

GUNS ON THE RAIL

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PIN SHOOTING FEDERATION – DECEMBER 2014, VOL 1, No 4

Editorial

Our firearms are once again under threat. We fought hard to get a Firearms Control Act (FCA) we could live with and to get the Central Firearms Register (CFR) to actually implement it fairly and efficiently. All our gains of the past years are now under threat due to events such as the exposed corruption at CFR, the Oscar Pistorius debacle and lately the murder of Senzo Meyiwa. We dare not ignore the irrational clamour for stricter firearms control and even the banning of private firearms. It is incumbent on all of us to strengthen organizations that promote firearms ownership such as SAGA and GOSA, and also to become personally involved in the fight.

Firearms Control Act Amendment Bill (Draft)

In November SAPS/CFR released a working draft of a proposed Firearms Control Act Amendment Bill. It contains some very contentious changes to the Act. Despite very short notice, the SAPSF Executive submitted a brief comment on four issues to SAPS, while keeping our option open to comment further at a later date

The first was Section 8, in which the endorsement letter process is formalised and the responsibility delegated to the chairperson of an organisation to recommend (or not) the granting of licences. SAPSF expressed its concern about the de facto shift of responsibility from CFR to association and about the potential legal consequences.

The second related to Sec. 10, which provides for proficiency tests before dedicated sport shooters can renew their competency certificates. SAPSF

protested this, pointing out that this will subject dedicated sport shooters to additional administration and cost. It will further burden the CFR with additional administration.

Sec. 16 provides for a five year waiting period before dedicated sport shooters can apply for licences for a self-loading rifles or shotguns. In line with the current SAPSF constitution, we suggested that five years be replaced with one year.

Sec. 30A relates to the compulsory ballistic sampling of all firearms on application for new licenses or the renewal of existing licences. SAPSF expressed its concern about the practicality of this, pointing out that guns change as they are used and that it will delay new applications and renewals for long periods.

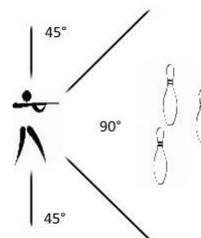
SAPSF will remain involved in efforts to counter or improve the draft bill.

From the Chief RO's perch

If there is one thing that should raise a red flag in the minds of pin shooters, RO's and SO's, it is a malfunctioning gun. An RO is entitled to remove a shooter who has repeated stoppages from the line, resulting in a decreased or zero score for that event. There is also the matter of range etiquette; a considerate shooter will himself retire from an event if he (or she) has repeated stoppages. Shooters should test guns, equipment and ammunition on the practice range, not at competitions, whether at club, provincial or national level.

In clearing stoppages or malfunctions, shooters are vulnerable to safety infringements, whether finger in the trigger or breaking the 45° rule. It is important

to remember that in pin shooting we keep to a 45° rule because fellow competitors are standing right next to the shooter (see diagram below).



Shooters must when loading, unloading or clearing malfunctions, twist their body so that a line drawn through both shoulders will form a right angle to the firing line, the gun pointing downrange.

Results – Nationals 2014

Our Nationals from 26 to 28 September was once again a great success. Congratulations to GPSA for running a great event and to the winning team, Limpopo A. Some of the results are listed below. Look out for a full write-up on pin shooting and the Nationals in the December-January edition of Sport Shooter. It was also reported on in Guns Africa and will soon be in Magnum.

Discipline	Winner
9 Pin Tip-Over	Franco Rossouw
Stock Gun	Franco Rossouw
Pin Gun	Dion du Bruyn
Stock Revolver	Tinus Botha
Pin Revolver	Tinus Botha
.22 Handgun	Franco Rossouw
Pocket Pistol	Tomislav Sunjich
Subway Snubby	Trevor Ho Leong
Shotgun Self Load.	Tinus Botha
Shotgun Manual	Jorge Goncalves
Light Rifle Self Load.	David Sunjich
Light Rifle Manual	Mahmood Cassim
Rifle Self Loading	C. Waterman
Rifle Manual	Trevor Ho Leong
.22 Rifle Self Load.	Stefano Ghigini
.22 Rifle Manual	Franco Rossouw

Stay pin safe!