



2012 League Rules

The Minnesota State High School Clay Target League's mission is to emphasize the positive influence shooting sports can have in an individual's life. We do this by providing a safe, comfortable, positive environment that enhances the participant's self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in the shooting sports. This is accomplished while promoting the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, teamwork and ethical behavior.

The purpose of our program is to attract students in grades six through twelve to participate in shooting sports while creating a friendly competition among high schools throughout Minnesota with the assistance of supporters that include schools, corporations, organizations, volunteers, gun clubs, students and their parents. Our weekly virtual shooting leagues allow high school teams from across the state to compete in sport shooting. The Minnesota State High School Clay Target League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

ELIGIBILITY

SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

For the 2012 school year the MSHSCTL Virtual Competition shall consist of multiple conferences throughout the state to be determined by the number of participating schools prior to March 1, 2012.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Any student who has earned and possesses a valid Minnesota Firearm Safety Training/Hunter education certificate and, has met all additional requirements as indicated by his or her school, shall be eligible to participate. This includes all "home-schooled" athletes, who have the opportunity to shoot for the public or private school in which boundaries they reside. Home-schooled athletes should contact their area coach to register and to complete all eligibility requirements.

6th grade "home-schooled" or middle-school students that have their Firearm Safety Certificate may participate. However, if the school district they live in does not allow 6th grade students to join a team, the student will not be able to participate.

SCHOOL'S COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

If an athlete wants to participate and the athlete's school does not have a team, the athlete may participate on another school's team only if a Cooperative Agreement is signed by both school's Athletic/Activities Directors. A cooperative agreement form is available upon request from the MSHSCTL. A copy of this signed agreement must be submitted to the MSHSCTL office before the team roster deadline. The agreement is valid only for the season it is submitted for. No agreements will be allowed after the deadline date.

It is strongly encouraged that the athlete makes a concerted effort to start a team at his/her own school before participating on another school's team.

LETTERING

Each school/district has different criteria for awarding letters to participating student athletes. Verify the participation and accomplishment requirements with your school.

COST

The league cost is approximately \$210 for each student and varies by team requirements, shooting range fees and material costs. Approximately \$200 of the fee is for shells, targets, range fees, etc. \$10 of the fee goes to the MSHSCTL for administration costs associated to running the league. Some school teams receive sponsorships from outside organizations to help pay for fees. The shooting range in your area can help identify potential sponsors for your team. All fees are due to your coach prior to 3/1/12.

TEAM SIZE

Due to constraints of either time or capacity, some gun clubs/shooting ranges might ask schools to limit the size of their teams. If that situation arises, we would ask the school head coach and the club/range manager work together to arrive at the number of students the facility can safely and efficiently accommodate.

COACH/ATHLETE RATIO

All coaches/club supervisors should work to achieve 1/10 adult to athlete team ratio.

RANGE SAFETY OFFICIAL

Each school is responsible for providing a Range Safety Official. The official's responsibility is to monitor the safe handling of firearms while in possession of athletes at the range. This Safety Official is also responsible for enforcing the safe gun handling rules, and to immediately inform a coach if a violation has occurred. This official should be an adult designated by the school or gun club.



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BACKGROUND CHECKS

All coaches and volunteers are required to meet the necessary background check as defined by each school district before being eligible to work with student athletes.

FAIR PLAY RULE

In order to insure that all school trap teams have equal access to a shooting range, each athlete will be allowed to shoot a maximum of two rounds of trap on the athlete's school practice night. Any athlete wishing to shoot more should be encouraged to do so as long as it doesn't interfere with other schools scheduled practice. It is important that school teams do not infringe on another school clubs opportunity to participate by taking up more than their fair share of range time. In addition, teams are strongly encouraged to be respectful of all volunteer time and range manager(s) time. Additional shooting may occur if all other athletes have had an opportunity to complete practice rounds and an athlete has no viable opportunity to shoot during the week.

If an athlete has to make up practice rounds from a previous week, all exceptions must be fully supported by the club/range manager and all volunteers and must be supervised by the schools coach or assistant coach.

ATHLETE SAFETY

SAFE GUN HANDLING

Upon arriving at the club athletes should place their guns on a designated gun rack. All guns are to remain on the rack until it is the athlete's time to shoot or unless directed specifically by the coach. All muzzle direction rules apply when moving from the gun storage rack to a specific trap, or from post to post. Immediately after shooting a round an athlete's gun should either be placed back onto the gun rack or cased and returned to the athlete's vehicle. If this information is unclear for any reason then follow this clear message. If you are not shooting your guns, it should be on the rack... NO EXCEPTIONS!

MUZZLE DIRECTION

It will be standard practice that all muzzles be pointed in a safe direction down range while in the possession of an athlete or adult when walking to or from the trap range, when walking from one post to the next, or while waiting for a turn to shoot. Athletes using "Pump" action and "Automatics" should have the actions open and muzzles pointed upwards. Athletes using a "Break" action must have the action open with the muzzle pointing down. All coaches and adult volunteers have the responsibility to keep the range safe at all times and therefore should take it upon themselves to speak respectfully with any athlete from any school if they see a violation of this rule.

