



2026 CERTIFIED REFEREE'S STANDARDIZED EXAMINATION

January 6, 2026

NSCA referees play a vital role in ensuring fairness, accuracy, and consistency at registered sporting clays events. Certified referees help uphold the integrity of competition by correctly applying NSCA rules, managing scoring procedures, and maintaining a safe, well-run course. While certification is recommended, it is not required to referee at NSCA-sanctioned events.

To become certified as an NSCA Sporting Referee, applicants must pass the open-book NSCA Referee Test and complete the NSCA Referee Application administered by their State Association, an NSCA National Delegate, an NSCA Member Club, or an NSCA Level I, II, or III Instructor. The Referee Certification fee is \$10, and certification is valid for three (3) years, expiring on December 31 of the third year. To remain current with NSCA rules and procedures, referees must renew their certification upon expiration by re-testing and paying the certification fee.

Newly certified referees will receive an NSCA Referee Patch, and an Official Referee Card, recognizing their training and qualification to officiate NSCA-sanctioned events.

If you are teaching a class, please submit all completed applications and exams you administered, along with the total applicable fee, to NSCA Headquarters for approval. Upon receipt of all required documents and fees, NSCA will process the applications and issue Certified Referee credentials to each approved applicant.

APPLICATION FOR "CERTIFIED REFEREE" CREDENTIALS 2026 SHOOTING SEASON

Referee Credential Fee: \$10.00 for 3-year program (includes patch and card).

Please print the following information clearly. This will assist us in expediting your application.

Name	Phone #
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Address	Apt#	City	State	Zip
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Email Address DOB

Check here if the above address is new. All records will be corrected to this new address.

I am a current member of NSCA. **My NSCA membership number is _____.**

I am not a member of the NSCA. Please send membership information with my Certified Referee credentials. (NSCA membership **is not** required to become a Certified Referee.)

Years experience as Sporting Clays Referee _____

Officiating experience in other sports (list sports and years):

I believe in the aims and purposes of the National Sporting Clays Association and will enforce the official rules and regulations in all shoots in which I officiate.

Signature of Applicant

The following must be filled in by Officer giving examination.

This is to certify that the above applicant has been administered the NSCA referee examination on _____, 2026 and that he/she is fully qualified.

Signature of Examining Officer	NSCA National Delegate, Club/Assn/Instructor.
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National Sporting Clays Association 5931 Roft Road San Antonio, Texas 78253-9261
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2026 NSCA CERTIFIED REFEREE STANDARD EXAMINATION

November 15, 2019

1. In a two shot single target presentation, if the target is missed with the first shot and an ammo or gun malfunction occurs, preventing the second shot from being fired, the target will be re-attempted. The shooter must intentionally miss the target on the first shot. The second shot will count for either dead or lost. If the shooter breaks the target on the first shot in this scenario the target will be scored as lost.
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. A target which breaks at launching shall be called “NO BIRD” and the shooter will be provided a new target.
 - a) True
 - b) False
3. Ignorance of the rules will not be a cause to “re-attempt” targets lost because of rule violations.
 - a) True
 - b) False
4. Should the shooter break both targets with either the first or second shot then the result will be scored as “two hits”
 - a) True
 - b) False
5. In the event of a “NO BIRD” on a simultaneous pair (true pair) or following pair, nothing can be established. Two good targets must be present to record the score.
 - a) True
 - b) False
6. The Field Judge may poll the spectators and may reverse his/her original call.
 - a) True
 - b) False
7. Eye and Ear protection is mandatory for all persons, spectators, shooters, field judges, and trap personnel on the course.
 - a) True
 - b) False
8. The shooter shall be allowed a combined total of:
 - a) four (4) gun malfunctions per day attributed to either the shooters gun or ammunition.
 - b) three (3) malfunctions per day, per event attributed to either the shooters gun or ammunition.
 - c) three (3) malfunctions per station attributed to either the shooters gun or ammunition.
9. In a squadding sequence, it is the responsibility of each shooter to be ready on time or within five (5) minutes of that time.
 - a) True
 - b) False
10. When the shooter calls for the target:
 - a) the target must be launched immediately or with a delay of up to three (3) seconds.
 - b) the target must always be launched immediately at the call for the target.
 - c) the target may be launched at the trapper’s discretion.
11. In the event of a “NO BIRD” on the second target of a report pair, the first bird will be established as “DEAD” or “LOST” and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target.
 - a) True
 - b) False
12. The first shooter of every squad shall be allowed to view a good presentation of targets from within the shooting station.
 - a) True
 - b) False
13. The call of “LOST” or “DEAD”, “MISS” or “HIT” shall be announced by the Field Judge prior to recording the score on every target.
 - a) True
 - b) False
14. When calling for the target the shooter may use the “pre-mount” gun hold position.
 - a) True
 - b) False
15. The number of stations, quantity of targets and characteristics of targets from each station, on each field, will be determined by the Shoot Officials and will be the same for all shooters. Changes in target trajectory, distance, and/or velocity due to wind, rain, time of day, or any other natural cause does not constitute a violation of this rule.
 - a) True
 - b) False
16. In a registered NSCA 5-Stand event; a shooter’s gun must be open and empty while changing stands.
 - a) True
 - b) False
17. In a registered NSCA 5-Stand event; a shooter’s feet must be behind the front openings of the shooting stand except when changing stands.
 - a) True
 - b) False
18. While viewing targets: All competitors may mount their loaded gun and track the targets being viewed.
 - a) True
 - b) False
19. .410 events shall be open to all shotguns of .410 bore, using shot loads not exceeding one-half (1/2) of an ounce.
 - a) True
 - b) False
20. A Report Pair is two sequential targets, where the second target is launched at the sound of the gun firing at the first target.
 - a) True
 - b) False
21. In a NSCA 5-Stand event with multiple layouts, when the squad moves to the next layout, the original first shooter will rotate to the end of the line; the rest of the shooters on the squad will move up (toward the first cage) one position, thus rotating who the first shooter is at each subsequent layout.
 - a) True
 - b) False
22. When a shooter is in the process of shooting, no one (other than the Referee/Trapper) is allowed within three feet (3') of the shooter.

