

Instructions for Completion of NSSA Referee Certification

The NSSA permits “self-certification” for becoming a licensed referee or renewing a referee’s license. This process does not preclude a club official from conducting a referee clinic; it is meant to provide an additional avenue for certification when a clinic can’t be held or isn’t available for an individual to obtain certification. The certification is good for three years.

The “Certification Package” includes the NSSA Referee Application form and a sample; 2026 NSSA Referee’s Standard Examination; and 2026 NSSA Referee’s Standard Examination Answer Sheet.

The 2026 NSSA Rule Book underwent a significant re-write and has been re-ordered to ensure that it is organized in a manner that is most helpful for shooters, referees, and shoot management. The update allows us to create pull-out sections to make a Shooter Handbook, Referee Handbook, and Shoot Management Handbook. Rules were copied verbatim from the old rule book and only updated in the following areas:

- Changes to the Weather Station language due to new technology (Section I-A-16, Pages 2-3)
- Updating outdated language (referencing faxes, snail mail, etc.)
- Changes to the Protest section to create clarity (Section V-Q, Page 40-42)
- Housekeeping – deleting duplicate words, spelling errors, etc.

So, even if you don’t need to recertify this year, you are strongly encouraged to download and review the new book from NSSA’s website here: <https://mynssa.nssa-nsca.org/rule-book/>

Using the Rules Book, complete the exam and check your responses with the answer sheet. Then, fill out the application form.

When completing the application, if the exam is being self-administered, in the box below the applicant’s signature, enter “2026” for the shoot year; “Self-administered”, the date for signature of examining officer, and your club’s name. If you aren’t associated with a club, enter “Michigan Skeet Association”. Mail the completed application form (*without the test*), along with a check in the amount of \$10 payable to “NSSA”, to the MSA Secretary-Treasurer at:

Kathy Warner
397 Division St.
Vassar MI 48768

Kathy will sign the application as the “State Official” and submit your form and payment to NSSA for processing. Certification is good for three years, so it is not necessary to apply if you did so in 2024 or 2025.

Should you have any questions, or need clarification on an answer for a rule, email me at chris@atcs.biz and I will get back to you.

Please feel free to pass this package along to others who might be interested in renewing their certification or becoming a certified NSSA Referee, and please let me know their name(s) so I can keep the list of MSA referees up to date.

Regards,
Chris Baning, MSA Chief Referee
(810) 280-6480

NSSA REFEREE APPLICATION



Year Applied _____

Referee Credential Fee: \$10.00 for 3-year program.

Please PRINT the following information:

Name: _____ NSSA# _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Gender: Male Female

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Years experience as a skeet referee: _____

Referee experience in other sports (list sports & years) _____

- *Official Referee: includes referee patch, card and handbook with information appearing on the NSSA website.*

I believe in the aims and purposes of the National Skeet Shooting Association and will enforce the official rules in all shoots in which I officiate.

Signature of Applicant: _____

The following must be filled in by the official/officer giving the examination.

This is to certify that the above applicant has been administered the official NSSA referee examination for the ____ shoot year and that he/she has fully qualified.

Signature of Examining Officer: _____ Date: _____

Representative Club or Assn: _____

The following must be filled in by an Officer of the State Association

This will certify that the above applicant has been approved:

Signature of State Official: _____

Office Held: _____ Date: _____

Payment: Cash ____ Check # _____ Credit Card: _____ Exp date: ____/____ CVC _____

NSSA REFEREE APPLICATION



Year Applied 2026

Referee Credential Fee: \$10.00 for 3-year program.

Please PRINT the following information:

Name: Trish Magyar NSSA# 123456

Date of Birth: 04 / 10 / 55 Gender: Male ☐ Female ☒

Address: 123 Regal Ave

City: Rochester Hills State: MI Zip: 48307 Country: US

Contact Phone: 248-555-1212 E-mail Address: tmagyar@comcast.com

Years experience as a skeet referee: 30

Referee experience in other sports (list sports & years) _____

- Official Referee: includes referee patch, card and database with information appearing on the NSSA website.

I believe in the aims and purposes of the National Skeet Shooting Association and will enforce the official rules in all shoots in which I officiate.

Signature of Applicant: Trish Magyar

The following must be filled in by the official/officer giving the examination.

This is to certify that the above applicant has been administered the official NSSA referee examination for the 2026 shoot year and that he/she has fully qualified.

