



September 30, 2005

Rob Rants - USPSA World Shoot Team Selection

This is a copy of a letter that I sent Mike Voigt, President of USPSA. He was asking for input from everyone on World Shoot team selection. Neither Travis Tomasi nor I qualified for the US Standard Team this year. We finished 1st and 3rd, respectively. No other US standard team shooter beat us at WS XIV. This is what I had to say ...

I think the most important period of time for team consideration is the year of the actual World Shoot. Events held immediately previous to the World Shoot should **definitely** be used to select the teams. At the most, the previous year should be included also (i.e., 2007 & 2008). I think the current National Champions in each division should be on the Teams (even if it's not me ...lol). This is the person who is shooting the best at that time and should not be neglected regardless of his/her previous finishes. It shouldn't be a problem using the WS year, as most serious competitors are already planning on attending the World Shoot.

I believe the **quality** of the events that are used to select the teams are much more important than how many of them there are. Our Nationals are generally much more like a World Match than the Area Matches are. In a perfect world, we would run qualifier matches that follow the IPSC 3-2-1 stage guidelines. We would run these events as much like a WS as possible. They would **NOT** be run & gun matches, as no WS has ever been one (nor will they ever be). The shots would be more difficult than normal (for us in the USA), there would be more no-shoots, standard exercises, fewer shots, more stand-and-shoot stages, lots of gun manipulation, and we would use the IPSC classic target. The equipment we use would also be IPSC category-correct.

We could accomplish some of these goals easily by changing the focus of a few Area matches (in the year of and year previous to the WS). In a nutshell, here are my suggestions:

- Team slots determined by the results of six matches



- 4 designated WS Qualifier Area Matches (two in 2007 & two in 2008); keep your best 3 percentiles
- 2 USPSA Nationals (2007 or 2008); keep your best 1; percentile doubled
- 2008 National Champions are guaranteed a slot on the team, the number 4 position if they did not previously qualify
- Score determined by adding the three best percentages of the four qualifiers / Area Matches and doubling the percentile of your best Nationals finish
- Competitors can only qualify in one division and would declare division on entry forms

If Area matches cannot comply with the 3-2-1 format and the difficulty level of the matches cannot be elevated, creating new matches and/or possibly changing existing prominent matches (i.e., Florida Open, Georgia State, etc.) is a possibility.

It would be great for us to have our best shooters representing the Nation! I believe our skills are deteriorating as our US matches become more hose-fests and less shooting-skills oriented. I guess everybody likes to squirt rounds real fast, but this type of shooting won't win us a World Shoot. Look at the fact that we old farts (you and me, Mikey) are still competitive. We are now the best in the world at shooting close, fast, run & gun matches! I would really like to see the USA dominate every division (again) at the World Shoot in 2008 and beyond, but we're all going to have to work much harder! *Rob*