a) True b) False

23. One example of an ammunition malfunction is:

- a soft load in which the shot and wad leave the barrel.
- a shell with very weak report but noticeable recoil.
- a shell, which fails to fire, providing firing pin indentation is clearly noticeable.

24. It is everyone's responsibility to report any unsafe shooting condition or action immediately to Shoot Officials.

- True b) False

25. Shoot Management may disqualify any shooter for willful or repeated violation of gun safety precautions, which endanger the safety of field personnel.

- True b) False

26. In a NSCA 5-Stand registered event, shooters may not leave their station until instructed to do so by the referee or until the last shooter has fired his last shot.

- True b) False

27. In a NSCA 5-Stand registered event no chokes may be changed after the round has begun. Failure to comply will result in loss of ALL targets attempted (in that round) after the choke was changed.

- True b) False

28. In a two shot single target presentation the target will be scored "HIT" or "DEAD" if broken by either shot.

- True b) False

29. No more than two (2) shells may be loaded in the gun at one time.

- True b) False

30. The shooter must fire with his/her gun shouldered for all targets.

- True b) False

31. The shooter fires at the first pair of targets at a station and decides they have the wrong choke. The shooter then removes their adjustable chokes and shoots the remainder of the targets on that station without any chokes in the gun. The results are scored as follows:

- the results on the first pair being scored as established and the remainder of the targets on that station being scored as "lost" or "missed".
- all targets on that station being scored as "lost".
- all targets on that station being scored as established by the shooter.

32. Guns with release type triggers are allowed and must be clearly marked.

- True b) False

33. A shooter not seeing the target presented:

- will get to shoot at another target
- be charged with shooter malfunction and scored lost.

34. In the event of a "shooter malfunction" on the first bird of a report pair:

- nothing can be established and the shooter will re-shoot the pair.
- the first bird will be established as "lost" and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target.
- both targets are scored as "lost".

35. In a **20-gauge event** a shooter may shoot a 1-ounce load.

- True b) False

36. All shooting stations must require the shooter (except wheelchair shooters) to engage all targets from the standing position.

- True b) False

37. During a registered event, each shooter must verify his/her score before leaving the station. Once the shooter has left the station his/her score is final.

- True b) False

38. In the event of a gun malfunction the shooter must first unload the gun and then hand the gun to the Field Judge for examination.

- True b) False

39. A shooter may test fire a gun without the permission of the Field Judge as long as it is safe.

- True b) False

40. When shooting simultaneous pairs (true pairs) the shooter has the right to shoot either of the targets first.

- True b) False

41. When a target is broken by either the first or the second shot it will be scored by making a slash (/ or \) on the scorecard, in the correct position on the scorecard.

- True b) False