Signature of Examining Officer: Self-administered (or signature of club rep) Date: 02/10/2026

Representative Club or Assn: Detroit Gun Club

The following must be filled in by an Officer of the State Association

This will certify that the above applicant has been approved:

Signature of State Official: _____

Office Held: _____ Date: _____

Payment: Cash _____ Check # _____ Credit Card: _____ Exp date: ____/____ CVC _____

2026 NSSA REFEREE'S STANDARD EXAMINATION

TRUE & FALSE- CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. As a safety precaution, no loading of 2 shells for the last single target will be allowed.
T or F
2. If a shooter fires at and misses a target as a result of an alleged "slow pull" but before the referee calls "No bird," the target shall be scored lost.
T or F
3. At the beginning of a round the squad shall be entitled to observe three (3) regular targets from each house.
T or F
4. When disruptive crowd noise is heard behind a squad, the referee should suspend shooting and attempt to quiet the crowd.
T or F
5. To be considered in a legal shooting position the shooter must be standing with any part of both feet within the boundaries of the designated shooting station.
T or F
6. Targets fired upon while shooting out of turn, without permission of the referee will be declared lost.
T or F
7. A shooter may load their gun while walking to the shooting station, provided they are three feet or less from the station.
T or F
8. The result of shooting at a target after it has been declared "No Bird" shall not be scored and the shot will be repeated in all instances.
T or F
9. The field referee should ask each squad member to verify their score after each round by announcing, "Please check your scores."
T or F
10. Shooting boundary markers are mandatory on fields where it is geographically possible.
T or F
11. As a safety precaution, test shots will not be permitted without permission of the field referee.
T or F
12. A shooter is required to notify the referee and squad members and have his/her gun properly marked if he/she uses a "Release Trigger".
T or F
13. If a shooter fires on an unbroken target before the referee has had a chance to declare the target "No bird" the results of the shot must be scored.
T or F
14. Under normal conditions a squad should complete a round in 20 minutes including breaks.
T or F
15. A shooter has 2 gun malfunctions in a round, has gun repaired but has another malfunction in same round. The referee should declare lost target because it was this shooter's 3rd malfunction of same gun.
T or F
16. Doubles targets fired upon in reverse order will result in the first bird scored lost.
T or F
17. Shoot management has the right to make it mandatory to use a hoop when target adjustments are required.
T or F
18. If a shell having once misfired is used again, and fails to fire, the results of the shot shall be scored "lost".
T or F
19. Rules now make some form of eye and ear protection mandatory for each squad member and the field referee. Trap help may be excluded.
T or F
20. In doubles events it is never possible to score a first target dead and proof doubles for the second target.
T or F
21. The referee shall be the sole judge of decision of fact. His/ Her decision as to whether a target is dead or lost shall be irrevocable, regardless of opinions of spectators or other squad members.
T or F
22. It is permissible for shooters to place markers on the range to serve as station holding points.
T or F
23. It is permissible for a shooter to leave a spent shell in the chamber of a gun when he/she is not on the shooting station.
T or F
24. When using V.R.S. (voice release system), a referee must stand in mandatory positions.
T or F
25. It shall be the referee's first duty after releasing a target to declare "No bird" as quickly as possible when the referee determines that an irregular target has been thrown. Therefore, the referee should watch the same target as the shooter when shooting doubles.
T or F
26. Referees have mandatory positions for regular skeet and doubles event. A shooter may request the referee to move behind the station at Station 3 or 5.
T or F
27. During doubles events, or doubles shoot-offs, referee positions for coming back around the circle should be 6 feet back and 3 feet to the right of stations 3, 4 and 5.
T or F

