



NATIONAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Accredited with SAPS (CFR) as
Hunting Association: FAR 1300050
Sport-shooting Association: FAR 1300088

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Responsible and Accountable Firearms Ownership

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Newsletter

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EXPULSION OF MEMBERS DUE TO FALSIFICATION OF NSA DOCUMENTATION

In the last two weeks we have had to expel four members, of who three were dedicated hunters & sport-persons and one who falsely claimed the status. This procedure was instituted as they all submitted irrefutably proven falsifications of NSA documentation with applications for new firearm licences. Their expulsion followed a disciplinary process instituted in accordance with the prescripts of the NSA Code of Discipline regarding Category 1 Transgressions (see www.natshoot.co.za/page/code-of-discipline).

NSA as a result, informed SAPS (CFR) of the disciplinary action instituted against the four former members, and also furnished reasons with proof why the action was taken. NSA further requested CFR to investigate the continued validity of the competency of the four former members, as well as the documentation, which were submitted for all previous licence applications by the four former members (if any).

A comprehensive document containing irrefutable proof of falsification of NSA membership certificates and of NSA endorsements was also handed to the compliance section of FLASH on their request. This section will institute the legal processes against the four former members, as it is their prerogative to do and to execute, as it is the prerogative of the CFR Registrar to institute legal process as she sees fit against the four former members.

All other accredited associations were also notified of these actions taken against the four former

members, plus the reasons for instituting such disciplinary action. Their personal particulars were furnished to the accredited associations in accordance with the conventions of the Hunters' Forum. It would then remain the prerogative of the other accredited associations to allow the former members to join those associations and to obtain dedicated status with them afresh, as the dedicated status of NSA, which the three former members had, will definitely not be transferable or recognised.

Whether we like it or not, NSA's accreditation and processes invariably comes under scrutiny with this kind of situation. It was thus absolutely necessary to, in minute detail, explain to CFR and to the compliance section of FLASH, how NSA's processes comply with all stipulations of the FCA (Act 60 of 2000 as amended) and its Regulations (2004 as amended) (both in terms of membership and of our processes to award dedicated status and to issue endorsements).

Completing the sets of documentation pertaining to the different elements of the whole process took all our time since last Thursday afternoon. We ask members to please excuse us for falling behind with the issuing of endorsements during this time. We should again be on date by Thursday morning, 25 September.

STAY WITHIN SET RULES OR STAND OUT

Exco could with conviction and confidence explain the comprehensive nature and legality of NSA processes, which were placed under severe scrutiny due to the above-mentioned disciplinary actions. Obviously these processes had to be comprehensively explained and proven to CFR and to the compliance section of FLASH. Especially the nature and validity of our processes of electronic communications were put under rigorous scrutiny to prove compliance and credibility.

Exco could, however, with all sincerity and conviction, report that 99,9% of our members are responsible and accountable firearm owners and users, and that they do not in any form or manner, make themselves guilty of any of these kinds of activities (that was the really easy and enjoyable part).

Despite this confident declaration, and as is usually the result of these kinds of incidents, Exco also came to the serious conclusion (possibly that should read realisation), that the only way to ensure that NSA's processes and accreditation remain above any form of contention, is to even more strictly maintain NSA policy positions on a number of our electronic communications procedures. Exco also instructed the office to rigorously ascertain that our members operate within the set confines of clearly communicated NSA procedures (read the Newsletters on the website).

The one element of our procedures, which came in for heavy criticism from both CFR and the compliance section of FLASH, was the leniency we show to dedicated members who do not submit activity reports on time. Exco had identified this problem a while ago, and has therefore issued its policy position on the retention of dedicated status on 14 August 2014. This position

can be read on the website at the dedicated status page (see www.natshoot.co.za/uploads/documents//Maintenance-DEStatus-0814.pdf).

It was not so much the system of reporting, than the time lag dedicated members are allowed to submit their annual reports in, and the fact that we have always given members 12 months leniency in this regard, which was seriously questioned.

Exco was thus forced to instruct the office to strictly enforce the 14 August 2014 stated two month period of leniency after November each year. After the two months leniency, those dedicated members who are not in compliance with submissions of their annual activity reports, will be reported to CFR as having lost their dedicated status with NSA in the year's annual report to CFR (submitted in January annually), due to lack of reporting dedicated activities for the previous year. Obviously with the attached legal consequences in respect of their continued firearm ownership for those dedicated members who have to be reported.

This process obviously has no bearing on a member's membership of NSA, as dedicated status speaks to a member's legal firearm ownership, and not to his/her membership of the NSA.

Remember that dedicated members receive the legal right to own more than 4 firearms (or a semi-auto shotgun or rifle/carbine) by virtue of NSA's right to award such status due to its SAPS (CFR) accreditation. Awarding of dedicated status goes hand in hand with a myriad of stipulations in a number of Sections of the FCA (Act 60 of 200) and in Regulations contained in the FCA Regulations (2004). If NSA thus does not comply with those stipulations in an acceptable manner as was agreed upon with CFR at the time of its accreditation, NSA's accreditation comes into contention immediately.

