

National Sporting Clays Association
Sporting Clays Executive Council (EC) Meeting Minutes
November 18th, 2025
Location: Virtual on Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M Central

Present (EC / leadership, as noted on roll call):

Mark Baltazar – **Chairman**
Sammy McFadden – **Vice Chairman**
Brett Seibert – **Secretary**
Chris Higgins – **Parliamentarian**
Mike Anderson
Neil Chadwick
John Calandro
Desirae Edmunds
Dan Lavergne
Anthony Matarese Jr
Tim Miles
Kevin Smith
Bert Stelly
John Townsend
Absent:
Gary Prince
Steve Green

Staff/Guests:

Michael Hampton Jr. – **NSCA/NSSA Director**
Nicki Bowers – **NSCA Assistant Director**
Nadim Nasir M.D. – **Guest**
Clifford Seibert – **Minute recorder**

A quorum was established.

2. FITASC / North American Cup / World Cup Scheduling (2026 & 2028)

Discussion

- Nadim Nasir and John Calandro reported on coordination with FITASC regarding the 2026 World Cup events and the North American Cup:
 - One of the 2026 World Cup events is scheduled after the World Championship.
 - They proposed using three World Cup events before the World Championship when possible, but in this cycle, the September 2026 event will effectively roll into the next shoot year.
- Old Hudson has agreed on short notice to host a World Cup event in March 2026, providing:
 - This event would serve as an additional pre-Worlds opportunity.
- The **World Cup event** at Northbrook Sports Club in September 2026 will count toward the **following year's** World Cup points race and North American Cup cycle, consistent with how late-season Grand Prix have historically been treated.
- There is heavy calendar congestion (regionals, World English, Texas State, Grand Prix, major holidays), leaving very few open weekends; Old Hudson's March date was effectively the only realistic option.

Motion

Motion: Approve adding Old Hudson as a World Cup host in March 2026 (date as proposed), with the event counting toward the 2026 World Cup / North American Cup points as outlined, and the Northbrook event after Worlds counting toward the subsequent cycle, contingent on Old Hudson meeting all standard bid and contract criteria.

Made by: John Calandro

Seconded by: Mark Baltazar

Vote: Unanimous – **motion carried.**

Action Items

- Headquarters to:
 - Obtain and circulate a **formal bid form/contract** from Old Hudson.
 - Verify dates and pricing align with FITASC and NSCA requirements.
 - Finalize and communicate the points structure for the relevant 2026 events.
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3. 2028 World FITASC Championship – Timing Window

Discussion

- Nadim and John reported that FITASC has agreed in principle to hold the **2028 World FITASC in the U.S.** in the **fall**, rather than in peak summer heat.
- Proposed timing: **first week of October 2028**, with flexibility to span the **last week of September through first week of October**, subject to:
 - Conflict checks with other FITASC events.
 - Avoiding Olympic overlap (Summer Olympics closing ceremonies are July 30, 2028).
- Consensus that a fall date will:
 - Improve attendance.
 - Increase bid interest from clubs.
 - Reduce weather and hurricane-season risks for southern venues.

Action Items

- Nadim and John to:
 - Confirm with FITASC the **exact acceptable date window** (e.g., last full week of September and/or the week spanning September/October).
- Headquarters to:
 - Incorporate the approved window into the **2028 World FITASC bid documents** for distribution at Nationals and in January EC meetings.

4. End-of-Year Criteria – 2025 Shoot Year

Discussion

- Nicki reviewed the end-of-year class review criteria used for the previous season (2024).
- Early indicators show that changes to punch thresholds are helping move the class distributions in the desired direction (more balanced classes), including:
 - Some shooters who had previously opted out are now opting back in, as they view the class movement as fairer.

Motion

Motion: Use the existing 2024 end-of-year criteria again for the 2025 shoot year.

Motion: Neil Chadwick

Second: Chris Higgins

Vote: Unanimous – **motion carried.**

Action Item

- Headquarters to publish the confirmed 2025 end-of-year criteria to membership and update internal documentation.

5. Rules Ballot Results – Electronic Devices & Other Changes

Discussion

- All items on the recent rules ballot passed by large margins.
- One heavily discussed item is the ban on electronic devices mounted on the gun (e.g., ShotKam, shot trackers) during competition:
 - Rule intent: no device on the firearm that gives competitive advantage not equally and simultaneously available to all shooters.

- Implementation: devices such as ShotKam and similar systems may not be mounted and used in competition.
- Some negative feedback was received specifically regarding ShotKam, but overall, the membership response to the broader rules package has been very positive.

