



MINUTES of DIRECTORS AND ADMINSTRATORS MEETING 10-11 JANUARY 2020

GBA Directors and Administrators convened January 10, 2020 at Fairfield Inn and Suites, Fairmont, WV, from 7pm to 11pm, and again on January 11, 2020 from 9am to 10:30am. The agenda for this meeting was provided to Directors on December 18, 2019. Proposed changes to Rules and By-Laws was also sent to Directors on the same date, in two documents. One was - the entire Rules document with proposed Rule Changes. The second was Part Two – a Summary of Proposed 2020 By-Laws and Rule Changes. Comments in advance of the meeting were not received and this agenda was adopted as the start of discussions.

The State of GBA 2019 Season Review

At a high level the Chairman briefed GBA's tremendous successes in 2019 and discussed growth initiatives that are underway. This brief was sent to Directors in December 2019.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer briefed the 2019 Report, detailing all income, expenses, current operating balance, projected 2020 income and projected 2020 expenses. The Report will **not** be posted. All records were brought to the Director's and Administrator's Meeting and were available for audit. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the Report.

2019 Survey

The 2019 Survey was mailed to 136 U.S. members. Its purpose was to get direct feedback from GBA members. 60 responses were returned, which is an excellent return rate by accepted survey standards. The summary of these responses, with all individual comments, were provided to each Club Director two weeks in advance of the meeting in order to help facilitate discussions.

Questions and answer summaries were briefly discussed. Club Directors were asked to investigate member responses to Nationals participation.

By-Laws

“Voting” was discussed. The statement was made that “Everyone needs a voice and a vote.” Attendees were reminded that GBA, per its By-Laws, is a representative democracy, whereby individual Club members as well as Range Owners are represented by Club Directors who sit on the GBA Board of Directors. This was intentional – to avoid the problems experienced in our former organization. Those problems and shortcomings will not be enumerated here.

The Board of Directors took an action to determine what matters are voted on by the Board, and what matters are voted on by general membership. Board members will consult each other on this matter. The due date for recommended amendment to the By-Laws is 28 February.

Rules Changes

At conclusion of By-Laws discussion, comment was made that there should be no rule changes after the shooting season starts. For the record, Directors approved this after very short discussion, however, subsequent discussion regarding electronic systems pointed to the need to revisit this decision. The reason is discovery of issues with electronic target systems, specifically, and any matter, generally, could require a rule change, and we would not want to wait until season end to implement a change. During 11 January’s discussion, this point was raised. The Board reconsidered its decision and voted unanimously that we would not want to handcuff ourselves with such restrictive language. The intent clearly is to implement as few rule changes as possible, and if something must be addressed in rules during the shooting season, it will be addressed.

Part Two of the Proposed Rules changes sent out 18 December 2019 was unanimously approved by vote of the Board, per By-Laws. This set of proposed changes is a consolidation of the 2019 Season Points Guidance into the Rules. This is being done because our intention is not to be changing the points structure often and to get rid of another Administrative document.

The GBA Board voted unanimously to approve Part Two of the Proposed Rules changes.

Rules changes regarding Factory/Tactical and 1-Mile classes are detailed later in these minutes.

Rule Book Administrative Changes

Directors authorized the Secretary to make minor administrative changes to the Rule Book. Any change will be captured in the summary of changes section in subsequent Rule Book releases.

Points Keepers asked that the Membership Application be amended to also ask if the applicant was a former IBS member. The purpose of this question is to cue GBA Points Keepers to possible points earned by the applicant under IBS and ensure they are captured. It will save them time from investigating every person.

The Secretary will incorporate discussed rule changes into the Rules and provide them soonest to the Chairman to obtain Board approval. Rules will be finalized before the shooting season commences.

Relay and Shoot-Off Points for 1000 Yard and 1 Mile Competitions; Participation Points

The point structure for 2019 was adopted by the Board with the intent of fostering growth at smaller Clubs, especially Clubs just starting. The results at end of season showed an unintended and disproportionate skewing of points awarded at smaller Clubs. (Even people who benefitted from this cited need for change in Survey responses.)

The Board voted unanimously that for 2020, the point structure will be as follows:

.05 points times the number of GBA shooters for a relay win, and 1.0 points for a Match win in shoot-off.

A two (2) shooter minimum was established per class.

The number of shooters in a relay will be split as evenly as possible.

