

# The Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Handbook

Rules, Process & Regulations



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**SSSF**  
SCHOLASTIC  
SHOOTING SPORTS  
FOUNDATION

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# WELCOME

Welcome to the Scholastic Clay Target Program!

By joining the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) you are participating in the premier Youth Clay Target Shooting Program in the country. SCTP is a Youth Development Program that teaches the safe handling of firearms while at the same time developing positive life skills through the shotgun clay target sports. SCTP is the Official Youth Development program of USA Shooting, the National Skeet Shooting Association, and the National Sporting Clay Association. SCTP enjoys a relationship with the Amateur Trapshooting Association, the National Rifle Association, and the Association of College Unions International.

The SCTP program was founded as an American Trap Program in the year 2000. Originally it was a partnership between the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Amateur Trapshooting Association. Two years later, the National Skeet Shooting Association and the National Sporting Clay Association joined the partnership and American Skeet and Sporting Clays was added. Later, USA Shooting also became involved and the Olympic Games were added. SCTP is a national youth shotgun program which offers all five of the major shotgun disciplines. SCTP is also the only national youth shotgun program in which all other youth programs may join and compete in. Making SCTP the youth program that is recognized as having the National Scholastic Championships.

SCTP is governed by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF). The SSSF raises money and other resources to support youth shooting programs. Midway USA contributes a great deal of financial resources to our program and to the United States Youth Shooting Movement as a whole. The shooting and hunting industry understand that today's youth are the future of our sport and we enjoy tremendous support from the hunting and shooting industry.

The backbone of the Scholastic Clay Target Program are the Parents, Adults, and Volunteers who organize and run the program on the local and state level. Any successful youth program will always have a few dedicated passionate adults working in a leadership and guidance role. The amount of time, energy, and financial resources that these dedicated adults contribute to the program is staggering. However, when you meet the wonderful young athletes that the program produces, you will understand quickly why it is worth it and why they do what they do. The participants in the Scholastic Clay Target Program are the some of the finest young-people you would ever want to meet.

This booklet has been prepared to guide you through the SCTP shooting year from registration to the completion of the SCTP National Championships. More information is available at our website: [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org). Whether your child is interested in becoming a National Champion or just wants a fun and safe social activity to enjoy with his or her friends, SCTP is the program for them!

Why not get them started today?

## GOVERNING BODY

Since 2008, the SCTP is governed by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF). The SSSF raises money and other resources to support youth shooting programs. Multiple shooting/hunting industry partners, charitable foundations and individual donors contribute a great deal of financial resources and other support to SSSF programs. If you would like to join the ranks of those supporting youth in the shooting sports please visit [www.sssfonline.org/donate](http://www.sssfonline.org/donate) to find out how you can help.

## **SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION (SSSF) MISSION STATEMENT**

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation exists to raise funding and other resources for Youth Development Programs in the shooting sports industry.

## **SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM (SCTP) MISSION STATEMENT**

SCTP is a youth development program where adult coaches and volunteers model sportsmanship, responsibility, and team work while using shooting sports programs to teach these and other positive life skills to SCTP athletes.

## **PROGRAM DESIGN**

Youth from elementary grades through college are eligible to participate in the safe, educational and enjoyable SCTP clay target sports of American Trap, American Skeet, Sporting Clays, Olympic Trap, and Olympic Skeet. The SCTP is ideally suited to become a school sponsored Title IX Sport. There is no other sport that offers such an absolutely "level playing field" for gender participation as the shooting sports. The SCTP is a perfect fit for youth organizations such as Boy Scouts, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Police Athletic League, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, et al. Any youth organization is welcome to participate in the SCTP.

All SCTP activities incorporate two indispensable elements – SAFETY AND FUN. Safety is incorporated into every aspect of ALL SCTP activities. The learning environment at team practices and at competitive shoots is designed to include the element of FUN for all participants. SCTP participants learn the safe and responsible handling and use of firearms. They discover the joy of contributing to a shared team goal and the commitment that goes along with it. During this self-discovery process, team members develop proficiency in a sport that can be shared and enjoyed with family and friends for a lifetime.

## **ADULT LEADERSHIP**

The program is led by trained and dedicated adult volunteer coaches who are committed to providing, promoting, and perpetuating opportunities for their young athletes to safely and enjoyably participate in a high-quality team-based sport. SCTP Coaches must take very seriously the responsibility of being good role models to the SCTP Athletes. As a result, SCTP coaches do not charge fees for coaching within the organization.

## **HONORING THE GAME**

Competition is clearly a part of the SCTP, an indispensable part; but it is not the underlying principle. The "win-at-all-cost" philosophy has no place in the SCTP. Striving to win while playing by the rules does. Honoring the game, exhibiting good sportsmanship, and being a responsible Team Member, are the bedrock values the SCTP strives to instill. It is the DUTY of everyone involved in the SCTP – Coaches, Parents, and Athletes - to set good examples for SCTP Team Members. Volunteers are expected to emulate and uphold high moral and ethical standards of personal conduct.

## GLOSSARY

SSSF:	SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION
NSSF:	NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION
SCTP:	SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM
ACUI:	ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE UNIONS INTERNATIONALS
SCTP Team:	ALL Athletes, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Adult Volunteers registered under the same Head Coach at a "Home" Gun Club or Shooting Facility in one or more disciplines.
SCTP Squad:	The SCTP competitive unit. The SCTP competitive unit for 12th grade & below consists of five (5) Athletes for Trap and three (3) Athletes for Skeet, Sporting Clays, Olympic Skeet, and Olympic Trap. For college teams, Team scoring will be utilized with the top 5 athletes for all disciplines except International disciplines.
SCTP American Style Disciplines:	Sporting Clays, Skeet, Trap
SCTP Olympic Style Disciplines:	Olympic Skeet, Olympic Trap, Olympic Doubles Trap
SCTP American Style Categories:	Rookie Intermediate Level: Entry Level and Advanced Senior Level: Junior Varsity and Varsity College: Division I, II and III
SCTP Olympic Style Categories:	All athletes compete at the division level, no categories.
NGB:	National Governing Body
NGB #:	Membership ID # assigned to the participant by the NGB
National Governing Bodies:	Sporting Clays: NSCA - National Sporting Clays Association American Skeet: NSSA - National Skeet Shooting Association American Trap: ATA - Amateur Trapshooting Association Olympic Games: USAS - USA Shooting
Registered Target:	Targets shot at an event sanctioned by the NGB for the discipline
Head Coach:	The Team Head Coach serving as the primary point of contact responsible for communication between SCTP National Administrative Office and everyone involved with the team and the individual.
Mixed Squad:	A squad of athletes that are of multiple teams and may or may not be of multiple classifications.

## OFFICIAL RULES

These rules are set forth to ensure the safe and equitable treatment of all SCTP participants. Their enjoyment and safety is our reward. Rules that have been updated within the current shooting year are in red.

### 1. SCTP DISCIPLINES & SANCTIONING BODIES

#### A. Disciplines

The Scholastic Clay Target Program offers opportunities for teams to participate in the disciplines of Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, Olympic Skeet, Olympic Trap, and Olympic Doubles.

#### B. Sanctioning Body

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) ([www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org)) is the sanctioning body for the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). The SSSF's National Program Staff are responsible for the management of the SCTP.

#### C. SCTP Partners

National Governing Bodies for clay target sports. The SCTP has partnered with four National Governing Bodies (NGB) sanctioning clay target sports in the United States. All SCTP competitive events, including the SCTP State and National Team Championships, will be conducted in accordance with the rules for each of the clay target disciplines as set forth by the appropriate National Governing Body (NGB). See NGB's listed below:

1. American Skeet	National Skeet Shooting Association	NSSA <a href="http://www.nssa-nasca.org">www.nssa-nasca.org</a>
2. Sporting Clays	National Sporting Clays Association	NSCA <a href="http://www.nssa-nasca.org">www.nssa-nasca.org</a>
3. American Trap	Amateur Trapshooting Association	ATA <a href="http://www.shootata.com">www.shootata.com</a>
4. Olympic Disciplines	USA Shooting	USAS <a href="http://www.usashooting.org">www.usashooting.org</a>
5. College Divisions	Association of College Unions	ACUI <a href="http://www.acui.org">www.acui.org</a>
6. Coaching Schools	National Rifle Association	NRA <a href="http://www.nra.org">www.nra.org</a>

Rulebooks for each sport are available directly from the appropriate NGB. Contact an NGB by going to its respective website.

