

# CUMBRIA & NORTHUMBRIA TARGET SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER to all clubs in the C&NTSA Leagues.

Could club contacts please distribute this to all their members who take part in our leagues and emphasise the need for all shooters and witnesses to understand their roles. We're on a mission to try to drive down the number of disqualified cards, and that's almost entirely the responsibility of the shooters and witnesses themselves (see Item 1 below).

## Item 1

This contains the main thrust of this document so if you read nothing else here, please read this part. It was instigated by our Chairman after comments by one of our scorers who noted an apparent recent increase in the number of cards he had to disqualify. I ran an analysis of all the disqualification codes applied to all cards shot over the five-and-a-bit seasons from 2021 to date (round 4 of the 2023-24 season). I give the results in the table below:

The top 3 by a big margin are:

**P7.6.3.2:** This penalty is given for witnessing infringements. Either the witness has not signed and/or dated the card or the shooter has obviously dated the card themselves.

**P7.4.2:** This means the shooter did not sign their card.

**P7.8.3:** This means that one or more cards from a set were shot on separate days (or the witness put different dates on them, anyway).

**All the above are easily avoidable.** Most clubs and their members know all about these things but it's obvious that many clubs and/or competitors and/or witnesses do not. So, this is a plea that everybody who shoots competition cards in our leagues is aware that:

1. After shooting (and not before!) witnesses should sign and date the signed cards presented to them by the shooter. If the witness sees that the shooter has already inserted the date they should strike it out and write it in themselves. If shooters think they are saving the witness time and trouble by putting the date in then they are mistaken as it often results in the disqualification of their card. I have the impression that in some clubs it's almost the standard procedure for the shooter to put in the date. **Don't do it!**

2. If a witness is invited to sign and date a card that has not already been signed by the shooter then he/she should hand it back and request that it be signed first. Witnesses are confirming by their signature that the shooter complied with all the rules governing the competition card just shot and that includes the fact that the shooter must sign it first.

3. Sets of cards (usually two 10-shot cards) must all be shot on the same day and technically within two hours. The scorers obviously have no knowledge of whether the 2-hour limit was actually observed, so they can only go on the dates provided by the witnesses.

The fourth most-infringed rule (P7.4.7.4) concerns the trimming of cards for posting. Only cards with a printed trim-line may be trimmed, and the whole of the trim-line must remain visible. If any part is cut off it should be stuck back on with tape. This is one of those rules that can result in a card being disqualified for reasons that have nothing to do with the shooter (although sometimes it is the

D/Q codes	Count of D/Q codes
P7.6.3.2	235
P7.4.2	105
P7.8.3	100
P7.4.7.4	76
P1.10.8	66
P7.3.3	54
Other	40
P7.10.1.1	33
P7.8.1	19
P0.6	15
P7.4.7.2	10
P0.9.2	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>763</b>

shooter who does the trimming) and often gives rise to in an appeal on those grounds. The rules are plain on this though and such appeals are unlikely to be upheld.

The fifth one on the list (P1.10.8) is for using unapproved targets and is almost obsolete as it was mostly applied after '-18' pattern cards became compulsory. The last ones given were in rounds 3 and 10 of last summer's league and I'm not sure if the round 10 one was actually an '-18' infringement.

The next one (P7.3.3) is for cards shot after the end of the match period without prior permission from the scorer. There's really no excuse for that, so it pays to keep an eye on the shooting dates for each round. A lot of competitors try to shoot at least one round in advance and that's a good habit to get into. If it's known that cards cannot be shot in time for whatever reason, then ask the scorer for an extension (*before* the last date for shooting!). Any reasonable reason is usually considered sympathetically.

If everybody had followed those procedures, then 636 cards would not have been disqualified!

**Please could Club officials make a point of reminding their members about these issues.** I know many clubs do so already and follow the rules correctly, but so many penalties come through that it's apparent that not everybody remembers or even knows. So, let's all try to educate the shooters (who are often also witnesses) and try to get the number of disqualified cards down. Scorers hate having to disallow cards but have no option if the rules are obviously infringed.

