



# NJCAA Clay Target Rulebook

## ***Fair Play & Sportsmanship***

A basic principle of NJCAA athletic competition is to develop and foster respect for fellow participants, coaches, officials and spectators. The NJCAA Sportsmanship Code applies to all athletic events involving NJCAA member institutions and/or regions. Sport rulebooks may apply rules and regulations that are more restrictive than those found in this section.

1. Players, coaches and team personnel will recognize their responsibility for proper conduct before, during and after every contest.
2. Coaches and Athletic Directors will recognize and assume responsibility for the behavior of themselves, players, staff, game management personnel and representatives of the respective NJCAA member institution.

## ***Shooting Range***

Shooting ranges are important partners for clay target teams and play a vital role in providing student-athletes a safe, fair, and competitive environment to participate in the League. Schools are responsible for choosing a range and the NJCAA in no way bears any responsibility for the chosen range at regular season events.

Ensuring a consistent and fair shooting experience throughout the sport is important to the enjoyment for all participants. The NJCAA strongly encourages shooting ranges to adhere to standard equipment, field, target and target flight specifications to the best of the shooting range's abilities.

Clay target team events should be held to the same requirements as other school events. Therefore, no alcohol or tobacco can be consumed during NJCAA events at the shooting range.

Shooting ranges that host teams should familiarize themselves with this Rulebook and the Clay Target Sports Code. This document is the first resource that teams and coaches should refer to if there are any questions.

Additionally, the NJCAA recommends that shooting ranges set clear expectations with teams and athletes regarding shooting range rules and safety procedures. In all cases, shooting range safety procedures and product specifications supersede any League policies and/or procedures.

## ***Range Safety Officer***

The Range Safety Officer (RSO) will possess the knowledge and skills essential to organizing, conducting and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations. One RSO must be present at no more than two adjoining fields during all times when a student athlete participates in NJCAA events. The RSO's responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring all shotguns and ammunition are handled safely at all times.
- Supervising preparation of the shooting range according to technical, safety, and target requirements.
- Ensuring the correct application of guns, ammunition and equipment is being used.
- Ensuring proper hearing and eye protection is worn by athletes.

## ***Non-Participating Adults***

Volunteers that assist with off-field activities.

## ***Emergency Management Plan***

It is required that each team develops an emergency management plan, so they are prepared in case of an emergency. It is vitally important that all elements of this plan are clearly understood by team coaches, shooting range staff, parents and athletes. Emergency management plans should include:

- Immediate access to a phone to dial 911
- Team roster report – This includes emergency contact information for athletes and medical conditions.
- Evacuation information – in case of inclement weather.
- Situation leaders – assigned staff that serve as designated decision-makers and communicator who understand their roles and responsibilities.
- Key contacts – School officials, police, fire, hospital, legal counsel, monetary management, Board of Directors, community partners, etc.

Clear, decisive, and timely communication is important in any situation and having an established plan will help the team successfully navigate its way through any emergency.

## ***Safety & Courtesy***

All coaches and volunteers have the responsibility to keep the range safe always. Any coach should take it upon them self to speak respectfully with any student athlete on any team immediately if they see a safety violation.



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## ***Safe Firearm Handling***

All shotguns must be unloaded and have the action open when not shooting.

- Shotguns should be uncased and placed in the rack immediately upon arrival to the shooting range to ensure they are unloaded.
- A break open shotgun's action may be closed when it is in a gun rack, but it shall not contain a live or empty shell.
- All shotguns will be carried with the action open and muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Immediately after shooting a student athlete's shotgun should either be placed back onto the gun rack or cased and returned to the student athlete's vehicle.

## ***Safety & Courtesy***

It is the student-athletes and coaches' responsibility to conduct an event in a reasonable and safe manner. Safety is more important than speed.