### 2. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

#### A. Student Status & Age

All school-age boys and girls in grades 12 and under with the physical, mental and emotional maturity to participate in a team sport are eligible to participate in the SCTP. There is also an SCTP College Division for college aged participants. Participants must be bona fide students enrolled in an accredited school, home-schooled program, college or university to include 2-year colleges. The athlete must be deemed academically eligible to participate in school-sponsored sports programs.

The SCTP primary and secondary school program eligibility ends with graduation from high school, or once a student reaches his/her 20th birthday, whichever comes first. The SSSF National

Program Staff has the option to grant a variance for age in view of special circumstances. High school graduates with graduation dates during the current SCTP target year are allowed to finish out that target year. College eligibility is determined by the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) and that information can be found at [www.acui.org](http://www.acui.org).

Some states have a minimum legal age requirement for handling and using firearms – check your state laws!

### **B. Academic Eligibility**

Team members must make satisfactory academic progress and be deemed eligible by school officials of their home school for participation in the school's extra-curricular activities including school sports teams.

### **C. Conduct**

All individuals registered with the SCTP (Athletes, Head Coaches, and Assistant Coaches/Adult Volunteers) and those associated with the SCTP (Parents and family members, et al.), must comply with the conduct requirements stated in the sportsmanship contract.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** Breaches of the spirit as well as the letter of SCTP rules including stipulations in the sportsmanship contract will be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the program. Infractions of a National Governing Body's rules will be considered the same as an infraction of SCTP rules. Any sanctions imposed by an NGB or the State and Local SCTP Program will be recognized and enforced by the SCTP National program staff, provided the proper documentation supporting the suspension or expulsion has been forwarded to the national office.

## **3. GROUPING ATHLETES (DIVISIONS & CATEGORIES)**

### **A. Divisions**

In the American Discipline, there are four competitive Divisions (Olympic disciplines have four divisions, see Section 16). These divisions, determined by school grade level, are designed to allow participants to compete on a level playing field. Grade level in school, not age, is the criterion used to populate the divisions.

All participants in the SCTP must be registered on a specific team for each discipline. Teams may be composed of members from neighborhoods, houses of worship, gun clubs, and youth groups such as 4-H Clubs, Boy Scout Troops, FFA Chapters, J.R.O.T.C. Programs, Venturing Crews, Girl Scouts, Police Athletic Leagues, American Legion Posts and V.F.W. Posts, to name but a few.

Students attending a school / school district sponsoring an SCTP team are expected to shoot for their school or school district. Some special circumstances may prevent this from happening, for example, a school district may only allow high school aged athletes to participate. Intermediate and below levels would then be allowed to compete on the next closest SCTP team that would accept them.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** State programs may impose more stringent rules on team composition. Please contact your State Advisor for details pertaining to your State's SCTP guidelines.

### **SCTP DIVISIONS (American Disciplines)**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. ROOKIE DIVISION       | Grade 5 and Under                                   |
| 2. INTERMEDIATE DIVISION | Grades 6 - 8  |
| 3. SENIOR DIVISION       | Grades 9 - 12                                       |
| 4. COLLEGE DIVISION      | Full Time Collegiate Undergraduate; Div. I, II, III |

## B. Categories

In order to level the playing field even more, novice athletes compete in a separate competitive grouping or category from the more experienced athletes. Coaches, please remember, it is your responsibility to ensure that your athletes are classified correctly! Please verify all squading rosters at 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 squad.

### SCTP CATEGORIES (American Disciplines)

1. ROOKIE DIVISION                      No categories in rookie division.
2. INTERMEDIATE DIVISION
  - ENTRY LEVEL                      1st year of participation in the intermediate division.
  - ADVANCED LEVEL                After 1 year of participation in the intermediate division.
3. SENIOR DIVISION
  - JUNIOR VARSITY                1st year of participation in the senior division.
  - VARSITY                            After 1 year of participation in the senior division.
4. COLLEGE DIVISION
  - DIVISION I                        Schools with 21 or more athletes participating in the event.
  - DIVISION II                       Schools with 11-20 athletes participating in the event.
  - DIVISION III                      New schools or schools with 10 or less athletes participating in the event.
5. OPEN DIVISION
  - Competitive squad of athletes from a single team with multiple classifications. This division does not include college athletes.

## C. High School Division (concurrent)

All athletes whose scores will be counted for this division must be from the same High School, 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades only. **NO** Intermediate "bump ups" are allowed to compete in the High School Division. A letter from the High School or an athlete transcript may be required as proof for this division.

## D. Scoring

Squad scoring (the scores compiled from the athletes on the same squad) will be used for all contests at the state and national levels with the exception of the high school and college awards where "team" scoring (the scores compiled from the Top 5 (Trap), Top 3 (Skeet and Sporting Clays) will be utilized. Any exceptions to this rule must be pre-approved by a Director of Development or the National Director.

## E. Category Classification Rules

1. Athletes in the highest category in any SCTP discipline will be classified automatically in that same category in all disciplines for which they are registered. For example, an Athlete in the Intermediate Advanced or Senior Varsity Category in Skeet will be in that category for Trap and Sporting Clays.
2. First-year Athletes in the Intermediate Division will have one year to be classified in the Entry Level Category. After one year in the Entry Level Category, Intermediate Division Athletes will be classified in the Advanced Category.
3. First-year Athletes in the Senior Division will have one year to be classified in the Junior Varsity Category. After one year in the Junior Varsity Category, Senior Division Athletes will be classified in the Varsity Category.
4. The purpose/intent of the open class is to allow coaches to bring athletes to a tournament and compete as a group of athletes that normally would not be allowed to. Coaches are expected to fill all divisional competitive squads first, then populate the remaining athletes in open division squads.



## 4. TEAMS (DEFINITION OF TERMS)

### A. Team Focus

The SCTP is a team-based Youth Development Program. The intent of the SCTP is 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 on a regular basis with their team (See Section 5-B, Required Practices) and are expected to participate in team fundraising efforts and community service projects.

### B. Definition of an SCTP Team

An SCTP Team is defined as one or more individual Athletes registered by and guided by a Head Coach. There is no upper limit to the number of Athletes on a team and a team may compete in one or all of the disciplines. This includes both the American Style and Olympic Style events.

### C. Distinction between Team & Squad

A "team" is the entire group of Athletes registered under a Head Coach. Each team is assigned a Team ID Number. A "squad" is the competitive unit for every SCTP competition.

### D. Competitive Squad

A SCTP Squad that meets the Division and Category criteria is considered a valid competitive squad and is eligible to enter and compete at the SCTP State and National Team Championships. A valid Competitive Squad for the disciplines of American Trap consists of five (5) Athletes. A valid competitive squad for the disciplines of American Skeet, Sporting Clays, Olympic Trap, Olympic Skeet and Olympic Doubles Trap consists of three (3) Athletes.

There is NO LIMIT to the number of individuals that can be registered on a Team; thus, no limit to the number of Squads per Team. Several Squads on a single team may be entered in the same competition.

### E. Irrevocable Decision

An athlete will only be allowed to compete on 1 SCTP Team for any/all disciplines. An athlete will not be allowed to shoot one discipline for team A, and shoot a different discipline for team B. Only exception is for College athletes coming home and shooting the "College Division" for their original team. Any athletes that have been allowed to do this in the past will be grandfathered in for the 2014 SCTP shooting season only. Beginning with the 2015 SCTP shooting season, athletes will ONLY be allowed to compete on one (1) team with the exception of the college division as stated above.

### F. "Cherry Picking"

"Cherry Picking" individuals to form either a local team or a "State All-Star team" is strictly prohibited. "Cherry Picking" is putting together a group of "hot shots", "all-stars" or a "paper team" to compete at SCTP State or National Team Championships. This practice runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the SCTP and is expressly prohibited.

