



# USAYESS GUIDEBOOK

## *2024 - 2025 Guidebook*

As a member of USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports Organization (USAYESS) you are participating in the most inclusive Youth Competitive Shooting Program in the country.

### **IMPORTANT INFO**

- USAYESS Competitions
- State Championships
- Awards
- Shoot-Offs Info

**Guidebook Revised**  
September - 2024



USAYESS is a non-profit organization and the nation's premier and only all-inclusive youth program which introduces, grows, supports, and educates youth, and their families to firearm safety, shooting sports and wildlife conservation and habitat. USAYESS is celebrating over 10 years of excellence!

### Our Mission

USAYESS exists to develop, grow, and support state foundations and associations that use hands-on events, shooting sports, wildlife habitat and conservation programs and introduces and educates youth and their families about safe firearm handling, shooting sports, and outdoor conservation and other outdoor activities.

### Vision

USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports is dedicated to educating youth about outdoor activities primarily through partnerships with Key Conservation Groups as well as local, state, regional, and national competitive youth shooting organizations. Establishing state governance allows each state to grow and adjust their program as they see fit. Our data has shown that boots on the ground do a much better job in implementing and growing their program.

### Philosophy and Values

Today's youth are the caretakers of the future. Therefore, it is important that young adults and their families be exposed to and develop an understanding of responsibility to the outdoors.

USAYESS provides events that showcase safety of equipment, and outdoor activities in a fun filled atmosphere. USAYESS will ensure the transformation and educational potential of student athletes with opportunities to practice and compete on a level playing field, and we are committed that those athletic opportunities involve new skills, developing individual goals, planning, potential, and fostering an appreciation of collaboration and teamwork in the competitive arena of athletics. Our member athletes are students first, and foremost.

The well-being of our student athletes is first and foremost. USAYESS strives to develop programs and events that encourage boys and girls to develop camaraderie, practice habits of mind and body that encourage healthy living and learn valuable life lessons. Every member will strive for excellence in all programs and events; however, we recognize that an excessive emphasis on winning can corrupt true learning and academic values. USAYESS believes that both victory and defeat teach valuable life lessons.

Athletes are students first and athletes second. We hope that athletic competition and outdoor activities foster respect for others, sportsmanship, competition, teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. The priority of our program is to develop young men and women of character who are transformed by their experience in athletic competition and outdoor activities and then transfer the lessons they learned to lives of service to others and their community.

# From the President

Welcome to USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports (USAYESS). As the premier all-inclusive shotgun sports program for youth from 5th grade through college, USAYESS is dedicated to nurturing talent, fostering growth, and ensuring a safe, supportive environment for every participant.



This guidebook serves as a comprehensive resource for the policies and procedures that underpin our program. It is designed to provide clarity and guidance, helping coaches and athletes navigate the structure of our sport while upholding the high standards we set for safety, respect, and excellence.

For our coaches, this guidebook outlines the framework within which you will mentor and lead our young athletes. Your role is crucial in shaping their experiences and instilling the values of discipline, sportsmanship, and teamwork. The policies herein are crafted to support you in delivering a rewarding and impactful experience for every participant.

To our athletes, this guidebook is your companion on the journey towards skill development and personal achievement. It details the expectations and standards that will help you excel in your sport while maintaining the integrity and respect that define USAYESS. Embrace these principles and let them guide you in both your competitive and personal growth.

As we continue to expand and evolve, we all must remain committed to the core values of our organization. Safety, inclusivity, and a passion for the sport are at the heart of everything we do. By adhering to these guidelines, we ensure that USAYESS remains a place where every participant can thrive and enjoy the sport of shotgun shooting.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to USAYESS. Together, let us continue to build a strong, supportive community and celebrate the accomplishments of our talented young shooters.

Sincerely,

President, USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports (USAYESS)



USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports

**Together, we are making a difference.**

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# Welcome

## Welcome to USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports!

As a member of the USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports Organization (USAYESS), you are part of the nation's most inclusive Youth Competitive Shooting Program. USAYESS stands out as a Youth Development Program that fosters positive life skills through the safe handling of firearms, wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation programs, competitive shooting sports, and a range of other outdoor activities.

Becoming a member of USAYESS has many benefits, but you do not need to belong to USAYESS to participate in our events. USAYESS formally partners with the MidwayUSA Foundation and other organizations that promote youth marksmanship and outdoor activities.

USAYESS was founded in 2012 and is the only all-inclusive national youth outdoor program that offers all six major shotgun disciplines. USAYESS introduces educational outdoor conservation activities to elementary and high school youth. With industry partnerships and other relationships across the country, the total number of young shooters that USAYESS reaches is in the thousands.

In addition to running outdoor programs, USAYESS is a 501(c)(3) educational foundation that raises funds and other resources to support youth shooting programs and outdoor conservation activities. Our premier partner, MidwayUSA Foundation, has always been and continues to be a very consistent financial supporter of USAYESS and other youth and collegiate outdoor and shooting programs. Because the shooting and hunting industry understands that today's youth are the future of our sport, we enjoy tremendous support from the industry. We know that by working together, we can make a difference.

The backbone of USAYESS is undoubtedly the athletes, parents, family members, and volunteers who organize and run the program on a local and state level with support from the national foundation. The success of any youth program hinges on dedicated and passionate volunteers working in a leadership and guidance role. The significant time, energy, and financial resources these individuals contribute to the program are commendable, and USAYESS deeply appreciates and respects their efforts. The adults in our program quickly understand the value of their contribution when they meet the exceptional athletes that our program produces. The youth who participate in USAYESS are among the finest examples of America's youth, becoming the next generation of citizens and leaders who will shape the future of our state and nation. With this goal in mind, the work of our volunteers is especially important and highly rewarding.

This is your program, meaning a national organization does not control it. USAYESS has no agendas and does not favor any state, region, company, or organization. We are here to serve and support the athletes and adult volunteers. If it is important to you, it is important to us!

We appreciate your interest in the USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports. Why not take the next step and start a team today? Your involvement could make a significant difference in the lives of our youth and the future of our sport.



# USAYESS Leadership

## **Brian Beard - President / Executive Director**



Brian assures all meetings, and USAYESS national functions are conducted orderly and follow organization policies and procedures. Brian also organizes and maintains corporate records and ensures the organization follows all legal and regulatory requirements. When Brian isn't being the serious leader, he will often be found off goofing around with the youth in the program.

## **Tim Sellin - Executive Vice President**



Tim assists Brian in Presidential duties and helps guide and direct the organization. In addition, Tim's experience in youth shooting sports, and USAYESS particularly, is called upon often as questions or concerns in various aspects of the program arise. Tim is also the USAYESS lead safety coordinator and is responsible for ensuring all athletes and coaches know what is expected of them prior to shooting an event.

## **Ellie Sellin - Executive Vice President**



Ellie also assists Brian in Presidential duties and helps guide and direct the organization. In addition, Ellie is the technical consultant on all event mechanics from registration, to iClays, to trophies. Her history with USAYESS and the late Mike Borg has been critical in keeping the organization moving towards achieving its corporate goals. Ellie is also the mom of the Board of Directors and is always concerned with our wellbeing and good cheer.

## **Talia Darby - Board Member**



Talia Darby was introduced to competitive shooting at the age of 14. Talia had the opportunity to be coached by some of the world's best and was the nation's first NRA Level I Junior Shotgun Instructor. Talia has been very successful in the shooting world; Two-Time SCTP National Champion, California State Skeet Champion, Zone 7 Skeet Champion, Four-Time Collegiate National Champion (Lindenwood University), and NSSA World Champion. Talia is the daughter of our late President, Mike Borg.

