



PISTOL NEWS



A time for change approaches

The forthcoming 2019 Municipal Elections appear to be set for April, 2019, and this “event” is likely to have major negative consequences for the SAPF’s shooting calendar next year, so the SAPF EXCO feel it is wise and appropriate to raise the issue well in advance so that the provinces management committees can put on their thinking caps and help define how best to change our calendar for next year, because it cannot mimic the 2018 shooting calendar at all.

During the just completed ISSF Nationals, at an informal planning discussion, some members of the EXCO identified the possible issues and challenges the SAPF will be faced with in 2019.

It is now appropriate to review how the SAPF should go forward in 2019 and then have the provinces management committees provide some feedback so that a constructive, practical solution to a difficult year ahead can be addressed.

This newsletter therefore serves to provide an overview of the thoughts, opportunities and challenges our sport faces in the coming 12 months, and we need to gather input now from all concerned parties to define a workable shooting calendar going forward in 2019.



Pistol News #26
September, 2018

Why are the Elections a challenge in 2019?

The 2019 National Elections represent a serious challenge to our shooting program in 2019 – we should recognise that more than half of our current membership is made of shooters who are actively involved in the armed forces, the police and/or the various other government-related agencies.

If the 2019 Elections go ahead as is currently indicated, i.e. it is believed that these elections will take place in April, 2019, this will prevent the SAPF from hosting the NPA/PPC Nationals as originally planned, i.e. during April, 2019.

In other words, an April 2019 election would prevent most of our shooting members from participating in the 2019 Nationals in Pretoria, which is not acceptable in any terms for the SAPF.

The SAPF is therefore considering moving the NPA/PPC Nationals forward one month to March 2019.

This we think will avoid the threat that the elections otherwise represents to our NPA Nationals.

The SAPF are therefore approaching the provinces immediately to gain their input on how best to proceed in 2019.

Obviously there are several possible approaches, but the most logical approach is to review the shooting calendar in its entirety, and where practical make changes and issue notice of such change well in advance, so that our members and in particular our NPA/PPC Nationals participants can plan accordingly.

Changing the Nationals date directly impacts on the Southern Gauteng and the Eastern Cape Provincial Championships the most, so the EXCO is looking to find an amenable solution that will be both practical and appropriate in the light of the forthcoming election activities that we expect to happen in April 2019.

There is one school of thought, and this has been echoed once before, that says that there are too many provincial championships on offer every year, which places significant financial stress on our members, who would like to compete, but find the cost of travelling and competing growing excessively all the time.

We are therefore asking the provinces to consider reducing the number of provincial championships we shoot each year.

In other words, rather than offering nine provincial championships in 2019, as is presently the case, we should cut this down to just six Provincials for 2019.

A means of deciding which championships should stand down in 2019 might be to say that any championships that less than “x” shooters in a shoulder to shoulder scenario should be set aside in 2019, and become a POSTAL championship only.

Clearly all the provinces management teams need to apply their minds and help identify a set of criteria for retaining a shoulder to shoulder event in their province in 2019.





PISTOL NEWS



The SAPF would like to ask the provinces to consider the following suggestion:

The minimum “actual shoulder to shoulder” championships program for 2019 could look like this:

1. Southern Gauteng - February 2019
2. NPA/PPC Nationals - March 2019
3. SANDF Champs - May 2019
4. SAPS Champs - August 2019
5. ISSF Nationals - September 2019
6. WP Champs - October 2019.

In addition, a parallel National Postal championships program is then introduced in the months of June, July and November, for example, with ECPA, KZN and G/North each hosting one of these postal events respectively.

In this configuration, the smaller provinces do not lose out on the financial benefits of a provincial championships, so the greater good for all is also retained.

It is also time for our shooting community to take cognisance of the economic hardships that prevail, and to become more realistic, and possibly more innovative in retaining competitive, paying championship shooters in every possible way.

The SAPF would therefore like the provinces to apply their minds to this proposal, and to share it directly with their membership – if necessary call a Special General Meeting within your province to map out a way forward.

There are substantial benefits that accrue from hosting a solely POSTAL Championships, not the least of which is that ALL the costs associated with hosting championships, save for the cost of medals, dry up almost completely.

- Provinces don't have to find extra R/O's;
- Ranges don't have to rebuilt or repaired;
- No targets or consumables are needed;
- A tiny scoring office team is needed;
- The program of events can be spread on three or four weeks;
- The cost per entry can be much lower;
- No big travel costs are incurred;
- Many provinces no longer have the manpower to run a championship well;
- The championship fees are largely profit;
- All provinces can support and promote the Postal championships, which should increase participation overall.

NB: In addition:

The SAPF have also established a much more cost effective means of buying and acquiring medals, medal bars and date/year bars.

In essence, the new method has been proved to reduce the cost of issuing medals to medal winners, making postal matches very profitable as well.

More information on this aspect can be obtained from Fatima at the SAPF offices.

It is time for serious introspection in order to achieve a positive result that will benefit all concerned.

PLEASE arrange a gathering of your members in your province and give the SAPF some feedback on how best we can act together for the greater good of all concerned.

The SAPF looks forward to your soonest possible response, but certainly not later than end of October, 2018, after which a decision needs to be made as to how we structure the 2019 shooting calendar.

Kind regards to all your members.

Best wishes in Shooting.
Shaun Kennedy, Vice – President

Some examples of cost savings that accrue with a postal championships include:

I am urgently looking for a left-handed grip for a Hammerli 280 target pistol.
Please contact Shaun Kennedy if you can assist on 082 654 9917, or by email on shaunhkennedy@gmail.com