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

Team Members must attend a minimum of six (6) team practice sessions in order to be eligible to shoot in a SCTP State or National Championship event representing that team. Coaches are not allowed to charge a coaching fee for these 6 team practice sessions. In the event an athlete lives more than 50 miles away from the local shooting range, verification of eligible practices may be required. Competition Shoots are not to be counted as practice sessions.

### **G. Athlete Eligibility for SCTP Competitions**

Many SCTP State Championships and all SCTP National Championships are conducted in the summer after the traditional school year has ended. For purposes of determining an Athlete's eligibility for the SCTP season, the grade level he or she entered in the Fall School Semester is the one that will be used for assignment to a SCTP Division.

Home-schooled students compete in the Division commensurate with their Fall School Semester grade level. Home school athletes should participate with the closest club team just as if they were attending that high school. If the home school athlete is to be eligible for the high school award a letter must but provided by that local high school. High school graduates who were members of an officially recognized SCTP Team during the School Year are eligible to compete for the remainder of the shooting year.

### **H. Team "Placement" Rules**

All Athletes are expected to shoot for the closest team to their residence that will allow them to shoot for that team. Any athletes/coaches using or allowing an athlete to use an address other than their actual address to participate with a team that is not the closest team to their actual address, will be immediately disqualified and expelled from the SCTP.

The SCTP does not condone nor will it allow athletes to "team jump". In some cases however, athletes may not be a good "fit" for a specific team and therefore, a coach may decide to release that athlete. The SCTP may allow a 1 time move for an athlete based on the following criteria: 1.) That athlete has been approved by both coaches (the coach releasing the athlete and the coach accepting the athlete) 2.) The athlete is allowed only 1 move like this during their SCTP Career 3.) This move must be approved by the SCTP National Organization (RFR, Director of Development, National Director). 4.) The move of this athlete will be to the next closest team that will accept that athlete. In the case of a team disbanding, breaking up or no longer an organized team in the SCTP, these athletes will be allowed to participate with the next closest team. That move will not be counted against them.

Other variances of allowing an athlete move may include a 1 year "sit out" or "non-compete" clause. All requests and final decisions regarding an athlete move from one team to another will ultimately be decided on by the SCTP National Staff. That decision will be final.

## **5. TEAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Head Coach**

Every Team must have a Head Coach who is 21 years of age or older, with the exception of a college team where the coach must be 18 or older. The first and foremost responsibility of the Head Coach is to ENSURE THE SAFETY of all participants. Head Coaches MUST emphasize the safe handling and use of firearms in every facet of the Scholastic Clay Target Program and must be willing to conduct the "Required Practices" as stipulated below in Section 5-B.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** For all SCTP events (practices, matches, etc.), Team Members must be under the supervision of the Team's Head Coach. In the event the Head Coach cannot be present, he/she must designate an Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer who is registered with the National Organization and covered by SSSF Insurance. Violation of this rule voids the Volunteer Liability Insurance Policy coverage, disqualifies the Team from entering an event, and may result in the removal of the Head Coach from the SCTP.

**B. Required Practices**

Coaches must conduct a minimum of six (6) team practice sessions.

Team Members must attend a minimum of six (6) team practice sessions in order to be eligible to shoot in a SCTP State or National Championship event representing that team. Coaches are not allowed to charge a coaching fee for these 6 team practice sessions. In the event an athlete lives more than 50 miles away from the local shooting range, verification of eligible practices may be required. Competition Shoots are not to be counted as practice sessions.

**C. Team Funding**

A Team is responsible for its own funding, including practice, travel, and shoot fees.

## 6. STATE ADVISOR, HEAD & ASSISTANT COACH / ADULT VOLUNTEER (REGISTRATION)

**A. State Advisor (Must be 21 years of age or older)**

A State Advisor's involvement in the SCTP shall be strictly as a volunteer interested in promoting SCTP activities within the Advisor's state and whose service is solely at the discretion and approval of the SCTP National Office. The advisor is expected to act in the best interest of the teams, athletes, and coaches of that State. Allegations and complaints about a state advisor will be taken very seriously and may result in immediate removal from that position.

## **B. Coach / Adult Volunteer Registration Required**

The Head Coach and all Assistant Coaches/Adult Volunteers MUST register with the SSSF on-line. An Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer is any adult working with one or more SCTP Athletes where they have direct control of the Athlete(s).

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** Returning SCTP State Advisors, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Adult Volunteers who were registered with the SCTP during the SCTP season and have a User ID and Password, go directly to Section 6-F, below.

## **C. Head Coach Registration**

12th Grade & under Teams: Must be 21 years of age or older.

Collegiate Teams: May be 18 years of age or older.

SCTP Head Coaches are required to complete this three-step registration procedure before starting the Team Registration process:

- Register in the SSSF SHOT System
- The registration procedure includes three elements:
  - Coach Registration Form
  - Background Check
  - "Double-Goal" Coaching Course – please acquire within 12 months. Not needed if another form of Coaching Credentials has been obtained and approved by the SCTP National Program Staff.

Make sure you keep copies of all forms for your records. Once you complete all registration steps, you will receive by e-mail a Coach User ID Number with Password.

Each State Advisor and Head Coach will have his/her contact information posted on the SCTP Website ([www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org)) for prospective participants looking to join a SCTP Team in their area or for other Teams looking for Team competition. Listings will be by state and will include name, e-mail address, telephone number, discipline(s) and city/town.

## **D. Assistant Coach / Adult Volunteer Registration**

Must be 18 years of age or older.

SCTP Assistant Coaches/Adult Volunteers are required to complete this registration process before working with athletes.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** Your Head Coach must already be registered and created a Team on-line before Assistant Coaches/Adult Volunteers can begin their on-line registration.

- Register in the SSSF SHOT System
- The registration procedure includes three elements:
  - Coach Registration Form
  - Background Check
  - "Double-Goal" Coaching Course – please acquire within 12 months. Not needed if another form of Coaching Credentials has been obtained and approved by the SCTP National Program Staff.

You will be prompted - step-by-step - to provide the necessary information. Make sure you keep copies of all forms for your records.

### **E. Accepted Coach Credentials**

A qualified coach must be on the field at all times when an SCTP Team is practicing or competing. Credentials from the following certificated coach training programs are accepted:

- NRA/USAS/CMP Level 1 Shotgun Coach Certification
- NSCA Level 1 (or higher) Instructor Certification
- NSSA Level 1 (or higher) Instructor Certification
- NRA/ATA Trap Coach Certification
- NRA Shotgun Instructor Certification
- 4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun Certification
- State Agency Coach Certification
- NSSA Associate Coach Certification

Other certificated programs may qualify, please contact the SCTP National Administrative Office for determination.

### **F. Previously Registered State Advisors, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, & Adult Volunteers**

Those having registered in the previous SCTP season and have a User ID and Password should go to the SCTP website at [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org) and login using their User ID and Password and will have access year-round for management of their team.

The system will reset on September 1st of every year. This will temporarily inactivate the account for the users until the head coach performs a new background check and it is approved by the SSSF main office. Upon approval and payment received from the head coach of the team, the account will re-activate and allow the team to access all tools.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** In order to communicate with all of our coaches, we need the users to ensure accuracy of the e-mail accounts. This is our primary means of communicating with the teams. The SSSF will not be responsible for lost communications due to the e-mail addresses not being updated.

All coach course codes and background check passwords are accessible from the head coach interface in the SHOT system. The "Double Goal Coach Course" is required to be taken only once. Until the registration process is completed, State Advisors, Head Coaches, and Assistant Coaches/Adult Volunteers will be locked out of accessing the full tools of the SHOT system.

## **7. TEAM REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

### **A. Initial Team Registration**

Each registered Head Coach is responsible for registering his/her Team by following the process below:

- Log on to the SCTP Website at [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org)
- Input your User ID and Password to access Manage Teams > add new Team for creating your Team.
- Follow the on-screen directions to complete the Team Registration.
- Once the Team is registered, click on Manage Teams > Athletes > Add New Athlete button to complete the on-line Team Roster process. The Athlete Registration-Consent & Waiver Form registers individual Athletes; the Team Registration Form registers the Team with the SSSF.

