

**2022-2023
SEASON**



RULES & REGULATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

The National Collegiate Shooting Sports Athletic Association (NCSSAA) was founded in 2022 as a subsidiary of FutureU Sports Corp and sister company to industry leading College Shooting Sports Recruiting. The NCSSAA is committed to creating, developing, and growing a premier program for collegiate student athletes and shooting teams. Our mission is to support and develop the best collegiate shooting sports student athletes and teams. We commit to the growth of collegiate shooting sports through programming, industry partnerships, technological advancements, and a community-minded focus.

The following information is intended to outline the rules and regulations of our program, while also following the regulations of the National Governing Bodies (NGB) of shotgun sports: Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA), National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA), National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA), and USA Shooting (USAS). These bodies will be referenced throughout this outline and official rule books for these organizations can be found below.

[ATA Rule Book](#)

[NSCA Rule Book](#)

[NSSA Rule Book](#)

[USAS Resource Center](#)

COACHES COUNCIL

In NCSSAA's inaugural season, the coaches council was selected by NCSSAA staff to help launch the program. However, at the 2023 NCSSAA National Championships, coaches will have the opportunity to vote in new representatives to sit on the coaches council. The rules outlining the council can be found in Section I.F. Below are the coaches that sit on the council for the 2022-2023 season:

Jon Dayton

Division I, University of Texas - Austin

Marty Fischer

Division I, Georgia Southern University

Mike Elam

Division II, Lindenwood University

John Shealy

Division II, Emmanuel College

Damian Giles

Division III, Schreiner University

Dan Martin

Division III, Simpson College

John McEachern

Division IV, Missouri Valley College

Jake McThenia

Division IV, Midland University

Jessica Gunderson

Division V, Iowa Central Community College

Sarah Manuel

Division V, State Fair Community College

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QUESTIONS?

If you're unable to find the information you're looking for, please reach out to us at

info@futureusports.com.

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Eligibility

1. Student Athlete Eligibility

All athletes participating in any NCSSAA events must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must have a cumulative 2.3 GPA. First-semester undergraduate students must have graduated high school with a cumulative 2.0 GPA.
- Must be in good standing with their university and team.
- Must be actively enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours for undergraduate students, and 6 credit hours for graduate students. Exceptions will be made for graduating seniors at Division I - IV schools that are taking less than 12 credit hours to complete their degree and for students at Division V schools that have policies in place that prevent students from being enrolled in 12 credit hours. In those cases, documentation must be provided to NCSSAA and the exception must be approved prior to competition.
- All athletes are limited to 10 semesters (or 15 quarters) of eligibility.
 - Semesters and quarters are aligned with the competitive season; Summer/Winter semesters do not count against the number of eligible semesters.
 - A semester of eligibility will be used whether or not the student is actively competing or enrolled in school. If a student goes to school part-time or does not attend school for a semester, one semester of eligibility will still be used. Exceptions can be made by NCSSAA staff for personal and/or financial hardships that require a student to temporarily attend part-time or withdraw from school.

Coaches will be required to sign-off on academic eligibility without submitting proof of eligibility prior to attending a regional competition. NCSSAA staff reserves the right to require proof of eligibility of any student at any point. At the National competition, proof of eligibility for all competitors will be required prior to the competition.

2. Team Eligibility

Teams of any size and of any type (club, student organization, athletic) are welcome to compete in NCSSAA events. Both member and non member teams are eligible for participation at NCSSAA events and NCSSAA sanctioned events. Note that only **one** team can represent an institution. In the event that a team member leaves the school's official team, they will not be able to compete as a representative of their institution. A team's eligibility form for Nationals must be signed off by the registrar of the school they represent.

While teams are eligible to participate in NCSSAA no matter their membership status, there are certain benefits that only apply to members. For more information about team membership with NCSSAA, please visit our website at www.ncssaa.com/join-ncssaa or review the membership section listed below.

B. Membership

Teams are encouraged and welcome to join NCSSAA with a flat annual membership fee of \$425 per team for the 2022/2023 season. Membership will start August 1 and expire July 31 without automatic renewal. Only one team is permitted to represent an institution, whether members or non members. Membership is *not* required to participate in NCSSAA events, but provides the following benefits:

- Team insurance at all NCSSAA events, including sanctioned events, regionals, and Nationals
- Reduced registration fees
- Inclusion in team and individual rankings at NCSSAA events
- Ability to host NCSSAA sanctioned events

- Eligibility for All-American, Academic All-American, and other side recognition/awards at Nationals
- Eligibility to serve on the NCSSAA Coaches Council
- Industry discounts (as available)

Individuals that attend an institution that does not have a team are still welcome to participate in NCSSAA events. However, their scores will not be included in the individual rankings for an event without membership in place.