PENALTIES

A Two Strike Rule will be applied for any student who is found to be in violation of the above rules.

1. Upon a first violation the student will be sent home immediately and it will be the coaches responsibility to call the parents of the athlete and address the concerns before the athlete can return to the team.
2. If a second violation occurs the student will be removed from the team with no refund and will not be able to appeal a return.

The MSHSCTL must be informed of any roster changes.

EYE & EAR PROTECTION

All athletes and coaches are responsible for proper eye and ear protection while on any part of the range. Any athlete on the range will not be allowed to shoot without these proper safety items.

FOOT PADS

Athletes are not allowed to rest muzzles on their feet and should not use any type of foot pads.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Each participant in the MSHSCTL, whether athlete, coach, or adult volunteer, represents not only the MSHSCTL, but also the entire shooting sports program including one's team, the team's sponsoring institution (i.e. school), and their state. Promoting a positive image is in the best interest of the MSHSCTL and everyone involved with it. Appropriate attire goes a very long way in making a positive impression.

- TOPS – 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. This rule applies to both men and women.
- BOTTOMS – Short shorts and low riding shorts or pants revealing undergarments or buttocks are prohibited.
- FOOTWEAR – Shooting in flip-flops or opened-toed shoes/sandals is prohibited. Violation of this rule may be grounds for disqualification.



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- **MAGNETIC MUZZLE REST** - The use of Magnetic Muzzle Rests is allowed as long as said rest is not placed on an athlete's foot.
- **CLOTHING ADORNMENTS** – Any clothing 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.

CONDUCT

Acts of using abusive or profane language, displaying unsportsmanlike conduct (includes but not limited to: arguing with referees; unsafe handling/use of firearms; disrupting a competitor; cheating, etc.) consuming alcohol or using proscribed drugs before or during any MSHSCTL activity are prohibited, will not be tolerated, and are grounds for disqualification, suspension, and expulsion from the program.

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather coaches should make "athlete safety" their first priority. In the case of nearby lightening a mandatory 15 minute waiting period without lightening in the sky will be the standard before any competition or practice may continue. If there is any indecision among coaches a majority rule vote will take place and all coaches are expected to abide by the decision made. In the event of a split decision the facility manager will have final say.

COMPETITION

CLASSIFICATIONS

The following classifications (squad) will be used:

- Varsity – Average 19-25 points
- Junior Varsity – Average 15-18.9 points
- Novice – Average 0-14.9 points

CALCULATION AVERAGES

All averages will be based on an athletes six most recent scores. Averages will begin to be calculated at the end of week three if possible. No handicapping system will be used. Individual averages are used to determine categories (Varsity, Junior Varsity or Novice) shooters will compete in for the state tournament.

MAKEUP ROUNDS

Makeup rounds cannot be counted as part of an athletes average once the competition begins. All scoreable makeup rounds must be completed prior to the first week of scheduled competition. Athletes may continue to make up missed rounds but the rounds cannot be factored into the athletes overall average.

AMMUNITION REQUIREMENTS

All athletes must use factory ammunition. Shell buckets will be placed at each trap field. Athletes are required to pick up their shells after each round.

An athlete cannot use:

- Reloads.
- Any load other than lead shot.
- Tracers, copper and nickel coated shot.
- Any load heavier than 3 dram equivalent of powder or containing more than 1-1/8 oz. of shot or containing shot larger than 7.5.

Some gun clubs/shooting ranges have rules/regulations limiting the speed of shot (Feet Per Second). They may have other restrictions. If that is the case, school teams shooting at that facility will strictly adhere to the club rule(s). It is recommended that ammunition used not exceed 1200FPS.

PRE-SQUADDING

There is no pre-squadding required for 2012.

SQUAD LEADERS

It is the squad leaders responsibility to give the scoring sheet to the director of competition upon the squad completing their round. Squad leaders along with the coach are responsible for the verification of the squad's scores.



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BUMP-UP RULE

All schools are required to shoot a full five-athlete squad for competition. In the event that a coach cannot fill a complete squad, the coach may “bump up” an athlete from a lower classification (for example: Junior Varsity to Varsity, or Novice to Junior Varsity) in order to fill a squad for competition.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Each coach will be required to submit scores, team rosters, contact information and required form documentation through their assigned interactive team management database at www.mnclaytarget.com. Each coach will receive access information prior to April 1, 2012.

COMPETITION DAY SCHEDULING

Each team will coordinate with their gun club to determine their designated day of the week they will shoot for competition. All teams must conduct their competition shoot within the corresponding scheduled week between Sunday morning and Saturday before 6:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULING

Conferences will be based on team size as determined by the number of student athletes. Each conference will contain 6-8 teams depending on the total number of participating teams. All teams in each conference will compete against each other every week of competition. All team designations for conferences and weekly schedules will be posted on www.mnclaytarget.com before April 1st.