- To pay the Athlete Registration Fee, go to Manage Teams > Missing Payments. There you can choose to Pay by Check or Pay by Credit Card.
- Head coaches of returning teams: There is no need to re-register, just update your Team's information using 'EDIT' under Manage Teams.
- After updating your Team's information, click on:
  - Manage Teams > Athletes > edit to update an Athlete's profile.
  - To delete or add an Athlete, go to Manage Teams > Athletes and follow the on-screen directions.
  - To pay the Athlete Registration Fee, go to Manage Teams > Missing Payments. There you can choose to Pay by Check or Pay by Credit Card.
- Mail Forms to SCTP National Administrative Office
  - Copies of the athlete registration / consent & waiver form should be sent to the SCTP National Administrative Office for each Athlete registered. No one will be registered without these forms on file at the SCTP National Administrative Office. These forms are required for ALL registered Athletes even if they are 18 years of age or older. A parent or legal guardian's signature is required for anyone under 18 years of age.
  - The Head Coach keeps a copy of the consent & waiver Form, along with the Sportsmanship Contract and Medical Consent Form with original signature (signed in ink) on file. For your protection, please retain copies of ALL forms submitted to the SCTP National Administrative Office.
- Click Print Forms, download and print copies of each form listed below. Make a copy of each form for the number of Athletes you plan to register and distribute the forms to Athletes or their parents to complete, sign, and return to you.
- Athlete Registration - Consent & Waiver (SSSF Form "C&W")
- Sportsmanship Contract (SSSF Form "SC")
- Medical Consent (SSSF Form "MED")

Collect the completed and signed copy of each form for every Athlete you plan to register before beginning the on-line Team Registration process.

### **B. Registration Deadline**

The deadline for team Registration for each discipline is five (5) days prior to that discipline's SCTP State Team Championship. Registration forms and payment must be received prior to competition.

## **8. SAFETY (REQUIRED PROCEDURES & EQUIPMENT)**

### **A. Supervision at SCTP Events**

For all SCTP events (practices, matches, etc.), team members must be under the supervision of the Team's Head Coach. In the event the Head Coach cannot be present, he/she must designate an Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer who is registered with the National Program to provide supervision and leadership. Violation of this rule voids the Volunteer Liability Insurance Policy coverage, disqualifies the team from entering an event, and may result in the removal of the Head Coach from the SCTP.

### **B. Required Eye & Ear Protection**

All SCTP registered athletes, coaches, and anyone on the shooting field must wear eye & ear protection during all SCTP practice and competitive events. Ear buds are not protection for athletes who are competing unless they are designed for shotgun noise protection. During competition these ear buds must be visibly unplugged from source and remain that way until the athlete has completed the event.

### C. Special SCTP Safety Rules for All Disciplines

- Toe Pads: The use of toe pads is forbidden. It is a violation to rest the muzzle on the foot. Violation of this rule may be grounds for disqualification.
- Foot Wear: Shooting in flip-flops or opened-toed/heeled shoes/sandals is prohibited. Violation of this rule may be grounds for disqualification.
- Muzzle Control: While on a shooting post or station, the muzzle must never cross any part of the shooter's anatomy or any other person's anatomy. Violation of this rule may be grounds for disqualification.

### D. Allowable Equipment (Shotgun & Shot Shells)

- Shotgun: Any shotgun action type, 12 gauge or smaller, may be used as long as it is in a safe and serviceable condition. Shotguns used for all the disciplines, except for Trap, must be able to shoot twice without requiring it to be reloaded.
- Shot Shells: Reloads are ALLOWED for practices and competitions, provided they comply with the discipline's NGB rule for payload weight and in some cases, velocity.

## 9. DRESS & CONDUCT

### A. Appropriate Dress

Each registered SCTP participant represents not only the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, but also the entire Scholastic Clay Target Program including one's team, the team's sponsoring institution (e.g., school, club, church, community organization, youth organization, etc.), and at the national level, their state.

Promoting a positive image is in the best interest of the SCTP and everyone involved with it.

Appropriate dress for everyone associated with SCTP goes a very long way in making a positive impression.

- Tops: Shirt must have sleeves. 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: Short shorts and low riding shorts or pants revealing undergarments or buttocks are prohibited.
- Clothing Adornments: Shirts, hats, pants – any clothing – and any other associated items (including flags and banners) carried, worn, etc. with pictures, caricatures, designs, messages, writings, or other embellishments with direct or indirect references to alcohol, tobacco, sex or sexual connotations, drugs, gambling or profanities are prohibited.

**COACHES**: You are expected to uphold and enforce this dress and conduct code! Starting with the 2015-16 season. The athlete may be given one (1) warning, and subsequent violations will result in disqualification from the event.

### B. Conduct

Applies to coaches and athletes... Acts of using abusive or profane language or displaying unsportsmanlike conduct during competition. This includes but is not limited to:

- Arguing with referees and national staff
- Unsafe handling/use of firearms
- Disrupting a competitor
- Cheating
- Consuming alcohol/tobacco products (including any form of e-cigarettes or "vapor" products), or using non-prescribed drugs before or during any SCTP activity are prohibited. This will not be tolerated and are grounds for disqualification, suspension, and expulsion from the organization.

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

## 10. GOVERNANCE OF THE SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM

### **A. SSSF National Program Staff**

The SSSF National Program Staff are responsible for the administration of the SCTP and is the arbiter and final decision making authority for resolving SCTP issues. SCTP is committed to optimizing participation opportunities for SCTP athletes and coaches. That commitment includes ensuring that no SCTP athlete or coach are disqualified due to circumstances beyond their control. SCTP will ask for documented proof in any questionable situation from an NGB or law-enforcement organization.

Special circumstances may be brought to the attention of the SCTP NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE at the following address:

SCTP NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
165 Bay Ridge Lane  
Burlington, WI53105  
E-Mail address: [awondrash@ssfonline.com](mailto:awondrash@ssfonline.com)  
Website: [www.ssfonline.org](http://www.ssfonline.org)

### **B. State Advisors, State Steering Committees, & Regional Directors of Development**

SCTP State Advisors are the SSSF's "point person" for the SCTP in the state. As frontline representatives, State Advisors focus upon providing coaches with up-to-date program information, maintaining open lines of communication with gun clubs sponsoring SCTP Teams, working with State Wildlife Agencies to develop cooperative agreements, partnering with established youth organizations, and actively pursuing support for the SCTP from the various NGB state associations.

Regional Directors of Development are at-will employees with the SSSF. Volunteer positions are done on an annual basis and serve at the pleasure of the National Program. The National Program may or may not choose to reinstate a State Advisor, Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Adult Volunteer or State Steering Committee member with or without cause.

During the SCTP State Team Championship, State Advisors are there to assist Head Coaches in the procedures for registering their team and to ensure a procedure is in place for keeping and posting teams' scores. State Advisors certify the winning teams' scores to the SCTP Regional Directors of Development and post scores to the website.

It is highly recommended that each State have a SCTP State Steering Committee composed of stakeholders from state agencies, school administrators, high school athletic directors, NGB's, organized youth groups, et al. This committee can plan and conduct the statewide program. Several states are currently using this model to operate their SCTP by recruiting regional coordinators for maintaining ongoing contact with clubs and teams in their region.

### **C. Appeals**

Before an appeal is submitted to the SCTP National Administrative Office, the aggrieved party must first submit the issue at the local level (i.e., the team or club). Failing resolution at the local level, the issue must be submitted to the State Steering Committee or State Advisor for resolution. If the issue cannot be resolved at the local or state levels or if the State Advisor is involved in the issue, then it must be appealed to the Director of Development, then and only then, after these



avenues have been exhausted, the Director of Development may certify the issue as unresolved and must forward the appellant's SCTP APPEAL FORM to the SCTP National Administrative Office.