To establish membership with NCSSAA, your team can submit their information through the [Join NCSSAA page](#) on the website and follow-up with a payment.

C. Regions

NCSSAA will be divided into three regions across the country: East, Central, and West. Regional events will be divided across these three regions, but teams are not limited to competitions within their specific region. Regions in no way impact divisions or rankings.

East: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia

Central: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

D. Student Athlete Transfer

Coaches, team leaders, athletic department staff, and team members/representatives of any team shall not make contact in any manner (in-person communication, telephone calls and text messages, electronic communication, written correspondence) with a student athlete of another institution about transferring, directly or indirectly, without confirming the student athlete has been added to the transfer portal, regardless of who makes the initial contact.

Students interested in transferring are encouraged to have a discussion with their coach and school administration to make them aware of their desire to transfer. From there, students will need to submit their information to be added to the [online transfer portal on our website](#). The transfer portal permits student athletes to place their name in an online database declaring their desire to transfer.

Once submitted, we will notify the student's current coach of their intention to transfer and will add the student to the transfer portal. If the student indicates a college of interest, we will also notify the coach or team leader of that team of their desire to connect.

Student responsibility: Students should *not* speak to a new team **about transferring** (whether it be the coach, student leader, athletics staff, or team member) before adding their information to the transfer portal. It is highly recommended that a student interested in transferring should alert their coach and/or athletic department of their desire and intent to transfer before submitting their information to the portal.

Coach responsibility: Coaches should not engage in communication **about an athlete's transfer**, regardless of who makes the initial contact, with a student enrolled at another

institution without first confirming they have submitted their information to the transfer portal. A formal complaint made against a coach that does not follow the transfer rules will be reviewed by NCSSAA staff and may result in a suspension period for the team.

Transfer students will be permitted to compete immediately at their new institution, as long as the transfer policy has been followed. If the transfer is made without using the portal, students may be required to sit out up to one academic year. Students transferring in the *middle* of the academic year (between the fall and spring semesters) will be permitted to compete immediately, but under the following conditions:

- If the student qualified for Nationals under their original school, their eligibility will be lost once transferred to a new school. The student is still welcome to qualify to compete at Nationals, but the qualification will start over under the new team.
- One of the five auto-qualification positions is **not** able to be used on the transfer student.

If the student is able to transfer and meet the qualification requirements with the new team, they are welcome to compete at Nationals.

E. Recruiting

College coaches, team leaders, or team representatives (team members, athletic department staff, etc.) are not allowed to recruit students until they have completed the **first semester of ninth grade**. After students have completed their first semester of ninth grade, recruiting attempts can be made, assuming recruiting rules for the institution being represented are followed.

F. Coaches Council

In NCSSAA's inaugural season, the coaches council was selected by NCSSAA staff to help launch the program. However, at the 2023 NCSSAA National Championships, coaches will have the opportunity to vote in new representatives to sit on the coaches council. The following rules apply:

1. Each head coach or team leader that is affiliated with a member team is permitted to vote for *two* coaches to represent their division. Non members are not eligible to vote or serve on the coaches council.
2. The two coaches with the highest number of votes will be invited to sit on the council for the following season. Coaches are permitted to decline to serve on the council, and in that case the invitation will extend to the coach with the next highest number of votes.
3. Any ties will be broken by NCSSAA staff.
4. Votes will be required to be submitted before 11:59 p.m. MT on Saturday, March 18, 2023. Once confirmed, the 2023-24 season coaches council will be announced as part of the recap for Nationals.
5. Coaches can sit on the council for as many seasons as they would like, as long as they continue to be voted in by their peers.

G. Media Release

The National Collegiate Shooting Sports Athletic Association (NCSSAA) uses media (e.g. photographs, video, audio footage, testimonials) for publicity and marketing purposes. By participating in National Collegiate Shooting Sports Athletic Association (NCSSAA) events, you hereby agree and give your consent to the National Collegiate Shooting Sports Athletic Association (NCSSAA) to use such reproductions for publicity and marketing purposes in perpetuity without further consideration from you.