- The practice of tracking targets behind a shooting squad is not permitted.
- Test shots are not permitted.
- Snap caps are permitted in a safe place away from people.
- Always have the shotgun pointed out over fields, up in the air, or at the ground when at the firing line whether shotgun is loaded or not.
- Always keep your finger out of the trigger guard area until your shotgun is shouldered and set.
- Do not handle another person's shotgun without the shotgun owner's consent and coach's permission.
- Clean your shotgun after shooting.
- It is recommended to add a name label on your shotgun for identification.
- Be respectful and do not distract others.
- No heckling.
- Listening to music/podcast is not recommended.
- Empty shells should not be picked up until the round is over or when instructed by a coach.
- Do not leave your station or pivot recklessly to offer help if another athlete needs assistance.
- Only coaches can instruct students while occupying a shooting station. On-field skill training/coaching is not allowed during competition events including year-end tournaments.
- No eating or drinking while occupying a shooting station.
- Wash your hands after handling ammunition, shooting, or cleaning your shotgun.
- Control ejected shells so they do not disturb other athletes at their shooting station.
- Cell phones must be turned off, in airplane mode, or not in possession while shooting.

## ***Foot Pads***

Athletes are not allowed to rest muzzles on their feet and should not use any type of foot pads. Magnetic muzzle pads are allowed if placed on the ground.

## ***Practice***

Practice is allowed prior to a scheduled event or any other different scheduled day(s) if it doesn't interfere with other teams or shooting range members.

Any athlete wishing to shoot more should be encouraged to do so, if it doesn't interfere with other team-scheduled practice. It is important that a team does not infringe on another team's opportunity to participate by taking up more than their fair share of range time. In addition, teams are strongly encouraged to be respectful of all volunteer time and shooting range manager(s) time. Additional shooting may occur if all other athletes have had an opportunity to complete practice rounds and an athlete has no viable opportunity to shoot during the week. Ask a coach or shooting range manager for availability and costs.

## ***Equipment & Gear***

Each athlete is responsible for personal equipment and items. Shooting ranges or coaches are not responsible for a student athlete's personal items. It is recommended that student-athletes affix a name label to their shotgun and gear.

## ***Shotguns***

Student-athletes are required to supply their own shotgun. Some teams or shooting ranges may have shotguns to borrow or rent. All types of smooth-bore shotguns, including semi-automatics, may be used provided their caliber does not exceed 12 gauge.

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The student athlete cannot:

- Use a shotgun with any form of “release” trigger actions.
- Use slings or straps on a shotgun.
- Change a properly functioning gun or parts of shotgun in the same round.
- Use devices fitted to the shotgun that have magnifying or light emitting effects.
- Use a pistol grip shotgun that does not have a stock.
- Use a shotgun with mechanical hammer used for “cocking” the shotgun.

## **Ammunition**

All student-athletes must use factory ammunition. Ammunition load, shot size, and velocity (feet per second) specifications must meet the use requirements of the shooting range during the event. A student athlete cannot use:

- Reloaded cartridges.
- Tracers, copper and nickel coated shot.

Shooting range ammunition requirements supersede League ammunition requirements.

Teams, families and student-athletes must follow all federal laws on the purchase, sale, storage, and transportation of ammunition.

## **Eye Protection**

Eye protection devices designed specifically for shooting sports are required for each student athlete and coach to use while on the field during all events.

Prescription glasses can be used for eye protection if the lenses are comprised of plastic or polycarbonate.

## **Hearing Protection**

Hearing protection devices designed specifically for shooting sports are required for each student athlete and coach to use while on the field during all events. Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) on hearing protection devices should be 28db or better. Devices may include:

- Ear muffs
- Ear buds
- Ear plugs

Hearing protection devices that allow for playing music are not recommended. Standard commercial ear buds, headphones, or Bluetooth audio playback devices are not designed to reduce and/or eliminate gunshot noise and are not approved hearing protection.

It is recommended that spectators also wear hearing protection when near the field.

## **Attire**

Every participant in the League will promote a positive image by wearing appropriate attire during all events.

## **Equipment Inspections**

Any team coach or RSO has the right to examine any item of a athlete’s equipment including guns, ammunition, clothing, and other equipment to ensure proper accordance with this Sport Code

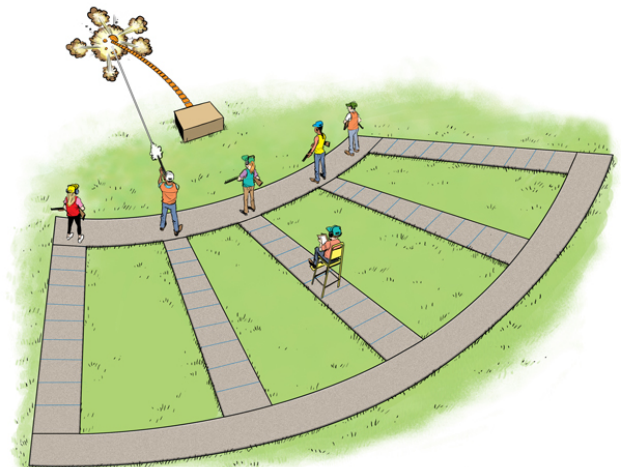
## **Trap Shooting**

A practice or competition event will consist of shooting two 25 target rounds for a total of 50 targets from the 16-yard station. Up to 5 athletes (squad) will occupy the stations on a trap field. Station 1 is assigned the “squad leader”.