Participation points remains at .01 for each trip to the line for 1000-yard and 1 Mile disciplines. In 600-yard discipline, .01 participation points are awarded for a match aggregate.

Electronic Target Systems

After discussion of Dead Zero experience with electronic target systems, and their functioning, the Board unanimously voted to approve the purchase of two (2) electronic target systems. These will be purchased by GBA, and remain under GBA ownership, however they will be installed at Harry Jones. GBA will conduct design of experiments in 2020 to ascertain accuracy versus measured paper targets and investigate strategies to improve system performance. Harry Jones will make these electronic target systems available for shooters on the Friday before matches, and after matches.

Lifetime Points

A proposal was floated to combine all points for 1000-Yard into one number, and all points for 600-Yard into one number. The effect of this would have been to combine LG, HG, Factory and Hunter/Tactical points, thus eroding the distinction between classes and debasing current recognition programs. After short discussion, this proposal was rejected by the Board, never being seconded to go to a vote.

The Board unanimously voted to approve that Factory, Tactical and 1-Mile classes will have separate Lifetime Points.

Consistency Shooter

The Secretary discussed the results of the 2017 and 2018 shooting season analysis of all International Benchrest Shooters (IBS) Long Range competition, specifically as they related to the proposed creation of a Consistency Award. In summary, the intent of the Consistency Award is to recognize shooters who did not or could not pursue a Top Shooter award due to limited match attendance. For 2019, GBA Shooters were eligible for Consistency Award consideration if they participated at 2 or more Clubs and

competed in a minimum of 10 matches. However, if they were recognized for Top Shooter, they were excluded from consideration for Consistency.

The Secretary will propose criteria for the 2020 Consistency Award and present it to the Chairman, Board of Directors by February 28, 2020, for Board concurrence. Consistency Award criteria will be incorporated in Rules prior to commencement of the shooting season.

New Award – Single Target Records Using Electronic Targets

Director, Dead Zero, proposed that a category of award be created for records set using Electronic Targets. After discussion, the Board unanimously voted to accept an electronic record category for single target record for Group and single target record for Score – for all Classes. Electronic targets were already approved for establishing aggregate records.

Accordingly, the Record Report Form in the Rules will be amended to indicate whether the potential record is on paper or by electronic target.

Referees

A procedural question was raised as to whether Referees should individually judge targets or whether they can collectively judge a target. Stephen Reimers, who has 20+ years of scoring experience, stated preference to have all Referees collectively judge a target, rather than doing so one-by-one. The Rules will be amended to state Referees should judge a target all at the same time, if possible. This allowance is given because a referee may be shooting in a relay when a target needs to be judged.

Hunter/Factory and Tactical/1-Mile

There was extensive, focused discussion on these classes. Discussions began 10 January, concluding at 11pm and resumed the next morning at 9am. There was no disagreement amongst the Board on the following principles.

- 1) Everyone recognizes the importance of these classes to the health and growth of GBA.
- 2) Everyone recognizes the need to ensure the classes are distinguishable from Light Gun. The discussion about Factory and Tactical centered on this very point.
- 3) Everyone recognizes the need for inclusive rules – not restrictive rules, so that new shooters can be attracted to and enter this sport.
- 4) Everyone recognizes that rules established should be easily enforceable.
- 5) Everyone recognizes the desire of shooters in these classes to be treated “equally”.

The Board unanimously voted that “Hunter” as a title will be dropped and replaced with “Tactical.”

The Board unanimously voted that in the 1000-Yard discipline, Factory and Tactical relay winners will proceed to shoot-offs.

The Board unanimously voted that Factory, Tactical and 1-Mile Class competition rules will be defined as follows:

Factory Class Definition

A factory rifle is defined as any standard production rifle - not a custom shop rifle — with a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) maximum of \$2,000.

