



USAYESS PHILOSOPHY & VALUES AGREEMENT

USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports (USAYESS) believes that today's youth are the caretakers, leaders, and ambassadors of tomorrow. As participants in USAYESS, our student-athletes represent themselves, their families, their teams, their communities, their states, and the USAYESS national program.

Our goal is to provide a safe, positive, competitive, and educational environment where young people can develop skills that extend far beyond the field of competition.

Youth First

The well-being and development of our student-athletes are at the center of everything we do.

USAYESS believes that young people should have opportunities to develop confidence, responsibility, discipline, leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and respect through participation in shooting sports and outdoor activities.

Our athletes are **students first and athletes second**. Athletic achievement is important, but it should never come at the expense of education, personal development, safety, integrity, or character.

Safety & Responsibility

Safety is the foundation of every USAYESS program and activity.

All athletes are expected to understand that participation in shooting sports carries significant responsibility. Athletes must follow firearm safety rules, range commands, event rules, and instructions from coaches and officials at all times.

Each participant shares responsibility for maintaining a safe environment for themselves and those around them.

Unsafe, reckless, or irresponsible behavior has no place in USAYESS.

Sportsmanship & Character

USAYESS believes that how an athlete competes is just as important as the final score.

We expect our student-athletes to demonstrate:

- Integrity and honesty;
- Respect for teammates, competitors, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators;
- Good sportsmanship in both victory and defeat;
- Personal responsibility and accountability;
- Teamwork and cooperation;
- Humility in success;

- Grace and perseverance in disappointment; and
- A willingness to encourage and support other athletes.

USAYESS encourages every athlete to pursue excellence and compete to the best of their ability. However, a **win-at-all-costs mentality has no place in USAYESS.**

Victory and defeat both provide valuable opportunities to learn, grow, and develop character.

Respect for Others

USAYESS expects athletes to treat others with dignity and respect.

Competition should challenge athletes to improve themselves while developing respect for their fellow competitors. Disagreements, disappointment, and competitive pressure are never an excuse for disrespectful, abusive, threatening, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Athletes are expected to represent USAYESS and their teams in a manner that reflects positively on themselves, their families, their teammates, and the youth shooting sports community.

Teamwork & Leadership

Although many shooting disciplines involve individual performance, USAYESS believes strongly in teamwork.

Athletes should support their teammates, encourage younger and less experienced participants, respect their coaches, and contribute positively to their team.

Leadership is demonstrated not only by achievement, but by service, responsibility, attitude, and the example an athlete sets for others.

Education & Personal Growth

USAYESS competition is intended to provide more than an opportunity to earn awards or achieve high scores.

Through practice and competition, athletes have opportunities to learn how to:

- Set and pursue individual goals;
- Prepare and practice with purpose;
- Respond positively to adversity;
- Accept responsibility for their actions;
- Work collaboratively with others;
- Demonstrate discipline and self-control;
- Develop leadership skills; and
- Carry the lessons learned through athletics into school, family, community, and future endeavors.

We believe the lessons learned through youth sports can help develop educated, responsible, and capable young men and women who are prepared to serve their communities and others.

Outdoor Stewardship

USAYESS believes today's youth will become tomorrow's caretakers of our outdoor traditions and natural resources.

We strive to help athletes and families develop an appreciation for the outdoors, wildlife, conservation, responsible recreation, and the continued preservation of shooting sports and outdoor opportunities for future generations.

Participants are expected to respect shooting facilities, property, wildlife, natural resources, and the communities that host USAYESS activities.

Respect for Our Nation & Those Who Serve

USAYESS is proud to honor the United States of America and the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country.

When the National Anthem is presented during a USAYESS event, participants are expected to conduct themselves respectfully and appropriately in recognition of the occasion.

USAYESS asks its athletes, coaches, and families to demonstrate respect during patriotic ceremonies and to remember the service and sacrifices that allow us to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities we have today.

Our Commitment

USAYESS is committed to providing opportunities for young athletes to compete on a fair and level playing field in an environment that prioritizes safety, education, personal growth, sportsmanship, and character.

We strive for excellence in everything we do while remembering that trophies, scores, and championships are temporary. The character, relationships, skills, and life lessons developed through participation can last a lifetime.

Participant Agreement

As a participant in USAYESS, I understand and agree that I am expected to uphold these values.

I agree to:

- Put safety first;
- Follow the rules and instructions of coaches and officials;
- Compete honestly and fairly;
- Treat others with dignity and respect;
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship in victory and defeat;
- Take responsibility for my actions;
- Support my teammates and fellow competitors;
- Respect the facilities, communities, and outdoor resources we use; and

- Represent myself, my team, and USAYESS in a positive manner.

I understand that participation in USAYESS is a privilege and that conduct inconsistent with these values may result in corrective or disciplinary action in accordance with USAYESS policies.

By accepting this agreement, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the USAYESS Philosophy & Values Agreement and agree to conduct myself according to these principles.

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS. READ IT CAREFULLY AND BE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND IT BEFORE SIGNING

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

Signed on: _____

By registering with and/or participating in any USAYESS sanctioned events, you are agreeing to this policy regardless of whether a signature is present.