## **Trap Field**

The trap field is the area of a shooting range where trapshooting occurs. Each field contains shooting stations (typically concrete walkways with yardage markers) and a trap house.

The trap house is the structure in front of the stations from which the clay targets are launched. Only facility personnel shall enter and maintain the trap house. A cone or flag will be displayed when the trap house requires maintenance and athletes are required to exit their shooting station and make firearms safe until the trap house maintenance is completed and the cone or flag is removed.





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## **Preparation**

Each athlete will have all the equipment and ammunition necessary to complete the round each time they occupy a shooting station. All shotguns must be carried open and unloaded when moving to the athletes assigned starting station. Test firing of a shotgun is not permitted.

## **Ready**

At the moment the athlete calls and until the target appears, the athlete must stand in the "READY" position including:

- Both feet entirely within the 16-yard shooting station area.
- Holding the shotgun with both hands.
- The "squad leader" (Station 1) calls for a single target to be launched as an example of flight.
- A live round may be in the chamber, but the action MUST be open until it is the athlete's turn to shoot.

## **Start**

Upon a "START" command from the scorekeeper, each athlete, in turn, will:

- Take proper shooting position.
- Load one shell (if not already loaded)
- Close the action of the shotgun.
- Clearly call "PULL" or some other command for the target.
- Shoot at the target.
- Scorekeeper does not comment when a target is "HIT"
- Scorekeeper will say "LOST" loudly when a target is missed.
- Discharge empty shell.
- Wait for next turn.

A athlete may close the shotgun action only after the previous athlete has completed his/her turn. No athlete will turn from the shooting station before the athlete's shotgun action is open and empty. Each athlete should begin his/her turn within five (5) seconds after the last athlete has fired at a target and the result has been recorded. At the end of each round, the scorekeeper announces the scores for that round in firing order.

## **"Lost" Target**

A missed target must be declared "LOST" when:

- It is not hit during its flight.
- It is only "dusted" and no visible piece is broken from it.
- A athlete, for no permitted reason, does not shoot at a regulation target for which the athlete has called.
- The athlete is allowed two "misfire" per round if they were not able to fire his/her firearm because he/she has not released the safety or has forgotten to load it.

## **Disputed Call**

In the event of a lost target dispute:

- The athlete immediately raises an arm to notify the scorekeeper.
- All athletes must unload their shotguns and make them safe.
- The scorekeeper defers to the entire squad for majority ruling decision.
- If a majority ruling cannot be made by the squad, the lost target score will stay as-is.
- Unless there is a disputed call, no score can be changed after the next athlete in line has completed his/her shot.

## **"Refused" Target**

A athlete may refuse shooting at a released target if:

- A target is not released immediately after the athlete's call.
- The athlete is visibly disturbed by some external cause.
- The scorekeeper agrees that the target was flying along an irregular path other than that specified in angle, elevation or distance.

The athlete refusing a target must indicate this by opening the action on their shotgun and raising an arm.

## **"No Bird" Target**

A scorekeeper may declare a "NO BIRD" when:

- A broken or irregular target emerges.
- Multiple targets are thrown at once.



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- A athlete shoots out of turn.
- Another athlete fires at the same target.
- The scorekeeper notices the athlete was visibly disturbed by some external cause.
- The scorekeeper notices athlete's foot position is outside his/her lane.
- The scorekeeper detects a violation of the athletes allowed time limit.
- The shot is discharged involuntarily before the athlete has called for the target.
- A target is thrown before the athlete's call.
- A target is not released immediately after the athlete's call.
- A target's trajectory is irregular.
- There is an allowable malfunction of shotgun or shell.

Even if the athlete has fired a shot, a "NO BIRD" allows the athlete to replay the shot without a penalty.