Action Items

- Headquarters to:
 - Finalize rulebook language clearly stating that all electronic devices mounted on the gun are prohibited during competition, with examples (ShotKam, shot trackers, etc.).
 - Circulate final text to Rules Committee (especially Sammy) for review prior to publishing the updated rulebook.
 - Notify clubs and members via email and website.
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6. Super Sporting & Singles Rule – Clarification and Scope

Discussion

- The EC revisited the previously approved but subsequently pulled Super Sporting singles/pairs rule due to confusion about what had actually been voted on and whether clubs could practically implement it.
- Key points raised:
 - Many shooters prefer being shown singles (or report pairs) before true pairs; target familiarity is important.
 - However, clubs often lack time, staff, or target presentations that safely allow all singles to be thrown first.
 - Concerns that a strict, universal requirement might:
 - Overburden small clubs.
 - Be inconsistently followed.
 - Lead to protests and demands to throw out scores/events when minor deviations occur.

- General sentiment that Nationals, Regionals, U.S. Open (and possibly State Championships) should be held to a clear standard, while everyday and smaller events should retain more flexibility.
- Alternative rule structure discussed (Sammy’s “alternative rule #1” concept):
 - Require that targets used in **true pairs** must first be shown either as singles or in a prior pair (no “new bird” introduced only as a true pair).
 - Continue existing rule that targets are labeled left-to-right (A–D), but clubs may structure menus in any order (e.g., 2–3–1, etc.), so long as labeling is consistent.

Consensus direction

- Headquarters and Rules Committee to refine and simplify the Super Sporting rule so that:
 - A clear standard applies to Nationals/Regionals/U.S. Open.
 - Smaller clubs retain practical flexibility.
 - Target-order labeling is consistent with the newly approved left-to-right rule.

Motion made by Sammy to adopt alternative rule # 1, second by Brett Seibert. Motion passed unanimously.

Rule to read:

“For NSCA Regional, US Open, National, World English Sporting Clays and World Super Sporting Championship events only: Menus may feature singles, report pairs, true pairs and following pairs. At least two (2) singles are thrown at each station. Targets in true pairs must be shot as a single target or in a report pair prior to being thrown in a true pair or following pair.”

7. Marketing Penny & Recreational Shooter Focus

Discussion regarding; The idea of relieving some marketing costs from the general NSCA budget by:

- Allowing an **additional one-cent target fee** earmarked for marketing, **paid by customers**, thus keeping NSCA core funds available for other priorities.

- Another EC member emphasized:
 - The membership previously voted to dedicate 1 cent of target fees to marketing, and that money is now used more appropriately for marketing rather than general projects.
 - Any expansion of the marketing fee should add to efforts, not reduce them, and marketing spend should be closely monitored via data and results.

- Mark outlined the **Recreational Shooter Program** as a major strategic priority:
 - Goal: Make 2026 the “Year of the Recreational Shooter.”
 - Align:
 - Clay Target Nation “evergreen” magazine.
 - New website.
 - Programs under development with Brett.

 - Marketing emphasis will increasingly highlight **non-competitive/recreational participation**, not just registered shooters.

Action Items

- Marketing Committee will:
 - Evaluate whether an additional **penny for marketing** should be proposed for 2027 and beyond.
 - Develop a plan and messaging around **2026 – Year of the Recreational Shooter**, including content, programs, and measurement of impact.
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8. January Joint Meetings & Delegate Engagement

Discussion

- Mark proposed creating a **consolidated list of topics** to be addressed at the **January Joint Finance Committee and EC meetings**, including:

- Review of what was accomplished in the past year.
- What can be improved.
- Key directional items (marketing, recreational program, rules, priorities, etc.).
- The plan:
 - Compile a **draft list** of discussion items.
 - Circulate via email to EC members for additions/edits by **December 1**.
 - Once refined, send the outline to **national delegates**, asking them to:
 - Share it with their constituent members.
 - Gather feedback and comments back to the EC prior to the January meeting.

Action Items

- Michael & Nicki to:
 - Draft and email the **agenda topic list** to the EC.
 - Incorporate feedback and finalize by **December 1**.
 - Send a final list to **delegates** with instructions for collecting and returning member input.
 - Reminder of January schedule (as stated later in the meeting):
 - **Joint Finance Committee & Steering Committee:** Thursday, January 15
 - **EC Meeting:** Friday, January 16 (full day) and Saturday, January 17 (half day)
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9. Disciplinary Case at the South Central Regional

Background

- At the **South Central Regional**, after main-event shooting was concluded on a course there was a safety concern regarding three unnamed shooters who will be referred to as Person A, Person B, and Person C throughout this summary.