## **Gina Bischoff - Board Member**



Gina provides comedy relief for the Board of Directors! Gina resides in Colville, WA, with her family. She enjoys the outdoors and volunteers with key conservation groups such as the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the local youth marksmanship program and other community organizations. Gina is the daughter of our late President, Mike Borg.

## Scott Ackley - State Advisory Board Chairman



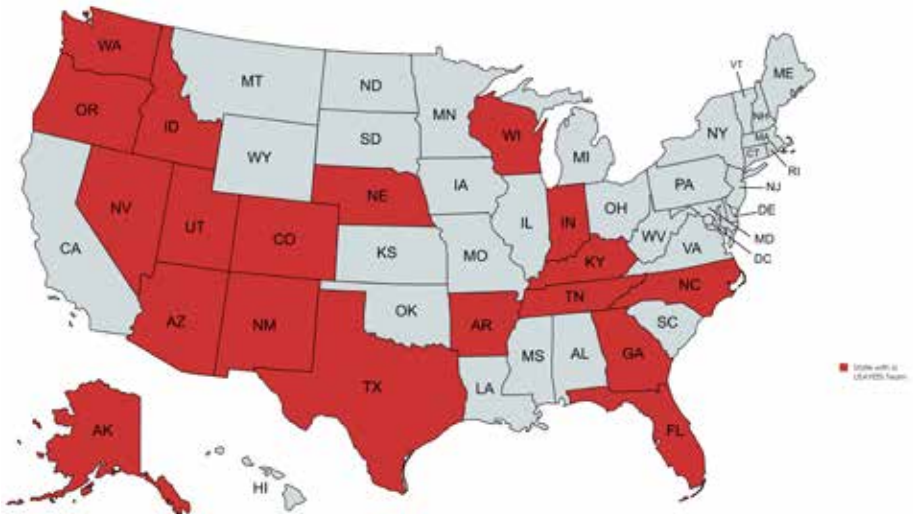
Scott oversees the USAYESS State Advisory Board, which meets at least annually to discuss the organization's progress and any changes they may be needed. Scott started as a coach for Ruby Mountain Clay Breakers when his daughter was shooting in the program and has been hooked in USAYESS ever since.

## Matt Reich - Chief Operations Officer



Matt oversees the day-to-day operations of USAYESS. Mostly he's a big troublemaker.

## States with USAYESS Teams



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# **USAYESS Program Information**

## **THE FOUNDATION**

USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports Foundation (USAYESS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational foundation. USAYESS provides administrative support and guidance for its teams and members. USAYESS receives major funding from Larry and Brenda Potterfield, MidwayUSA, MidwayUSA Foundation, Industry Partners, other corporations, and organizations.

## **GOVERNING BODY**

USAYESS is governed by a Board of Directors, which comprises individuals who have hands-on experience in youth shooting programs. The State Advisory Committee assists the Board of Directors. The committee is composed of the President of each state's partner or a state-appointed representative. USAYESS believes that USAYESS's role is one of support and serves at the direction of its members and/or operates from the bottom up. The role of the national foundation is as the national governing body to affiliate/partner state organizations. WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

## **STATE FOUNDATIONS AND OR ASSOCIATIONS**

USAYESS encourages each state to have its youth shooting sports foundation, for example, the Washington Youth Shooting Sports Foundation (WAYESS). We strongly suggest and aid states interested in developing their websites. The role of the national foundation as the national governing body to affiliate state organizations is to implement, grow, support, and keep structure within both the national and state organizations. Each state should have a goal of being financially self-sufficient and help build brand recognition. USAYESS recommends that the board of directors be no more than five, have no executive committee, and have an advisory committee consisting of the head coach of each team in the state. For a state organization to be considered a USAYESS State partner, the state should have a minimum of five (5) USAYESS registered teams, with five (5) athletes per team. The state should host one (1) annual State YESS Jr Clay Target Championship consisting of American Skeet, American Trap, and Sporting Clays. Where available, International Skeet and Trap Singles may be included as separate events. States may not require their members to become members of any national governing body, may not host registered youth tournaments, and ensure that all youth tournaments are stand-alone events. Tournaments should be open to all youth organizations which have a competitive shooting program. The states may charge non-USAYESS member fees at their events. The state should, if invited, have representation at the MidwayUSA Annual State Partner Conference and participate in the annual USAYESS State Partner and Affiliate phone conference. The state organization must promote USAYESS and show annual USAYESS program growth. States are also encouraged to host one annual Family Outdoor Experience event and one annual team Break-A-Clay Day fundraiser.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To use hands-on events, shooting sports, wildlife, and habitat conservation programs to introduce and educate young people about safe firearm handling, and outdoor activities that they and their families can share for a lifetime.

## **VISION**

USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports is dedicated to growing youth competitive shooting teams primarily through partnerships with Key Conservation Groups as well as local, state, regional, and national competitive youth shooting organizations.

## **PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES**

Today's youth are the caretakers of the future. Therefore, young adults and their families must be exposed to and develop an understanding of responsibility to the outdoors. USAYESS provides events that showcase the safety of equipment, and outdoor activities in a fun-filled atmosphere. USAYESS will ensure the transformation and educational potential of student-athletes with opportunities to practice and compete on a level playing field, and we are committed that those athletic opportunities involve new skills, developing individual goals, planning, potential, and fostering an appreciation of collaboration and teamwork in the competitive arena of athletics. Our member athletes are students first, and foremost.

The well-being of our student-athletes is first and foremost. USAYESS strives to develop programs and events that encourage boys and girls to develop camaraderie, practice habits of mind and body that encourage healthy living, and learn valuable life lessons. Every member will strive for excellence in all programs and events; however, we recognize that an excessive emphasis on winning can corrupt true learning and academic values. USAYESS believes that both victory and defeat teach valuable life lessons. Athletes are students first and athletes second. We hope that athletic competition fosters respect for others, sportsmanship, competition, teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. The priority of our program is to develop educated young men and women of character who are transformed by their experience in athletic competition and then transfer lessons they learned on the athletic fields to lives of service to others.

## **PROGRAM DESIGN**

Youth from elementary grades through high school are eligible to participate in various safe, educational, and enjoyable programs. USAYESS has a program for just about anyone. The Family Outdoor Experience is designed to introduce the entire family to the wonders of shooting sports and outdoor life. USAYESS Youth Clay Target Cup Series offers a competitive shooting environment in American Skeet, American Trap, Sporting Clays, 5-Stand, and International Trap and Skeet. USAYESS competitive programs are ideally suited for school-sponsored teams, and club teams. There is no other sport that is safer or offers a "level playing field" for gender participation as the shooting sports. USAYESS is a perfect fit for youth organizations such as 4-H, FFA, PAL, Scouts, and Youth Clubs, etc... Any youth organization, which has a competitive shooting program is welcome to participate in USAYESS events, membership is not a requirement.

## **ADULT LEADERSHIP**

The program is led by trained and dedicated adult volunteers who are committed to providing, promoting, and encouraging opportunities for young athletes to participate in a high-quality team-based sport or activity. USAYESS coaches and volunteers take the role of being a good role model to athletes very seriously. All adult volunteers who have direct contact with athletes must submit to an annual comprehensive background check. Volunteers are expected to emulate and uphold high moral and ethical standards of personal conduct.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

It is important that everyone involved remembers that the priority of all USAYESS programs is to teach positive life skills to young adults. Even though winning is important, winning ethically and with integrity is more important. Playing by the rules, exhibiting good sportsmanship, and being a responsible Team Member, are the bedrock values of USAYESS. It is the DUTY of everyone involved in USAYESS –Coaches, Parents, Family members, and Athletes - to set good examples.