#### **D. Appeal Process**

- Issue in Dispute: The issue in dispute must involve a violation of a specific SCTP rule or policy.
- Qualified Appellant: The injured or aggrieved party MUST be registered with the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation and a member of a SCTP Team officially recognized by the SSSF. Appeals from anyone other than a SCTP registered member WILL NOT be considered.
- Head Coach Concurrence: Appeals filed by an SCTP Athlete must have the concurrence of the athlete's Head Coach. The Head Coach must sign the SCTP Appeal Form.
- Filing Procedure: If all efforts at the local level to resolve the issue have failed, the eligible appellant must submit a written appeal on the SCTP APPEAL FORM (download it from the SCTP website [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org)) within 72 hours of the incident to the State Advisor, State Steering Committee or Director of Development specifying which SCTP rule or policy was violated and a statement of facts as to how the rule or policy was violated. The complaint must include the date and specific location of the violation and the names of any witnesses to the violation. In the event no State Advisor or State Steering Committee exists, appeals may be transmitted directly to the Directors of Development. A written hard copy with the date and an original signature must also be submitted and received before any decision is reached or announced.
- Filing Fee: All appeals must include a \$50 filing fee (cashier's check or money order only) that will be held until a decision on the appeal is reached. This fee will be returned if the ruling is in favor of the appellant. If the ruling is not in favor of the appellant, the filing fee is forfeited.
- National Program Staff Response to Appellant: Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the mailed copy of the appeal, the appellant will receive a written notice of the decision on the appeal. The decision of the SCTP National Staff is FINAL.

## **11. SCTP STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (AMERICAN DISCIPLINES)**

### **A. State Championship Events**

SCTP Teams entering valid Competitive Squads may compete for Team awards in the following disciplines:

- TRAP – 16-Yard Singles (ATA Rules)
- SKEET – American Skeet Regulation Rounds (NSSA Rules)
- SPORTING CLAYS – Walk Through (NSCA Rules)

If a sporting course is not available, the State Advisor may petition the SCTP National Program Staff for permission to conduct the SCTP State Sporting Clays Championship on a 5-Stand. The SCTP National Sporting Clays Championship will be shot on walk-through Sporting Clays Courses.

### **B. Eligibility for SCTP National Team Championship Events**

A SCTP State Team Championship should be conducted in each discipline for which a state plans to send a squad to the SCTP National Team Championships. SCTP Athletes must compete in any of the SCTP State Team Championships in the state where they are registered to be eligible to attend the SCTP National Team Championships and compete in any or all disciplines. For

exception to this rule, approval from SCTP National Office and National Director must be obtained.

### **C. Races**

At the State level, Rookies shoot a 100-target race in each of the disciplines. The Intermediate and Senior Division Teams normally shoot 200-target races in the disciplines of Trap and Skeet. Sporting Clays can be either a 100 or 200-target race. Exception to the target numbers can be granted from the National SCTP Office.

### **D. Event Scheduling**

Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays SCTP State Team Championships may be held whenever desirable during the state NGB affiliates' championships. However, it is recommended that SCTP State Team Championship be held independently at a different time and place. In either case, the State Advisor of the discipline must post the event details on the SCTP website ([www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org)) or contact the SCTP National Administrative Office with the event details.

### **E. Competitive Squad**

All Squads entering a State Championship must be deemed a valid competitive squad (see Section 4-D, Competitive Squad). Head Coaches may enter as many competitive squads as they wish in the SCTP State Championships.

ALL Team Members should be encouraged to participate in the SCTP State Team Championship even if they cannot be made part of a valid competitive squad. State Advisors will assist in forming "Mixed Squads" of SCTP participants not entered on a Competitive Squad. If possible, a special set of awards should be made available for "individual awards".

"Mixed Squads" or athletes on one squad from more than 1 team are NOT eligible to compete for SCTP Team Awards.

### **F. Special Circumstances Rule: "Bump Up"**

In exceptional circumstances where a valid Competitive Squad cannot be constituted, Athletes may be elevated or "Bumped Up" to a higher Category within a Division or to a higher Division in order to fill short squads in a single discipline or multiple disciplines. All "Bump Up" requests must first be submitted to the State Advisor for a recommendation. State Advisors will communicate their recommendation to the Director of Development for a final decision. If there is no State Advisor in the state, the request must be submitted directly to the Director of Development. Once a lower Category or Division Athlete has been "BUMPED UP" in a discipline, he or she must compete at the higher level in that discipline for the remainder of the SCTP Season. In no case will a "BUMPED UP" Athlete be allowed to return to a lower Category or Division in the discipline during that SCTP season.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** An "open" class division has been created so that coaches do not have to bump up athletes if they do not wish to. This division does not include collegiate or college age athletes.

### **G. Coaching During Events**

No "On-Field" or "On-Station" coaching will be allowed. For safety purposes only, coaches may stand behind the rookie athletes in a squad, but, may not coach.

### **H. NGB Target Registration**

All Skeet and Sporting Clays targets at SCTP State Team Championships will be registered with the appropriate NGB. Targets cannot be registered retroactively. In a few circumstances there may

be the option to shoot non-registered targets, please contact the national staff for specifics. I.e., when states require a "state membership fee".

- SKEET – ALL SQUADS SHOOT REGISTERED TARGETS.
- SPORTING CLAYS – ALL SQUADS SHOOT REGISTERED TARGETS.
- TRAP – In accordance with the MOU between the ATA and the SCTP, all State Trap Championships must be registered targets.

## 12. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (AMERICAN DISCIPLINES) - ENTRY PROCEDURES

### **A. State Team Championship Entry Form**

Entry into a SCTP State Team Championship requires the Head Coach to enter their squads through the use of the SHOT online registration system. This will then immediately report the squads to the SCTP National Headquarters.

Once a coach has logged in by entering their Login ID and Password, he or she can build a Squad for the event.

Submitting Squad Entry Forms electronically through the Website has several advantages. The Squad Entry Form will be immediately available to the State Advisor for the discipline and to the SCTP National Program Staff.

SQUAD ENTRY FORMS ARE DUE FIVE (5) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DESIGNATED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. FAILURE TO REGISTER YOUR SQUADS IN A TIMELY MANNER WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFYING THE SQUAD FOR SCTP TEAM AWARDS.

Head Coaches that do not have access to the Internet should contact either their SCTP State Advisor or the SCTP National Administrative Office for assistance with the Squad entry procedure.

Changes may be made to Squad Entry Forms, by Head Coaches, through the SCTP Web up to 72 hours prior to the state championship for a specific discipline, so long as the substitution does not alter the division and category of the Squad. The SCTP National Administrative Office must approve any change that affects a Category or Division. Head Coaches should print off a revised Squad form to submit to the State Advisor upon registering for the state championship event. After 72 hours, Head Coaches will need to contact the State Advisor (or authorized shoot manager for the event if State Advisor is unavailable) for the event to make any last minute adjustments.

Head Coaches are urged to emphasize to their Athletes the importance of making a commitment to the TEAM and keeping it. Simply put, if a team member indicates he or she will attend the event, they have an obligation to the team and particularly to their squad mates to attend the event.

### **B. Entry Deadline**

All SCTP STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD ENTRIES MUST be completed through the SCTP Website no later than five (5) days prior to the designated state championship for the discipline entered. NO SQUAD will be allowed in any SCTP State Championship event without an appropriate Squad Entry on record in the SHOT system.

### **C. Entering All Team Members – Mixed Squads**

Every Athlete registered by the 5-day deadline on an officially recognized SCTP Team is eligible to shoot at the SCTP State Championship. Athletes who were not registered for the event by the 5-day deadline may participate in the SCTP State Championship, but they may not be made part of a Competitive Squad unless approved by the state advisor.

The State Advisor (or authorized shoot manager for the event (if State Advisor is unavailable) will assist in forming "Mixed Squads" of SCTP participants not entered on a Competitive Squad. If possible, additional awards should be obtained by the State Advisor for "Individual recognition". "MIXED SQUADS" ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR SCTP TEAM AWARDS.

#### **D. Squad Substitutions**

Changes may be made to the SCTP State Team Championship Squad Entry Form prior to the event. Substitutes must be members of the team that have met the 5-day Team Registration Rule. The Head Coach for the team is the only person allowed to make changes to Squad Entry Form. The changes may be made through the SCTP Website up to 72 hours before the state championship event for the discipline. Once the 72-hour deadline has passed, Head Coaches will need to contact the State Advisor for approval prior to registering the squad at the shoot.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** NO SUBSTITUTIONS will be allowed after a competitor fires the first shot at a legal target. Once a Squad Member fires at a legal target in ANY SCTP State Team Championship event, his/her score will be counted as part of the Squad's aggregate score even if he/she cannot finish the event.

