P.S. Post this to my delegate page please as this will be of interest to all our Ontario shooters.

J. SPECIAL CATEGORIES

All Ladies, Sub-juniors, Junior, Veterans, and Senior-Vets must declare their special category at the time of classification in any registered tournament if they wish to compete as a category shooter. Without such declaration, the contestant will not be allowed to compete for the applicable category trophy. No contestant will be allowed to declare or change a special declaration after firing his/her first shot. The only exception to this rule will be to correct an ATA classification error.

The following rules apply to shooters who have declared a special category. At all tournaments where All American points will be awarded in any event, shooters may declare only one (1) category (i.e. Lady I , Lady II Sub-Junior, Junior, Junior Gold, Sub Veteran, Veteran, or Senior Veteran) Note: Chair shooters are exempt from this rule.

1. A female shooter, who has not reached her 55th Birthday, may declare Lady I
2. A female shooter, who has reached her 55th Birthday, may declare Lady II
3. A shooter who has not reached his/her 15th birthday may declare Sub-Junior.
4. A shooter who is 15 but has not reached his/her 18th birthday may declare as Junior.
5. A shooter who is 18 but has not reached his/her 23rd birthday may declare as Junior Gold.
6. A shooter who is 55 but not reached his/her 65th birthday may declare as a Sub Veteran.
7. A shooter who is 65 but not reached his/her 70th birthday may declare as a Veteran.
8. A shooter who is 70 years of age and older may declare as a Senior Veteran.

This rule does not supersede paragraph 7.

9. Age based categories are established on the birthday of the shooter. For purposes of determining age category for HOA and HAA awards the category declared by the participant on the first day he/she shoots shall be used.

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10. Shooters who become eligible for new age based categories during the target year may elect to continue to compete in the previous category for the remainder of that target year. (For example a shooter reaching age 70 may elect to continue to shoot as a Veteran for the remainder of the current target year.) However, once a shooter has elected to move to the new category that decision is irrevocable and he/she may not again declare eligibility for the previous category. Junior shooters reaching the age of 18 may continue to declare Junior category for the remainder of the current target year.

Note: Age based special category shooters that are in contention for or desire to achieve All-American Team recognition should review the All-American Team policy on page 57 prior to declaring a new special category.

When there is no Sub-Junior trophy Sub-Juniors will be included in the Junior category. Senior veterans will be included in the Veteran category when there is no Senior Veteran trophy.

Where there is no Junior Gold or Sub Veteran Trophy, these shooters will be Included in the Open Class. Where there is no Lady II trophy, these shooters will be included in the Lady I category.