**JOIN  
TODAY!**

FIND A TEAM NEAR YOU

**REGISTER NOW**

**[WWW.USAYESS.ORG](http://WWW.USAYESS.ORG)**



# Governance of the USAYESS Program

## USAYESS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

As the national governing body, the USAYESS national program staff handles the administration of the USAYESS Organization. USAYESS is committed to optimizing participation opportunities for USAYESS Athletes. The USAYESS Board of Directors controls the National Staff.

### USAYESS NATIONAL STAFF

#### **PRESIDENT / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The President and Chief Executive Officer is the Executive Director. The primary focus of the President is to ensure the National Program is run in accordance with the direction of the Board of Directors. In addition, the executive director may hire consultants or other professionals from time to time to help with the administration of the national program.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

The Vice-President supports the President and Chief Executive Officer in executing the strategic vision and operational directives set by the Board of Directors. While the President is responsible for the overall administration and direction of the National Program, the Vice-President steps in to assist with key responsibilities and takes on specific projects or tasks as delegated. This role often involves overseeing particular areas of the program or stepping into the President's role during their absence. The Vice-President ensures continuity in leadership and contributes to the effective management and execution of the National Program's goals and initiatives.

#### **CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) is a cornerstone of the USAYESS organization, pivotal in managing the day-to-day operations and ensuring operational efficiency. While the President and Vice-President focus on strategic oversight, the COO is dedicated to implementing these strategies on the ground. Their primary responsibilities include serving as a key resource for USAYESS members and facilitating the growth of USAYESS states and the expansion of teams within those states. By overseeing operational procedures and coordinating between various departments, the COO ensures that all activities align with the organization's goals. This role is crucial in translating strategic plans into actionable operations, addressing operational issues, and supporting the overall development and effectiveness of the USAYESS program.

#### **MARKETING DIRECTOR**

The Marketing Director is in charge of marketing the USAYESS brand. The Marketing Director does this through a combination of Internet, social media, email and print advertising. The Marketing Director may also assist USAYESS State Organizations in their advertising efforts.

## **USAYESS STATE ORGANIZATIONS**

USAYESS recommends that each state form a state Youth Education in Shooting Sports association with 501(c)(3) status. The state committee is responsible for operating the program at the state level, including fundraising and sponsorships. This includes but is not limited to the administration of the state program, organizing, and staffing the state events, handling protests and appeals from coaches and athletes in their respective states, and recommending state directors to the national organization. State directors should be members of the State Youth Shooting Sports Committee. States may adjust the program as they see it will best fit their state goal to help grow the USAYESS program within their state.

### **USAYESS STATE EVENTS**

All USAYESS state affiliates play a crucial role in the success of our organization by hosting the prestigious USAYESS State Championship annually. This event, open to all youth organizations with a competitive shooting program, is a stand-alone tournament that showcases the talent and dedication of our young shooters. We encourage the hosting of all three American venues American Skeet, Sporting Clays, and American Trap, at one location, where possible, to create a unified and memorable experience.

### **STATE DIRECTORS**

It is recommended that each of the disciplines that are represented in the state should have a state director. The disciplines represented would usually be American Trap, American Skeet, Sporting Clays, and the International Games. The state director is responsible for administering the discipline in that state. State directors are required to work with other state directors for the overall good of the program. State directors are expected to provide their state association and head coaches with up-to-date program information, maintain open lines of communication with teams and gun clubs, work with the state wildlife agencies and conservation groups to develop cooperative agreements, and work with the state NGB association to grow and develop the program.

The state directors are appointed annually by their state association and must reapply yearly with the National Organization. There are no automatic renewals from one year to the next. The state director must be a certified coach, a supporter of the USAYESS program, and experienced in coaching and refereeing the respective discipline.

The National Program may or may not choose to reinstate a regional director of development, state director, head coach, assistant coach, or adult volunteer with or without cause. If an individual is not reappointed, the individual may appeal the decision to the USAYESS Board of Directors, which will have the final say.



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## **PROGRAM CHANGES**

USAYESS encourages and welcomes its members to make recommendations that they feel may help simplify and or improve the program. Recommended changes must be sent to the State Advisory Board Chairperson. All recommendations will be reviewed and discussed with the State Advisory Board during the annual conference call and then will be reviewed by the USAYESS Board of Directors. The USAYESS Board will review and may make some changes before implementing any recommendations. Changes will be implemented in the upcoming year. The State Advisory Board Chairperson may contact the person making the recommendation for further clarification if need be.

## **REPRESENTATION**

USAYESS state associations, USAYESS teams, other organizations, and individuals cannot use the national organization to solicit financial contributions or in-kind items from third parties. In addition, the national organization's 501(c)(3) status is not transferable and cannot be used to solicit contributions that are used by anyone other than the national organization. If a state is interested in applying for a 501(c)(3) they should contact the national organization. Any exception to the above policy must be in writing and signed by the Executive Director and CEO.

No state affiliate or team may use any USAYESS logos or the likes thereof or mention in mention USAYESS in any literature, marketing material, or promotional material in any way when hosting a non-USAYESS supported event and or tournament. USAYESS will not support events with no USAYESS member participation.

## **TAX DEDUCTIBLE STATUS**

USAYESS organizations must be careful about claims of tax deductibility when soliciting funds for local and state events. USAYESS is an organization built on integrity. Before making claims of tax-deductible donations, state and local affiliates should check with their local financial advisors. The national USAYESS organization is not responsible for any action taken by state or local USAYESS affiliates. The state and local affiliates shall be solely responsible for collecting, recording, disseminating, substantiating, and reporting all contributions or support they receive. Teams are encouraged to be state non-profit. This can be accomplished by going to the Secretary of State's website and filling in for non-profit status within the state.



# General Program Policies and Procedures

These rules are set forth to ensure the safe and equitable treatment of all USAYESS participants. The Athlete's enjoyment and safety is our number one concern.

## NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

All USAYESS competitive events, including State, Regional, and National Championships, will be conducted following the rules for each of the clay target disciplines as set forth by the appropriate National Governing Body (NGB).

See NGBs listed below:

American Skeet	National Skeet Shooting Association	NSSA	<a href="http://www.nssa-nsca.org">www.nssa-nsca.org</a>
Sporting Clays	National Sporting Clays Association	NSCA	<a href="http://www.nssa-nsca.org">www.nssa-nsca.org</a>
American Trap	Amateur Trapshooting Association	ATA	<a href="http://www.shootata.com">www.shootata.com</a>
Olympic Disciplines	USA Shooting	USAS	<a href="http://www.usashooting.org">www.usashooting.org</a>

## PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

### ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all school-age boys and girls in 5th grade through college if not prohibited by local or state law. Participants must be physically, mentally, and emotionally mature enough to participate safely and responsibly. USAYESS's program eligibility ends after graduation from high school or once a student reaches their 19th birthday, whichever comes first. A graduating senior can participate for the remaining part of the year that they graduate from high school, regardless of age. Some states have a minimum legal age requirement for handling and using firearms – check your state laws!

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The Athlete must be academically eligible to participate and must meet eligibility criteria established by their school. The Athlete must maintain a 2.0 GPA and be passing all their courses to participate in local, state, regional, or national events. The head coach is responsible for enforcing grade checks within their teams.

### COLLEGIATE PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Collegiate participants may participate in USAYESS events. Collegiate athletes must meet the following academic and eligibility requirements: Athletes must have a valid college I.D. Athletes should not be considered professional shooters/athletes in any shooting sport (this includes receiving a salary or other payment to shoot as a part of a job. This does not apply to competition, tuition reimbursement, or equipment funding).