For 600-Yard and 1000-Yard Factory Class competitions, the rifle and rests must conform to the following rules:

- Commercial bolt action - commercially produced rifle, using the commercially installed action, factory installed barrel, and factory stock. A new barrel may be installed provided it is done by the factory who manufactured the rifle
- No stock modifications except that the action and up to 2 inches of the breech end of the barrel may be glass bedded.
- Any safe trigger may be installed in the rifle
- Any scope may be used.
- Front rests may be used provided the rifle stock has not been modified or augmented in any way where the stock contacts the front rest. No one-piece rests.
- Monopods and Bipods are legal; in which the fore-end of the stock may be modified.
- A rear sandbag and front pedestal authorized
- No mechanical rear rests. Rear rests must be a sandbag type rear rest.
- Sling swivels and sling swivel screws may be removed from the stock
- Maximum rifle weight is 17 pounds (7.711kg), weighed in the as-fired configuration, including any bi-pod or monopod.
- No modification of the factory action or factory barrel may be made, except that a muzzle brake may be installed. The barrel may be removed from the action to thread and install the muzzle brake. Head spacing may not be changed from the factory head spacing.
- The action/barrel may not be re-chambered or be modified in any way.
- Silencers, suppressors, or other components may not be added to the as-produced factory configuration unless specifically noted above.
- A tied-on or taped-on cheek riser may be used.
- One layer of bench rest stock tape may be installed on the fore end and toe end of the stock.
- A bag rider may be installed on the butt stock of a chassis rifle.

Except as noted above or specifically noted in the rules for 1000-Yard competition for factory class the rules for factory class for 1000-Yard competition are the same as defined for Light Gun.

Except as noted above or specifically noted in the rules for 600-Yard competition for factory class the rules for factory class for 600-Yard competition are the same as defined for Light Gun.

Tactical Class Definition

For Tactical Class competition the rifle and rest must conform to the following rules:

- A tactical rifle is essentially a custom-built rifle that is single shot or has an external or internal magazine.
- In competition, the rifle must be fired single shot.
- Any bolt action
- Any barrel
- Any scope
- Flat stock fore-ends less than 2 1/8" wide are allowed when using a front rest. When using a front rest with a fore end wider than 2 1/8", there may be no vertical flat sides on the stock, and the bottom of the stock must be radiused, except that one flat section on the bottom center of the stock not greater than 1 1/2" wide is allowed. The purpose of this rule is that Light Gun stocks may not be used in Tactical competition.
- Any trigger
- Glass bedding of the action and up to 2 inches of the breech end of the barrel
- No one-piece rest
- Monopods and Bipods are legal in which case the rounded stock rule does not apply provided the stock complies with the rules above.
- Muzzle Brakes, suppressors, and other barrel modifications are allowed except that clam shell type muzzle devices are not permitted.
- No mechanical rear rests. Rear rest must be a sandbag type rest.
- Maximum weight is 27 pounds (12.3kg), weighed in the as-fired configuration, including any bipod or monopod

Except as noted above or specifically noted in the rules for 1000-Yard competition for tactical class, the rules for tactical class for 1000-Yard competition are the same as defined for Light Gun.

Except as noted above or specifically noted in the rules for 600-Yard competition for tactical class the rules for tactical class for 600-Yard competition are the same as defined for Light Gun.

1-Mile Class Definition

For 1-Mile Class, the rifle and rest must conform to the following rules:

- A 1 Mile rifle is essentially a custom-built rifle.
- Any bolt action
- Any barrel
- Any scope
- Any trigger
- Glass bedding is allowed
- No one piece rests
- Monopods and bipods are legal
- Muzzle brakes, suppressors, and other barrel modifications are allowed except that clam shell type muzzle devices are not permitted.
- No mechanical rear rests. Rear rest must be a sandbag type rest.
- Maximum rifle weight is 27 pounds weighed in the as-fired configuration, including any bipod or monopod.
- The 1000-Yard target is used for 1-Mile competitions.

Except as specifically modified above, all other rules for 1-Mile Class are the same as 1000-Yard Light Gun Class or Tactical Class.

USA Nationals

Directors unanimously reached agreement on the rotation of all National competitions. Rotation is fair to all Clubs and all shooters. An ordered rotation will be established. If a Club is next in rotation and declines to hold the Nationals, the next Club in rotation is afforded the opportunity to accept or decline. Clubs that decline stay in the established rotation pattern. New Clubs enter the bottom of the rotation. The full rotation pattern for 1000-Yard and 600-Yard follows:

USA 1000-Yard Nationals

2019 VA-1000 hosted the 2019 1000-Yard Nationals.

2020 Thunder Valley

2021 Harry Jones

2022 Dead Zero

2023 White Horse

USA 600-Yard Nationals

2019 White Horse hosted the 2019 600-Yard Nationals.

2020 Harry Jones

2021 Cavalier

2022 Homedale

2023 Dead Zero

Treasurer's Report

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