H. Code of Conduct

All individuals attending an NCSSAA competition (coaches, competitors, spectators, staff, etc.) are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner. In addition, all coaches and competitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rule book, for their own safety and the safety of others. The following actions will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification:

- Unprofessional behavior including but not limited to: cheating, verbal and/or physical abuse, harassment, or disruption of the competition.
- Refusal to accept rulings made by referees and/or shoot management.
- Any action or behavior deemed unsafe by NCSSAA staff.
- Inappropriate behavior considered detrimental to NCSSAA, the host range, the sport, the industry, and/or any colleges represented.
- Violation of any rules as outlined in the NGB rule books.

NCSSAA reserves the right to disqualify, suspend, and/or ban individuals or teams at their discretion.

I. Enforcement

It is the responsibility of everyone at a competition to report any violations of the rules as outlined to shoot management. Ideally, concerns should be addressed immediately onsite but individuals are also welcomed to report issues at any time. Should you need to report a violation or concern, please email info@futureusports.com.

J. Dress Code

Competitors are expected to dress in a manner that positively reflects the sport and the school they are representing. We ask that all competitors follow the following guidelines, as well as those put-forth by the NGBs:

- No open toed shoes (crocs are acceptable).
- Articles of clothing that are offensive in nature (sexual, explicit, etc.) are **not** permitted.
- Industry and/or school branded apparel is encouraged, specifically for the awards ceremony.

It is not in NCSSAA's interest to police what competitors are wearing at a competition, so long as their clothing does not interfere with safety. However, it is stressed that students should dress in a way that exhibits the professionalism, respect, and discipline of the sport. As shooting sports continue to be negatively highlighted, it's the responsibility of everyone involved to elevate the image of the sport.

SECTION II: SAFETY

It is the responsibility of everyone at a competition to conduct themselves and the shoot in a responsible and safe manner. In addition, it is everyone's responsibility to identify and address unsafe behavior. Referees, range staff, and shoot management maintain the responsibility and the right to address and advise any unsafe behavior with any competitor or coach. It is the shoot management's responsibility to remove any coach, competitor, or spectator that is behaving in an unsafe manner and putting themselves or others in danger, even if the behavior or action is not listed below. If you witness unsafe behavior at a competition, please alert shoot management as soon as possible.

The following safety guidelines are compiled from the NGB rule books as listed in the introduction. General safety rules are referenced to the specific rulebook from which they were pulled, but apply to all events at an NCSSAA competition.

A. General

1. All persons including competitors, referees/scorers, and trap personnel must wear appropriate eye and hearing protection while on a field. (ATA, IV.J.16)
2. All guns used by competitors must be equipped, fitted and utilized so as not to eject empty shells in a manner that substantially disturbs or interferes with other competitors. (ATA, IV.J.15)
3. It is everyone's responsibility to report any unsafe shooting condition or action immediately to shoot management. (NSCA, II.A.1)
4. Any type of listening device "ear-buds" or "ear-phones" in lieu of hearing protection is **strongly discouraged**. (modified from NSSA, III.G.1.b)
5. The loading of more than two shells in the gun shall not be allowed at any time. (NSSA, III.G.9)
6. The practice of resting the muzzle of a shotgun on one's toe is ill-advised and is strongly discouraged.
7. All guns must have the action opened and contain no live or empty shells at any time, except while the shooter is on the firing line. A break open gun's action may be closed when it is in a gun rack, but it shall not contain a live or empty shell. (ATA, IV.J.10)
 - a. No gun shall be loaded until the shooter is on the shooting station. Loaded is considered having any part of any shell in any gun. (NSSA, III.G.2)
 - b. When not on the shooting station, the gun shall be carried with breech open and empty. Pumps and automatics will have the bolt open. Fixed breech (double barrels including over-and-unders and side-by-sides) will be broken open and empty. (NSSA, III.G.6)
 - c. When the competitor is on the shooting station and ready to shoot and a delay occurs, such as equipment breakdown, the gun shall be opened and all shells extracted (NSSA, III.G.7)
8. As a safety precaution, test shots will not be permitted under any circumstance. (ATA, IV.J.11)
 - a. As a safety precaution, test shots will not be permitted without permission of the field referee. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. (NSSA, III.G.4)
9. All shotguns used in an NCSSAA competition must be equipped with a trigger guard. (NSSA, III.G.11)
10. Only competitors competing on a field at that time, referee/scorers or other shoot officials may be on an active field during a competition, unless a safety or emergency concern arises. (ATA, IV.J.19)
11. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to begin any event, station, and/or field with sufficient equipment, including safety equipment and ammunition. Failure to do so, which in the opinion of the referee will delay the shoot, will result in the loss of all targets as required to keep the competition moving. Make-up targets will be provided only at the discretion of the shoot officials. (NSCA, II.A.8)
12. Throwing of a gun will result in immediate disqualification from the shoot. (NSSA, III.G.3)
13. The loaded gun shall be kept pointed in a direction that will not endanger the lives of competitors, field personnel, or spectators. (NSSA, III.G.5)
14. In the event that a gun does not fire when the trigger is pulled, the competitor must hold the gun in a safe direction down range. Additionally, competitors must wait to break open the gun for a minimum of 20 seconds in case of a slow burn discharge. This rule supersedes that of the NGBs and is to simplify and clarify across all events.
15. A gun may not be used that will accept more than one gauge of shells at any time. (NSSA, III.G.10)
16. Any competitor whose gun accidentally discharges twice within one round for mechanical reasons shall be required to change guns or, if time permits, have their gun repaired, before continuing to shoot the round or subsequent rounds. (NSSA, III.G.13)

