

SAPSA Dedicated Sports Person Status

There once again seems to be confusion surrounding the issuing of dedicated sports person letters so the terms will once again be spelt out.

In terms of the Firearms Control Act (Act 60 of 2000), a dedicated sports means "a person who actively participates in sports-shooting and who is a member of an **accredited** sports-shooting organisation".

In light of the above definition, it could be argued that by shooting one SAPSA-recognised match first in one division, then re-shooting the same match in another division (or participating in a 3-gun event which involves the firing of three different types of guns), equates to "active participation". **WRONG!**

The FCA states that the regulations may set out different sets of criteria in respect of different accreditations, and initially these criteria included a "relevant training course that complies with the provisions of the Skills Development Act, 1998". Any of you involved in Skills Development will understand just how onerous this requirement could have been for all the SAPSA members – just think of the process you went through to get your Proficiency certificate!

However, as there was no Unit Standard set up to meet this requirement, the Registrar dealt with the individual organisations applying for accreditation as sports-shooting organisations and assessed the individual requirements for dedicated sports person status.

In the case of SAPSA, the accreditation application stipulated that a dedicated sports person under the auspices of SAPSA would have to accumulate a minimum of 6 points per year and that the points would be allocated on the following basis:

- Affiliated club hosting a club shoot advertised to all club members ⇒ 1 point
- Affiliated province hosting a league published on SAPSA calendar ⇒ 2 points
- SAPSA-hosted national published on SAPSA calendar ⇒ 3 points
- IPSC Level IV match published on IPSC calendar ⇒ 4 points
- IPSC Level V match (World shoot) published on IPSC calendar ⇒ 5 points

Furthermore, SAPSA's continued accreditation with the CFR is dependent on the Registrar being satisfied with SAPSA's trustworthiness and integrity, capacity to serve the purpose of the accreditation (which is predominantly to certify dedicated sports person status) and capacity to advance the purposes of the Act.

Every accredited hunting association and sports-shooting organisation must keep a register and submit an **annual** report to the Registrar containing such information as may be prescribed. This currently involves submitting a list of dedicated sports persons as at 31 December.

The reality is the terms of SAPSA's accreditation with the Central Firearms Registry. Points for dedicated sports person status are awarded per published event, irrespective of how many times the event is participated in and/or how many different types of firearms are used.

So please stop submitting requests for dedicated sports person status based on points that have not been 'earned' in accordance with SAPSA's accreditation criteria – SAPSA's accreditation with the CFR will not be jeopardized for the sake of a few members who believe two weekends of shooting per year, is sufficient to warrant dedicated sports person status.