#### **E. High School Awards**

The SCTP National Organization currently supports a "concurrent" High School Division at its National Championships. We will encourage states to do so as well. Medals for this division will be available upon request and with usage of the SSSF's SHOT scoring system!

#### **F. High School Teams/Awards**

The High School division shall consist of athletes in the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades only. These athletes must be from the same High School and Team under the same High School, no exceptions! No Intermediate "bump ups" will be allowed for this division and "Team Scoring" will be utilized at the National Championships. ~~A letter from the High School or an Athlete transcript~~ may be required as proof / verification for any awards won by any team participating in this category.

Squad Entry submitted on the SCTP Website will be visible to the appropriate State Advisor immediately. If the SCTP State Championship is to be held in conjunction with an NGB affiliate's state shoot, the State Advisor should immediately inform the shoot management of the number of SCTP entries. If problems are encountered with scheduling, the SCTP State Team Championship may be a stand-alone event (see Section 11-D, Event Scheduling).

## **13. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (AMERICAN DISCIPLINES) - SCORING, SHOOT-OFFS & AWARDS**

#### **A. Score Tabulation & Posting**

The State Advisor (or designated representative) checks and posts all squad scores. Scores should be posted as soon as possible at the event site and on the SCTP Website (see Section 13-E, WebPosting of Scores).

#### **B. Shoot-Off Required**

In the event of a tie between or among Squads for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in the same Category or Division, a shoot-off will be conducted to determine the champion or place of finish. Shoot-offs will be conducted only to break ties between or among Individuals and Squads. Ties in all three disciplines will be settled by shoot-offs.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** An individual or squad qualifying for a shoot-off must shoot in the shoot-off or their score from the main event will be entered as its final score. Only individuals or those Squad Members who qualified for the shoot-off will be allowed to participate in the shoot-off. No substitutions. While the National SCTP Organization only recognizes shoot-offs for individuals with tied perfect scores, some states may elect to run shoot-offs for any tied scores, thus determining an award.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** The SCTP is a “team” based program. Shoot-offs between tied squads will have the following rules that follow.

### **C. Shoot-Off Procedures**

- **Trap:** All squads in a shoot-off for a specific Category or Division award will be conducted from the 16-yard line in a 25-target round. Shoot management will determine squad shooting order. Squad members shoot all shoot-off targets from the same post as they did in the main event.  
The total number of targets broken by the squad during the round will be used to determine the winner. If there are tie scores between or among squads, the tied squads are still “alive” and continue on to the next round.  
Round Two – Two or more squads still “alive” from Round One move back to the 22-yard line with their squad mates and continue the same shoot-off process. If there are tie scores between or among squads, the tied squads are still “alive” and continue on to Round Three.  
Round Three – Two or more squads still “alive” move to the 27-yard line and follow the shoot-off procedures used in the preceding two rounds. The next and all required subsequent rounds will be shot from the 27 -yard line.
- **Sporting Clays:** Shoot-offs may be conducted on a Walk-Through Sporting Clays course or a 5-Stand field. Shoot- offs for a specific Category or Division award will be shot on the same station for total score.  
All target presentations will be true pairs. Shoot-off will be from one station with each shooter shooting at two (2) True Pair (four targets per shooter) for team total score. ALL Squad Members must shoot from the same cage or stand. Shoot management will determine squad shooting order.  
Squads that are “alive” continue to the next station and repeat the process until one squad is declared the winner.
- **Skeet:** All shoot-offs will be doubles shot on the same field from stations 3, 4, and 5 in that order, for total score. All squad members will participate in the shoot-off round(s). Shoot management will determine squad shooting order. Squads in the Shoot-offs for a specific category or division award will shoot on the same field.  
Squads that are “alive”, the process continues in the following rotation: From Stations 3 to 4, 4 to 5, 5 to 4, 4 to 3, and 3 to 4 until one squad is declared the winner.

### **D. Web Posting Of Scores**

State Advisors and/or head coaches should post the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place squad scores for each Division and its associated categories to the SCTP Website at [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org). Child protection issues require that posted scores list only the Athletes’ names and their scores.

Additional information may include the coach’s name, names of the Squad and Team, and the City or Town. Procedures for posting scores: Login > Scores > Post New Scores > follow on-screen directions by uploading a .pdf file with the names and scores. Posting of ALL competitors’ scores for the event is highly recommended.

### **E. SCTP State Championship Awards**

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation will provide awards for the winning Squads placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each Division and Category at the SCTP State Team Championships in Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays. Each Squad Member and the Head Coach for each of these Squads will receive similar awards.

## **14. SCTP NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (AMERICAN DISCIPLINES)**

### **A. National Championship Events**

SCTP Teams entering valid Competitive Squads may compete for Team awards in the following disciplines:

- TRAP – 16-Yard Singles (ATA. Rules)
- SKEET – American Skeet Regulation Rounds (NSSA Rules)
- SPORTING CLAYS – Walk Through (NSCA Rules)

Trap, skeet & sporting clays will be registered at the National Championships held in July. Membership in the appropriate NGB is required.

### **B. Eligibility for SCTP National Team Championship (American Disciplines)**

TRAP, SKEET, AND SPORTING CLAYS: Each registered Athlete must have competed in any of their State's SCTP Championships. Each Athlete's scores from its SCTP State Championship(s) event must be on file at the SCTP National Administrative Office. All SCTP Athletes that participated in a State Championship may register and shoot at the SCTP National Team Championships to qualify for the NRA All-Scholastic Team.

### **C. Races**

All Division Teams shoot a 200-target race in each of the American disciplines of Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays. All Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clays targets shot at the SCTP National Championships will be registered targets.

### **D. Squads**

All competitive squads (see Section 4-D) are welcome to enter the SCTP National Championships. Coaches may enter as many competitive squad in the SCTP National Team Championships as they choose to enter.

### **E. Squad Substitutions**

Head Coaches of valid competitive squads entered in the SCTP National Team Championships are allowed to make two (2) substitutions to the rosters of Trap squads and ONE (1) substitution to the roster of Skeet and Sporting Clays squads. Additional substitutions may be allowed with specific approval of the State Advisor and the Director of Development. In order to be eligible as a substitute, one must be a registered member of the Team and must have participated in his/her SCTP State Championship event.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** NO SUBSTITUTIONS will be allowed after a competitor fires the first shot at a legal target. Once a Squad Member fires at a legal target in the SCTP National Team Championship event his/her score will be counted as part of the Squad's aggregate score even if he/she cannot finish the event.

### **F. Coaching During Events**

No "On-Field" or "On-Station" coaching will be allowed. For safety purposes only, coaches may stand behind the rookie athletes in a squad, but, may not coach.

### **G. All Registered Team Members Eligible**

Every Athlete registered by the 5-day deadline for an officially recognized SCTP Team and who shot in his or her SCTP State Championship event is eligible to shoot at the SCTP National Team Championships. Teams unable to place every team member on a Competitive Squad by the Registration Deadline may take ALL team members to the shoot for the experience. However, a team may form a squad(s) of athletes from multiple classifications to compete in the Open Division. SCTP National Program Staff will form amalgamated "Mixed Squads" of SCTP participants not entered on a valid Competitive Squad.

"MIXED SQUADS" (ATHLETES FROM DIFFERENT TEAMS SQUADED TOGETHER) WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR SCTP TEAM AWARDS.

## **15. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (AMERICAN DISCIPLINES) - ENTRY PROCEDURES**

### **A. National Championship Entry Form**

Entry into the SCTP National Team Championships requires the Head Coach to submit electronically through the Login page of the SCTP Website at [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org). Once the coach has logged in by entering the Login ID and Password, he or she can build a Squad for the event.

Submitting entry forms electronically via the SCTP Website has several advantages. The Squad Entry Form will be immediately available to the State Advisor for the discipline and to the SCTP National Program Staff.

Squads and payments are due (prior to) 3 days before the SCTP National Championships.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE SQUAD ENTRY FORM IN A TIMELY MANNER WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFYING THE SQUAD FOR SCTP TEAM AWARDS.

