



# 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

## ***Minnesota College Athletic Conference***

The Minnesota College Athletic Conference (MCAC) membership is comprised of approximately 23 community and technical colleges throughout the upper Midwest. It is a non-scholarship league with membership in Region 13 of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III. Region 13 is comprised of NJCAA programs in Minnesota, North Dakota, Upper Michigan Peninsula, and Northern Wisconsin.

The USA College Clay Target League's Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee reserves the right to make alterations in, or amendments to, this Sport Code at any time without notice, whenever it is deemed to be in the best interest of the League.

This Sport Code applies to all League-sponsored events and participants.

## ***USA Clay Target League***

The USA Clay Target League (USACTL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and the independent provider of products, services, and technology for the Minnesota College Athletic Conference.

## ***Clay Target League***

MCAC offers a fall season trap shooting competition (League) as an emerging sport to its member colleges and their students. The sport offering of Clay Target will be guided by a standing committee of representatives from the MCAC and the USA Clay Target League. For this academic year, the committee shall be:

Chair: Kurt Kohler, MCAC Executive Director

Justin Lampa – Itasca Community College

Mike Flaten – Hibbing Community College

Jason Kelvie – USA Clay Target League

John Nelson – USA Clay Target League

## ***Priorities***

The League's priorities, in order of importance, are safety, fun, and marksmanship.

## ***Fair Play***

The League's success is dependent on the trust it instills in every student athlete, coach, shooting range member, parent and college official. The assured reliance on character, ability, and truthfulness for each person will create an entrusted safe environment that everyone will enjoy.

## ***Conduct***

All MCAC Clay Target teams, coaches, staff and affiliated persons are expected to read, review, understand and follow applicable NJCAA, MCAC Minnesota State College & University system and related standards. In addition, the following USA Clay Target League standards are included within these policies:

Acts by coaches and student athletes of using abusive or profane language, displaying unsportsmanlike conduct (includes but not limited to: arguing with referees; unsafe handling/use of shotguns; distracting a competitor; cheating, etc.), consuming alcohol, or using drugs before or during any League event are prohibited and are grounds for suspension and/or expulsion from the team and/or the League.

## ***Competitive Season***

The League is conducted from early-September to mid-October and is available for all eligible MCAC member colleges and students which have been accepted into the Minnesota College Athletic Conference and are in good financial standing with the MCAC.

The League's season schedule is defined as the first day of student athlete registration through the final League-sponsored event is completed.



## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>
8/1/24	Thursday	Student athlete registration opens
8/30/24	Friday	Student athlete and team registration closes at Noon CT
9/1/24	Sunday	Practice/Reserve Week begins
9/4/24	Wednesday	Divisions announced and score entries may begin
9/8/24	Sunday	Competition Week 1 begins – score submissions due 9/14 at 9 p.m. CT
9/17/24	Sunday	Competition Week 2 begins – score submissions due 9/21 at 9 p.m. CT Championship registration opens
9/24/24	Sunday	Competition Week 3 begins – score submissions due 9/28 at 9 p.m. CT
10/1/24	Sunday	Competition Week 4 begins – score submissions due 10/5 at 9 p.m. CT
10/8/24	Sunday	Competition Week 5 begins – score submissions due 10/12 at 9 p.m. CT Championship registration closes
10/13/24	Monday	Final season results published
10/15/24	Tuesday	MCAC Championship

### ***Interpretations, Appeals, Charges, & Penalties:***

All student athletes, team leaders and shooting range officials must be familiar and comply with the League Sport Code and must ensure that these Sport Code are enforced.