1. Athletes must abide by the USAYESS Code of Conduct.
2. Athletes must abide by the USAYESS dress code in effect.

All undergraduate participants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 as of the academic term in which they qualified for the program; for graduate students, 3.0 cumulative GPA.

All participants must be enrolled as of the academic term in which they qualified for the program for at least nine degree-seeking credit hours (six credits for graduate students).

All undergraduate and graduate student participants must be enrolled as a student in good conduct standing at the institution they represent, as determined by the institution in which they are currently enrolled.

*NOTE: Collegiate athletes will not compete against youth participants. College athletes will compete for Individual awards only UNLESS a team registers a full squad of collegiate athletes that shoot together; in which case the squad may compete for Collegiate Squad awards. Collegiate athletes will not be counted for Team awards.*

## **DIVISIONS**

Coaches, your role in ensuring the correct classification of your athletes is crucial and greatly valued. Please remember it is your responsibility to ensure that your athletes are classified correctly! Please verify all squad rosters at the beginning of each event you attend. Incorrectly classified athletes will result in re-classification of that squad to the “Open Division” if applicable, or, in the case that “Open Division” does not exist, the disqualification of that Athlete and/or their squad. Athletes will not be re-classed after trophy reports begin getting generated.

Athletes can be bumped up one division for a tournament. Once bumped up for a tournament, the Athlete will remain in that division throughout the entire tournament, for all competitions, including the individual, squad, and team categories. The bumped-up Athlete may, after the tournament, be moved back into his or her original grade division. If the Athlete’s school grade is beyond their age, for safety, the Athlete may be required to compete in the normally accepted age group. All athletes shall compete in their current grade until the new school year begins. No bump-ups into the college division are allowed.

## **USAYESS DIVISIONS**

Novice	6th Grade and Below
Intermediate	7th – 8th Grades
Jr Varsity	9th Grade and first-year high school competitors
Senior	10th-12th Grades
Collegiate	Enrolled in college and meeting Academic Eligibility

## **COLLEGIATE CLAY TARGET DIVISIONS**

Some events may use different divisions for collegiate athletes.

Open	Top average score of 95 or above
A	85-94
B	75-84
C	74 or below

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **HONOR THE GAME, TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT, AND FOLLOW THE RULES!**

Each registered USAYESS participant, whether Athlete, Coach, or Adult Volunteer, represents not only USAYESS but also the entire USAYESS Program, including one's team, the team's sponsoring institution (e.g., school, club, church, community organization, youth organization, etc.), and their state. Promoting a positive image is in the best interest of the USAYESS and everyone involved. Appropriate behavior and clothing for everyone associated with USAYESS goes a very long way in making a positive impression.

## **THE CODE FOR LIVING**

### **LIFE PRINCIPLES LEARNED THROUGH SPORTS**

Because I am a role model and have the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in the lives of others, I commit to this Code.

- I will take responsibility and appropriate actions when I fail to live up to it.
- As an individual:
  - I will develop my skills to the best of my ability and give my best effort in practice and competition.
  - I will compete within the spirit and letter of the rules of my sport.
  - I will respect the dignity of every human being and will not be abusive or dehumanizing of another either as an athlete or as a fan.
- As a member of a team:
  - I will place team goals ahead of personal goals.
  - I will be a positive influence on the relationships on the team.
  - I will follow the team rules established by the coach.
- As a member of society:
  - I will display caring and honorable behavior off the field and be a positive influence in my community and world.
  - I will give my time, skills, and money as I am able for the betterment of my community and world.

## **ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS**

The use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited for any USAYESS athlete.

The consumption of alcohol by USAYESS athletes under the age of 21 is strictly prohibited. No illegal drugs and or alcohol are allowed at any USAYESS-sanctioned event or on any property where a USAYESS-sanctioned event is being held. Violating this rule may result in immediate disqualification from an event without appeal or refund of any entry fees. In Some cases, this rule could also result in total suspension from the program.

## **TOBACCO AND NICOTINE USE**

Tobacco and/or nicotine in any form is strictly prohibited at any USAYESS event or practice by athletes. Use by adult volunteers is strongly discouraged (including any form of e-cigarettes or “vapor” products, with or without nicotine). The use of tobacco or nicotine products by anyone under the age of 18 at any time may result in suspension from the program.

## **DRESS CODE**

The dress code is designed to provide safety, be professional, as well as respect individuality, be conducive to learning, and preserve the dignity of each student who participates. For reference, the USAYESS dress code encompasses most of those items spelled out for U.S. Olympic shooting sports athletes with leniencies deemed appropriate for our level of competition. Team uniforms are highly encouraged.

**TOPS** – No sleeveless shirts are permitted. The sleeves must be at least four (4) inches long. Items of clothing that expose any part of the torso are prohibited. These include, but are not limited to, cutoff T-shirts, halter tops, tank tops, etc.

**BOTTOMS** – Shorts may not be shorter than fingertips. Leggings may be worn, but they must be athletic leggings. No tights. Short and low-riding pants revealing undergarments or buttocks are prohibited. Shorts and slacks must be worn at the waist.

**CLOTHING ADORNMENTS** – Shirts, hats, pants – any clothing – and any other associated items such as shooting bags or gear with pictures, caricatures, designs, messages, writings, or other embellishments with direct or indirect references to alcohol, politics, tobacco, sex or sexual connotations, drugs, gambling, or profanities are prohibited. Military-style camouflage attire is strictly prohibited. Pants may not have any style of camo. If in doubt, send a picture of the uniform to the USAYESS national office for approval. Dress neatly and respectfully. Colorful and fun designs are highly encouraged.

**SHOES** – Shoes must be closed-toe and have full backs. Flip-flops and sandals are not allowed.

## **COACHES:**

**You are expected to uphold and enforce this dress and conduct code!**

Athletes who violate the Dress Code may be given one (1) warning, and subsequent violations will result in disqualification from competing for awards. Any team with three such violations at any one shoot will be disqualified from competing for both individual, squad, and team awards.

Parents and spectators are **STRONGLY** encouraged to wear clothing acceptable under the Dress Code and consider appropriate attire for a youth shooting event. We are all ambassadors of our families, teams, USAYESS, and the shooting sports. Dressing appropriately reflects on the outside the pride and respect that we have inside.

## **SAFETY**

### **TREAT EVERY GUN AS IF IT WERE LOADED AT ALL TIMES.**

The top priorities of USAYESS are safety and fun. Safety is everyone's responsibility. The assured reliance on character, ability, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, dignity, respect, and truthfulness for each and every USAYESS member will help create an entrusted safe environment that everyone will enjoy. Every USAYESS event will have a safety meeting before the start

### **EYE & EAR PROTECTION**

Eye and ear protection is required for athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators who are ahead of the shooting line.

Earbuds like Apple® AirPods Pro® or similar devices are not permitted. **Noise-canceling does not equal hearing protection.** Earbuds, AirPod (basic or Pro), or any trade-named version will not be allowed as hearing protection at any USAYESS-sanctioned event or practice.

Headphones are not considered ear protection. Should ear protection have headphones embedded in it, they must be corded and unplugged, with the cord hanging outside the clothing. Athletes may not listen to music while shooting. Bluetooth-style ear protection is not allowed, as event referees and judges cannot know if the device is on or off.

#### **Eye protection must be safety-rated.**

Athletes without the required hearing and/or eye protection will not be permitted to participate until they have the necessary protection in place. This strict policy is in place to ensure the safety of all participants and spectators.