Changes may be made to Squad Entry Forms, by Head Coaches, through the SCTP Website up to 48 hours (See Section 14-E, Squad Substitutions) before the SCTP national championship event, so long as the substitution does not alter the Division of the Squad. The SCTP National Program Staff must approve any change that affects a Category or Division. Head Coaches should print off a revised Squad Entry Form to submit to the State Advisor upon registering for the National Championships.

Head Coaches are urged to emphasize to their Athletes the importance of making a commitment to the TEAM and keeping it. Simply put, if a team member indicates he or she will attend the event, they have an obligation to the team and particularly to their squad mates to attend the event.

### **B. Entry Procedure**

Registration forms and entry procedures will be posted and conducted on-line through the SCTP Website [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org).

### **C. Pre-Registration of Teams for SCTP National Championships (NEW-2018)**

Teams will be allowed to register their squads and athletes before the official opening of National Championship registration by doing the following:

1. Send a check for the proper amount of all squads and athletes to the Burlington WI address post marked no earlier than 12:01am on May 15<sup>th</sup> and no later than midnight on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

2. Money received is "**Non-Refundable**". Pre-registration fees will not be returned for any athletes that do not attend the SCTP National Championships.
3. All squads must be "pre-built" on your team's home page for the National Championships. Teams will be allowed to change athletes as they see fit later on but all squads must be ready to populate the shooting schedule.
4. SCTP will populate the squad assignments based on the time and date received (time stamp) on the envelope containing your paperwork and check. PLEASE send by regular mail with NO signature required. Sending paperwork requiring a signature may delay your paperwork!
5. A form will be available on the SSSF website that will require your information along with dates and times you would like your squads assigned. Please give us 3 options for times and days.
6. Teams will be notified of their pre-registration by the end of May and before normal registration opens on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **D. Shoot-Off Procedures**

Shoot-Off procedures for the SCTP National Team Championships will be the same as those used for SCTP State Team Championships (see Section 13-B and C, above).

#### **E. SCTP National Championship Awards**

The Scholastic Clay Target Program will provide awards for the winning Squads placing First through Fifth in each Category and Division in Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays. Each Squad Member and the Head Coach will receive a similar award.

#### **F. Declaration of Winning Individuals & Squads**

The SCTP National Program Staff will declare all winners. The Scholastic Clay Target Program will provide awards for the winning Individuals and Ladies placing First through Fifth in each Category and Division in Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays. An Athlete can only receive one award and the Main Event Award is awarded first. Results will be posted on the SCTP Scoreboard as soon as all the scores have been carefully checked. ALL Individual and Squad scores will be posted on the SCTP website (see Section 13-D, above).

#### **G. High School Awards Division (Revised-2018)**

Athletes participating for the "High School" division awards must have the following information filled in on their athlete profile pages and coaches must ensure that it is up to date:

1. Athletes must have the High School they currently attend filled in on their personal profile page.
2. Coaches must ensure that this information is current and accurate **before** attending the National Championships.
3. The SHOT system will sort by "Team" first and then by "High School" when using scores for Team scoring in the High School division.
4. Any awards won will be awarded and given to the "Team", not the High School of the attending athletes.
5. No letter will be needed from the High School verifying the team is a High School team. However, the SCTP staff may from time to time verify a team's roster and validate attending high school of any "athletes in question". Home schooled athletes must show a High School they "would have attended" had they not been home schooled.
6. Falsifying information and high school designation will be grounds for disqualification.



## 16. SCTP STATE - INTERNATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (OLYMPIC DISCIPLINES)

### A. State International Championship Events

ALL International SCTP State and National Team Championships will be a registered target event. All competitors must be USA Shooting Members.

SCTP Teams entering valid Competitive Squads may compete for Team awards in the following disciplines:

- OLYMPIC TRAP 125 targets plus optional final
- OLYMPIC SKEET 125 targets plus optional final

For team placements, only preliminary score will count. Finals are not included and the finals, if shot, are for individual placements and experience.

### B. Eligibility for SCTP State International Team Championship

An SCTP State International Team Championship should be conducted in each discipline for which a state plans to send an Individual or a Squad to the National SCTP International Team Championships. SCTP Athletes must compete in an SCTP State International Team Championship(s). In the event a state does not have an SCTP State International Championship, all currently registered athletes from that state who have met practice and eligibility requirements, may participate and be eligible for awards. There is no Minimum Qualifying Score (MQS) to qualify for the International SCTP National Team Championships.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** The SCTP State International Team Championships DOES NOT qualify an Athlete eligible to attending USA Shooting's National Junior Olympic Championship Shoot. To attend USA Shooting's National Junior Olympic Championships (NJOSC) please contact USA Shooting.

### C. Special SCTP Rules for International Disciplines

Due to the specialized nature and limited availability of facilities for SCTP Teams to participate in the international disciplines of Bunker Trap and International Skeet, there are two changes to the rules. A new COMPETITIVE DIVISION has been added and the rules for a valid COMPETITIVE SQUAD have changed.

FOUR COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS - SCTP Teams may register squads in the following divisions:

- INTERMEDIATE DIVISION                      Grades 5 - 8
- SENIOR DIVISION                                Grades 9 - 12
- OPEN DIVISION                                 Grades 12 and Under
- COLLEGE                                         Division I, II, III

COMPETITIVE SQUAD – Squads competing for SCTP Team Championships in the Rookie, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions are composed of three team members registered in the same division, but without regard to their registered category. Squads competing for the SCTP Team Championship in the open division are composed of three team members from any of the other three divisions. All squad members must be individual members of U.S.A. Shooting. College is a separate division.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** Athletes may be entered in only one (1) SCTP division per target year. Once entered, it is an irrevocable decision for the remainder of the SCTP target year.

**D. Shoot Governance**

USA Shooting Rules will govern all SCTP State Team Championship Matches for the Bunker Trap, Double Trap, and International Skeet disciplines.

**E. Standard SCTP Rules Apply**

The SCTP rules governing deadlines for team, squad, and athlete registration in Sections 2, 4, and 5 as well as the safety rules in A, B, and C of Section 8 and Section 9 above are applicable to the International disciplines. The rules regarding the number of required team practices and the requirement that the Head Coach or another adult registered with the team be present at all practices and competitions must also be met. There are some new special rules that apply only to the international disciplines (see Sections 16-F, below).

**F. State International Team Championship Entry Procedures**

Entry into a SCTP State International Team Championship requires the Head Coach to submit an SCTP State Team Championship squad entry to the SCTP National Headquarters for each individual and squad entered. This form must be submitted electronically through the Login page of the SCTP website at [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org). Once a coach has logged in by entering their Login ID and Password, he or she can build a Squad for the Championship.

Submitting squad entry electronically through the website has several advantages. The Squad entry will be immediately available to the State Advisor for the discipline and to the SCTP National Program Staff.

Squad entries are due five (5) days prior to the SCTP State Team Championship. Failure to submit the squad entry in a timely manner will result in disqualifying the squad for SCTP Team awards.

Head Coaches that do not have access to the Internet should contact either their SCTP State Advisor or the SCTP National Administrative Office for assistance with the Squad entry procedure. Every Athlete registered by the 5-day deadline on an officially recognized SCTP Team is eligible to shoot at the SCTP State Team Championship.

Changes may be made to squad entry by Head Coaches through the SCTP Website up to 72 hours prior to the SCTP State Team Championship for a specific discipline. Once the 72-hour deadline has passed, Head Coaches will need to contact the State Advisor for approval prior to registering the squad at the shoot.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:** No substitutions will be allowed after a competitor fires the first shot at a legal target. Once a squad member fires at a legal target in at any SCTP State Team

Championship event, his/her score will be counted as part of the squad's aggregate score even if he/she cannot finish the event.

Head Coaches are urged to emphasize to their athletes the importance of making a commitment to the team and keeping it. Simply put, if a team member indicates he or she will attend the event, they have an obligation to the team and particularly to their squad mates to attend the event.

#### **G. SCTP International State Team Championship Awards**

The Scholastic Clay Target Program will provide awards for the winning squads placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each of the four (4) divisions. Each squad member and the Head Coach for each of these squads will receive similar awards.

## **17. SCTP NATIONAL - INTERNATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (OLYMPIC DISCIPLINES)**

International SCTP National Championships will be held independently from U.S.A. Shooting's National Championships.