1. All complaints must be submitted to the Conference office within 48 hours of the incident.
2. All complaints should be submitted using the Incident Report Form, Appendix M, along with any related documentation to support the complaint.
3. The Conference Coordinator will submit the complaint to the chair of the Violations Committee for review.
  - a. The Violations Committee will be comprised of a subgroup of MCAC Executive Committee members consisting of athletic directors/coordinators and administrator representation.
  - b. The MCAC Executive Committee will determine if any member of the Violations Committee has a conflict of interest in reviewing complaints. If it is determined that a committee member(s) has a conflict of interest they will not be allowed to participate in the complaint review process and an at-large replacement will be named.
  - c. At-large membership to the Violations Committee will be requested at the annual MCAC General Assembly meeting. At-large members will be asked to serve on the Violations Committee if the need for additional participation is necessitated by a conflict of interest within the existing Violations Committee or if additional participation is deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
  - d. Violation of MCAC and/or NJCAA rules will be determined by the Violations Committee.
  - e. Violation of MCAC and/or NJCAA rules may result in sanctions as determined by the Violations Committee.
  - f. A simple majority of votes is needed to determine what the sanctions will be and if sanctions will be issued.
4. Appeals - MCAC members may appeal the decision of the Violations Committee within seven calendar days of issuance of recommended sanctions to the Conference Coordinator.
  - a. The Appeals Committee will be comprised of a subgroup of MCAC Executive Committee members consisting of athletic directors/coordinators and administrator representation.
  - b. The MCAC Executive Committee will determine if any member of the Appeals Committee has a conflict of interest in reviewing complaints. If it is determined that a committee member(s) has a conflict of interest they will not be allowed to participate in the appeal/ review process and an at-large replacement will be named.
  - c. At-large membership to the Appeals Committee will be requested at the annual MCAC General Assembly meeting. At-large members will be asked to serve on the Appeals Committee if a conflict of interest necessitates an at-large replacement or if additional participation is deemed necessary by the MCAC Executive Committee.

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

- d. Appeals must be submitted by the college president in writing and detail the appealing college's basis for challenging the decision of the Violations Committee. The appealing college may attach any appropriate documentation in support of their appeal.
- e. The sanctions determined by the Violations Committee will be upheld during the appeal process. Appeals will be reviewed within 7 calendar days.
- f. A \$250 fee will be assessed to the appealing member college. The \$250 fee will only be refunded if the appeal is completely overturned. All fees collected will be deposited into the MCAC general fund and may be used to cover expenses related to the appeals process.
- g. A simple majority of votes is needed to successfully win an appeal.

College conduct, academic or chemical abuse policies and penalties, state, and federal laws will always supersede any League policies.

### **Insurance**

All registered student athletes are insured by The USA Clay Target League's accident insurance policy if a covered injury occurs because of participating in a League event.

All registered coaches are insured under a General Liability Insurance Policy by the college if a covered injury occurs because of participating in a League event.

Non-participating adults that assist with team off-field activities do not receive insurance.

### **Privacy**

Minnesota State Colleges and University system policy, (Minnesota State - 5.23 Security and Privacy of Information Resources) applies to MCAC Clay Target conduct. Member colleges which are not members of the Minnesota State Colleges and University system are required to read, understand and follow 5.23.

USA and MCAC have strict rules and regulations regarding disclosure of athlete's and parent's contact information, including but not limited to names, phone numbers, email addresses, house addresses or any other information allowing a third-party to identify or contact any League participant or parent. Coaches, assistants, staff or any other personnel with access to contact information may not copy, distribute, sell, share, or make available in any manner, to any other person, entity, or third-party. In the event of unauthorized disclosure of any contact information the individual(s) responsible shall be deemed in violation of this privacy rule and the League may resort to any remedy available to it, through its internal bylaws or at law.

### **College Eligibility**

All MCAC member colleges are eligible to participate.

### **Team Eligibility**

- A college-approved coach over the age of 21 is required.
- A minimum of five student athletes are required to form a team.
- An unlimited number of student athletes may be on a team.

Head coaches are responsible for providing the USA Clay Target League and the MCAC a list of non-participant adults and other support staff prior to the beginning of the season. Individuals on this list will be updated by member schools. Team staff members can be added in the Team Management System through ClayTargetGo.com.

### **Athlete Eligibility**

Any new student enrolled at the college at the time of the student athlete registration deadline date is eligible to participate if he/she is enrolled in the Fall semester with a minimum of 6 credits.

Second year students must have earned 6 credits with a 2.0 or above grade average in the previous semester, AND must be enrolled in at least 6 credits during the fall semester.

All participating students must:

- Have a League-approved firearm safety certification program at the time of registration, AND
- Meets all college curricular activity eligibility requirements, AND
- Complies with the League's Sport Code, AND
- If the team has the capacity to accommodate the student.