17. A competitor may not be assisted while in the act of shooting by any other shooter, coach, or the referee. For example, holding an umbrella over a shooter on the station or shielding a shooter on the station with a piece of cardboard to block the sun are not permitted. (NSSA, III.G.20)
18. Shoot Management will suspend all shooting under clearly unsafe weather conditions such as, but not limited to hailstorms, lightning and tornadoes. Shooting may resume when the condition has passed. When lightning is observed by any competition staff, a cease fire will be called immediately. This can be done by an announcement over the PA system, a long blast on an air horn, and/or cutting the power to all the fields. Shoot management will ensure that all fields are cleared of participants and staff, with all taking cover. Shoot management will continue to monitor lightning strikes, starting a new time clock with each observed strike. After a duration of 20 minutes with no strikes, shoot management will begin the process of returning the participants and staff to the fields to resume shooting. (NSSA, III.G.16)
19. No competitor shall be permitted to participate in any event while seated in or otherwise using a golf cart on the firing line or at a station. Single passenger conveyances are the appropriate means for participating should one require assistance due to permanent or temporary disability. (ATA, IV.J.17)

B. American Trap

1. A competitor shall place a live shell in their gun only when on a post facing the traps. In singles, they may place only one live shell in their gun at a time and must remove both live or empty shells before moving from one post to another. In changing from one post to another, it is highly recommended that the shooter shall not walk in front of the other competitors. (ATA, IV.J.12)
 - a. Snap caps or recoil reduction devices may be excluded from above only if colored a safety orange as to permanently identify them as not being a live or empty shell. (ATA, IV.J.13)
2. A contestant may hold their gun in any position. They must in no manner interfere with other shooters by raising their gun to point or otherwise create an observable distraction. (ATA, IV.J.14)
3. The practice of tracking targets behind a shooting squad is unsafe, disconcerting to the shooters, and is not permitted. (ATA, IV.J.7)

C. American Skeet

1. During the shooting of single targets, management may permit the loading of two shells. However, no one will be allowed to load two shells to shoot their last singles target on any station. Management cannot compel the loading of two shells in the shooting of singles. (NSSA, III.G.8)
2. When a competitor intentionally fires a second time at the same target, they shall be warned by the referee. The second time a competitor intentionally fires a second shot at the same target in any event, the penalty shall be automatic disqualification from the event. (NSSA III.G.14)

D. Sporting Clays

1. Spectators are required to wear eye and ear protection if on the course. (NSCA, II.A.2)
2. All competitors must engage all targets within the stand, in the standing position (with the exception of wheelchair shooters).
3. The shooter must fire with their gun shouldered for all targets. (NSCA, II.A.12)
4. The first person on every squad shall be allowed to view a good presentation of targets from within the shoot station. This is not limited to one pair. This person is the only person permitted to mount their unloaded gun and track the targets being viewed. (NSCA, II.A.7)
5. Safety Zone – when a competitor is in the process of shooting, no one (other than the referee) is allowed within three feet of the competitor. The three feet behind the competitor will extend along the entire station. (NSCA, II.A.16)

