



## Basic Rules and Procedures

The Arizona SCTP will participate in five shotgun shooting disciplines; American Trap, American Skeet, Sporting Clays, International Skeet, and International Trap in divisions determined by Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF).

The Arizona SCTP will operate under the overlying guides and philosophies of the national governing body (NGB), the SSSF SCTP. For more information on National SCTP rules please see the SCTP Official Handbook at <http://www.sssfonline.org/>.

### *GOVERNING BODIES*

For each discipline, Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, International Skeet, and International trap rules of the NGBs will be followed.

Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) [www.shootata.com](http://www.shootata.com).

National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) [www.mynssa.com](http://www.mynssa.com).

National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) [www.mynsca.com](http://www.mynsca.com).

United States of America Shooting (USAS) [www.usashooting.com](http://www.usashooting.com).

Everyone competing at the SCTP State and National Championships MUST be a member of the NGB for the discipline contested. You can visit the respective organizations website for membership information.

### *DIVISION DETERMINATION*

The divisions are determined not by age, but by academic grade level and years in the program.

*Rookie Division* (Grades 5 & Under) – Time in this division is NOT counted toward “time in” when determining Intermediate and Senior Division categories.

*Intermediate Division* (Grades 6-8)

Entry Level – 1<sup>st</sup> year of participation in the Intermediate Division

Advanced – 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of participation in the Intermediate Division

*Senior Division* (Grades 9-12 Only)

Junior Varsity – 1<sup>st</sup> year of participation in the Senior Division

Varsity – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the Senior Division

*Collegiate* (Enrolled in 12 credit hours at least one semester)

Collegiate - four years of eligibility

Team members registered in a specific SCTP Division MUST compete in that Division AND ONLY in that Division for the entire SCTP Target Year. The SCTP Target Year concludes with the SCTP National Championship for each of the disciplines. Individuals should be registered in the same division for each discipline.

### *Teams*

All participants MUST be members of an officially recognized Arizona SCTP Team. A team is a minimum of one full squad in the SCTP Division the club wishes to participate in. A team must designate one gun club or shooting facility as its “home” gun club.

A team must conduct regular practices defined as a **MINIMUM** of 6 team practice sessions (each on a separate day) for the team members at the team's home gun club with each team member shooting a minimum of 25 targets at each practice session. Team members **MUST ATTEND 6 TEAM PRACTICE SESSIONS** in order to be eligible to shoot in a SCTP State or National Championship event.

Participants may choose to participate in 1 of the 2 closest clubs to their home address. Participants may not be a member of, nor compete for, more than one team during any one SCTP target year unless approved by the state coordinator.

### *SHOOTER ELIGIBILITY*

All youths older than 9 years of age enrolled in a bona fide primary, elementary, middle, junior or senior high school, or college program or enrolled in a home schooled program as defined in the Division Determination and deemed academically eligible (See below for academic eligibility) with the physical, mental and emotional maturity to participate in team sports are eligible to participate in the SCTP. SCTP Senior Division eligibility ends with graduation from high school, or once a student reaches his/her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, whichever comes first. High school graduates with graduation dates in the fall or spring semester of the current SCTP Target Year are eligible to compete in their discipline's SCTP State and National Championships. Students graduating from the Senior Division and enrolling into an accredited college or university are eligible for an additional 4 years of participation in the Collegiate Division or once a student reaches his/her 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, whichever comes first. College students with graduation dates in the fall or spring semester of the current SCTP Target Year are eligible to compete in their discipline's SCTP State and National Championships.

#### *Academic Eligibility*

All students who participate in the Arizona SCTP must achieve a 2.0 minimum grade point average with NO F's to be deemed academically eligible.

### *CODE OF CONDUCT*

All participants in Arizona SCTP will be held to a shooter's code of conduct and a sportsmanship and ethics code and may be removed from the program by their lead instructor or the state officials for failure to adhere to the codes.

All participants in Arizona SCTP must obey all safety rules at all times, no exceptions. Details on the safety rules are included in the athlete's registration paperwork and online at [www.azgfd.gov/sctp](http://www.azgfd.gov/sctp).

All shooters must always conduct themselves in a safe and professional manner while at a shooting range. This includes; no foul, offensive or threatening language, no horseplay, no throwing of equipment including hats and shells, absolutely no pointing of firearms of any kind at other individuals, no verbal or non-verbal threats of violence, and no alcohol or tobacco products permitted during SCTP events or by underage individuals at any time.

Shooters must respect coaches, teammates, and competitors and behave in a sportsmanlike manner.

Parents, Guardians, and other observers of competitive events are also held to the shooters code of conduct and are prohibited from delaying the progress of a shoot. Parents, Guardians and observers are encouraged to politely cheer for the participants but shouting and coaching the participants is prohibited. In the events of trap and skeet, observers are required to remain behind the shooting field at all times.

Any protests or complaints must first attempt to be settled with your local coaches, then brought to the attention of your Lead Instructor. If a resolution can not be reached your Lead Instructor may then contact the Shooting Sports Coordinator who will resolve the issue with the proper authorities.