28. During the shooting of single targets, a shooter may load two shells except at station 8 High house and the last single target.
T or F
29. Targets cannot be "Hooped" once a registered round of skeet has started.
T or F
30. A gun, which will accept more than one (1) gauge of shells at the same time, may be used in registered competition.
T or F
31. A slow squad, which uses more than 20 minutes per round, may object to being transferred to a substitute field.
T or F
32. A NSSA official referee may be disqualified in the middle of a round by the Chief Referee.
T or F
33. A shooter may be penalized one target for each occurrence of shooting position violations after being warned on the first occurrence.
T or F
34. A protest involving scoring of target(s), if filed immediately on the station shall require a second shot to be fired and results recorded and noted as a protest. The protest shall proceed in the prescribed manner.
T or F
35. It is permissible to carry a gun with the action closed during the round after the shooter has completed a station.
T or F
36. A ruling of "lost" should be made if, after a malfunction has occurred the shooter opens the gun or touches the safety before the referee has had a chance to inspect the gun.
T or F
37. When a protest is filed with the field referee concerning rule interpretation, the referee should suspend shooting and consult the chief referee immediately for a ruling.
T or F
38. It is permissible for shooters to pick up their empty shells during a registered shoot.
T or F
39. If the brass pulls off a hull between shots on doubles it should be ruled a gun malfunction.
T or F
40. Interference may be ruled for any circumstance beyond the shooter's control which unduly affects his/her opportunity to break any target.
T or F
41. When shooting doubles the first shot from station 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 is at the target from the nearest skeet house and the second shot is at the target from the farthest skeet house.
T or F
42. If a shooter's cell phone or pager rings while he/she is shooting, it shall be called interference.
T or F
43. When shooting doubles at station 4 the shooter must shoot first at the high house target going around the stations from 1 through 7 and shoot at the low house 4 target first when coming back around from 7 through 2 or 1.
T or F
44. When shooting doubles the two whole targets collide. The referee should declare "no bird" and a proof double will be shot to determine the results of both targets.
T or F
45. Out of the box Apple AirPods and similar earbuds for both shooters and referees are considered adequate ear protection.
T or F

MULTIPLE CHOICE - CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER OR ANSWERS

1. During a regular round or a doubles event, if the brass pulls off a hull, or defective ammunition occurs between shots on doubles, the referee shall rule that if the first target was dead:
A) First bird dead, proof double to establish second bird.
B) Nothing established, proof double to establish both birds.
2. As a safety precaution, it is now mandatory for which of the following individuals to wear eye and ear protection on the skeet range at a sanctioned NSSA shoot:
A) Shooters only.
B) Shooters and referees only.
C) Referees and trap personnel only.
D) All person required on the range.
3. If a gun "doubles" or "fan-fires" while shooting singles or doubles the referee shall rule:
A) Gun malfunction.
B) If the first bird was dead, rule nothing established, proof double to determine both birds.
C) If the first bird was lost, rule proof double, first bird lost.
4. If a live shell is thrown from a semi-automatic or a pump gun between shots on doubles it should be ruled:
A) If first bird was lost, rule both targets lost.
B) If first bird was dead, rule nothing established, proof double to determine both birds.
C) If first bird was lost, rule first bird lost, proof double to establish second target.
D) Gun malfunction.
E) If first bird was dead, rule first bird dead proof doubles for second bird.