*Apple, AirPods, and AirPods Pro are registered trademarks of Apple Inc.*

### **HAT SHOOTING**

Club approval must be obtained for athletes to shoot their first hats. Any hat shooting must be conducted at the end of the day's events, at the same field, and under the supervision of at least one adult.

### **RECREATIONAL VEHICLES/ATVs/GOLF CARTS/TRUCKS**

All drivers must be 16 years of age or older and have with them a valid Department of Motor Vehicles driver's license to operate/drive a golf cart, ATV, or other motorized means of transportation allowed by the facility during a USAYESS-sanctioned event. All passengers must be seated. Two seaters/two people, four seaters/four people. Sitting on the tailgate while the vehicle is in motion is not allowed, and neither is sitting or standing in the bed of the pickup or cargo area of a cart. Be aware of and respect facility rules and regulations, including speed limits. Each person riding a golf cart or a vehicle must be in a seat. Other federal, state, and local laws apply. Any violation of this or any other safety issue may result in disciplinary action, including possible disqualification from all events.

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To receive a true ANSI Z87.1+ Safety Rating for your shooting glasses, you have to have more than just an impact-resistant lens.

SSP Eyewear offers competitive shooting glasses with a stamp from the American National Standard Institute (ANSI Z87.1+) for their glasses.

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Stay safe and shoot excellent!



- ANSI Safety Rating located inside both temple arms
- ANSI Safety Rating located on the backside of the frame above the lens
- ANSI Safety Rating located on the upper lens
- ANSI Safety Rating sticker affixed to new lenses.

**SSP EYEWEAR**  
**STAY FOCUSED**

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather during events, coaches play a crucial role in ensuring safety, making it their top priority. Rain is not inclement weather. When lightning is observed, or thunder is heard, the event must be temporarily suspended. The occurrence of lightning or thunder is not subject to interpretation or discussion. Lightning is lightning; thunder is thunder. Coaches, athletes, and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities. Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken and to seek shelter. Athletes shall not return to the field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for thirty (30) minutes.

In the event of an unexpected delay (beyond two (2) hours), the shoot management/committee will evaluate the situation and make the necessary adjustments that they perceive to be fair to the majority of the shooters.

## **MUZZLE**

Muzzles must always be pointed in a safe direction. The safest direction is down range. At no time should any part of the body, including the toe, be in front of the muzzle. Toe pads are not permitted at USAYESS-sanctioned events. Guns should be carried as follows: break opens must be broken open, and the muzzle pointed forward and down. Semi-autos and Pumps must be pointed skyward, muzzles above the head.

Should the above rule be violated, a first warning will be issued. The second warning will result in a one-target deduction for the Athlete. Should a third occurrence occur, the Athlete, and possibly the team, may be disqualified.

## **ACTIONS**

If the shooter is not in the shooting station the gun must be empty and the action of the gun must be open and out.

## **TRIGGER**

A shooter's finger must be off the trigger until they are ready to call 'Pull'. Release triggers are not allowed at any USAYESS-sanctioned tournament.

## **SHELLS**

A shooter may not load the gun until they are at the shooting station or in the cage. An athlete must make sure they have the proper ammunition for the gun. In the event of a miss-fire keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and wait 15 seconds before opening the gun. In the event of a hang-fire check the barrel for obstructions before taking the next shot.





## **TEAM ORGANIZATION**

USAYESS is a team-based youth program. USAYESS intends to provide participants with the opportunity to be a member of a team. A team is composed of a group of individuals who are committed to a common goal and who work together regularly to achieve that goal. Ultimately, to achieve this unity of purpose, team members should spend quality time together in activities other than just shooting. Team Members are required to practice regularly with their team and are expected to participate in team fundraising efforts and community service projects.

A USAYESS team is defined as one or more individual athletes registered by and guided by a Head Coach. The Head Coach is not just a leader, but a mentor who plays a pivotal role in shaping the team's direction and success. There's no upper limit to the number of athletes on a team, and a team may compete in one or all of the disciplines. The Head Coach's guidance ensures that each athlete's potential is maximized and the team operates cohesively.

### **TEAM STRUCTURE**

Each team should be managed by its athletes. The athletes should form a board consisting of at least three (3) board members; a president (team manager), treasurer, and secretary, and have their own set of Articles and By-Laws. The team should also have a historian responsible for all social media, press releases, and photographs.

### **ADULT-TO-ATHLETE RATIO**

It is recommended that the volunteer-to-athlete ratio be 1:10 (one adult for every ten athletes). A team may have an unlimited number of athletes and squads. (A squad is a group of 5 athletes that shoot together)

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Each team and all its athletes are expected to become involved in some type of community activity and or support their local conservation group chapter.

### **LIABILITY AND MEDICAL INSURANCE**

As a registered adult or Athlete of USAYESS, the individual is covered by the most comprehensive liability and medical insurance coverage available to any youth shooting program in the country. To be eligible each person must individually register and pay the appropriate registration fee with USAYESS, this includes the athletes. Participants can receive details and proof of insurance by contacting the USAYESS National Office. Only USAYESS members whose membership is current and paid in full have insurance coverage through USAYESS.

### **REQUIRED FORMS**

The Head Coach or the coach in charge must personally have access to a copy of the Medical Consent Form and Athletic Safety Pledge Certificate with the original signature anytime the team is practicing or competing. It is recommended that the required forms are kept in a master team notebook.

## **SHOOTING YEAR**

The USAYESS shooting year runs from October 1st to September 30th of the next year. Registration opens August 1st for the new year and closes May 1st.

## **REQUIRED TEAM PARTICIPATION**

USAYESS encourages teams to participate in as many events as is financially feasible. The team should support local events first, then state events, then regional events, and finally national events as funding and time allows. There are no team participation requirements. This is up to the team's head coach in cooperation with the other adult volunteers.

## **TEAM FUNDING**

Teams are responsible for their funding, including practice, travel, and shoot fees. Please visit MidwayUSA Foundation at [www.midwayusafoundation.org](http://www.midwayusafoundation.org) to find out how teams may generate both short- and long-term funding. A team can contact the USAYESS office at any time for help and suggestions with fundraising ideas. The national office will always be willing to help the coaches and volunteers to ensure the success of the program. USAYESS will not tolerate welfare teams. Each team and its members are expected to contribute to their team by participating in team fundraising and utilizing the MidwayUSA Foundation fundraising programs.

## **SAFESPORT ACT OF 2017**

In 2018, the "Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017" became Federal law. The mission of the U.S. Center for Safesport is to make the athlete's well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sports culture. All athletes deserve to participate in sports free from bullying, hazing, sexual misconduct, or any form of emotional or physical abuse. Education and awareness are critical to creating safe and respectful sporting environments free of abuse and harassment.

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USAYESS. This includes both on-field and off-field safety. USAYESS has long had systems in place to protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse, and other types of abuse and misconduct that can be harmful to youth athletes and other participants. These include, without limitation, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Hazing, Screening, Supervision Policies, and Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, athletes, and spectators. The Safe Sport Handbook, first adopted in 2012 and available at [www.usayess.org/safesport](http://www.usayess.org/safesport), combines USAYESS's various policies to protect its Participants from misconduct and abuse.

All Administrators, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Adult Volunteers must assist USAYESS in maintaining compliance with the SafeSport Act. USAYESS requires all adults within the program to register as members, undergo comprehensive background checks, and complete an Abuse Prevention Training course on an annual basis. The background check and Athlete Harassment Course are both an automatic part of the registration process and must be completed before the liability and medical insurance is valid.