- **“Person A”** was requested by **“Person B”** and **“Person C”** to go back into a stand to shoot targets for **social media/publicity video**.
 - The course had been **closed**; personnel were working **downrange** near machines.
 - They did **not** obtain permission from the course manager or referees.
 - Targets were thrown while a worker was downrange; he called via radio to stop the shooting.
- Protest committee actions on-site:
 - **“Person A”** was **removed from the main event** only (not from the entire shoot).
 - **“Person A”** admitted the facts, acknowledged they did **not** get permission, and apologized.
- Headquarters follow-up:
 - Consulted with the club owner, members of the protest committee, and others.
 - Determined the original event decision (DQ from main event) would stand.
 - Initially proposed:
 - **Six-month safety probation** for **“Person A”**.
 - Letters of reprimand to **“Person B”** and **“Person C”**

Discussion

Key themes:

1. Safety vs. Intent

- Some members acknowledged **“Person A”** and the other two were trying to promote the sport and did not intend to endanger anyone, however:
 - **The course was closed.**
 - Worker(s) were downrange.
 - If an injury had occurred, the consequences could be severe.
- Others emphasized that:
 - Many clubs sometimes film or take “publicity shots” after shooting.
 - We must differentiate between benign publicity and situations where downrange personnel are present or procedures are violated.

2. Inconsistency & Protest Committee Decision

- Several members questioned why, if he was too unsafe for the **main event**, he was still allowed to compete in other events at that shoot.
- Some argued that, if the situation was as dangerous as described, he should have been **removed from the entire tournament**, and the local protest committee “**got it wrong.**”
- However, EC acknowledged:
 - They **cannot retroactively change** the club protest committee’s on-site decision.
 - The EC’s role is to decide any **additional NSCA-level consequences** going forward.

3. Probation History & Fairness

- Clarification was requested on “**Person A’s**” prior disciplinary status:
 - **No standing probation** was in effect at the time of this South Central incident.
- Concern raised about repeated “probations”:

4. Involvement of Person B” & “Person C”

- General agreement that:
 - Without “**Person B**” and “**Person C**” requesting and facilitating the video (pushing buttons, taking video), the incident would not have occurred.
- Question: Can NSCA **sanction** them now?
 - Answer: Because of **30-day process limits**, NSCA **cannot** now impose new formal discipline (e.g., probation) on “**Person B**” or “**Person C**” for this incident, but can put a letter of record in their file.

5. Safety Culture & Rules

- Strong sentiment that:

- Safety rules must apply not only to shooters in cages but to anyone engaging targets or operating controls on a closed course.
 - Button-pushing while a course is closed and workers are downrange is as dangerous (or more) than shooting.
- Suggestions:
 - Clarify the rulebook to state that no one may engage targets (including pushing buttons) on a closed course without the explicit approval of management.
 - Encourage clubs to adopt simple physical safety measures, such as:
 - Cones or chains across stations when workers are downrange.
 - Turning machines off or taking controls with them when working on traps.
 - Send a broader safety communication to clubs and membership emphasizing post-event cease-fire and downrange protection.

Motion(s) & Vote

- After extended discussion, options were simplified to:
 - **Option 1:** Take **no additional action** against “**Person A**”.
 - **Option 2:** Impose **six-month safety probation** on “**Person A**”, plus letters to “**Person B**” and “**Person C**”.
- Vote on **Option 1 – No Additional Action:**
 - Minority vote
- Vote on **Option 2 – Six-Month Safety Probation:**
 - Majority vote
 - **Result:** Option 2 carried.

Final Recorded Vote:

Impose a **six-month safety probation** on “**Person A**”, effective from the date of the official notification letter.

Send formal **letters of acknowledgement and admonishment** to “**Person B**” and “**Person C**” documenting their involvement and the safety violation, noting that no formal sanction is imposed solely because the 30-day disciplinary window has passed.