## ***Moving From Station To Station***

After the first 5 shots are completed by the entire squad, each athlete will move to a new station by:

- Verifying the gun is unloaded.
- With the chamber open and the shotgun pointed in a safe direction, rotate in a clockwise manner to the next station.
- Station 1 will move to station 2, 2 to 3, 4 to 5, and 5 to 1.
- Station 5 will rotate to their right moving away from the station 4 athlete who is moving to station 5 and continue to walk behind the other athletes to station 1.
- Await the "START" command from the scorekeeper.
- The squad leader is the first to shoot in each round.
- Repeat process until all athletes have each shot 25 targets.
- No athlete will move until the last target in a round is completed.

## ***Stop***

When the command or the signal "STOP" or "CEASE FIRE" is given, shooting must stop immediately.

- All athletes must unload their shotguns and make them safe.
- Shooting may only be resumed at the appropriate "START" command is given by the scorekeeper.

## ***Shotgun Malfunction***

Failure to fire due to a shotgun malfunction requires that the athlete calls for a "cease fire" or "stop" and properly makes the shotgun safe. The RSO must examine the situation and determine if the shotgun can safely function for the remainder of the round. If the RSO deems the shotgun unusable for that round the athlete must finish the round with another shotgun not already in use. If the athlete does not have access to a alternative shotgun then the athlete must take a zero score for each remaining target that round.

- Athletes are not allowed to suspend a round and finish it after their shotgun has been repaired.
- Athletes are not allowed to hold up the round for more than three minutes during a failure to fire situation.
- Once the RSO has deemed the shotgun unusable for that round the shotgun cannot be brought back onto the field for any reason until the start of a new round.

## ***"Out" Or "End Of Round"***

Upon the completion of a round, the scorekeeper will declare "OUT" or "End Of Round". Athletes will be notified of their scores, make their shotguns safe, and carry the shotgun in the approved manner and exit the station.

## ***Practice & Competition Events***

NJCAA events are defined as practice or competition during scheduled participation.

### ***Regular Season Play***

Each team coordinates with their local shooting range to determine available days and times to shoot.

- Prior to the start of the regular season, the coaching staff will define the scheduled event day(s) for their team.
- Teams may allow up to two scheduled days per week to accommodate large teams, shooting range capacity, other sports/activities, or inclement weather conditions.
- All teams must conduct their weekly shoot within the corresponding scheduled week between Sunday and Saturday before 9:00 p.m. CT.
- If a team cannot compete on their scheduled shoot day, they may reschedule. within the same competition week.
- A full-round (25 targets) competition event may continue on a second day only if the competition event gets postponed due to weather, darkness, or other unforeseen circumstances.



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- An athlete's score can only be used if completed on their team's scheduled day.
  - All rounds are considered practice scores unless they are declared competition targets PRIOR to conducting the round.
  - Each scheduled weekly event consists of 50 targets (two rounds of 25 each).
  - Using "best scores" from multiple events is not allowed.
  - No individual student athlete makeup rounds for scores are allowed.
  - If a team has scheduled days during the event week and a student athlete cannot participate on his/her scheduled day, the student athlete can participate on other team-scheduled day(s) if the team allows it.
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- In all cases, a coach and Range Safety Officer must be present at all times when a student is participating in NJCAA events.
  - No handicapping allowed for athlete score adjustments.

## ***Inclement Weather***

In the event of inclement weather before or during NJCAA events, coaches should make safety their priority.

- When lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the event must be suspended.
- The occurrence of lightning or thunder is not subject to interpretation or discussion. Lightning is lightning; thunder is thunder.
- Athletes and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.
- Athletes shall not return to the field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.
- Spectators need to be advised to seek shelter also.

## ***Scoring & Recognition***

USA Clay Target's exclusive True Team<sup>®</sup> scoring format is used to determine the overall performance for a team in all weekly events during the regular season if the team is participating with USA Clay Target. NJCAA events are defined as practice or competition during scheduled participation. If a team is not participating with USA Clay Target, they may still qualify for the NJCAA season-ending invitational, should all other score reporting requirements be met. For video instructions about clay target procedures, scoring, and True Team<sup>®</sup> scoring visit USA Clay Target website.

## ***Submitting Scores***

A team's Head Coach or Team Manager is required to submit their team's regular season scores in the Scoring Management through the USA Clay Target website for all event weeks.