USAYESS requires reporting of sexual misconduct by any member and strongly encourages reporting of any concerns relating to safe sport. USAYESS appreciates your willingness to report inappropriate behavior.

Out of respect for the importance of this issue and to encourage honest and effective reporting, knowingly making a false or vindictive report will not be tolerated and may violate USAYESS Code of Conduct.

If you need to report a Safe Sport violation, you may do so at [www.usayess.org/safesport](http://www.usayess.org/safesport).

## **HEAD COACH**

Every team **MUST** have a Head Coach who is 21 years of age or older. The first and foremost responsibility of the Head Coach is to **ENSURE THE SAFETY** of all participants. This includes making sure that athletes are treated respectfully and professionally. Head Coaches must emphasize the safe handling and use of firearms in every facet of USAYESS and must be willing to conduct regular practices. The Head Coach is responsible for communication between the state organizations and the national office. The head coach represents and speaks for everyone involved with the team. The Head Coach is also ultimately responsible for everything that occurs at the team level, including the behavior of the team's volunteers and athletes at all times.

All head coaches must be certified in the USAYESS Shotgun Coach Certification Course, or a USAYESS-state affiliate-approved Firearm Safety Course. Failure to have a certification within one year will result in the loss of head coaching status and liability and medical insurance coverage. The team must always be under a certified coach's control during practice or events. Head coaches must have the recommendation of the state youth shooting committee.

The head coaches' contact information will be posted on the USAYESS website to allow prospective participants and other teams to communicate with them. This information will be sorted by state and include name, e-mail address, telephone number, shooting disciplines, and city.

## **TRAVEL**

Should the head coach of a team not be able to travel to or attend an event, the team and or individuals may travel and attend a tournament under the supervision of a registered assistant coach or a coach/assistant coach from another team. Please ensure that enough adult volunteers are on hand to ensure the safety of all athletes. Athletes may travel to or attend tournaments with their parents or legal guardians.

## **ASSISTANT COACHES**

The head coach may appoint as many assistant coaches as necessary to effectively run the local program. The recommended Athlete-to-coach ratio is 10 to 1. Before the head coach can allow an assistant coach to run a practice the assistant coach must have registered with USAYESS as a member, obtained one of the recommended coaches' certifications, passed the background check, and completed the Abuse Prevention Training course.

## **ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

It is strongly recommended that all parents of the team's athletes be involved in supporting and helping the team. Getting non-shooting parents involved in fundraising, organizing, making travel arrangements, supplying refreshments, helping with an open house, helping to support, and run a local shooting event, or other support activities is important to take the load off the head coach and assistant coaches as well as ensure the continued success of the local program. Any adult volunteers must pass the background check.

## **ATHLETES**

At the heart of USAYESS are the athletes we serve. We are committed to treating them with the utmost courtesy and professionalism. Our program is not about winning at all costs. Instead, it's about youth development, using shooting sports as a tool to instill positive life skills. As adult volunteers, it's our responsibility to embody the behavior we expect from the athletes, and to guide them towards these valuable life skills.

## **TEAM EXCLUSIVITY**

All athletes are expected to shoot for the closest team to their residence, allowing them to shoot for that team. An athlete may represent only one team in any given shooting year. Once the Athlete registers with a specific team, that registration is binding for the remainder of the shooting year. The registration may not be revoked or changed. The only exceptions are if the family moves or the athletes and/or parents request a team change within their geographical residency. In both cases, an Athlete Team Transfer form must be completed, and the State board must approve any transfers.

Athletes transferring to a different team must complete a USAYESS Athlete Transfer form which is in the Team Registration section on the USAYESS website. Once the transfer is approved, the Athlete must remain with the new team for the remainder of the year. Should athletes from different youth organizations decide to form a USAYESS team within their geographical area, they may do so unless those same teams are also USAYESS team members.

## **CHERRY PICKING**

“Cherry Picking” is putting together a group of “hot shots,” “all-stars,” or a “paper team” to compete at USAYESS State, Regional, or National Team Championships. Cherry Picking individuals from within or outside a state to form either a local team or a “State All-Star team” is strictly prohibited.

Athletes and/or Coaches violating this rule will be suspended and may be removed from the program.

## **PRACTICES**

The Athlete should practice with his or her team a minimum of five (5) times to be considered part of the team and to be eligible to compete at state, regional, or national events. The five practices should take place at the team's home shooting range. If the Athlete lives more than 50 miles away from the team's home shooting range documentation of practices will be required.

## **TEAM REGISTRATION**

Registration is done online at on the USAYESS website. Follow the online instructions to complete the registration process. If you are having registration issues, contact the national office. All participants must re-register at the beginning of each shooting year. A \$50 fee will be applied to any; member requesting to change teams or team name changes.

The Head Coach must register first to create the team. The national office will process the registration and background check. After the background check is passed, and Athlete Protection Training is passed, USAYESS staff will create the team on the Athlete Registration page and assign the coach to the team. At the beginning of each shooting year, the team is made inactive until the head coach re-registers the team.

## **ATHLETE SUSPENSION**

If an athlete is suspended by another nationally recognized shooting organization the suspension will also apply to USAYESS. The Athlete may appeal in writing to the USAYESS board of directors. A \$100 fee must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is found in favor of the Athlete, the \$100 fee will be returned.

## **PROTECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION**

In youth sports, safeguarding personal information is a matter of ethical responsibility and a legal imperative. Coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteers frequently handle sensitive data, including medical records, contact information, and personal history. This information is essential for managing the team effectively, yet it is crucial that it remains strictly confidential. Unauthorized sharing or mishandling of this data can lead to significant privacy breaches, potentially putting young athletes at risk and eroding trust within the team environment. Sharing an athlete's personal information, including contact information such as phone numbers and email addresses, with anyone not in a coaching capacity is strictly prohibited.

Ensuring the security of this information involves implementing robust data protection practices. Coaches and volunteers must be vigilant in securing physical documents, using encrypted digital platforms for electronic records, and avoiding unauthorized information dissemination. Violations of these protocols can result in severe consequences, not only including possible suspension or removal from the program but also may include legal penalties and damage to the reputation of the organization. By prioritizing the protection of personal information, we uphold the integrity of the sport and ensure that every athlete's privacy is respected and maintained.





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# **USAYESS Competitions**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Any member of a national youth organization with a competitive shooting program is eligible to compete in any USAYESS regional and national competitions. Additional non-member entry fees may apply. The Athlete must be part of a youth competitive shooting team. The head coach must register the Athlete and certify that the Athlete is familiar with the games and can handle a firearm safely and responsibly.

Individual participation is also possible, provided the Athlete is accompanied by their coach or another responsible adult. This ensures that the Athlete is under supervision and adheres to the USAYESS age divisions at all times during the competition.

USAYESS State affiliates must allow any youth or teams to participate in their events, whether members of USAYESS or not. The only requirement is that the Athlete or team is a member of an organization that has a competitive shooting program. A non-member fee may be applied.

USAYESS tournaments are not required to be registered events, but each state is free to structure its events as it sees fit. However, a state affiliation may not require their USAYESS members to register with any other NGB to be eligible to compete.

USAYESS State affiliates are required to host a collegiate state championship in conjunction with their grade school state championships. Each event is to have separate scoring and awards.

## **TIME ALLOTMENT BY EVENT**

Sporting Clays: Sporting Clay squads are allowed 2-3 hours to complete a round of 100 targets.

Trap: Trap squads are allowed 1 hour to shoot 100 targets.

Skeet: Skeet squads are allowed 1.5 hours to shoot 100 targets.

If a trap or skeet squad is over the allotted time by 15 minutes (providing there are no weather or mechanical delays) the squad may be moved to an alternate field to finish the round. Please do not loiter between rounds.