If a student athlete transfers to a different MCAC member college during the League's season, the athlete must complete the season with the team he/she originally registered for. No roster changes are allowed after registration is complete.

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

### ***Special Need Athletes***

Shooting sports provides student athletes and their families an equal opportunity to participate in the League.

Students with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, or mental health concerns should consult with the team's Head Coach prior to registering with the team to explore participation opportunities and requirements. The student's participation may require written approval from a physician.

Special need student athletes may utilize coach assistance and/or apparatuses at any time while shooting.

### ***Team/Athlete Disqualification:***

All amateurism rules found within NJCAA operation code Article V Student-Athlete Eligibility, including Section 4, as found in the NJCAA Handbook.

In addition, the following USA Clay Target League standards apply to MCAC Clay Target League.

The League promotes participation in clay target sports emphasizing safety, fun, and marksmanship and does not encourage youth competition for a financial benefit. The League also does not support motivating youth to participate in this sport through financial gain and, therefore, the following conduct will disqualify a team or athlete from participation in League sponsored events:

A student shall remain eligible to participate in League activities unless any of the following occur:

A student accepts one or more of the following associated with the participation in clay target events occurring during the League's season:

- Monetary compensation for participation in clay target competition;
- Gifts or promotional merchandise valued at \$100 or more;
- A share in the season profit of a team;
- An expense allowance;
- An exclusive financial benefit that includes an ancillary advantage or benefit to a for-profit business;
- A tangible prize or award having a value exceeding \$100; or
- Monetary prize, purse, reward or other winnings exceeding \$100.

Gifts or scholarships received by the athlete, either directly or indirectly, that are not conditioned upon continued participation in clay target events shall not be construed as a disqualifying event.

A team shall remain eligible to participate in League activities unless any of the following occur:

A team, or entity benefiting the team, accepts one or more of the following associated with the team's participation in a clay target event at any time during the year:

- Promotional merchandise, goods, or services valued at \$1,000 or more;
- A team prize or award having a value of \$100 or more; or
- A monetary prize, purse, reward or other winnings exceeding \$100.

Monetary contributions received through fundraising, donations, grants, scholarship or like kind that are given and remain in the possession and control of the team, or in the possession and control of an entity that is organized for the benefit of the specific team, shall not be construed as a disqualifying event.

A student or team who fails to comply with these requirements shall be disqualified from further participation in the League.

The MCAC Clay Target standing committee shall adjudicate all matters concerning team and/or student athlete eligibility and disqualification.

### ***Shooting Range***

Shooting ranges are important partners for clay target teams and play a vital role in providing student athletes a safe, fair, and competitive environment to participate in the League.

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

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

Shooting ranges that host League teams should familiarize themselves with the League's Sport Code. This document is the first resource that clubs, teams, and coaches should refer to if there are any questions.

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

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

### ***Sponsorships, Donations & Fundraising***

Sponsorships, donations and fundraising events for the team are strongly encouraged to help raise money and reduce the costs of participation for the athletes. Recognition for team sponsorships may occur on team uniforms, banners and websites.

Sponsorships cannot include or reference:

- Tobacco products
- Gambling
- Sexual connotations
- Alcohol products (bar/restaurant establishments allowed)

Additionally, members of the MCAC Clay Target league acknowledge and fully understand that the Conference reserves the right to secure sponsorships of MCAC events to the benefit to the league as a whole.

### ***Team Registration***

All colleges are required to contact the Conference office to verify participation and to pay requisite fees for season registration.

- All teams will have to commit to participation and register a minimum of 5 student athletes prior to the athlete registration deadline to be included in the upcoming fall season.
- College administrators will be assigned access to USA Clay Target League's Team Management System.
- The team's Head Coach or college administrator will be invited to register their team and agree to USA Clay Target League and MCAC Clay Target League participation terms prior to registering student athletes.
- Each participating college will pay a \$500 registration fee for each season to the USA Clay Target League.

### ***Athlete Registration***

Each student is required to register with his/her clay target team via USA's registration website. Unless a student is 18 years of age or older at the time of registration, a parent or legal guardian must register the student. All registrants must agree to all terms regarding Sportsmanship, Medical Consent, and Consent & Waiver.

