

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

I sent out a set of questions last month for all of the Commission members to consider prior to their being placed on the agenda for our meeting in Bordeaux in August 2006. All Commission members have now responded to those questions, and I now convey to all of you that information. Please discuss the questions with your shooters and give them your own consideration as well as keeping in mind the opinions of the Commission members. Please come to the meeting in Bordeaux prepared to discuss and make final decisions about them.

1. **Regional Championships (to be added to Rules as MLAIC sanctioned events)**

All members of the Commission were in favor of sanctioning regional MLAIC shooting events (such as the ones already held between England and France, etc.) to be held each year in addition to Zones and Worlds. Two to ten nations (ideally two to four within a specific geographic area) could be included in such competitions, which would be conducted under MLAIC rules and the program approved by the Secretary-General prior to its being designated “sanctioned.” Regional records would be kept separate from Zone and World records. It is hoped that this additional opportunity for international competition will serve to allow more shooters to participate in our MLAIC shooting programs and ultimately contribute to the continuing growth and popularity of the sport. Exact wording for the new Rule will be prepared and sent to you approximately June 1, 2006.

2. **Electronic Target Rule Modification (to be in effect only when electronic targets are used)**

Again, all Commission members liked the electronic target system and were in favor of adopting the following rules, to be applicable only when electronic targets are to be used in a competitive event.

- a. Rule 314A. Target is to be printed on I.S.S.F. regulation paper, 550mm square. Target to be off-white, with black center, and with numbers printed on target. One target to be used.
- b. Rule 337. All 13 shots to be fired on one target.
- c. Rule 417C. Computers will score, record score, break ties and print out results.
- d. Rule 418D. All computer scores being the same, the worst shot from the center is the loser.

The only concern in the use of electronic targets was that they are lacking in two areas: (1) it is felt that numbers and scoring rings should be added to the present electronic targets so that shooters have a visual point of aim, and (2) the present absence on the smoothbore (French military) electronic targets of the 1, 2, 3, and 4-rings could present scoring problems in certain situations. In general, however, the electronic targets were quite well-liked. If you have additional thought or ideas about this system and/or the rules addition please send them to me and I will include them in the final agenda item on this subject.

3. **Use of Slings with Matchlock Long Arms**

This question arose at the Zone Championships in Germany this past August, when at least one matchlock shooter was using a rifle sling for support while shooting. All Commission members were of the opinion that this should not be allowed, as not being in the spirit of the original and because there is no historical reference to their use. I also presented this question to our friend Sig Sugawa, who has authored three books on matchlock muskets and pistols and also operates a website on the topic. Sig responded by stating that no slings were ever used on Japanese matchlocks. Several books on European matchlocks were also consulted, and no reference could be found in them to slings ever being used.

4. **Rule 357 Modification Concerning Accessories/Slings**

Again, a question arose at the Zone Championships in Germany concerning a shooter competing in a military rifle event with a target rifle type sling tied around the barrel in place of using the rifle sling swivels. A number of complaints were registered about this, but our present rules are too general to address the situation. Therefore, I have recommended the following rules modifications, and all members of the Commission were in agreement.

- a. Rule 357 (2). After “...10.” add “Slings may only be attached to proper sling swive ls>”
- b. Rule 357 (3). Add the word “target” between “original” and “rifle.”

5. **Use of Cream of Wheat or Cornmeal Filler in Military Rifles**

This question arose because of the complaint that some competitors are using a filler of cornmeal or similar material between the powder charge and minie ball in military rifles. The Commission members were mixed in their opinions and no conclusive recommendation could be made. All felt that the use of these kinds of fillers gave no advantage for accuracy to the shooter. Delegates will be asked to consider this question at the meeting in Bordeaux for a conclusive statement.

6. **Meaning of the Word “Mixed” in Team Events**

There appears to be a misunderstanding of Rule 210 (E) concerning team events that are shot with “O and R mixed,” in that the inclusion of the word “and” would imply that both categories must be included in the chosen team from each country. The question was brought to my attention at the European Zone Championships in Pforzheim, at which time I asked Erich Illing to chair a committee and consider the issue. Their conclusion was that the word “and” in the rules does, indeed, require that at least one of each class is included in each team. This was further confirmed by the fact that there are already team events that mandate either “original only” or “replica only. Of the six Commission members, four agreed with the opinion of Erich’s committee, one disagreed and one advised that the issue be brought to the Delegates’ Meeting in Bordeaux for consideration and a rule clarification, which will be done.