- Scores must be submitted prior to 9:00 p.m. CT on the season score submission deadline date. Saturday of the scheduled event (practice or competition).
- Score submissions or changes can be made at any time prior to the season score submission deadline date. weekly 9:00 p.m. CDT Saturday deadline.
- Athletes will automatically receive a score of "0" if a score is not submitted before the deadline.
- In an athlete did not participate in a week's event, select the "Did Not Participate" field.
- After submitting scores, the coach(es) will receive a confirmation email including athlete scores. If the coach does not receive the email, the scores were not properly submitted and they should try again.
- The email scoring confirmation is sent to all coach emails that are selected in the USA Clay Target Team Management System.
- Partial (one or more athlete scores) scoring submissions count as a team score and the Reserve Week score cannot be used.
- Any student athlete score that is an error cannot be corrected after the deadline.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** Athletes that have not had a submitted score for an event will receive a "DNP" for that event. No exceptions will be made after the deadline.

## ***True Team<sup>®</sup> Scoring***

USA Clay Target's True Team<sup>®</sup> scoring method is:

- Fair for everyone.
- Focused on team awards.
- Scalable to work with all team sizes.
- Measurable so athletes and coaches can monitor personal performance progress and goals.
- Flexible to encourage teams to offer open participation and introduce beginner participants.
- Open to all athletes on a team to contribute to the team score.



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## ***Earning True Team® Scoring Points – Athlete***

All athletes shoot at their assigned 50 targets on their team-assigned event day of the week. A coach enters all scores in their Team Management profile™ with USA Clay Target before the score submission deadline.

- The top scores, as determined by the qualifying number of scores used for your team each week, are compared against all other teams.
- The top score receives the highest number of points available and the remaining scores are assigned based on decreasing subsequent scores to the last qualifying score that receives one point.
- Scores that are tied will split the earned points equally.
- Athletes who do not qualify (DNQ) for the week's top qualifying finishers are recorded, submitted and contribute to an athlete's overall average, but not used in the team's score for the week.

## ***Earning True Team® Scoring Points – Team***

- All qualifying athlete scores are added to determine the total team score for the event.
- The team score is then compared against all scores of the other teams to determine weekly and overall standings.

## ***Published Scores, Athlete Rank & Standings***

- All calculations and scores are posted on the NJCAA website after the score submission deadline.
- Student athlete rankings and 25/50 Straight Club listings are not updated until scores are posted.

## ***Team and Individual Recognition***

- All completed event scores are added to determine the standings based on the highest number of points earned.

## ***Absent Athlete Scoring***

Absent Athlete Scoring If an athlete is absent for an event week select the “Did Not Participate” box associated with the athlete's name.

- If no score is entered for an athlete before the scoring submission deadline, DNP will automatically be used.
- DNP will not count against the athlete's weekly average score used for tournament classifications.
- DNP will not count against the team's weekly score unless the team does not meet the minimum number of athlete scores required for the True Team scoring.
- Any DNP disqualifies an athlete from season-ending awards.

## ***Reserve Score***

The week prior to the first competition event week, each team will shoot in a “simulated” (not competing against other teams) competition and the scores will be used as a “reserve” score.

- The Reserve Week score will be saved in the scoring system and can be manually selected by the Head Coach or Team Manager for any week if the entire team cannot compete during any scheduled event due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Once the Reserve Week scores are submitted to use for a Competition Week, the scores cannot be changed.
- Reserve Week scores will be used as a tiebreaker in determining year-end team and individual competitions.
- Reserve Week scores can be used multiple times if required.
- Reserve Week scores are used by selecting the “Use Reserve Week Score” check box in the weekly score submission page in the USA Clay Target Team Management System.
- Reserve Week scores are automatically used if no scores are entered for the entire team before the score submission deadline.

## ***Uncompleted Reserve Week***

If the Reserve Week cannot be completed during its scheduled week, follow the below preferences in the order as they appear to makeup the Reserve Week score:

- Reschedule the entire team or multiple squads to complete the Reserve Week event and submit scores during the Week 1 Competition Week.
- If the Reserve Week event cannot be completed during the first competition week, then compute the average scores for all student-athletes for completed practice weeks and use them for your Reserve Week scores.
- If your team needs to use the Reserve Week scores for a competition event week and no Reserve Week scores are entered in the Team Management profile, then “0” scores will be used for all members.