- Check the League's website for all athlete registration requirements, deadlines, and registration fee payment.
- Qualified registrants will receive an email from the team inviting them to register a student.
- Teams may remove a registered student athlete from their roster after registration.
- Division assignments will not be changed after they are published if a team removes a student athlete(s). Contact the League to remove a student athlete after registration.
- Unregistered student athletes will be removed from the team roster after the registration deadline.
- There are NO registration deadline extensions or refunds.

### ***Technology***

ClayTargetGo! is the USA Clay Target League's exclusive online application suite designed specifically for clay target league coaches and athletes! ClayTargetGo! helps users manage operations, online registration, communications, scoring, statistics, and more. ClayTargetGo! features the League's Team Management System for team staff members and the Athlete Management System for student athletes.

### ***Team Management System™ (TMS)***

Each Head Coach will be required to utilize the USA Clay Target League's Team Management System (TMS) – proprietary online software program from the USA Clay Target League designed specifically for the MCAC Clay Target League.

A Head Coach may allow additional users to access TMS and is responsible for those users. Any user will have full access to view, edit, and change all accessible information in TMS so it is vitally important to ensure the proper team staff has the required access.

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

The Team Management System includes:

- Activity Dashboard – instantly review critical team status, action items, and important messages from the League.
- Team Profile – college and coach contact information, billing information, division designation, registration user names and passwords, and more.
- Team Roster – add, edit, and download all information about your team members.
- Submit Scores – submit weekly scores for each athlete.
- Team Scoring Report – review scores and statistics on each athlete or the team.
- Championship Registration – activated prior to the event to manage student athlete registration and roster.
- Special Team Offers – advertisements from select League providers offer special purchase incentives for teams.

The Head Coach will receive access information to the TMS after confirming their college's participation in the League.

College administrators are the only ones who can assign access or change the Head Coach's access to TMS.

### ***Athlete Management System (AMS)***

When students are invited via email to register with the team, the registrant is provided access to setup their athlete's profile in the Athlete Management System in ClayTargetGo!.

The Athlete Management System includes:

- Activity Dashboard – instantly review critical team status, action items, and important messages from the League and the team.
- Registration – registration and payment confirmation.
- Athlete Profile – contact information, medical concern, and access information.
- Athlete Performance Tracker – review scores and statistics.
- Access Special Offers – advertisements from select

### ***League-Approved Firearm Safety Certifications***

All student athletes are required to obtain certification for either of the League-approved firearm safety certification programs. Only a state-approved hunter education certificate or the USA Clay Target League's SAFE Certification are accepted. Teams should verify the firearm safety training certification requirements with the shooting range where they will be conducting League events.

Student athletes cannot shoot at an event on a team at any time without a League-approved firearm safety certificate.

### ***State-Approved Hunter Education Certification***

Most states require that hunters complete a certified hunter education course. The hunter education certificate is proof that students have successfully completed a state's official and approved hunting safety course. A student can use a different state's hunter education certificate than their residing state. A team coach will verify the certificate's authenticity and the registrant must enter the certificate number at registration.

Check your state's department of natural resources website for complete hunter education certification information.

### ***Student Athlete Firearm Education (SAFE) Certification***

The USA Clay Target League's SAFE Certification provides an in-depth firearm safety and procedures training program designed specifically for League participants. The cost per student of the SAFE Certificate is \$25 and is payable at the beginning of the online course. Refunds are not allowed. The SAFE Certificate is valid only for League participation and cannot be used for obtaining a hunting license.

The SAFE Certificate is designed specifically for student athletes and coaches participating in the League.

The SAFE Certification requires the completion of the online AND shooting range certification programs to earn the SAFE certificate.

Step 1: Create a new athlete profile at claytargetgo.com by selecting the Athlete Management System (AMS) link and follow the instructions. Upon the completion of the athlete profile, the AMS user can select the training tab to access the course.

Step 2: Complete the SAFE online course. The student athlete will receive a confirmation email and PDF certificate.

Step 3: Complete the SAFE Range Certification. The SAFE Range Certification is conducted at a shooting range and coordinated by the Head Coach. The student athlete MUST complete the online SAFE program BEFORE participating in the SAFE Range Day.