E. Alcohol and Drugs

The use of any drug, legal or illegal and including alcohol, prior to or during an NCSSAA event by a registered competitor or referee is prohibited, with the exception of prescription or non-prescription over-the-counter medications that do not impair a competitor's or referee's ability to perform safely. Shoot management reserves the right to disqualify and/or ban any competitor that prepares to compete or competes while exhibiting characteristics of impairment. The following classes of substances are banned:

- Stimulants
- Anabolic agents
- Alcohol and beta blockers
- Diuretics and other masking agents
- Narcotics
- Cannabinoids
- Peptide hormones, growth factors, related substances and mimetics
- Hormone and metabolic modulators
- Beta-2 agonists

Please note that any substance that is chemically/pharmacologically related to these classes also is banned.

SECTION III: ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

A. Responsibilities of Coaches and Competitors

It is the responsibility of coaches and competitors to read, ask questions, and comply with all match rules as noted in this rule book and other match documents.

B. Range Standards

NCSSAA will strive to work with the best ranges available, while also trying to reach as many teams as possible. An ideal range for a regional qualifier should have the following:

- A minimum of four or more skeet fields
- A minimum of four or more trap fields
- A sporting clays course with twelve or more stations

To host a National competition, ranges must have the ability to host up to 700 competitors in American Trap, Doubles Trap, American Skeet, Doubles Skeet, Sporting Clays, and Super Sporting. If you or anyone you know may be interested in hosting a regional or national event, please contact us at info@futureusports.com.

C. Specifications

The specifications for each event at each competition will be governed by their respective NGB. This information can be found as follows:

American Trap - [ATA Rulebook](#): XIII.A-F, pages 46-49

American Skeet - [NSSA Rulebook](#): I.A, I.C-D, I.F-H, pages 7-8

Sporting Clays - [NSCA Rulebook](#): VI.C-D, pages 34-36 and VII, pages 42-50

D. Inspection of Shotguns and Equipment

Match officials, referees, and NCSSAA staff reserve the right to inspect any equipment or ammunition in question.

E. Registration

Registration fees for 2022-23 NCSSAA Regional events are outlined in the match programs. Please note that this pricing does *not* apply to events sanctioned by NCSSAA; the host team is responsible for determining registration fees for their events. Registration fees for Nationals will be available in the match program for the event.

F. Cancellation

Registrations can be canceled and fully refunded prior to the registration deadline for each event. Registrations canceled after the registration deadline will be subject to a \$50 cancellation fee. Substitutions are encouraged and welcomed for regional events. For Nationals, substitutions can be made, but the substitute needs to have also qualified to compete.

G. Payments

Payment is due at the time of registration unless payment is made via check or ACH. If a team is unable to make payment at the time of registration, NCSSAA staff should be contacted and the team will be invoiced. Payment must be received prior to the start of the competition.

SECTION IV: DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are specific to the National Collegiate Shooting Sports Athletic Association. Additional definitions and information about the sport and specific events can be found in the rulebooks.

A. Qualification

1. Qualification

Refers to the action of meeting a specific score to become eligible to compete at the National competition. See Section VII.E for more information.

2. Auto-Qualifier

Each team receives five auto-qualifiers, which are athletes that are not required to meet qualification requirements to compete at Nationals. Coaches or team leaders are required to name their auto-qualifiers before January 31; this selection is made at the discretion of the coach or team leader. See Section VII.E for more information.

B. Events

1. Sanctioned Events

A sanctioned event is a college event that is approved by NCSSAA. Sanctioned events should follow the rules of NCSSAA, along with the rules of the ATA, NSSA, and NSCA.

2. Regional Qualifier

A Regional Qualifier is any NCSSAA that is organized and conducted by NCSSAA. These events will have NCSSAA staff onsite and scores from these events will count towards qualification scores for Nationals. All competitors must attend at least one Regional Qualifier to qualify for Nationals (if they aren't being counted as an auto-qualifier for their team).

3. National Championship

The National Championship is the final event of the season. All teams are welcome to bring five auto-qualifiers to Nationals, in addition to any other competitors that qualify for Nationals. The competition will rotate locations from year to year as registration demands and range capacities allow.