5. After being warned once, if a shooter fires a second time at the same target the field referee should:
 - A) Rule the target lost after the second shot.
 - B) Rule the target dead if hit on second shot.
 - C) After warning the shooter after the first occurrence, disqualify shooter after the second occurrence.
6. A regular target is one that:
 - A) Passes through a three foot diameter hoop centered 15 feet above the target crossing point.
 - B) Appears within one second after call from shooter.
 - C) Travels in still air to a distance on level ground 60 yards from the skeet house with an allowance tolerance of plus or minus two yards.
7. Under normal conditions, a squad should complete a round of skeet in:
 - A) 20 minutes.
 - B) 25 minutes.
 - C) 30 minutes.
 - D) No time limit.
8. A field referee has the authority to disqualify from the event any shooter who:
 - A) Willfully interfered with another shooter while the latter is shooting.
 - B) Any shooter who repeatedly violates the safety precautions.
 - C) Any shooter he/she has had a personality conflict with.
 - D) Any shooter who endangers the safety of other shooters, field personnel, or spectators.
9. Any shooter whose gun accidentally discharges twice within one round for mechanical reasons must:
 - A) Change guns.
 - B) Be forced to withdraw.
 - C) If time permits, have the gun repaired.
10. Station 8 shooting pad is 3 feet wide by 6 feet long. The legal shooting position is:
 - A) A shooter may stand on any part of station 8.
 - B) Station 8 high is the half of the pad most distant from the High house.
 - C) Station 8 low is the half of the pad most distant from the Low house.
11. The following should be considered defective ammunition:
 - A) A shell with "primer only" firing.
 - B) A shell which the brass pulls off between shots on doubles.
 - C) A "whistler" where the plastic sleeve leaves the barrel.
 - D) A shell failure to fire, provided firing pin indentation is clearly noticeable.
 - E) A shell when fired, shot does not reach the distance of the target.
12. When shooting doubles, the first target appeared to have been missed, but the two whole targets collide. Ruling is:
 - A) First target lost, proof double to establish second target.
 - B) First target dead, proof double to establish second target.
 - C) Nothing established, proof double to establish both targets.
13. A shooter loads the bottom barrel of his/her over and under for singles and upon shooting the hammer is heard to fall but the gun does not fire. Upon inspection the referee discovers the barrel selector has accidentally been changed to the top barrel. The referee should rule:
 - A) Since it was changed accidentally, forget it and let the shooter repeat the shot.
 - B) Rule the target lost.
 - C) Rule a gun malfunction since it was not the fault of the shooter.
14. Which of the following apply to a shooter using a release trigger?
 - A) Only the referee needs to be notified.
 - B) Extra caution must be exercised if the gun is given to a referee unfamiliar with its operation.
 - C) Guns with release type triggers must be clearly marked with designated safety stickers.
 - D) Malfunctions with a gun modified with release trigger are handled the same as a pull trigger.
15. Test shots are allowed:
 - A) At shooter's discretion.
 - B) Only after permission granted by field referee.
16. How many allowable malfunctions are allowed for any one gun in the same round when two shooters are using the same gun?
 - A) Two (2) total.
 - B) Two (2) per shooter per round.
 - C) Four (4) distributed between the two shooters.
17. In shooting a legal single target shooter's gun is heard to snap. Shooter immediately opens gun and claims gun malfunction. Referee inspects shell and finds the primer unstruck. Shot is scored:
 - A) Lost target.
 - B) Gun malfunction, nothing established.
 - C) Warns shooter to hand him/her gun in same condition as when he/she attempted to fire, but allows shooter to repeat the shot.
18. A shooter fires at a target and misses. He/She immediately turns to the referee and alleges a "slow pull". Referee agrees that the pull was slow but did not call "No bird". The target should be ruled:
 - A) "Lost" since shooter fired on the target.
 - B) "No bird" and allow the shooter to shoot the target over.
19. A shooter fires at a target and misses. Referee immediately notices shooter's foot position is in violation. Referee should:
 - A) Warn shooter of foot position violation.
 - B) Rule lost target.
 - C) Repeat target if this is shooter's first violation.
20. A shooter fires at a target. Referee calls lost after seeing no piece, other shooters declare that they saw a piece. Referee should:
 - A) Rule lost target.
 - B) Poll squad members and rule dead if a majority opinion exists.
 - C) Repeat the shot to demonstrate fairness.

21. While shooting doubles in a regular round of skeet, a shooter misses the first target and the second target emerges broken and this is his/her first miss, the referee shall:
 - A) Declare the first bird lost and request shooter to shoot his/her option. Then shoot a pair of doubles to establish second bird.
 - B) Declare the first bird lost and require a proof double to establish second bird then require the shooter to shoot his/her option.
22. In shooting doubles, if the shooter is deprived of a second shot, what conditions could allow the first bird to be scored "dead" and to shoot a proof double to establish the second bird?
 - A) The second target is thrown broken.
 - B) Allowable gun malfunction between shots.
 - C) The second target is irregular and is not shot at.
 - D) Both targets are broken with the first shot.
23. For a target to be declared regular, it should:
 - A) Appear within one (1) second after the shooter's call.
 - B) Pass within a three foot circle 15 feet above the target crossing point.
 - C) Travel 57 yards during flight.
24. A shooter calls for a target and someone on the squad says "NO BIRD." Shooter does not fire and target is legal, referee should rule:
 - A) Lost target as he did not call "NO BIRD."
 - B) Ask squad members not to make calls.
 - C) Repeat the target due to interference.
25. Defective ammunition should be declared if:
 - A) The shell failed to fire but firing pin indentation is noticeable.
 - B) Brass pulls from hull between shots on doubles of a single barrel gun.
 - C) The wrong size shell is loaded into the gun.
 - D) An odd sounding shell breaks the target.
26. When may targets be hooped/ adjusted, and under what conditions?
 - A) At shooter request on any station when wind is blowing.
 - B) When machine or machines start throwing irregular targets and an adjustment is made (trap mechanic is needed).
 - C) After a trap adjustment has been made.
 - D) When the referee feels the targets are irregular.
 - E) At the beginning of each round.
 - F) All of the above when they can be safely hooped without interfering with shooters on adjacent fields
27. One "lost" target should be scored on:
 - A) A balk or failure of the gun to fire due to fault of the shooter.
 - B) Target broken inside the shooting boundary.
 - C) Each successive foot position violation after warning.
 - D) Each successive time balk after warning,
28. When a gun breaks during a regular round in such a manner so as to render it unusable, the shooter may:
 - A) Register only the targets shot prior to the breakdown.
 - B) Use another gun if one can be secured without delay.
 - C) Drop out of the squad until the gun can be repaired.
29. Defective ammunition may be allowed:
 - A) Each occurrence.
 - B) Once per round.
 - C) Two (2) per round per box.
 - D) Four (4) per round.
30. The loading of two shells for singles is permissible:
 - A) On all stations.
 - B) On all stations except for High 8.
 - C) If it is not the last single target.
 - D) On Low 8 if straight.
 - E) On none of the shooting stations.
31. The following are some examples of what may be considered as legal interference:
 - A) A piece of target strikes or threatens to strike the shooter or their gun.
 - B) The sun.
 - C) The shooter's cell phone rings.
 - D) The referee touches or causes a visible distraction with the V.R.S.
32. When shooting doubles, under what circumstances would no bird be called and proof doubles for both targets be required?
 - A) When the first shot breaks both targets.
 - B) The first shot breaks the first target and pieces from the first target break the second target.
 - C) Two whole targets collide.
 - D) When the first shot breaks the second target and pieces from the second target break the first target.
 - E) All of the above