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

Step 4: The Head Coach must enter the completion date of the range day certification into the Team Management System (TMS) through ClayTargetGo!.

Students will participate in a training session conducted by a CLASS-Certified coach on the team. The 1-2 hour shooting range training will include firearm safety, shooting sport procedures, shooting at clay targets, and range safety requirements. The Instructors must have completed the League's Coach Leadership And Safety Support (CLASS) Certification program. Instructors will be provided a SAFE Range Certification guide from the League to assist with certification.

All student athletes that complete the SAFE Certification receive an official iron-on certificate patch from the USA Clay Target League.

### ***Coach Leadership And Safety Support (CLASS) Certification***

The League's CLASS Certification provides a comprehensive and interactive online education and training program designed specifically for League coaches. The CLASS Certification is available to all coaches and takes 5-6 hours of online training to complete.

- CLASS Certification is only required for MCAC coaches if SAFE Certification for student athletes is allowed.
- New Head Coaches assigned during the participation season are requested to complete the certification within ten days.
- Head coaches may take the CLASS Certification for free. Contact the USA Clay Target League for access.
- Assistant coaches or volunteers may complete the CLASS Certification for \$50 each.
- Only CLASS-Certified coaches may conduct the SAFE Range Certification program for student athletes to complete the SAFE Certification.

The CLASS Program provides three critical areas of coach training: Leadership, Range Safety Officer, and Student Athlete Firearm Education.

#### Leadership:

- Working with coaches and volunteers
- Recruiting student athletes
- Partnering with a shooting range
- Ammunition
- Implementing a safety management plan
- Team communications
- Teaching the skill of the sport
- Recognizing achievements
- Working with spectators and schools
- First aid basics

#### Range Safety Officer (RSO):

- Responsibilities
- Rules
- Shooting range
- Safety meeting
- Equipment failures
- Emergency actions
- Communications

#### Student Athlete Firearm Education (SAFE) Certification:

- The coach will complete the same 3-4 hour SAFE Online Certification that a student athlete completes. The coach will not be required to complete the final exam.

All coaches that complete the CLASS Certification receive an official iron-on certificate patch from the USA Clay Target League.

The CLASS Certification can be found at [usaclaytargetCLASS.com](http://usaclaytargetCLASS.com).

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

### ***Student Athlete Cost***

The college determines the cost for each student athlete to participate in the League. Costs vary by team depending on expenses for ammunition, targets, uniform, and other local shooting range fees.

- A \$40 non-refundable student athlete USA Clay Target League registration fee is required at the time of registration.
- Fees do not include mandatory hearing, eye protection, and shooting gear.
- Athletes must supply their own shotgun, ammunition, eye and ear protection.

### ***Firearm & Ammunition Transportation***

All students and coaches will follow college policies, state, county, and city laws regarding firearms and ammunition.

### ***Coaching Staff***

All coaches and non-participant adults on a team will strive to develop in each athlete the qualities of leadership, initiative, fine judgment, and good citizenship.

The college is responsible for approval of the Head Coach and the college may require background screening for all coaches and non-participating adults.

### ***Head Coach***

The Head Coach is responsible for all operations of a college's team including, but not limited to:

- Supervising student athletes in a professional manner.
- Recruiting and training assistant coaches.
- Training student athletes in safety and courtesy.
- Training student athletes in trapshooting skills.
- Monitoring the safe handling of shotguns and ammunition.
- A wide experience in shotgun shooting and a thorough knowledge of shotguns and shooting range equipment.
- Supervising, advising and assisting all coaches and volunteers.
- Educating student athletes about shooting range safety and courtesy rules.
- Managing student, coach, League, or college conflicts.
- Enforcing all Sport Code regulations.
- Making all penalty decisions.
- Coordinating schedules.
- Submitting all required forms and payments before deadlines.
- Verifying all scores and submitting them to the League before the deadline.
- Appointing qualified Range Safety Officer.
- Making all decisions in any and all cases which are not provided for in the Sport Code, or are against the spirit of this Sport Code, in the best interest of the college, team and the League.

### ***Assistant Coaches***

Team assistants receive responsibilities as assigned by the Head Coach.