NSA's legal responsibility in ascertaining that it follows the prescripts of the law in respect of dedicated status must thus not be negated nor ignored. As it has direct bearing on the legal firearm ownership of >10,600 firearm owners who are members of NSA and of who, >7,400 have been awarded dedicated status by NSA by way of them completing the legally prescribed NSA dedicated courses.

Despite the above, there were three other of our electronic communications procedures, which came under rigorous scrutiny. They are (a) our electronic theoretical evaluation system for dedicated status (b) our electronic submission of shot-targets and the whole of the process of our postal target shooting events, and; (c) our processes for issuing of endorsements.

It stand to reason that all of us have to protect the integrity of these three processes at all costs in order to maintain the good name of the NSA and to ascertain that none of us bring NSA's accreditation into question (as this obviously has an effect on the continued legal ownership of firearms). Whether we like that or not, it was clear from the above described processes we had to go through with CFR and with the compliance section of FLASH that other people can "close these doors" for us, if we all do not ascertain that we follow the rules for our electronic procedures, to the letter.

For as far as endorsements are concerned our processes are sound and we are still, as far as we are aware of, the only association requesting copies of motivations before we issue endorsements. The NSA position on endorsements is also clearly explained in our Newsletter, Vol. 10(1) dated 23-02-2014, with heading, “Dedicated Status; Endorsements; Disciplinary Action” (see www.natshoot.co.za/uploads/documents//NSA-Newsletter%20vol10-nr1-02-02-2014.pdf).

As it is increasingly clear that CFR is seemingly awarding more and more licences on strength of endorsements, NSA maintains the position that we cannot, and will not, issue endorsements without receiving the technical detail of the firearm for which an endorsement is requested, or without receiving the relevant motivation pertaining to the use of said firearm. The technical detail form can be requested from endorse@natshoot.co.za, while we can also furnish members with examples of motivations. The NSA position on the issuing of endorsements can be read on the website at www.natshoot.co.za/page/firearms-licensing. Once the website goes interactive, this process will be much easier to complete.

For as far as our theoretical evaluation is concerned, the system is sound, and we are continuously implementing more and more fail safe electronic methodology to ascertain that candidates complete their evaluations at their own computers, and at their own Email addresses, and not through third parties. These processes of scrutiny will be even more severely implemented and controlled once the new website’s interactive functions are implemented in the very near future.

The one electronic process, which remains a “bone of contention”, is the postal target shooting events. For the major part, the opportunity for “skulduggery” in the shooting and submission of targets, have been curtailed. The office is now, however, confronted with submission of scanned targets and compulsory statements, which do not always comply with the rules as set out in the Newsletters of 22-08-2014 and 09-09-2014. (See www.natshoot.co.za/uploads/documents//NSA-Newsletter%20vol10-nr8-09-09-2014.pdf)

Exco therefore has requested that we inform members that they have instructed the office to strictly enforce the rules pertaining to the latitude afforded with the electronic submission of targets for in-house events score logging on any shooting register, as from the date of this Newsletter. Targets will be sent back with the message, “incomplete” (to borrow a phrase from the CFR). Obviously the scanned targets can again be submitted, and these will again be accepted, if all requirements are met. Remember a receipt is also a written piece of paper from the range with the date and stamp of the range on it. A cell-phone-photo of the registry inscription is also easily taken. These documents remain in your personal data file in our secure electronic filing system (that’s all the office does with it – it protects you and the NSA).

It remains a mystery why so many members can easily comply with the rules as prescribed, and yet others just seem to either ignore the rules, or just don’t give a damn.

Stamps on targets go a long way in furnishing proof that the targets were shot at that range, but

they do not confirm date, nor it seems, the whole truth (in all instances). Exco is currently in a process of disciplinary action to be instituted against three members for falsification of range stamps on their targets. These three individuals have thus effectively “closed that door” for all of us in the use of range stamps as proof of activity on a specific range.

Exco once again requested that we must all please ascertain that we protect the integrity of our postal shoots at all costs, for our personal benefit as well for the benefit of NSA. It is a major part of the operations of NSA, and it is also one of the major elements for retention of accreditation with CFR. If some members then continue to misuse this system, then we have no recourse than to revert back to the Post Office or to couriers for submission of targets in order to ascertain the protection of the integrity of the NSA postal shoots. This is unfortunately is not an idle threat it's just an ordinary fact.

On a personal note I end off, by stating that I think my brain might be too small to understand why some people seem to find it necessary to falsify documents pertaining to something, which they purportedly find pleasure in.

I derive big pleasure and satisfaction when shooting my handguns and rifles at the range, and when using my rifles in the hunt. I have never found it necessary to falsify any of these activities, as I am allowed to do them legally in my country whereas the people of Britain, for instance, may only find limited pleasure from using their firearms very limitedly. I am open to be enlightened on this issue and will gladly listen and learn from those who know the answer to this thing I cannot understand. Though, I must probably confess here, that I might be somewhat naïve in most matters pertaining trust, because the NSA's General Manager frequently says I am.

Shoot straight in the competition !!! (amper mis is altyd beter as amper raak !)

Kind regards
Herman Els