Vote:

In favor: Majority

Vote carried

Action Items

- Headquarters to:
 - Draft and send letters to **Person A, Person B, and Person C** by week’s end.
 - **Person A’s** letter: outlines six-month safety probation, effective upon letter date, and expectations during probation.
 - **Person B and Person C’s** letters: document participation in the unsafe situation and state that no formal sanction is imposed due to process timing, but that any future incidents will consider this record.
 - Notify the club owner of the EC decision and provide copies of the letters.
 - Work with the **Rules Committee** to:
 - Clarify rulebook language on:
 - **Engaging targets on closed courses** (whether shooting or button-pushing).
 - **Media/publicity shooting** requirements (permission, designated area, etc.).
 - Include these clarifications in the next rulebook update.
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10. Headquarters & Program Updates

Museum Expansion

- Foundation and steel structure for the **museum expansion** have been poured and erected:
 - Beams, pillars, and rafters are in place.
 - The project is moving forward on schedule.

Chief Instructor Replacement

- NSCA is working with the **Instructor Committee** to define the process for replacing the **Chief Instructor**.
 - Position description will be modernized using past versions as a base.
 - The search will be open to **Level III instructors and Champion-level coaches**.
 - The Instructor Committee will review materials before the role is posted.

NSCA Membership App

- NSCA is launching a new **membership app**:
 - The app is already live in the app stores.
 - An email will be sent to the membership announcing availability, download instructions, and initial features.

Nationals Video Content

- Nationals coverage by **Jonny Carter** is being rolled out:
 - The “Pro squad” video has already been released.
 - Full Nationals recap videos and additional content will follow on NSCA media channels.

Website Redevelopment

- Website rebuild is behind original schedule but progressing well:
 - Current focus on content, structure, and user-flow details.

- Goal: better usability for members plus alignment with other initiatives (e.g., app, recreational programs, coaches' circle).

Coach's Circle

- Confirmed that **Coaches' Circle** and related education initiatives were discussed at an earlier meeting; no additional details needed at this time.
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11. NSSA Skeet / "One Organization" Strategic Discussion (Brief)

Discussion

- Discussion was raised about broader concerns about the long-term health of NSSA Skeet:
 - Membership and participation in registered skeet are declining in many areas; many historic skeet fields now mostly host sporting clays.
 - Questioned whether skeet leadership has a multi-year plan to address this trend.
 - Conversation referenced:
 - Past attempts and ongoing conversations about moving toward a more unified "one organization" approach.
 - Officers are watching what NSCA is doing with modern media, outreach, and programming (e.g., podcast) and may emulate successful models.
 - The Joint Steering Committee is expected to continue this discussion in future meetings, particularly around:
 - Integration opportunities.
 - Shared services.
 - Long-term financial and participation trends.
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12. Future Meetings

- Joint Finance Committee & Steering Committee: Thursday, January 15
 - EC Meeting: Friday, January 16 (full day) and Saturday, January 17 (half day)
 - Headquarters will circulate pre-reading materials and topic lists well in advance.
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13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Sammy McFadden

Second: Chris Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:42 P.M

14. Action Items and Motions Summary

Action Items Summary

Topic	Responsible Party	Action
Old Hudson World Cup (2026)	Headquarters	Obtain bid form/contract; verify dates/pricing; finalize points structure.
2028 World FITASC	Nadim Nasir & John Colandro	Confirm FITASC date window.
2028 World FITASC	Headquarters	Insert date window into bid documents.
End-of-Year Criteria 2025	Headquarters	Publish and update documentation.
Electronic Device Rule	Headquarters	Finalize language; circulate; notify clubs/members.
Super Sporting Rule	HQ & Rules Committee	Refine rule; produce unified proposal.
Marketing Penny / 2026 Rec Shooter	Marketing Committee	Evaluate marketing penny; develop 2026 plan.
January Meetings Prep	Michael & Nicki	Draft topics; finalize; send to delegates.
January Pre-reading	Headquarters	Distribute materials for Jan 15–17.
Disciplinary Case @ Southeast Regional	Headquarters	Send letters; notify the club; update safety rules.
Museum Expansion	Headquarters	Continue project and update EC.
Chief Instructor Role	Instructor Committee & HQ	Finalize job description; post role.
NCSA App	Headquarters	Announce and instruct membership.

Nationals Video Content	HQ/Media	Continue content rollout.
Website Redevelopment	HQ/Web Team	Complete redesign.

Motions Summary

Motion	First	Second	Outcome
Approve Old Hudson 2026 World Cup Event	John Colandro	Mark Baltazar	Unanimous – Passed
Use 2024 EOY Criteria for 2025	Neal Chadwick	Chris Higgins	Unanimous – Passed
Six-Month Safety Probation for Person A; Letters to Person B and Person C	EC Consensus	N/A	Majority Passed
Adjournment	Sammy McFadden	Chris Higgins	Unanimous – Passed

Minutes Prepared by Brett Seibert