

MINUTES OF THE WORLD BENCHREST SHOOTING FEDERATION DELEGATES MEETING

The Meeting was conducted at Volmerange-les-Mines, France on 7th July, 2014 at 5.00 p.m, agenda is attached. The Meeting was opened by the President of WBSF, Francois Luciani.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Richard Lightfoot (Australia), Clement Ceulemans (Belgium), Jean-Francois Pequet (France), Martin Menke (Germany), Luca Antonello and Robert Giarletta (Italy), Bram Verwijs (The Netherlands), Antonio Ramos (Portugal), Angelique Jansen Van Vuuren (South Africa). Apologies from Spain and the United Kingdom.

The gathered delegates were welcomed to the meeting with acknowledgements of Portugal and Belgium's presence, being now new members of WBSF.

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

1. Rimfire Rules. The delegate from The Netherlands asked about Rules and the Chairman indicated to him the existence of the WBSF Rule Book. Reference to this book enabled any association to answer questions that may have arisen in their National Competition.
2. Further it was made known to the delegates that the Rule Book only changed every two years and as a consequence if matters did arise then they had to be discussed at national level and then brought forward to the Federation for consideration and possible incorporation.

The French delegate raised a question about front bags on stands and his question was answered by reference to the Rule Book. Rule D8.1 – Front rest “the front rest must incorporate a pliable bag containing sand. The front portion of the rifle must contact no portion of the rest (other than a stop at the front of the rest but can be used to locate the distance that the rifle is moved towards the target) other than the bag containing the stand. The bottom of the

fore end of the stock must form a one hundred per cent contact with the top of the sand bag. The rest can incorporate vertical and horizontal adjustment.”

3. Bid for next championship in two years time. This was opened to discussion and by the close of the meeting there had been no delegate from any of the nations attending, volunteering to run the 2016 championship.
4. One benchrest federation was raised by Martin Menke, the German delegate. There are two specific federations. One, the World Rimfire and Air Benchrest Federation and the second, the WBSF. The former federation covers both air and rimfire whereas the WBSF covers air, rimfire and centrefire.

The challenge going forward is that WRABF has already allocated World Championships in Australia in 2015 and South Africa in 2019. One federation to cover these sports may be a benefit to the sport. It was agreed that the different organisations would require considerable discussion to draw their rules together. The President explained that the WBSF accepted rimfire some eight years ago and the sport has move forward. He indicated that it would be beneficial to the sports if delegates spoke to their co-delegates of their countries about rimfire and air and the possibility of aligning these competitions. The Belgium delegate stated that there was no delegate for rimfire in his country.

5. Centre for Shooting. To hold an International Competition it was necessary to have a minimum of 24 lanes and there were very few in the delegates’ countries where such facilities existed. As a consequence it was necessary to consider co-operation between countries and if the sport was to progress forward at an International level there had to be a range identified within the next 6 months to be able to run such a competition in 2016. This may mean that although one country has the facilities, adjacent countries may be called upon to assist in running such a competition.
6. General Business. The French delegate raised the need for the consideration of regionalisation of competitions and the promotion of this shooting.

Discussion ensued and it was made known to the delegates that a new shooting facility in the centre of France was being constructed and it may be a possible to hold championships at that location in future years.

The French delegate highlighted the need for better shooting promotion to ensure that these truly international competitions were brought to the attention of shooters and a very competent field of shooters then assembled to compete.

7. Wind indicator. The Rule Book cannot be changed for two years and currently there is a requirement to position the flags prior to the event and leave the flags in position regardless of the shooter bench rotation. This meant that shooters needed to co-operate, have a commonality of flags and seek to share these flags to ensure that the matches were conducted quickly and time was not lost setting up new lines of flags on each rotation. The Rules say there will be no flag removal or changes of the flag over the day of shooting. These flags may be changed at the end of the days shooting and made ready for the next day of competition.

8. The Australian delegate reiterated the need for safety checks and safety briefs at the commencement of practice to ensure that all shooters understood the rules in place for the particular shooting range. The rules associated with the safe handling of firearms varied from country to country and have been developed because of the different risk assessments undertaken and the behaviour of participants at the various locations .

Meeting concluded at 6.00 p.m.

Matters that need consideration –

1. If another World Championship is to be held in two years time, a member nation of the World Benchrest Shooting Federation has to volunteer to hold the competition.

2. Any proposed changes of the rules must first be discussed at national level and then brought to the delegates meeting and if considerable consideration is needed a subcommittee be formed, the matter investigated and recommendations brought to the next meeting of delegates. Delegates were made aware that changes of the Rule Book only occur every two years and therefore matters affecting the shooting need to be considered before any rule changes are proposed.

3. Safety is the highest priority and nations have to be aware when running International Competitions, safety briefings occur at the commencement of practice, must be undertaken and reiterated prior to the actual competition commencing.