I'll maybe try to update the analysis I ran to get the above table to report on the number of disqualifications per round and per season, just to see what if anything changes.

I also have a report on the number of penalty codes applied for deducting penalty points rather than for disqualifications. The two front-runners by a long, long way out of the total of five codes altogether are 312 penalties for putting two shots on one diagram (or more than is allowed, at least) and 292 for having unaccounted-for extra shots on a card.

See the end of this document for a breakdown of the codes included in the 'Other' category in the above table and where to find out what they all mean.

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## Item 2

This is important information concerning our Gallery Rifle and Muzzle-loading competitions.

Those involved will know that the result sheets for those comps have a message at the bottom saying 'Shooters should write on their cards what calibre was used.'. As from this summer's leagues that message will be changed to 'Shooters must write on their cards what calibre was used.'. That means it isn't just a request any more. However, for this summer season it's a requirement without a sanction, but from the winter season 2024-25 if the calibre is not declared then a **2-point penalty** will be imposed on each card where it is not given.

I'm aware that quite a few shooters currently do *not* write it on, so this coming season is to get everybody into the habit of writing the calibre on their cards when they sign them. Can't be too hard, can it?

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### **Item 3**

This will also interest shooters in clubs that shoot GR and/or ML disciplines. I recently sent out a survey to all the clubs currently competing in those disciplines to ask if there would be any interest in a new competition for Long Barrelled Revolvers.

With a week to go to the deadline for answers, not all clubs have responded yet (including the club that suggested it!) but it appears that there would be sufficient interest for us to offer it and it will be included in our upcoming summer season programme on a trial basis at least.

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### **Item 4**

This is addressed to club or match secretaries who send cards off to the scorers.

#### **How to keep your scorer happy, Part 1:**

When you seal your envelopes for the dispatch of cards think of the scorer who has to try and open them.

It is appreciated that most envelopes require a little tape to ensure that it stays closed but PLEASE do not put on so much it is almost impossible to get into the envelope for the cards. Some envelopes have tape all round all edges and corners with no gaps.

If you are one of those who uses a lot of tape after you have sealed it, try and open it yourself!

You are only dealing with one envelope: think of the scorers who have a number of envelopes to open for each round.

I know one scorer who has said, only half-jokingly I think, that the next fully-taped up envelope she receives will be opened with a blowtorch.

This plea has been on our website for years (see.../LeagueInfo/Sellotape) but obviously hasn't been seen or appreciated by those it's aimed at as it still happens. You know who you are....

#### **How to keep your scorer happy Part 2:**

When arranging targets for posting, please pre-sort them into order.

- First by competition (if more than one goes to the same scorer)
- Then by round
- Then by team, in team order by division
- Then individuals, also by division

You are dealing with one envelope. Some scorers have ten or twenty or more per round to deal with and having to re-sort envelopes full of randomly ordered cards can be very time-consuming especially those from clubs that send in a lot of cards at a time. Scorers just want to score and not spend time trying to track down the cards for the current round. I think you know who you are too....

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Bill Hamilton  
January 2024

Breakdown of 'Other' disqualification penalty codes reported in the table on page 1. See the NSRA Rules and the C&NTSA Rules (the 'P0.nn' ones) for explanations of each.

D/Q codes	Count of D/Q codes
P0.3	7
P7.10.1	5
P7.4.7.3	5
P0.17	4
P0.17.3	3
P0.14	3
P7.4.2.	3
P8.15.3.4	2
P0.17.1	2
P7.6.3.2.	2
P7.4.7.1	2
P0.17.2	1
P8.2.4	1

The codes that refer to the Rules can be found in the [NSRA's Rules & Regulations](#) and in the [C&NTSA's Rules](#) for the penalty codes referring to a Rule starting with a zero. It might be illuminating for those who haven't seen that document before to take a look the 'Guidelines and Recommendations' section.

*[On PCs use ctrl+left-click to open the links above: on tablets/phones just touch the links. The NSRA link will offer to download a PDF file: the C&NTSA one will directly open a PDF file.]*