

06 July 2021 ASSA Prone / F-SBR Competitor Meeting Minutes

Location: Chief Wa-Ke-De Range, Bristol, IN

Start: 4:05pm EST

End: 5:20pm EST

ASSA Staff present: M. Carter, K. Benyo, P. Gideon & R. Schwartz

The following is a summary of suggestions, discussions and ASSA updates on various topics associated with the smallbore prone and F-SBR disciplines during the 2021 competitor's meeting.

1. Suggestion: Reduce the break time between relays/matches from 30 minutes to 20 minutes. *ASSA - as we are currently only running one (1) relay for the prone / F-SBR phase, it was decided to run with a 30 minute break between matches. There is no competitive advantage nor disadvantage with using the 30 minute duration and it also allows for the scoring team to keep up with scoring and data entry. In addition, it does not significantly add to the overall completion time for each daily match.*
2. Request: Change from the 5-bull A26 conventional meter target to the 6-bull target. *ASSA - Originally, we had a sufficient number of the 6-bull targets for the championship and our plan was to make the overall change to this target vs the 5-bull (even though we had several cases of the 5-bull targets from the 2020 championships). Due to the significant number of late registrations, ASSA had to order additional 6-bull targets at the last minute (at a significant additional shipping cost). The shipment of the additional targets was delayed and delivery date was not guaranteed (due to COVID issues). As a result, it was decided to start with the 5-bull targets since there was enough to use the same throughout the championship. Once the additional 6-bull targets arrived, we converted to their use for the duration of the match as the A26/6 was the preferred target as previously expressed by the Competitors. Note: In every instance, ALL competitors fired on the same target for each 50M match.*
3. Suggestion: Use the A23/5 50 yard target and A26/6 50 meter targets for the championship in order to prevent confusion and use of the incorrect target. *ASSA - the overwhelming majority of competitors want to use the A23/6 and A26/6 for the championships and changing back to either 5-bull configuration would be unlikely. Instead of placing the F-SBR targets on the line, we opted to make daily target packets for that discipline in order to mitigate possible accidental use. While ASSA works to implement processes that reduce potential issues during the championships, it is still each competitors' responsibility to ensure that they use the correct target for each stage.*
4. Comment: Use of target boxes to collect the fired targets was preferred vs waiting for someone to collect the fired targets on the line. *ASSA appreciates this input and we will continue the use of the target boxes for future championships.*
5. Comment / Suggestion: Daily squadding of competitors based on daily leaderboard vs single firing points vs pre-determined daily squadding. *ASSA - for our national championships, we elected to mitigate any firing point advantage that may be present by updating the squadding (firing point location) daily based on the overall leader board. This process was only implemented for the prone/F-SBR phases. The squadding has the overall leader on the center range firing point, with 2nd overall on their left, 3rd overall on their*

right, etc. working outward successively until all competitors are squadded. It was also explained that the squadding for the first day of competition was generated with input on competitor's classifications and prior performances at national level competitions, thus further minimizing the possibility of a competitor obtaining a significant advantage at the outset of the championships.

As there was some prior history of the left side of the range being advantageous - and taken advantage of by some through timing of their entry submittal, etc. - squadding "center out" ensures that the top competitors have the most similar range conditions as possible for the duration of the championships. ASSA also views this method of squadding as beneficial to the social aspect of our sport as it fosters additional interaction between competitors.

Comments were introduced suggesting use of an alternate method of squadding that has competitors move "x" number of firing points each day, exposing them to the entire width of the line and any potential range anomalies in that area. It was commented that it would "expose all shooters to the so called good and bad areas of the range". It was noted that this method is used at the Mid-Atlantic 6400 Prone Championship held in Palmyra, PA each year. The counter point to this discussion was that the Palmyra range is only 20 firing points vs the possible use of 100 points at the Chief Wa-Ke-De range. In addition, on any given day the conditions change (i.e. wind intensity and direction) and thus this method would not have firing points consistently exhibit "good" or "bad" areas of a range as offered.

Overall, the majority of competitors liked the daily squadding process currently in use. It was noted by ASSA that input from the F-SBR competitors indicated that recent modifications to the range (addition of the wall on the left side of the range) have mitigated some of the advantages to being on that end.

As this was a very lengthy discussion with multiple points / counterpoints offered, ASSA President Mike Carter directed that this issue be tabled to allow the meeting to continue on to other pending topics. ASSA leadership have committed to reviewing the method of squadding for the upcoming 2022 championships with addition competitor input.

6. Question: Is ASSA considering holding the championships at other ranges in the future?
ASSA - while we have reviewed several ranges that have the capacity and infrastructure to conduct the championships, at this time there is no plan to change the location in the immediate future. If conditions and/or situations change, ASSA would move the location as necessary to ensure a well run competition with maximum possible attendance.
7. Question / Comment: How did ASSA determine the championship dates for 2021 and how will you decide on the dates for 2022?
ASSA - we determined our 2021 championship dates based on range availability in conjunction with the match schedules published by CMP and NRA. Our approach was to schedule disciplines to allow for competitors to attend as many of the championship events as possible while minimizing vacation time and expenses. For 2022 scheduling, ASSA will approach scheduling of our championship dates with the best interest of all competitors in mind.
8. Suggestion: Mandate that Match Directors use the standard ASSA wind flags for all ASSA sanctioned competitions. Comment was that this would ensure flags are implemented at all matches and it would be beneficial for all competitors - especially juniors - to become familiar with their use.
ASSA - while having down range wind flags is preferable, there is no way to force Match Directors to implement their use. The best possible approach is for

competitors to encourage Match Directors to obtain and set up flags for their competitions. For reference, ASSA flags (which are aligned with ISSF specifications) are available for purchase.

9. Question / Comment: Why are we not seeing more junior competitors at prone matches? *ASSA - we feel that there are several factors that have impacted the number of junior competitors at prone competitions. First, with the increased popularity of 3-position air rifle and the overall push for 3-position events in general, there is a finite amount of money and vacation days that can be expended by parents. Second, the focus of many junior program coaches is solely on indoor 3-position (50 ft) with little if any support/direction to compete outdoors. This limited focus results in multiple negative impacts, including:*
- poor performances in prone due to lack of training & competition vs kneeling & standing positions*
 - limited ability to read wind outdoor conditions (wind, mirage, etc.)*
 - narrow knowledge of opportunities to compete in smallbore events (both as juniors and for post-collegiate shooters)*
 - loss of mentorship opportunities*
10. Suggestion: ASSA implement a “Mentor Match” for the 2022 championships. *ASSA - we will try to implement a Mentor Match at the 2022 championships based on available time. We view this as an excellent opportunity for upcoming juniors to be matched with experienced prone / F-SBR competitions to gain knowledge and experience in a positive setting.*
11. Suggestion: Ensure information on upcoming ASSA competitions is distributed to collegiate coaches (especially at the club level) to encourage participation and understanding of additional match opportunities (indoor and outdoor). *ASSA will be working with collegiate coaches to distribute information on upcoming matches. We agree that the collegiate club competitors are those more likely to continue shooting after graduation and we want to provide as much information and support to keep them active.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Benyo
ASSA Secretary / Treasurer