

North-South Skirmish Association



Procedures for Individual Match Line Judges

February 2022

Introduction

This is a **summary** of the responsibilities of an Individual Match Line Judge during individual match competition at N-SSA National skirmishes and the rules they are to enforce. Refer to the current *Skirmish Rules of the North-South Skirmish Association, Inc.* (“*Skirmish Rules*”) for complete rules. References herein to individual rules may not be verbatim from the rulebook but are expressed to clarify them to situations Line Judges will encounter.

The primary responsibility of a Line Judge is to prevent and resolve target-related issues during the National Skirmish’s Individual Match periods.

Neither a Line Judge nor an Individual Match Officer can rule regarding the scoring value of a particular “hit.” We judge whether a particular hit is appropriate to score or if a target was shot improperly. Secondary responsibilities are to: identify and forestall inappropriate conduct (whether unintentional or intentional), and provide assistance to line safeties, ordnance and other range personnel during Individual Match periods as time and duties allow. You should be familiar with line safety procedures in particular and be comfortable performing their tasks.

Preparation for Individual Match Days

1. Read the applicable sections of the Skirmish Rules and familiarize yourself with them (particularly sections 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 29).
2. Report to the range with:
 - Hearing protection (strongly suggested, but not required)
 - Your N-SSA ID card (required)
 - Your host staff hat (if already issued one)
 - Appropriate footwear and clothing appropriate for the weather
 - A screwdriver or other tool for removing staples
 - Binoculars/scope to see target labels
 - A chair (optional)
3. You will be issued a scoring gauge/template, this leaflet (if not previously received) and a felt-tipped pen at Line Judge Training. Return the pen and scoring gauge to the Individual Match Officer at the end of each day. Keep this leaflet, bringing it every duty day.

Competitor Set-up

1. All shooting carts, bags, stands, equipment, covers, umbrellas and structures should be kept behind the gravel road (*Skirmish Rules* 25.1.5.c). Uncased shoulder arms should not be leaned against the

fence.

2. A competitor may place a spotting scope stand at an unattended position to show their intention to hang a target on that frame on the next relay.

Hanging Targets

1. Only individual targets tagged for this National should be hung (*Skirmish Rules* 18.22). Targets tagged from previous Nationals are not valid and, if detected, will be disqualified.
2. Competitors are allowed to hang more than one target per relay, providing they intend to shoot all of them on the upcoming relay.
3. A competitor must post targets on the same numbered frame as the position they're shooting from (*Skirmish Rules* 12.9).
4. Competitors are expected to use enough staples to secure the target to the backer. They cannot staple in any part of the scoring rings or anywhere that could interfere with target scoring (*Skirmish Rules* 12.8).
5. Alteration of targets in any form is prohibited (no spotting marks, no folded corners). Altered targets are to be disqualified. (*Skirmish Rules* 18.20).
6. Targets cannot be substituted (e.g., shooting a Carbine target with a Musket, or a 100-yard target at 50 yards). Such targets are to be disqualified (*Skirmish Rules* 18.21)

During the Course of Fire

1. Don't disturb a competitor on the firing line unless they're doing something unsafe or so egregiously wrong it requires immediate correction. If it is a minor infraction wait until they are cleared to notify them.
2. Individual competitors must be in uniform on Friday only.
3. Hearing protection is recommended, but not required.
4. Competitors must shoot from the firing line. The firing line is a straight line between the position markers (*Skirmish Rules* 25.1.1.a) Competitors may stand with the forward foot on the firing line or may straddle it (stand with one foot forward and one foot completely behind) per *Skirmish Rules* 25.1.1.b.
5. Shoulder arms matches shall be of 20-minute duration. Revolver matches shall be of 30-minute duration. (*Skirmish Rules* 12.1.c).
6. All loading and firing must be done by the competitor (*Skirmish Rules* 18.3.1).
7. Competitors may receive assistance from behind the firing line, including coaching and spotting, providing it does not interfere with

- other competitors (*Skirmish Rules* 18.3.1).
8. A competitor is allowed one coach; coaching activity must not disturb other competitors. (*Skirmish Rules* 18.4.1).
 9. A competitor is allowed one spotter. Such activity must not disturb other competitors. (*Skirmish Rules* 18.5.1).
 10. Do not engage in conversations with others during a relay that might distract competitors on the line.
 11. Deliberate cross-firing onto other frames or other people's targets is prohibited (*Skirmish Rules* 18.6).
 12. If you have binoculars or spotting scope, check the target tag colors to confirm if the correct firearm is being used for that target.
 13. If you suspect a competitor is using an unapproved arm or an arm that has features not allowed in N-SSA competition, bring it to the attention of the Inspector General or their staff (this overlaps the safety's responsibilities).
 14. If you notice a competitor using a sling or other support to steady the shoulder arm, a modern shooting jacket or exposed shoulder pads, notify them their use is prohibited (*Skirmish Rules* 18.18). If they were ignorant of the rule, they can ground their arm and remove offending clothing. Their target may be disqualified if you suspect them of "cheating."
 15. Watch for correct ramrod use when loading. Ramrods appropriate to the shoulder arm should be used (no cleaning or range rods). Ramrods can be up to 3" longer than the barrel, less the tang. Knurling of ramrod ends is prohibited. Thread protectors up to 1" long can be on the threaded end. Ramrods that are fastened to the firearm can't be used as ramrods. No muzzle protectors or ramrod guides are allowed (*Skirmish Rules* 19.14).
 16. For clearing firearms and dealing with fouled firearms, see section 20 of the *Skirmish Rules*.

