



Raninder Singh
President

All Print & Electronic Media
All Olympic Shooting Sport Athletes.
Secretary General, IOA.
The Secretary Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
The Director General, Sports Authority of India.

April 24, 2015

Dear All,

It is the stated position of the National Rifle Association to select international teams in a transparent and fair manner.

With this view, the Olympic Games Selection Policy was published so that shooters participating in international competitions & indeed those domestic shooters deemed eligible for the selection of the Indian shooting team should be clear as to how the national federation is going to eventually evaluate & select the team for the Rio Olympic Games.

The stated endeavour of the federation has been to fine tune and harmonise a common criterion and resultant policy for all three wings of Olympic shooting namely rifle, pistol, & shotgun sections.

Since this policy was released and placed upon the NRAI website, the NRAI has received some suggestions from eminent shooters through the Chairman of the Athletes Committee of the NRAI. Further detailed inputs have also been received from both our domestic and foreign coaches.

You may also be aware that the current team selection policies of both rifle/pistol and Shotgun are based upon different criterion and in essence follow a separate regime that is followed (due to differing international calendars and specific ISSF mandated sport rules).

In its bid to harmonise the notified Olympic policy (prior to its notification), the Technical Committee of the NRAI sought to remove the fundamental disparity between the existing rifle/pistol policy and the shotgun policy, by resorting to a strict regime of domestic trials to arrive at the final average score (FAS) that would along with suitable merit points (where applicable) assist the NRAI Selection Committee in finally selecting the Rio Olympic team for all events.



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Specifically a serious cause of concern in the current notified Olympic policy that has been red flagged by the afore mentioned athletes and experts has been in the area of rifle and pistol.

You may recall that the existing policy (which shall remain valid up to the next NSCC) for the selection of rifle & pistol teams is based on the counting of "n" number of high scores and is fundamentally different to the moving average system used to select teams for shotgun.

It has therefore been noted that if for the rifle and pistol events at Rio the existing notified policy were to be followed, it would result in an inordinately large number of scores that a shooter who would compete in international competitions would need to render and conversely a domestic shooter (a shooter in the core eligible group who however is not a part of the international team competing in ISSF mandated quota place competitions this year) would actually never exceed seven scores that he/she would render.

An international shooter, given the current ISSF calendar on the other hand (should he be a part of each international team and there are many such cases) may end up rendering up to sixteen scores (16).

It is the unanimous feeling of all concerned that subjecting our elite athletes to such a large number of pressure engagements is and shall be highly retrograde and would in all probability result in below par performances by our international team and could even result in fewer quota places being won by them for the country due to the associated fatigue that would result in such a scenario for such athletes.

As I mentioned above, due to the existing selection policy for international teams in the shotgun section being largely harmonious to the notified Olympic policy, such a fear does not extend to the sections of the notified Olympic policy governing the shotgun section of team selection for the Rio games.

Therefore, based upon the suggestions of all concerned (including review and appropriate clearance by the Technical Committee of the NRAI), and with a view to facilitate our international athletes to perform at their best so that they win the maximum number of quota places for the country; the selection policy notified for the team selection for the Rio Olympic Games is herewith modified for the sections of Rifle&Pistol.



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The notified Olympic policy for the selection of the team for the shotgun section remains unchanged in every respect.

The basic structure of the policy remains the same for all sections of shooting.

The calculation and subsequent award of merit points (where applicable) for shooters participating in Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun would also remain the same and unchanged.

I hope this amended policy would suit the requirements of shooters and will avoid multiple participation in selection trials&competitions.

This will also provide a fair playing field to all athletes (domestic or international) in all sections of shooting sport, as well as safeguard the human aspect of athletes competing to secure their berths to represent the country at the Rio Olympic Games in 2016.

The secretary, NRAI is herewith authorised to place this covering note with the amended Olympic selection policy on the website of the NRAI with immediate effect.

RANINDER SINGH
President, NRAI
Member of the ISSF Executive Committee