

ATA article for December 2016

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

I am pleased to announce our Ontario Delegate and Category Delegate Teams for 2017 based on shooting results from the target year ending August 31, 2016.

Here are the Teams:

Ontario Delegate Team:

	Points	Name
1st	12	Lloyd Beecraft
2nd	6	Tom Batsos
3rd	5	John Costa
	5	Joe Di Francesco
	5	Verne Higgs
6th	4	Peter Tsementzis
	4	Billy Zager
8th	3	Paulo Sampiao
	3	Dan Gris
	2	Frank Bonaiuto

Ontario Category Team:

	Points	Name
1st	12	George Iliopoulos
2nd	8	Bert Blackburn
3rd	7	Ed Wilmott
4th	5	Byron House
	5	Keith Saunders

Ontario is believed to be unique among the states and provinces of the ATA for recognizing accomplishments of our shooters in circumstances as I describe.

Here were the challenges our province faced before these awards were introduced:

1. Clubs that hosted an ATA competition did not have the resources to offer trophies to the winners of any of the events.
2. Consequently, if options were played, the only recognition a shooter would have is some prize money, target attainment and a score that may help that shooter's running average.
3. If the weather was unfavourable, many shooters elected not to shoot at all as there was little to gain and their running average would almost certainly be reduced.

4. There was little incentive to travel to other clubs so many shot only at their home club where they had a familiar setting, often shot better and chose to reward the coffers of their own club than another club some distance away.
5. The only Ontario team that a shooter was able to make was the Ontario All Star Team but it was based on their composite average of singles, handicap and doubles scores. If a shooter did not shoot doubles (for instance) he or she could never make a "team".

What did Ontario do to address these challenges? Read on. We used a little creative incentivization by:

1. We used a low but achievable participation threshold, which was a little more flexible in remote areas to determine what constituted a "qualifying competition". For the most part – for the non-category events:
 - 20 singles entries
 - 15 handicap entries
 - 10 doubles entries

For category shooters there must be a minimum of 5 participants in any event. This is based on the original 5 categories (to explain, it can be a combination of any sub-junior, junior, lady, vet and senior veteran as long as the total is 5).

2. An event winner gets a delegate pin (for category winner – a delegate category pin). If there is a tie, shoot management can settle the tie by shoot-off, reverse score, etc. – at their discretion.
3. A shooter can win a maximum of only two pins in any event at the same club during the target year. This eliminates part of the "home field" advantage and encourages participation at other clubs.
4. At the end of the target year the shooters who have won the greatest number of "pins" are named to the Delegate Team (10 person team) or named to the Delegate Category Team (5 person team). All team members get a nice trophy which is presented at our Provincial Championships the following year.
5. For those who won at least one pin, there is a personal letter of congratulations sent to each winner together with a "pin" specially embossed to commemorate their accomplishments. This year I sent out 38 congratulatory letters (and pins) to men who won at least one event and 44 congratulatory letters (and pins) to category shooters who won at least one event.

Our Ontario shooters appreciate this initiative, there is incentivization to travel to other clubs, and shoot in any type of weather. But it comes at a cost. Shoot management needs to identify the winners and our OPTA secretary needs to collate this and send them to me for calculation. The consensus is that the effort pays off.

Have a happy holiday season (for the politically correct). To the rest of us have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Paul Shaw
Ontario Delegate