#### **A. SCTP National - International Championship Events**

The International SCTP National Team Championships will be a registered target event. All competitors must be USA Shooting members.

SCTP Teams entering valid competitive squads may compete for Team awards in the following disciplines:

- OLYMPIC TRAP                      Regulation Rounds (U.S.A.S. Rules)
- OLYMPIC SKEET                    Regulation Rounds (U.S.A.S. Rules)

Please note that certain requirements are still in effect to participate in the USA Shooting NOJSC. The place to get the latest information on the USA NJOSC is directly from the USA Shooting's competition office.

Note.... All current Junior USAS team members (registered with the SCTP National Organization) will be allowed to compete for team and individual SCTP awards. These athletes are not eligible to participate in any finals competition.

#### **B. Eligibility for SCTP Team Awards**

Each registered Competitive Squad and Individual, must have competed in their state's SCTP International Championships event in order to be eligible to compete for Team or Individual awards at the International SCTP National Team Championship (See 16 B for eligibility requirements). In the event a state does not have an SCTP State International Championship, all currently registered athletes from that state who have met practice and eligibility requirements, may participate and be eligible for awards.

#### **C. Standards & Special SCTP Rules**

Both the standard and special SCTP rules that govern the SCTP State Team Championships are also applicable at the SCTP National Team Championships. These rules are stated above in Section 16 E and F.

#### **D. Registration Procedures**

Posted on-line at [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org).

## 18. ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **A. Solicitation Activities**

Organizations and individuals desiring to solicit financial contributions or other assistance from local businesses or other third parties to support their participation in the SCTP must do so in their own names. Organizations and individuals are strictly prohibited from using the SSSF name and SSSF's non-profit classification or claiming affiliation with the SSSF or any of the SSSF's affiliate companies in their solicitation activities, without the sole written consent of the SSSF.

Organizations and individuals accepting financial contributions or other assistance in connection with their participation in the SCTP shall be solely responsible for collecting, recording, disseminating, substantiating and reporting all contributions or support they receive. Neither the SSSF nor the SCTP shall be responsible for any activities that organizations or individuals may engage in with respect to their participation in the SCTP. Any questions regarding tax deductibility should be directed to your financial advisor.

### **B. SCTP Logo**

"Scholastic Clay Target Program", "SCTP" and the SCTP logo are trademarks or registered trademarks. Organizations and individuals, whether or not participating in the SCTP, are prohibited from using the SCTP trademarks without the prior written consent from the SSSF. To obtain consent to use SCTP trademarks, please send a written request to SSSF National Headquarters at the address in Section 19, below, or contact the National Director.

### **C. Coaches/Parents Behavior**

Any grievances with how an event has been run, or questioning the results of any event sponsored by the SCTP may discuss this with the SCTP staff and discipline committees. Anyone causing a disturbance or scene at an awards ceremony can and will be escorted from the premises by a local law enforcement official. This may result in expulsion from the program.

### **D. National Championships**

The SCTP will petition 5-6 coaches/state advisors for each discipline to oversee any situation/problem with the event. The decision by the group will be ratified by the Director of Development and the National Director and then will be made final by the SCTP tournament director.

### **E. National Awards**

The SCTP "Main Event" awards are the most prestigious awards the team can earn at the National Championships and therefor will be awarded to a team eligible to win such an award first. Any "extra" or concurrent award (i.e. High School award) will be "secondary" to the main event award. A squad/team may win more than one award, however, they cannot win "both" endowment funding's. We will award the higher of the 2 and bump down the endowment funding to the next "eligible" team of the other. A "team" can only win 1 podium spot in the "High School" division.

### **F. Endowment Funding**

Team endowment funding will ONLY be awarded to teams that are CURRENTLY registered and up to date with the SCTP. This includes payment by all athletes and coaches registered with the team and competing. This MUST be done prior to participating in any SCTP sponsored event. Failure to do this will move up other teams that are current with the SCTP and they will receive those funds. This will take full effect with both National Championships in 2014 and all tournaments going forward in 2015.

## **G. Coaches**

Coaches are responsible for updating head coach, assistant coach, adult volunteer, and athlete information, and ensuring that all information entered is accurate. This is to mandate and include address, e-mail, phone number, and NGB identification numbers (where appropriate) for the purpose of communicating with our members, and accurate reporting of our shoot information to the appropriate NGB. T-Shirt size is mandated so that we (and the state) can make correct shirt orders.

## **H. High School Teams**

Teams wishing to participate in the high school "only" division may only enter athletes from that same high school. A High School letter or athlete transcript may be required of anyone winning an award in this division at the National Championships. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of any awards won. No intermediate athlete "bump-ups" will be allowed in the High School only division.

## **I. SCTP Regional Tournaments**

Location of the tournaments defines the region, not who can attend. Any team can attend a regional tournament. Regional Tournaments will be defined and created by the National SCTP Organization and may be awarded and then assigned to local groups. There are no qualifications required for attendance at SCTP Regional Tournaments. The idea of the SCTP Regional Tournament is to offer athletes more competition opportunities.

## **J. Pre-Registration of Teams for SCTP National Championships (NEW-2018)**

Teams will be allowed to register their squads and athletes before the official opening of National Championship registration by doing the following:

1. Send a check for the proper amount of all squads and athletes to the Burlington WI address post marked no earlier than 12:01am on May 10<sup>th</sup> and no later than midnight on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. Money received is "**Non-Refundable**". Pre-registration fees will not be returned for any athletes that do not attend the SCTP National Championships.
3. All squads must be "pre-built" on your team's home page for the National Championships. Teams will be allowed to change athletes as they see fit later on but all squads must be ready to populate the shooting schedule.
4. SCTP will populate the squad assignments based on the time and date received (time stamp) on the envelope containing your paperwork and check. PLEASE send by regular mail with NO signature required. Sending paperwork requiring a signature may delay your paperwork!
5. A form will be available on the SSSF website that will require your information along with dates and times you would like your squads assigned. Please give us 3 options for times and days.
6. Teams will be notified of their pre-registration by the end of May and before normal registration opens on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 19. CONTACT THE SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM

### **Mailing Address:**

Scholastic Clay Target Program  
165 Bay Ridge Lane  
Burlington, WI 53105

### **For Questions Regarding the SCTP, Please Contact:**

E-Mail: Tom Wondrash ([twondrash@sssfoonline.com](mailto:twondrash@sssfoonline.com))  
Phone: (262) 939-6664  
Web: [www.sssfonline.org](http://www.sssfonline.org)

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation and the Scholastic Clay Target Program, reserve the right to make any changes without notice should safety or unfair play becomes a concern due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) is 501(c)(3) public charity responsible for all aspects of the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) across the United States. SCTP and SASP are youth development programs in which adult coaches and other volunteers use shooting sports to teach and to demonstrate sportsmanship, responsibility, honesty, ethics, integrity, teamwork, and other positive life skills. SCTP was developed as a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) until the SSSF was created in 2007 to operate the SCTP. In 2012, SSSF created the SASP and became the managing foundation of both programs.

## 20. NEW RULES NOTICE

### **A. 2/21/2019**

All Athletes are expected to shoot for the closest team to their residence that will allow them to shoot for that team. Any athletes/coaches using or allowing an athlete to use an address other than their actual address to participate with a team that is not the closest team to their actual address, will be immediately disqualified and expelled from the SCTP.

The SCTP does not condone nor will it allow athletes to "team jump". In some cases however, athletes may not be a good "fit" for a specific team and therefore, a coach may decide to release that athlete. The SCTP may allow a 1 time move for an athlete based on the following criteria: 1.) That athlete has been approved by both coaches (the coach releasing the athlete and the coach accepting the athlete) 2.) The athlete is allowed only 1 move like this during their SCTP Career 3.) This move must be approved by the SCTP National Organization (RFR, Director of Development, National Director). 4.) The move of this athlete will be to the next closest team that will accept that athlete. In the case of a team disbanding, breaking up or no longer an organized team in the SCTP, these athletes will be allowed to participate with the next closest team. That move will not be counted against them.

Other variances of allowing an athlete move may include a 1 year "sit out" or "non-compete" clause. All requests and final decisions regarding an athlete move from one team to another will ultimately be decided on by the SCTP National Staff. That decision will be final.