7. **Use of Steel Shot, in Addition to Lead Shot**

Our friends in the Netherlands brought to us a question regarding their not being permitted to use lead shot in their country. They requested that we consider adding the allowing of the use of steel shot, in addition to the already allowed lead shot in MLAIC competition. All Commission members were in favor of modifying our existing rules as follows, to accommodate any nation finding itself in similar circumstances.

a. Rule 419 (B). Insert the words “or steel” after the word “lead.”

b. Rule 419 (F). Insert the words “or steel” after the word “lead.”

The question of allowing plastic shot cups such as those used in modern shotguns also arose, and the consensus of the Commission was that plastic should not be permitted for a number of reasons, including the damage they can do to the barrels of firearms.

8. **South Africa’s Request to Host 2007 Long Range Championships**

All Commission members favored allowing South Africa to host the 2007 Long Range Championships. This will be brought to a vote at the Delegates’ Meeting in Bordeaux.

9. **Preliminary Confirmations for 2008 World Championships**

Because of the distance to travel and the expense of going to Australia in 2008, I asked our friend Kim Atkinson to attempt to ascertain how many nations will plan to go there in 2008 if Australia plays host that year. I felt it would be unfair for Australia to put plans into place, only to find that there would not be sufficient numbers to make the event successful or, in fact, for it to be an “official” event (which required 2/3 participation of member nations). Kim has worked diligently on this project, and he now reports that he has a total of 14 nations confirming that they would come to Australia in 2008. This is very close to the required number, and Kim will therefore make a formal presentation to the Delegates in Bordeaux, where the vote will be taken.

10. **Pedersoli Event**

The Pedersoli flint rifle event has been included in the World Championships at Batesville and in both Zone Championships since then. The question of incorporating it as a permanent event in our MLAIC shooting program was posed to the Commission, and four members responded favorably. Two members expressed the feeling that we already have a full shooting program and do not need any more new events. This question will be brought to the Delegates’ Meeting in Bordeaux for a final decision and, if adopted, a definite name for the event. Suggested names, if the event is approved, include Pedersoli, Colani, Seneca or Boone & Crockett.

11. **ATA Trap House Question**

Because of the difference in trap shooting in the USA, Canada and a few other countries from trap shooting in Europe, the following suggestion was made in order to simplify things only when MLAIC events are held in countries not using the standard European trap setups:

- a. Rule 411 (G). (When using ATA trap ranges) All shooting stands for flint and percussion must be at the same elevation as the ATA station number 3. (Note: This rule will place the trap shooter standing with his feet at the same height as the trap machine throwing arm.)

Four of the Commission members were in favor of adopting the above suggestion and two had no opinion.

12. **Proposed New Event**

The Commission was asked to consider the addition of a new event for military rifle, which would be a 50 meter offhand event shot at 50 meters in the standing position with military rifles (those permissible for Event #3/Minie) and using the B-17 pistol target. The event would follow the same rules as Event #15/Vetterli. The opinions of the Commission were equally split between those not wanting another new event and those in favor of the event and stating that it would be good to have a military rifle event being shot in the manner "it was meant to be shot." The proposal will be brought to the meeting at Bordeaux for the decision of the Delegates.

Finally, I am pleased to report to you that I have ordered and have in hand Certificates for everyone who has achieved a World Record in Individual and Team event competition. This is a long-overdue reward for those who have displayed excellent shooting skills in world competition. I will mail the certificates to the delegates of the appropriate countries in the very near future and would ask that they assure their proper distribution. I wish to give credit for the wonderful certificate design to Michael Martin of Canada, who was gracious enough to donate his expertise to our organization. Many of you will remember Michael as an up-and-coming trap shooter in our MLAIC competitions, as well. I have scanned a small copy of the certificate into the bottom of this page for your viewing.

Please continue to send me any ideas, thoughts and proposals you may have for evaluation by the Commission.

Best regards,
Donald W. Malson
Secretary-General, M.L.A.I.C.