## **COACHES WITH MULTIPLE SQUADS**

If a coach has more than one squad, they must ensure that a USAYESS assistant coach is assigned to each squad to ensure all shooters are present and at their field at least 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled time. USAYESS athletes and members are responsible for picking up their shells and debris after they are finished shooting. Keep the facility clean & debris-free. This includes bottles or any other items that may have been brought onto the field and the restrooms.

## **COACHING**

No coaching is allowed once the tournament starts. Coaches are not allowed to enter the field of play. The only exception is with Rookie teams/athletes. In this case, the coach may be on the field to ensure safety, but no coaching is allowed.

In Sporting Clays, the coach may coach between stations.



Should the above rule be violated a first warning will be issued. The second warning will result in a one-target deduction for the Athlete. Should there be a third occurrence the Athlete or team may be disqualified.

## **SCORE SHEETS**

Referees have the final say in scoring. Parents, coaches, or relatives are not allowed to comment or interfere with rulings. Should there be a concern, the Athlete has the right to stop play and discuss a call, and or call for a chief referee or line judge. In any case, the chief referee has the final say, and there will be no further discussion. All scores and score sheets must be verified and signed after every round and at the end of the 100th target by the athletes. Once the scorecards leave the field of play, the score stands as written. There will be no protests allowed.

## **TARGETS**

Targets may be viewed, and adjusted if necessary, before starting a round by the first shooter as stated by NGB rules. Should the squad request targets be adjusted, the squad should call for a chief referee or line judge to determine if a change is necessary and allowed. Should targets go off the standard flight path, during competition, and may be deemed not a legal target, any competitor, or the referee on the field of play may stop play, call for a chief referee or line judge to assess the targets, and the chief referee may have targets and or machines checked and if needed. adjusted. Any targets shot at are scored as hit or miss, period. Targets, stations, and or rounds shot, cannot be re-shot.

In Sporting Clays, only the first shooter can view the sequence.

## **ASSIGNED FIELDS**

Squads must shoot on the field assigned, unless there is a malfunction with the traps, and traps cannot be fixed within 10 minutes. If the squad is moved, they must start where they left off.

## **STATE/REGIONAL/NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Every USAYESS state affiliate must host a USAYESS state championship open to all youth organizations with a competitive shooting program. The championship must consist of all three American disciplines Skeet, Trap, and Sporting Clays. The state may choose to include the International disciplines of International Skeet and Trap singles. To save on time and travel, when facilities allow, events should be combined and shot on one weekend. USAYESS tournaments are to be stand-alone tournaments and are not to be combined with any other event. Individual states and programs may require participation in the state and/or regional championship to qualify or participate in the USAYESS National Championship. Athletes should check with their state or program director to find out about specific state or program requirements.

All USAYESS regional and National tournaments will use iClays for registration and scoring. States may use their programs or iClays, but if iClays is chosen, it must match the national template. Designing a custom registration and scoring program through iClays may incur additional fees. It's crucial to note that payment for all regional and national championships must be made five (5) days before the event

start date. Failure to make the payment on time could result in a \$20 late fee. No refunds will be issued once the event starts.

## **SHOOTING DISCIPLINES**

### **American Style Disciplines**

American Trap, American Skeet, Sporting Clays (if a walkthrough sporting clay course is not available the state director may conduct the state sporting clays championship on a 5-Stand)

### **International Style Disciplines**

International Skeet, International Bunker Trap (bunker trap may be shot on a wobble trap field) Rule exceptions must be listed in the match program or posted before the event starts. Other than posted rule exceptions National Governing Rules will be used for all events.

## **COURSE OF FIRE**

At the State level, Novice, Intermediate, Junior Varsity, and Senior Division Athletes and Teams must shoot a minimum of 50 targets but no more than 100 targets in all American disciplines of Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays. In International disciplines, teams must shoot no less than 50 targets. If International events are Junior Olympic qualifiers (J.O) they must be registered with USA Shooting (USAS), and athletes must be registered members with USAS. USAS rules must apply. USAS will supply all promotional material and medals. J.Os must apply to USAS to host these events.

Where available, international Trap & International Skeet will be separate from the Main Event and will not be included in the HAA. Space for International Games will be limited to field availability and on a first-come, first-served.

## **AWARDS**

States purchase their state tournaments and state championship awards as they feel will best represent their state and keep interest in the program. If requested, USAYESS will help states contact companies that handle awards and medals.

### **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

Individual awards in the three American venues should be handed out to the top three men, and top three ladies in each division. Individual awards should be no less than three deep (Champion, Runner-Up, and 3rd.) Individual awards are recommended to be given for all disciplines at the state championship. Individual awards must be a minimum of three deep, male, and female, Novice, Intermediate, Junior Varsity, Senior, and Collegiate age divisions.

### **SQUAD AWARDS**

Each coach will select squads of five shooters and a team may have multiple squads in multiple disciplines. Only coach-selected squads will be included in the squad competition. Squads are separated by age division but not by gender. Coaches are not required to field the same squad for each event. Coaches may have different athletes on a squad for different events. Squad awards must be a minimum of three deep in Novice, Intermediate, Junior Varsity and Senior age divisions.

## **INDIVIDUAL HIGH-ALL-AROUND AWARD**

Individual HAA awards are recommended to go three deep. Individual HAA awards are gender specific. To qualify for HAA the Athlete must shoot all three American-style events.

In the event the state championships are held on multiple weekends the scores will carry forward and the team and individual HAA should be given out at the last event.

Collegiate level athletes are not eligible to win High-All-Around awards.

## **TEAM HIGH-ALL-AROUND AWARD**

All team members should be encouraged to participate in the USAYESS state championships.

The team HAA is the top five individual scores, regardless of division or gender, from the three American-style events.

Collegiate athletes should not be included in Team High-All-Around award calculations.

## **STATE TEAM AWARD**

Each state shall select five (5) athletes from within their state regardless of team, division, or gender, to represent their state at the USAYESS National Championships. Selected athletes are not required to shoot as a squad. Selected athletes must belong to a team consisting of a minimum of five (5) athletes and must have competed in a USAYESS state or regional championship. Selected athletes must be turned in to the USAYESS national office fourteen (14) days before the start of the National Championship date.

Collegiate level athletes are not eligible for the State Team Award.

## **SHOOT-OFFS**

The recommended shoot-off procedures for state, regional, and national championships are as follows. These procedures closely align with the recommended NGB shoot-off rules, taking into account the limited time at the end of the event and the squad and team format. The shoot-off rules may be amended by the State Director and at least 3 Referees or officials present. However, it is important to note that shoot-off rules may not be changed after the first shot in a shoot-off has been fired at the start of the championship, except in the case of severe weather or sunlight conditions.

Only 1-3 place ties are shot off. All other ties are broken first by maximum long run (front to back), then if still tied, back to front.

To save time shoot management may elect to shoot off two or more age and gender divisions at the same time, but still score the divisions separately. Should a competing party in the tie be a no-show after the 15-minute call, the no-show will automatically be forfeit.

The final format of the shoot-off will be determined on the day of the event and will be based on the number of ties to be broken, time available to break the ties,

generally accepted tie-breaking formats, and weather. If a tie cannot be broken due to unforeseen circumstances such as severe weather or a catastrophic event lasting more than one hour, the results will be declared a tie and duplicate awards will be presented. In the event of a tie prize money or endowment funds, the money for the two appropriate places will be combined and split evenly with the tied individuals, squads, or teams.