By participating in the SCTP you are agreeing to the code of conduct and athlete sportsmanship and ethics contract. You are agreeing to accept instruction from a certified SCTP Coach in an organized SCTP activity. You and your parents/guardians understand the Lead Instructor can issue warnings to participants for violations associated with providing instruction (i.e., unsafe practices, failure to follow instructions, etc.) and that the Lead Instructor can remove or suspend a participant for violations associated with guidelines for SCTP training and events.

Participants must have a parent or guardian present at events or training programs.

### *DRESS CODE*

Attire should resemble a community expectation. Presenting a bodily appearance or wearing clothing which is disruptive, provocative or which endangers the health and safety of you or others is prohibited. Tops that expose any part of the torso are prohibited (i.e. cutoff t-shirts, halter tops, tank tops, etc.), bottoms must not reveal undergarments or buttocks, shoes must be closed toed. Any clothing references to alcohol, tobacco, sex or sexual connotations, drugs, gambling or profanities are prohibited.

### *SAFETY RULES*

#### *Safety Equipment*

Eye and Ear protection is required at all times. Each shooter is required to wear a shell pouch or vest and a hat or visor with the brim facing forward for skeet and sporting clays.

#### *Muzzle Control*

All guns must be pointed in a safe direction **AT ALL TIMES**. When gun is carried with muzzle pointed upward, the muzzle must be above the carriers head, never under the brim of the hat. The muzzle can be placed on a rubber pad or carpet mat on the shooting station. **AT NO TIME SHOULD A MUZZLE BE PLACED ON THE TOE OR FOOT**, this will result in immediate disqualification from the match.

#### *Trigger Control*

Your finger must be kept off the trigger until your gun is mounted and you are ready to call for the target.

### *Open and Empty*

Your gun **MUST** be open and empty at **ALL** times. Break action guns may have the action closed provided the gun is secured in a gun rack.

You may **ONLY** load your firearm once you are on your shooting position and it is your turn to shoot. (Trap shooters are permitted to have a shell in the chamber with the action open provided they remain facing downrange on their station and the range is “hot”)

**Violations of safety rules will not be tolerated. After unsuccessful warnings the shooter will be removed from the field.**

### *INDIVIDUAL CLUBS*

Clubs may impose separate rules and requirements on their shooters as long as those rules and requirements do not conflict with the state or NGB rules or goals. These additional rules will be submitted to the state for documentation.

Clubs may hold practices as often as desired and at times deemed best by the individual club and their coaches. The structure of these practices is determined by the individual club as long as it does not interfere with the mission of the state or NGB rules. These practice dates will also be submitted to the state for documentation.

Due to facility constraints the lead instructor of a club may elect to limit the number of participants on their SCTP team. This limit must be approved by the state. In the case that a limit is necessary the club must keep record of all students turned away and create a waiting list. The club must also create a standard for participant removal from the SCTP team due to failure to regularly participate or based on disciplinary actions. Any club may remove any participant who does not meet the requirements set forth by the club or who does not adhere to the safety regulations or code of conduct set forth by the state at any time. At the time of a participant’s removal from the team the club must contact the individual at the top of the waiting list and give them the opportunity to participate in the program.

### *STATE SUPPORT*

Clubs will receive from the state supports in the form of;

Funds based on the number of shooter recruitment

Safety equipment including ear plugs, eye protection

Loner firearms and clay target machines if necessary

Reloaded ammunition will not be permitted in Department firearms. Reloaded ammunition is permitted in personal firearms provided it conforms to NGB rules.

### *COSTS*

Costs to individual participants will be determined by their SCTP club based on their funding requirements for the season.

There is a \$20 per athlete National registration fee.

## *SHOOTS*

### *Fun Shoots*

There will be a minimum of two state-wide fun shoots that all shooters are eligible to participate in. A fee will be charged for these shoots.

### *Commissioner's Cups*

There will be three state shoots, one for each discipline. A fee will be charged for these shoots. Only shooters who are academically eligible may participate in these shoots.

Any club may deny a shooter participation in events with just reason. This may include disciplinary reasons, academic reasons or other behavioral reasons.

Competitive squads must follow the SSSF rules for a "valid competitive squad" (SSF Rule 4-D). There are considerations for "bump-up" please contact your state coordinator for approval.

### *International State Shoots*

There will be two International shoots, one for each discipline. A fee will be charged for these shoots. Only shooters who are academically eligible may participate as an SCTP participant in these shoots. These shoots will be hosted as Arizona State Junior Olympic Championships.

### *National Championship*

The National SCTP Championships will be held during the summer out of the state. All SCTP individuals who participated in the Commissioner's Cup events are eligible to attend Nationals and compete in the discipline(s) for which they attended Commissioner's Cups. Competitive units attending Nationals must follow the SSSF rules (Rule 13-B, 13-F).

### *National Junior Olympics*

The SSSF has partnered with USA Shooting to allow those SCTP individuals who qualified at the state Junior Olympic matches to attend the National Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, Colorado and compete for SCTP and USA Shooting awards and titles.

## *COACHES*

All coaches are required to submit to a background check and go through a training program designed and administered by the state. For more information on this process or to volunteer please contact your club's lead instructor or the State Shooting Sports Coordinator.