4. International Championship

The International Championship is the sole event hosted with the International disciplines. NCSSAA will host one International Championship each year. During this event, competitors are invited to compete in International Skeet and Bunker Trap.

SECTION V: EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

A. Guns and Ammunition

Guns and ammunition used during competition should fall in line with NGB rules and regulations.

American Trap - [ATA Rulebook](#): XIII.G, page 49

American Skeet - [NSSA Rulebook](#): I.B, page 7 and II.B.1, pages 12-13

Sporting Clays - [NSCA Rulebook](#): VII, page 42-43

B. Hearing/Eye Protection

1. All persons including competitors, referees/scorers, and trap personnel must wear appropriate eye and hearing protection while on a field. (ATA, IV.J.16)

SECTION VI: OFFICIALS AND SCORING

A. Duties of Officials

1. Referee

The referee is responsible for seeing that all aspects of the competition are conducted according to the rules on the field or station to which they are assigned. Specifically, the referee is responsible for ensuring compliance and understanding of the rules for the event they are overseeing. The referee also has jurisdiction over the shooters and any spectators on their field or at their station.

2. Range Officer

The range officer is in charge of the range and will conduct the firing of the match, being responsible for range safety and the enforcement of all rules. Duties include calling the shooters to the line, giving range commands, keeping proper time, supervising the working of the target mechanisms, maintaining order and safe conduct on the range, and being directly responsible to the jury or referee.

3. Scoring Officer

The scoring officer is responsible to the jury or referee. The scoring officer is responsible for the efficient, correct scoring and recording of all targets and scores and will be responsible for following these rules for scoring and for assessing any scoring penalties that may be required.

4. Scorers

Scorers are responsible to the scoring officer. Scorers will assist the scoring officer in the proper performance of the officer's duties. Competitors should not be used to score targets, with an exception made for self-scoring during sporting clays events.

5. Committee

Shoot management may organize a committee onsite as needed to address any concerns occurring at a competition. Should a committee be assembled, all parties must be in agreement of the decision made regarding the issue for which the committee was assembled.

B. Squadding

NCSSAA events will be self-squadded, except for International and Sporting Clays events. Per ISSF rules, International events will be auto-squadded by NCSSAA staff. NCSSAA staff will squad sporting clays events, keeping competitors from the same team within the same flight, but otherwise mixing the squads. American Trap and American Skeet squads will consist of five competitors, while Sporting Clays squads will consist of six competitors.

C. Scoring

Scoring at NCSSAA competitions will follow NGB rules and regulations. Scoring can be found in the following sections:

American Trap - [ATA Rulebook](#): VII, pages 26-31

American Skeet - [NSSA Rulebook](#): III.C, pages 30-31

Sporting Clays - [NSCA Rulebook](#): VII.F-G, pages 45-47

D. Challenges/Protests

Competitors are allowed to challenge a referee's decision, but must do so respectfully. In a situation in which a competitor disagrees with what was called by the referee, the competitor should challenge the score before they fire their next shot. Competitors should check their scores at the end of each round or station and should address any discrepancies before leaving the station or field. If a competitor fails to address a scoring issue or concern on the field, their score will remain unchanged. It is recommended that a competitor take a picture of their scorecard prior to leaving the field or course.

If needed, the competitor may ask for additional insight from a line referee and/or shoot management to assist in addressing any concerns with a referee. However, this must be done in a timely manner, and absolutely before leaving the field.

NCSSAA will, under no circumstances, tolerate the abuse or harassment of referees. Competitors that behave in such a way will be disqualified.

SECTION VII: CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

A. Competition

An NCSSAA collegiate competition consists of any onsite competition between collegiate teams. The competition includes both teams and individuals. Teams are determined based on the institution they represent, but only teams with five competitors will be recognized in team rankings. The team is not required to compete together as a squad and can be mixed with competitors from other teams.