## **INDIVIDUAL SHOOT-OFFS**

### **American Skeet** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

American Skeet shoot-offs are skeet doubles from stations 3, 4, 5 miss and out. The shooting order is stations 3, 4, 5, 4, 3 moving from station 5 back to station 4 is low house first then the high house. Shooting order will be determined by the draw of lots or a flip of a coin.

### **International Skeet** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

International Skeet will consist of one pair from station 3 (h-l) - two pair from station 4 (h-l) and (l-h) and one pair from station-5 (l-h). The shooter with the most broken targets will be declared the winner. If still tied, repeat the sequence until a winner is declared.

### **Sporting Clay and 5-Stand** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

Sporting Clay shoot-offs may be shot on a 5-Stand field. In both Sporting Clays and Five Stand shoot-offs shoot management will select four (4) true pair to be shot from one (1) station. The true pair used in the shoot-off must not have been used in the preliminary rounds. Shooting order will be determined by draw of lot or flip of coin. Each shooter will shoot the same four (4) pairs from the same station, one athlete at a time. After all shooters have shot the greatest number of broken targets will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, the procedure will be repeated, rotating the first shooter with four (4) pairs from the next station; the greatest number of broken targets will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie move to the next station until a winner is declared.

### **American Trap** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

American Shoot-offs. The first round of the shoot-off will be from the 22-yard line, two targets from each post, most targets broken wins. Shooting order will be determined by the draw of lots or a flip of a coin. If there is still a tie, the next round will be two (2) targets from each post, from the 27-yard line, most targets broken wins. If there is still a tie, repeat from the 27-yard line until a winner is declared. Shoot-offs with two athletes will be shot from post 2 & 4, with three athletes shoot-offs will be shot from post 3, 4 & 5, with four athletes, shoot-offs will be shot from posts 2, 3, 4 and 5. International Events-International Events shoot-offs will consist of one target from each post, miss and out. The shooter with the

### **International Trap** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

International Trap shoot-offs will consist of two targets from each post (one shot per target). The athlete with the most broken targets will be declared the winner. If still tied, repeat the sequence until a winner is declared.

## **SQUAD AND TEAM DISCIPLINE SHOOT-OFFS**

All squad members are required to report for the shoot-off. Failure to have all members present when the shoot-off is ready to begin will result in a forfeit. In the event multiple squads are missing members, when the shoot-off is ready to begin, the squad with the most members present will be declared the winner. If both squads have the same number of missing members, the shoot-off will commence and missing members will not be allowed to join the shoot-off once the first shooter of the shoot-off is called to the line.

### **American Skeet** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

American Skeet shoot-off rules are skeet doubles from stations 3,4,5. Shooting Squad with the most broken targets will be determined the winner. Squad shooting order will be determined by a draw of lots or a flip of a coin. The shooting order of the squad members may be determined by the team or the coach. All shooters from all teams will shoot stations 3, 4, and 5 doubles. One squad at a time. Score after each station. High score wins. Should there be a tie, proceed to the next station. Should there be a tie after all stations are shot, repeat the sequence until a winner is declared.

### **Sporting Clay and Super Sporting** – *(May be modified by shoot management)*

Sporting shoot-offs may be shot on a 5-Stand field. In both Sporting and Super Sporting shoot-offs shoot management will select one (1) true pair from one (1) station. The true pair used in the shoot-off must not have been used in the preliminary rounds. Squad shooting order will be determined by draw of lot or flip of a coin. The shooting order of the squad members may be determined by the squad or the coach. All shooters from all squads will shoot one (1) true pair from the same one (1) station. After all shooters have shot, the squad with the greatest number of broken targets will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie move to the next station until a winner is declared.

### **American Trap** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

American Trap Shoot-Offs: Each squad will shoot two (2) targets from each post from the 22-yard line, one shot per target. Most broken targets will be declared the winner. Shooting order will be determined by the draw of lots or a flip of a coin. If there is still a tie, the next round will be two (2) targets from each post, from the 27-yard line, most targets broken wins. If there is still a tie, repeat from the 27-yard line until a winner is declared.



## TEAM HAA SHOOT-OFFS

The top five shooters that shot are those who will participate in the shoot-off regardless of age or gender. These five shooters will be the team HAA squad. The top five HAA team members are required to report for the shoot-off. Failure to have all five members present when the shoot-off is ready to begin will result in a forfeit. In the event multiple teams are missing squad members when the shoot-off is ready to begin, the team with the most squad members present will be declared the winners. If both teams have the same number of missing squad members the shoot-off will commence and missing squad members will not be allowed to join the shoot-off once the first shooter of the shoot-off is called to the line.

### **American Skeet** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

American Skeet doubles from stations 3, 4, 5. Team shooting order will be determined by the draw of lots or a flip of a coin. The shooting order of the team members may be determined by the team or the coach. All shooters from all teams will shoot doubles at stations 3, 4, 5, and score noted. Shooting order will be determined by the draw of lots or a flip of a coin.

### **Sporting Clays** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

Sporting shoot-offs may be shot on a 5-Stand field. In both Sporting and Super Sporting shoot-offs shoot management will select one (1) true pair from one (1) station. Team shooting order will be determined by draw of lot or flip of a coin. The shooting order of the squad members may be determined by the squad or the coach. All shooters from all squads will shoot one (1) true pair from the same one (1) station.

### **American Trap** - *(May be modified by shoot management)*

The first round of the shoot-off will be one target from each post (one shot) from the 27-yard line. Team shooting order will be determined by the draw of a lot or the flip of a coin. The shooting order of the team members may be determined by the team or the coach. Take note of score and total all previous scores from Skeet, Sporting, and 5-Stand. The team with the most targets broken will be declared the winner. If after totaling all broken targets from all three or four shoot-offs, the teams are still tied, teams will select one athlete to represent the team and repeat the sequence until a winner is declared.

## STRAIGHT CLUB

All athletes at all USAYESS Regional and National Championships are eligible to receive straight recognition in competition; 25/50/75/100 in skeet and or trap. If an athlete hits their first straight in the same event, they will receive the appropriate iron-on straight patch/patches to apply to their shooting gear. Practice straight does not count. If they hit 100 straight targets in the same event for the very first time, they will receive a 25, 50, 75, and 100 Straight patch, a rocker, and a t-shirt. T-Shirts will be mailed to the Athlete's home address. All Straight Club members are recognized on the USAYESS website. State Associations may purchase straight patches by visiting our store at: [www.usayess.org](http://www.usayess.org). Straight t-shirts with the trap or skeet Winners-Circle complete patch are also available for purchase by the State Association.

# Every 40 seconds, someone loses their life to suicide.

It's time to raise awareness and  
recognize our role to help prevent it.

In the realm of youth sports, addressing mental health with the same seriousness as physical safety is crucial. Coaches play a pivotal role in creating a supportive environment where athletes feel valued and understood. It's important to be aware of potential signs of distress and mental health struggles in student-athletes. Look for changes in behavior such as withdrawal from activities or friends, a decline in performance or enthusiasm, noticeable changes in mood, and verbal expressions of hopelessness or worthlessness. Physical signs can include changes in sleep patterns or appetite and frequent physical complaints without clear cause.

If you suspect that a student-athlete might be struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicidal ideation, approach the situation with empathy and urgency. Encourage them to seek help and offer to connect them with professional resources. For immediate support, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 at 988, providing confidential help for those in need

By integrating mental health awareness into our coaching practices and maintaining a network of resources, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for our athletes. Recognizing the signs and taking proactive steps can make a profound difference in the lives of young individuals facing these challenges.



Ask.



Listen.



Encourage them  
to seek help.

**National Suicide & Crisis Hotline: 988**

World Health Organization | [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)





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