Claims for Line Judge Calls or Alibis

1. If there is suspected cross-firing, multiple hits, &c., the competitor is expected to notify the safety, who should notify the Line Judge after the competitor is cleared. However, competitors frequently call for Line Judges after they walk down to the frame and inspect their target. Be flexible.
2. Alibis are not generally accepted during N-SSA competition. The two exceptions are:
 - Fouled or Disabled Firearms During an Individual Match**
 - a) The Safety should clear the firearm per approved procedures.
 - b) If the firearm is cleared and/or repaired during the relay, the

competitor may continue the match on that relay, and/or elect to finish the match on the next relay. (*Skirmish Rules* 12.6)

Loss of Target During an Individual Match

- a) When a target (or target and backer) blows off the frame, and if it appears the target was hung with care considering the conditions, and if the competitor can find the target, they may re-hang and finish their course of fire on that target during the next individual relay.
 - b) If they cannot find their target, no alibi can be granted. (*Skirmish Rules* 12.7.c).
3. Alibis must be declared by the competitor before the target is pulled.
 4. Alibis can be granted by a Line Judge, Individual Match Officer or the Skirmish Director.

Target Review + Markup

Target scoring is the responsibility of the Statistics Office. Line Judges are to sort out and identify issues with targets before they are pulled from the target frames so the Statistics Office can correctly score the target.

1. The majority of calls will be for deciding if a hole contains two or more “hits.” The *Skirmish Rules* (section 28.2.9, emphasis added) state:
 - a) As a rule, **only visible hits shall be scored.**
 - b) An **exception** shall be made in the case **where a grouping of three or more shot holes is so close that it is possible for a required shot or shots to have gone through the group of holes without leaving a mark.**
 - c) In this case, **the competitor shall be given benefit of the doubt.**

To positively identify multiple hits:

- use your scoring gauge on the front of the target to identify the grease rings, tears or profiles left by separate bullets;
- try to judge the veracity of the claim by other shots on the target (i.e., six hits outside the scoring rings and four claimed hits inside the 10-ring in a hole that looks like a double).

Procedure for marking multiple hits:

- a) Using the correct pen, circle the shot or shots involved so that the scoring personnel can determine what you have approved and make a note of the issue – Double/Triple/&c.
- b) Write your initials and competitor number on the target.
- c) The competitor must also write their initials and competitor number beside the shot or shots in question.
- d) The target can then be pulled from the backer and sent to the

Stat House.

2. The next most frequent Line Judge call will be for cross-fires or ricochets. Claimed cross-fires or ricochets must be identified as such on the target by a Line Judge using the steps listed above.

If a situation can't be resolved to the satisfaction of the competitor in a timely manner, pull the backer with target still attached and take it to the Individual Match Officer (see Challenges and Protests section).

Target Collection

1. **Individual targets may only be removed by host staff** (*Skirmish Rules* 18.19).
2. All **shot** targets are pulled from their frames at the end of each relay unless a valid alibi is declared.
3. Pull out all staples.
4. Be careful not to tear targets if removing them from their backers.

Target + Backer Handling

If a target and its backer are removed from the frame, they must remain together for duration of the skirmish (*Skirmish Rules* 28.2.11). If the Individual Match Officer cannot resolve the situation to the satisfaction of the competitor, the Individual Match Officer will tape the target corners to the backer to ensure it does not shift. At that point, all staples can be removed and the target and backer should be submitted to the National Statistics Officer for review.

Challenges + Protests

1. If a competitor protests on the line, elevate the matter to the Individual Match Officer; if they are not available, contact the Skirmish Director.
2. If the Individual Match Officer cannot resolve matters to the competitor's satisfaction, protests must be made per *Skirmish Rules* section 29, Challenges and Protests:
3. **Again, neither a Line Judge nor the Individual Match Officer can rule regarding the scoring value of a particular "hit."** They judge if a particular hit is a cross-fire from another competitor, ricochet, multiple hit or if a target was shot improperly (marked target, wrong firearm, wrong frame, firearm failed inspection, disqualified due to inappropriate conduct, &c.).

After the Individual Matches

Once individual matches conclude on Wednesday and Thursday, Line Judges are to assist with end-of-day clean-up per instructions from the Range Support Officer. Return the felt-tipped pen, gauge/template, and any borrowed equipment to the Individual Match Officer.

When individual matches end on Friday, Line Judges are expected to assist in the range's turnover to team matches and report to the Range Support Officer for their next assignment unless they have already been assigned to a new role. Return the felt-tipped pen, gauge/template, and any borrowed equipment to the Individual Match Officer.

Your host team obligation does not end until everything is cleaned up and put away on Sunday afternoon.

If questions arise that are not covered in this manual or by the National Safety Officer during training, please contact your Individual Match Officer, Range Support Officer or Range Officer.

**Target labels are color coded by firearm.
The correct color codes for this National are:**