B. Format

1. NCSSAA Sanctioned Events

A sanctioned event is a college event that is approved by NCSSAA. College teams are encouraged to offer NCSSAA sanctioned events throughout the season. These events can still operate as fundraisers or conference competitions. Scores from a sanctioned event count towards qualification for Nationals. Requirements for hosting an NCSSAA sanctioned event are as follows:

- a. Events must be approved by the NCSSAA Executive Director of Compliance and Competition and will be posted to the website once approval has been granted.
- b. Events should follow the format of regional qualifying events and must offer 100 targets in each discipline: Trap, Skeet, and Sporting. **Note:** Teams can split the disciplines across multiple weekends and coordinate the event with other schools, but the competition must be offered and advertised as a single event and should be shot on consecutive weekends. For example, one school may offer line games one weekend and teams may travel to another school the following weekend to shoot sporting clays.
- c. Competitions may offer more than 100 targets in each discipline, but please note that the **first** 100 targets shot will be the only scores that count towards qualification.
- d. Three or more teams must participate in the competition in order for scores to be used for qualification. Please note that if you need to shoot in the days leading up to an event due to capacity or for any other reason, **there must be at least two teams present and competing** to ensure scoring is fair.

- e. Squads for sporting clays must be split between teams if the event is self-scored.
- f. Team must be a member of NCSSAA to host an NCSSAA sanctioned event; teams attending a sanctioned event do *not* need to be members.

To apply to host an NCSSAA sanctioned event, please [visit our website](#).

2. NCSSAA Regional Qualifier

Regional Qualifiers will consist of 100 targets of each of the following events: American Trap, American Skeet, Sporting Clays. Please refer to the applicable Match Program for each competition to find additional details.

3. NCSSAA International Collegiate Championship

The International Championship will consist of 125 targets of each of the following events: International Skeet, Bunker Trap. Finals will be shot as part of the program at the International Championship. The International Championship will be governed by USA Shooting rules and regulations.

4. NCSSAA Collegiate National Championship

The NCSSAA Collegiate National Championship will consist of 100 targets of each of the following events: American Trap, Doubles American Trap, American Skeet, Doubles American Skeet, Sporting Clays, Super Sporting. Please refer to the applicable Match Program for additional details about the competition.

C. Time Allotted

The following time will be allotted to shoot each event:

- American Trap - 1 hour
- Doubles Trap - 45 minutes
- American Skeet - 1.5 hours
- Doubles Skeet - 1.5 hours
- Sporting Clays - 2.5 hours
- Super Sporting - 2.5 hours

D. Divisions

Looking to nationally recognized organizations, NCSSAA will follow NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA divisions for team and individual ranking. The breakdown is as follows:

Division I - Institution with NCAA Division I athletics

Division II - Institution with NCAA Division II athletics

Division III - Institution with NCAA Division III athletics

Division IV - Institution with NAIA athletics or private institution with no athletic designation

Division V - Institution with NJCAA athletics and all two-year institutions: junior college, community college, technical or trade school

E. Qualification

All teams are allowed auto-qualification for **five** athletes. These athletes are able to compete at Nationals without meeting a qualifying score. Auto-qualification applies to all events offered at Nationals. Outside of those athletes, teams are permitted to bring as many **qualified** athletes to Nationals as they would like. Qualification for Nationals is based on the following criteria:

- Qualification is based on the average of the **highest two scores** shot at NCSSAA regional or NCSSAA sanctioned events. This allows competitors to attend as many events as they would like to attempt to meeting qualification numbers in each event. **Please note that at least one qualifying score must come from an NCSSAA regional qualifier, even if the competitor shoots higher scores at sanctioned events.**
- Athletes must qualify for each event and do not automatically qualify for all events if qualification for one event is met. For example, a student may qualify for Trap, but if they did not qualify for Skeet or Sporting, they will not be allowed to compete in those two events at Nationals.
- Qualification numbers are as follows:
 - Trap - **86 and above**
 - Skeet - **86 and above**
 - Sporting - **70 and above**
- By qualifying in one of the core events, students will automatically qualify for its partner event at Nationals. For example, students that qualify for Trap will automatically qualify for Doubles Trap and can shoot either or both events. If students qualify for all three core events, they will qualify for all six events offered at Nationals.
- Any qualification scores that have a decimal will be rounded up. For example, if a student's two highest scores are an 85 and an 86, the 85.5 average score will be rounded up to 86.

Please note that military branch institutions are exempt from qualification requirements.

F. Disqualification

Shoot management reserves the right to disqualify any competitor onsite at an event if a violation of the rules has occurred. Upon receiving a complaint, NCSSAA staff perform a thorough investigation of the complaint made. Should staff determine a violation has occurred, the competitor may be disqualified from the competition and a further investigation will be conducted to determine additional disciplinary action.