Revised 1/22/2026

2026 NSSA REFEREE'S STANDARD EXAMINATION ANSWER SHEET

TRUE OR FALSE

1. TRUE -IV-K-7
-I-A-8
2. TRUE -IV-G-11
-IV-M-2
-VI-C-7-a
3. FALSE -IV-B-1
-VI-C-10
4. TRUE -VI-C
-VI-C-5
5. TRUE -IV-C-1
6. FALSE -IV-F-1
7. FALSE -I-A-2
8. TRUE -VI-C-8
9. TRUE -VI-C-13-d
10. TRUE -V-B-4
11. TRUE -I-A-4
12. TRUE -I-A-12-a & c
13. TRUE -IV-G-11
-VI-C-7-a
-IV-G-8
-IV-M-2
14. TRUE -IV-H
15. TRUE -IV-K-6
-IV-K-9-c
-IV-L-7
16. TRUE -IV-G-4-c
17. TRUE -IV-B-2
18. TRUE -IV-G-7
19. FALSE -I-A-1-a
20. FALSE -IV-E-4
-IV-L-5-a thru h
21. TRUE -VI-C-14
22. FALSE -I-A-15
-V-B-4
23. FALSE -I-A-2
-I-A-6
24. FALSE -VI-D-2
25. TRUE -VI-C-7
26. TRUE -VI-D-1-g
27. TRUE -VI-D-1-f
28. TRUE -I-A-8
29. FALSE -IV-B-2
-VI-C-10
30. FALSE -I-A-10
31. FALSE -IV-H
32. FALSE -VI-C-15-d
33. TRUE -IV-C-3
34. TRUE -V-Q-4-a-1 thru 4-c
35. FALSE -I-A-6
36. TRUE -IV-K-8
-IV-K-8-c
-IV-K-9-a
37. FALSE -VI-C-3
38. FALSE -I-A-17

39. FALSE -IV-A-4-3
-IV-G-9
40. TRUE -IV-M
41. TRUE -IV E-3
42. FALSE -IV M-5
43. TRUE -IV-E-3
44. TRUE -IV-L-2
45. FALSE -I-A-1-b & c

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A -IV-G-10
2. D -I-A-1-a
3. A,B,C -IV-K-10
4. D -IV-K-1 & 2
5. C -I-A-14
6. A,B,C -IX-Y
7. A -IV-H
8. A,B,D -VI-12-a & b
-IV-F-2
-I-A
9. A,C -I-A-13
10. B,C -IV-C-2
11. A,B,C,D,E -IV-A-4
12. C -IV-L-2
13. B -IV-K-3
14. B,C -I-A-12-a & c
15. B -I-A-4
16. B -IV-K-6
17. A -IV-K-8
18. A -IV-G-8
-IV-G-11
-VI-7-a
19. A,B -IV-C-3
20. A -VI-C-14
21. B -IV-G-3-b
22. A,B,C,D -IV-L-5-a thru h
23. A,B -IX-Y
24. B,C -IV-M-1-b
25. A,B,D -IX-F-a thru d
26. F -IV-B-1
-V-C-1
-VI-C-10
27. A,C,D -IV-G-4-a,e,f
28. A,B,C -IV-J
-V-N-6
29. C -IV-I
30. B,C,D -I-A-8
-IV-K-7
31. A,D -IV-M-2-a thru e
32. C -IV-L-2