RESERVE SCORE

The week prior to the first match week, each team will shoot in a “simulated” (not competing against other teams) competition and the scores will be used as a “reserve” score. The Reserve Score will be saved in the scoring system and used if the team cannot compete during any scheduled match due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

TRUE TEAM SCORING

All schools within your team’s conference will compete each week and will be scored on a multi-point total scoring system comprised of the following competition events.

1. High Gun – Highest individual score from the entire team.
2. Top 5 – Total of top 5 scores from the entire team
3. Team Average – All team member’s scores added together and divided by the total number of team members

The total number of possible points within a weekly match will be determined by the number of competitors within your team’s conference. For example:

- Add the total number of teams in a conference and multiply by 3 (number of events) to determine the maximum score possible for each week’s competition (8 teams x 3 categories = 24 total maximum points can be earned for a single team)
- Scores determine allocated point total within each event (1st place = 8 points, 2nd = 7, 3rd = 6, 4th = 5, 5th = 4, 6th = 3, 7th = 2, 8th = 1)
- Scores that are tied will receive the same amount of points (ie: 4th and 5th place is a tie – add the points for total available points (9), divide by 2 = 4.5 points each.
- Add the total points of all 3 events to determine overall standings

Below is an example of a weekly scoring summary to determine team points:

Athlete Name	Reserve Week			Week 1			Week 2			Week 3			Week 4			Week 5			Average
	Round 1	Round 2	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Total	
Jim Smith	23	20	43	18	24	42	16	17	33	20	21	41	20	20	40	15	16	31	46.00
Sue Kendall	18	17	35	25	24	49	14	15	29	20	23	43	16	15	31	17	17	34	44.20
Trent Anderson	10	12	22	11	14	25	16	12	28	17	17	34	14	14	28	15	16	31	33.60
Billy Morgan	24	20	44	17	17	34	20	22	42	17	18	35	23	23	46	25	25	50	50.20
Ashley Nelson	16	12	28	14	13	27	11	16	27	16	16	32	14	12	26	12	14	26	33.20
Tim Moore	17	20	37	23	23	46	21	21	42	18	17	35	16	24	40	19	25	44	48.80
Shannon Nolan	18	17	35	24	20	44	17	19	36	18	18	36	19	24	43	23	23	46	48.00
Bob Stanley	16	12	28	14	14	28	15	18	33	15	18	33	14	15	29	15	16	31	36.40
Top Gun (high score)	44	44	44	49	49	49	42	42	42	44	44	44	46	46	46	50	50	50	
Top 5 (total)	194	194	194	215	215	215	173	173	173	190	190	190	200	200	200	205	205	205	
Team Average (all)	34.00	34.00	34.00	36.88	36.88	36.88	33.75	33.75	33.75	36.13	36.13	36.13	35.38	35.38	35.38	36.63	36.63	36.63	



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Below is an example of a weekly scoring summary to determine team points within a conference:

Team Name	Individual High Gun		Top 5 Total		Team Average		Week 5 Total Points
	Score	Points Earned	Score	Points Earned	Score	Points Earned	
Wayzata	38	3	134	1	20.00	1	5
White Bear Lake	46	5	203	4	29.21	4	13
Hopkins	33	1	142	2	26.50	2	5
Minnetonka	37	2	161	3	29.10	3	8
Prior Lake	47	6.5	224	8	31.17	5	19.5
McGregor	44	4	219	7	36.74	8	19
Worthington	48	8	217	5	34.00	7	20
St. Francis	47	6.5	218	6	31.69	6	18.5

Below is an example of the cumulative total points in the conference overall standings:

Team Name	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Total	Standings
Worthington	19.0	16.0	16.5	18.0	20.0	89.5	1
Prior Lake	18.0	15.0	19.0	17.0	19.5	88.5	2
McGregor	12.5	20.0	15.0	14.5	19.0	81	3
White Bear Lake	16.0	17.5	16.5	12.0	13.0	75	4
Hopkins	16.5	17.0	20.0	14.5	5.0	73	5
St. Francis	11.0	12.5	10.0	9.0	18.5	61	6
Wayzata	7.0	9.0	7.0	16.0	5.0	44	7
Minnetonka	8.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	8.0	31	8

SUBMITTING SCORES

Each coach is required to submit their team's scores via www.mnclaytarget.com/scoring for each of the 3 events. Once scores are submitted, they cannot be changed. Due to the timing of publishing the weekly results, it is recommended for coaches to submit scores within 24 hours of completing their match. All scores must be submitted by 6 p.m. on Saturday of the week of competition. No scores will be accepted after the submission deadline. Any team that does not submit scores will receive the minimum amount of points (3) for that week.

OVERALL CONFERENCE SCORING & STANDINGS

Team points earned are accumulated through the season and the team with the highest number of points at the end of the season is the conference champion and is recognized by the MSHSCTL. All first place ties will be broken by the team's season average score.