G. Shoot-Offs

1. Format

Shoot-offs will be conducted for ties in the individual events for placement of first through third in both men's and women's categories. Each event will follow miss-and-out format:

American Trap/Doubles Trap - Competitors will randomly draw a shooting position. Each person will shoot two targets per station, miss and out by target. If there happens to be multiple competitors that miss and are tied for a placement of third place, the tied competitors will leave the line so that the first and second places can be determined. Once first and second places are determined, the third-place shoot-off will start over redrawing positions and shooting two targets per station, miss and out.

American Skeet/Doubles Skeet - Competitors will shoot doubles from stations 3, 4, and 5. They will shoot miss-and-out by target until places have been determined.

Sporting Clays/Super Sporting - Competitors will shoot 5 pairs for a total of 10 targets. In the event that competitors are still tied after shooting these targets, they will begin a sudden death, miss-and-out by pairs until places have been determined.

Individual HOA – Shoot-offs to break a tie for Individual HOA will be conducted with one field and with a total of 30 targets. The shoot-off will proceed as follows:

- American Trap Doubles: 5 pair, one pair at each post

- American Skeet Doubles: 5 pair, one pair at each station in the following order: 3, 4, 5, 4, 4
- Sporting Clays: 5 pairs from two randomly placed machines

Team HOA – The format above will be used but with each competitor (of the five that contributed to the team HOA) shooting one pair of targets from each discipline.

Shoot management reserves the right to make adjustments to shoot-off procedures at any time during the competition, as long as all parties involved in the shoot-off are in agreement.

2. Reporting to the range/range commands

Competitors involved in a shoot-off for an event at an NCSSAA competition will be called using the PA system to the designated shoot-off field/location. It is the responsibility of the competitor to pay attention and listen for this announcement, as they will have 15 minutes to arrive at the shoot-off location. If the competitor does not arrive within the 15-minute timeframe, they will be recorded as a no-show.

H. Final Results

1. Recognitions and Awards

Recognition and awards will vary depending on the type of event hosted and will be outlined in the match program. Note that host teams of sanctioned events are responsible for determining what awards they would like to offer at the competition and are not required to follow the same format as NCSSAA. To find out what awards will be given at an NCSSAA sanctioned event, please contact the host team. For information about awards for regional events and Nationals, please refer to the applicable match program.

2. Results

Results for all NCSSAA competitions will be posted on the website at www.ncssaa.com.

I. Competition Operations

Competitions will follow NGB rules and regulations for all NCSSAA competitions. Details as to where to find the specific rules and regulations in each rulebook are listed below.

1. Target Setting

American Trap - [ATA Rulebook](#): XIII.A-F, pages 46-49
American Skeet - [NSSA Rulebook](#): I.A, I.F-G, pages 7-8
Sporting Clays - [NSCA Rulebook](#): VI.C-D, page 35

2. Positions

American Trap - [ATA Rulebook](#): IV.E.1-3, page 12 and III.J.14, page 16
American Skeet - [NSSA Rulebook](#): III.A.1-2, page 26
Sporting Clays - [NSCA Rulebook](#): VII.E.4, page 45

3. Malfunctions

American Trap - [ATA Rulebook](#): IV.J.9, page 16
American Skeet - [NSSA Rulebook](#): III.D, pages 31-34
Sporting Clays - [NSCA Rulebook](#): VII.H, pages 47-50

4. Slow/Late Squads

In Trap and Skeet, shoot management reserves the right to move a squad to another field should a breakdown occur and/or a squad runs over their time limit. In American Skeet, competitors have 10 seconds from when they step into the box to make their call. In singles, competitors

have 10 seconds between shots. Excessive time delays from all squad members (taking more than the allotted 10 seconds) may result in the squad being moved to another field or disqualification. Excessive delays from an individual may result in lost targets, if continuing to cause delays after warning from the referee.

The report time to a designated field or station for each rotation for all events is 15 minutes prior to the scheduled rotation time. Late arrivals will be worked into the competition as dictated by shoot management; late arrivals can and may be assigned penalties at the discretion of shoot management.

5. Coaching

Coaching by coaches during competition is prohibited. However, squad mates can encourage and assist each other on sporting and skeet where it does not disrupt the flow of the competition.

6. Penalties

Shoot management reserves the right to issue penalties to competitors at their discretion.



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