### ***Team Manager***

Although not required, it is recommended each team have a Team Manager. The Team Manager's responsibilities may include:

- Coordinating communications from the League to the coaches and team members.
- Managing all information for team rosters.
- Ensuring all League required forms, payments and score submissions are submitted completely and within deadlines.
- Assist the coaching staff when requested.



## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

### **Range Safety Officer**

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

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

### **Non-Participating Adults**

Volunteers that assist with off-field activities.

### **Emergency Management Plan**

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

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

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

### **Safety & Courtesy**

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

### **Safe Firearm Handling**

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

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

### **Safety & Courtesy**

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

- The practice of tracking targets behind a shooting squad is not permitted.
- Test shots are not permitted.
- Snap caps are permitted in a safe place away from people.
- Always have the shotgun pointed out over fields, up in the air, or at the ground when at the firing line whether shotgun is loaded or not.
- Always keep your finger out of the trigger guard area until your shotgun is shouldered and set.
- Do not handle another person's shotgun without the shotgun owner's consent and coach's permission.
- Clean your shotgun after shooting.
- It is recommended to add a name label on your shotgun for identification.
- Be respectful and do not distract others.
- No heckling.
- Listening to music/podcast is not recommended.
- Empty shells should not be picked up until the round is over or when instructed by a coach.

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

- Do not leave your station or pivot recklessly to offer help if another athlete needs assistance.
- Only coaches can instruct students while occupying a shooting station. On-field skill training/coaching is not allowed during competition events including year-end tournaments.
- No eating or drinking while occupying a shooting station.
- Wash your hands after handling ammunition, shooting, or cleaning your shotgun.
- Control ejected shells so they do not disturb other athletes at their shooting station.
- Cell phones must be turned off, in airplane mode, or not in possession while shooting.

### **Foot Pads**

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

### **Practice**

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

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

### **Equipment & Gear**

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

### **Shotguns**

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

The student athlete cannot:

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

### **Ammunition**

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

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

Shooting range ammunition requirements supersede League ammunition requirements.

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

### **Eye Protection**

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

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

# 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

## Hearing Protection

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

- Ear muffs
- Ear buds
- Ear plugs

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

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

## Attire

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

## Equipment Inspections

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

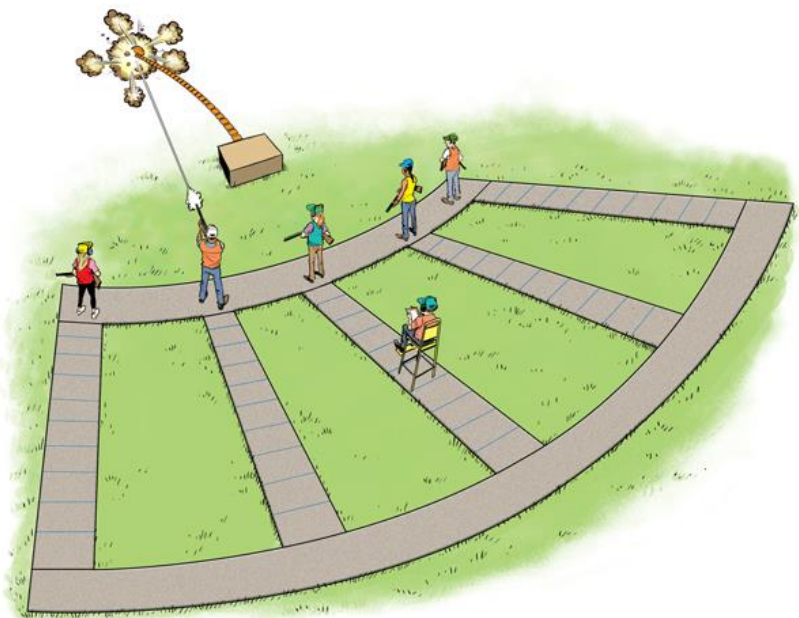
## Trap Shooting

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

## Trap Field

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

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



## Preparation

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

## Ready

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

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

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

### **Start**

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

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

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

### **"Lost" Target**

A missed target must be declared "LOST" when:

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

### **Disputed Call**

In the event of a lost target dispute:

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

### **"Refused" Target**

A athlete may refuse shooting at a released target if:

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

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

### **"No Bird" Target**

A scorekeeper may declare a "NO BIRD" when:

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

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

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

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

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

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

### ***Stop***

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

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

### ***Shotgun Malfunction***

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***League Play***

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

- Prior to the start of the League, the coaching staff will define the scheduled event day(s) for their team.
- Teams may allow up to two scheduled days per week to accommodate large teams, shooting range capacity, other sports/activities, or inclement weather conditions.
- All teams must conduct their weekly shoot within the corresponding scheduled week between Sunday and Saturday before 9:00 p.m. CT.
- If a team cannot compete on their scheduled shoot day, they may reschedule. within the same competition week.
- A full-round (25 targets) competition event may continue on a second day only if the competition event gets postponed due to weather, darkness, or other unforeseen circumstances.
- An athlete's score can only be used if completed on their team's scheduled day.
- All rounds are considered practice scores unless they are declared competition targets PRIOR to conducting the round.
- Each scheduled weekly event consists of 50 targets (two rounds of 25 each).
- Using "best scores" from multiple events is not allowed.
- No individual student athlete makeup rounds for scores are allowed.
- If a team has scheduled days during the event week and a student athlete cannot participate on his/her scheduled day, the student athlete can participate on other team-scheduled day(s) if the team allows it.
- The Reserve Week score may be used for a student athlete that cannot participate in a competition week(s) due to COVID-19 quarantine requirements. If an athlete cannot participate due to COVID-19 quarantine, the coach

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

- may enter the student athlete's Reserve Week score manually in TMS when submitting weekly scores.
- In all cases, a coach and Range Safety Officer must be present at all times when a student is participating in League events.
- No handicapping allowed for athlete score adjustments.

### ***Inclement Weather***

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

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

### ***Scoring & Recognition***

The League's exclusive True Team® scoring format is used to determine the overall performance for a team in all weekly events during the season. League events are defined as practice or competition during scheduled participation.

For video instructions about clay target procedures, scoring, and True Team® scoring visit MCAC's clay target website.

### ***Division Designation***

Each division is comprised of two or more teams. Teams are assigned a division based on a similar number of members on a team. In the True Team® scoring format, each team in a division must have the same number of athlete scores used to offer an equal opportunity of points earned. Each division will have a different total of the points available to be earned for each event because each division will have a different number of qualifying athletes and perhaps a different number of teams.

- The number of scores used is determined upon a team's division designation, which occurs after the athlete registration deadline but before Competition Week 1 begins.
- Smaller divisions with smaller teams will use less scores.
- Larger divisions with larger teams will use more scores.
- The same number of team members must be used for each team to provide equal opportunity to earn points.

### ***Submitting Scores***

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

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

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

### ***True Team® Scoring***

The True Team® scoring designed specifically by the League makes competition exciting for the team and its student athletes while incorporating the League's mission and beliefs. This is accomplished by measuring which team is the best overall, rather than which team has the most top finishers while allowing all team members to participate. The

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

League's True Team® scoring method is:

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

The League's True Team® scoring is a similar scoring system used for other college sports including track and swimming and gymnastics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Team Recognition***

- All completed event scores are added to determine the standings based on the highest number of points earned.
- The team that ends the season with the highest number of points earned wins their respective division.
- Ties will be awarded equally.

### ***Individual Recognition***

Individual performance will be available for public viewers on the League's website in the following categories:

- High Overall Average - overall, division, and gender. Athletes are required to participate in all competition weeks to qualify.
- Ties for awards are broken by the Reserve Week high score.
- 25/50 Straight Club - achievers earn recognition on the website for shooting perfection.

### ***Awards***

Team and individual awards will be announced on the League's website shortly after the completion of the last event.

### ***Absent Athlete Scoring***

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

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

### ***Reserve Score***

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

## 2025 Clay Target Sport Code

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

### ***Uncompleted Reserve Week***

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

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

### ***MCAC Championship***

The season-ending Championship is the only venue where individuals and teams compete and have fun together. All student athletes and teams participating in the league are invited to participate. Check the League website for all MCAC Championship rules, dates and location.

©2025 USA Clay Target League. 6/7/25. All rights reserved.