

16. CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS

16.1 Challenges - When a competitor feels that a shot fired by himself or by another competitor has been improperly evaluated or scored, he may challenge the scoring. A minimum challenge fee of \$1.00 with a maximum fee of \$25.00 may be charged to all competitors making challenge. The fee will be collected before making the first recheck of the challenged score. If the competitor's challenge is sustained at any point along the line of rechecks, the challenge fee will be returned to him. If the challenge is lost, the challenge fee will be included in the general revenue of the tournament. The decision of the Official Referee, Jury or Supervisor will be final.

Such a challenge must be within the challenge time (see Rule 11.6.3). It shall be the challenging competitor's privilege to inspect the target during or following the recheck except when targets are scored in the target pit. Decisions on the value of shot holes made by means of gauges are final and cannot be appealed. Appeals may only be made if the shot value has not been determined by means of a gauge, or in cases of wrong addition or inaccurate entries in the result list.

When targets are scored in Statistical Office or on display racks, the recheck will be made by the Chief Statistical Officer (provided he has not previously scored or checked the target) and the Official Referee. If the challenge concerns shots which were scored in the Target Control Office (Statistical Office), the challenge must be submitted in writing.

When targets are scored on frames and scoring of a shot is challenged, the Range Officer will immediately call the Official Referee or Supervisor who will score the target. If necessary to avoid delaying match the challenged target will be replaced with a clean target and the match will proceed. Official Referee or Supervisor will score the target as soon as possible and notify the competitor.

The first recheck of the challenged shot will be made by the Range Scorer. If a further recheck is required, it will be made by the Official Referee and, if necessary, the Chief Referee. If necessary, to avoid delaying the match, the challenged target will be replaced on the frame with a clean target and the match will proceed. The Official Referee in such cases will score the target as soon as possible and notify the competitor. If the competitor's challenge is sustained, the challenge fee will be returned to him immediately; otherwise, it is forfeited and turned into the Statistical Office. In no case will a challenge be permitted nor the value of a hit be changed after the next shot has been fired.

The Match Director may at his discretion recheck any competitor's target by an administrative challenge. Such challenge must be made within the posted challenge period and checked by the Referee. For further information on the Statistical Office operation, see Rules 11.6 through 11.6.11 inclusive.

16.2 Protests - A competitor may formally protest:

- (a) Any injustice which he feels has been done him except the evaluation of a target, which he may challenge as outlined in Rule 16.1.
- (b) The conditions under which another competitor has been permitted to fire.
- (c) The equipment which another competitor has been permitted to use.

16.2.1 Authority of Protest Committees - National Championships protest committees or juries may be established at National Championships to rule on protests arising from activities at those sites (See Rule 11.8). However, the decisions of these special protest committees or juries shall not contravene prior interpretations of the NRA Rules and/or precedents established by the NRA National Protest Committee.

16.3 How to Protest - A protest must be initiated immediately upon the occurrence of protested incident. Failure to comply with the following procedure will automatically void the protest:

- (a) State the complaint orally to the Chief Range (Chief Statistical) Officer. If not satisfied with his decision then,
- (b) State the complaint orally to the Official Referee, Jury Chairman or Supervisor. If not satisfied with his decision then,

- (c) File a formal protest in writing with the Official Referee, Jury Chairman or Supervisor stating all the facts in the case. Such written protest must be filed within 12 hours of the occurrence of the protested incident.
- (d) The Official Referee, Jury Chairman or Supervisor will then forward the protest with a complete statement of facts within 48 hours of receipt thereof to the Protctst Committee at NRA Headquarters.

16.4 Challenges and Protests in Team Matches - Must be made by the Team Captain. Team members who believe they have reason to challenge or protest will state the facts to their Team Captain who will make the official challenge or protest if he feels such action is justified.