



SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM

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Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation

Welcome to the 2009 Season of the Scholastic Clay Target Program. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has chosen The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. (SSSF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational-athletic organization, to provide the administrative support and direction for the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). The NSSF is a major partner with the SSSF and continues to support the SCTP.

The mission of the SSSF is simple and straight forward. It is to introduce school-age youths in grades 12 and under to the clay target sports and to facilitate their continued involvement in the shooting sports. The purpose is to provide a positive and supportive program for assisting young Athletes in their growth and development as they tread life's pathway toward becoming productive and contributing members of society. The Scholastic Clay Target Program is the vehicle used to make this happen. The SCTP is focused on providing, promoting, and perpetuating opportunities for young Athletes to safely and enjoyably participate in a high-quality, Team-based sport led by trained and dedicated adult coaches focused on helping their Athletes to become the best they are capable of becoming.

The SCTP is YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM providing young people with a positive experience in sports. The SCTP is designed to instill in young people a set of personal values or character traits for fair play, compassionate understanding, individual responsibility, sportsmanship, self-discipline and personal commitment – qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives and will be instrumental in helping each SCTP Athlete to reach his/her full potential.

Competition is clearly a part of the SCTP, an indispensable part; but it is not the underlying principle. The “win-at-all-costs” 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, these 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 to emulate by upholding high moral and ethical standards of personal conduct.

SCTP activities are designed to incorporate two indispensable elements – SAFETY AND FUN. Safety is incorporated into every facet of every SCTP activity. 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.

Youth from the elementary grades through high school are eligible to participate in the safe, educational and enjoyable SCTP clay target sports of Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, ISSF Trap, and ISSF Skeet. It is ideally suited to be a school sponsored Title IX sport. There is no other sport that offers such an absolutely “level playing field” for gender integration as does the shooting sports. The SCTP is a perfect fit for youth organizations such as Boy Scouts, 4-H, F.F.A., P.A.L., Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, et al. Any youth organization is welcome to participate in the SCTP.

The purpose for setting forth the rules in this Handbook is to ensure the safe and equitable treatment of all SCTP participants. Their enjoyment and safety is our reward.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Categories:</u>	Entry Level, Advanced, Junior Varsity, and Varsity.
<u>Disciplines:</u>	Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, ISSF Skeet (International Skeet), and ISSF Trap (Olympic Bunker Trap).
<u>Divisions:</u>	Rookie, Intermediate, and Senior
<u>Head Coach:</u>	The Team Coach serving as the primary point of contact between SCTP National Headquarters and everyone involved with the Team.
<u>I.S.S.F.:</u>	International Shooting Sport Federation
<u>NGB:</u>	National Governing Body
<u>NGB #:</u>	Membership ID # assigned to the participant by the appropriate NGB.
<u>NGB Target Years:</u>	ATA: November 1 – August 31 NSSA: November 1 – October 31 NSCA: January 1 – December 31 SCTP: September 1 - Ends with SCTP National Championship
<u>Registered Target:</u>	Targets shot at an event sanctioned by the NGB for the discipline.
<u>S.C.T.P.:</u>	Scholastic Clay Target Program
<u>S.S.S.F.:</u>	SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION (Administrator of the SCTP)
<u>S.S.S.F. Partners:</u>	ATA: Amateur Trapshooting Association - Trap NSCA: National Sporting Clays Association - Sporting Clays NSSA: National Skeet Shooting Association - Skeet NSSF: National Shooting Sports Foundation - Industry Trade Assoc. USAS: USA Shooting - ISSF Skeet and ISSF Trap
<u>Team:</u>	All Athletes, Head Coaches, and Assistant Coaches registered under the same Head Coach at a “Home” Gun Club or Shooting Facility in one or more disciplines.
<u>Valid Competitive Squad:</u>	The SCTP competitive unit. Consists of five (5) Athletes for Trap and three (3) Athletes for Skeet and Sporting Clays. Members must be registered in the same discipline and Division to the same Team. For ISSF Skeet and ISSF Trap, a Squad consists of three (3) members in the same discipline registered to the same Team.

SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM



OFFICIAL RULES

1. SCTP DISCIPLINES AND SANCTIONING BODIES

A. DISCIPLINES

The Scholastic Clay Target Program offers opportunities for TEAMS to participate in these disciplines. **TRAP, SKEET, SPORTING CLAYS, ISSF SKEET, AND ISSF TRAP.**

B. SANCTIONING BODY

THE SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION (www.sssfonline.org) is the sanctioning body for the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). The SSSF's National Program Staff is 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 sanctioning clay target sports in the United States. All SCTP competitive events, including the SCTP State and National Championships, will be conducted in accordance with the rules for the clay target sport as set forth by the National Governing Bodies (NGB) listed below:

SKEET – National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) www.mynssa.com

SPORTING CLAYS – National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) www.mynsca.com

TRAP – Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) www.shootata.com

ISSF SKEET & ISSF TRAP – USA Shooting (USAS) www.usashooting.org

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

2. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

A. STUDENT STATUS AND AGE

All school-age youths 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. Participants must be bona fide students enrolled in an accredited school or a home schooled program and deemed academically eligible to participate in school-sponsored sports programs. SCTP program eligibility ends with graduation from high school, or once a student reaches his/her 20th birthday, whichever comes first. The SCTP 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 eligible to compete in their discipline's SCTP State and National Championships. **Some state programs may have minimum age restrictions.**

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, 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 National Governing Body rules will be considered the same as an infraction of SCTP rules. Any sanctions imposed by an NGB or State SCTP Official WILL be recognized and enforced by the SCTP National Program Staff.

3. GROUPING ATHLETES – Divisions and Categories

A. DIVISIONS

There are three competitive groupings or Divisions within each SCTP discipline. These Divisions, determined by **School Grade Level**, are designed to allow participants to compete on a level playing field with one another. **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 sponsoring an SCTP Team should shoot for their school.

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. Your State Advisor's contact information is listed on the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org. If your state has created its own SCTP State Web site, the link will be listed under the State Advisor's contact information.

SCTP DIVISIONS	
ROOKIE DIVISION	5 th Grade and Under
INTERMEDIATE DIVISION	6 th thru 8 th Grades
SENIOR DIVISION	9 th thru 12 th Grades

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.

ROOKIE DIVISION (Grades 5 & Under)

NO CATEGORIES IN ROOKIE DIVISION

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION (Grades 6 – 8)

ENTRY LEVEL – 1st year of participation in the Intermediate Division

ADVANCED - 2nd or 3rd year of participation in the Intermediate Division

SENIOR DIVISION (Grades 9 – 12 Only)

JR. VARSITY – 1st year of participation in the Senior Division

VARSITY – 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of participation in the Senior Division

4. TEAMS – Definition of Terms

A. TEAM FOCUS

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 Rule 5-B, Required Practices) and are expected to participate in Team fundraising efforts and community-service projects.

B. DEFINITION OF SCTP TEAM

A SCTP Team is defined as a group of individual Athletes registered by and to a Head Coach. There is no upper limit to the number of Athletes on a Team. A Team may have Squads or individuals in some or all of the Divisions.

C. DISTINCTION BETWEEN TEAM AND 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 A SUBDIVISION OF THE TEAM** and is the competitive unit for SCTP competition.

D. VALID COMPETITIVE SQUAD

A SCTP Squad that meets the Category and Division criteria is considered a **VALID COMPETITIVE SQUAD** that is eligible to enter SCTP Competitions. A Valid Competitive Squad for **TRAP is FIVE (5) Athletes**. A Valid Competitive SQUAD for **SKEET, SPORTING CLAYS, ISSF TRAP, and ISSF SKEET is THREE (3) Athletes**. There is **NO UPPER 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

Participants may not be a member of nor compete for more than one Team in a specific SCTP discipline during any one SCTP Season. Once a participant registers with a Team in a specific discipline, the decision is an irrevocable one that remains in effect for the entire SCTP Season.

F. “CHERRY PICKING”

“Cherry Picking” individuals from within or from outside a state 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 Championships. This practice runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the SCTP and is expressly prohibited. **VIOLATORS OF THIS RULE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED!**

G. ATHLETE’S 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 2008-2009 SCTP Season, the grade level he or she entered in the 2008 Fall Semester is the one that will be used for assignment to a SCTP Division. Home-schooled students compete in the Division commensurate with their 2008 Fall Semester grade level. Rising 6th graders will be considered Rookies; rising 9th graders will be considered Intermediates. High school graduates who were members of an officially recognized SCTP Team during the 2008-2009 school year are eligible to compete with their Team in the 2009 SCTP State and National Championships.

5. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

A. HEAD COACH

Every Team **MUST** have a **Head Coach who is 21 years of age 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 in Rule 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 Team to provide Team with 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 PRACTICES

Coaches must conduct a minimum of SIX (6) Team practice sessions – each on a separate day – for the Team Members with each Team Member shooting a minimum of 25 targets at each practice session. 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 Championships event. Registered 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. HEAD COACH & ASSISTANT COACH/ADULT VOLUNTEER – Registration Procedures

A. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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

B. HEAD COACH REGISTRATION – (Must be 21 years of age or older)

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

1. Log on to the SSSF National Headquarters Web site at www.sssfonline.org

Click on the button - **Head Coach Registration** - and follow the on-screen directions to begin the registration procedure. The registration procedure includes three elements:

- ▶ **Head Coach Registration Form**
- ▶ **Background Check**
- ▶ **“Double-Goal Coach Course”**

You will be prompted - step-by-step - to provide the necessary information. Make sure you keep copies of all forms for your records before submitting them. Once you complete the registration process, you will receive by e-mail a Coach User ID Number with Password, and a Coach Course Code.

2. Mail the Head Coach Registration Form

Print two copies of the **Head Coach Registration Form**, sign both copies, keep one copy for your files, and mail the other with original signature to **SCTP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS – Coach Registration, 56670 Jewell Road, Shelby Township, Michigan 48315.**

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE: Monitor your e-mail for a message providing you with a **Coach User ID Number** and a **Coach Course Code**. The Coach Course Code will be used to access the “Double-Goal Coach Course.”

3. Complete the “Double-Goal Coach Course”

Go to the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org and click on the button - **Coach Course** - and follow the directions on the Positive Coaching Alliance Web site. You will need to have the **Coach Course Code** available to sign into the course.

Each **HEAD COACH** will have his/her contact information posted on the SSSF Web site (www.sssfonline.org) for prospective participants looking to join a SCTP Team in their area or for other Teams looking for Team competition. Listings for Head Coaches will be by state and will include name, e-mail address, and city/town. Optionally, a telephone number may be included at the request of the Coach.

C. ASSISTANT COACH/ADULT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION – (18 years of age or older)

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

1. Log on to the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org.

Click on the button - **Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer Registration** - and follow the on-screen directions to begin the registration procedure. The registration procedure includes three elements:

- ▶ **Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer Registration Form**
- ▶ **Background Check**
- ▶ **“Double-Goal Coach Course”**

You will be prompted - step-by-step - to provide the necessary information. Make sure you keep copies of all forms for your records before submitting them. Once you complete the registration process, you will receive by e-mail a User ID Number and a Coach Course Code.

2. Mail the Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer Registration Form

Print two copies of the **Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer Registration Form**, sign both copies, keep one for your files, and mail the other with original signature to **SCTP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS – Coach Registration, 56670 Jewell Road, Shelby Township, Michigan 48315.**

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE: Monitor your e-mail for a message providing you with a **User ID Number and a Coach Course Code**. The Coach Course Code is used to access the “Double-Goal Coach Course.”

3. Complete the “Double-Goal Coach Course.”

Go to the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org and click on the button - **Coach Course** - and follow the directions on the Positive Coaching Alliance Web site. You will need to have the **Coach Course Code** available to sign into the course.

D. ACCEPTED COACH CREDENTIALS

SCTP accepts credentialing of coaches from the following training programs:

- ▶ **USAS/NRA/CMP 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**
- ▶ **State Wildlife Agency Wingshooting/Clay Target Coach Certification**
- ▶ **4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun Certification**
- ▶ **Boy Scouts Shotgun Instructor Certification**

Other certified programs may qualify, please contact the SCTP National Headquarters for determination.

7. TEAM - Registration Procedures

A. Athlete and Team Registration

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

1. Log on to the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org

Use the **User Id Number** sent to you to access the three forms listed below. **DOWNLOAD** and print copies of each form. 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&W09)**
- ▶ **Sportsmanship Contract (SSSF Form #09SC)**
- ▶ **Medical Consent (SSSF Form #09MED)**

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

2. **Log on to the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org**

Input your User ID Number to access the **Athlete Registration-Consent & Waiver Form** for registering each Athlete. Follow the on-screen directions to complete the Athlete Registration. Once all Athletes are registered, click on the **Team Registration** button to complete the on-line registration process. The Athlete Registration-Consent & Waiver Form registers individual Athletes, the Team Registration Form registers the Team with the SSSF. Print copies for your files.

3. **Mail Forms to SCTP National Headquarters**

Copies of the **ATHLETE REGISTRATION - CONSENT & WAIVER FORM** and the **SPORTSMANSHIP CONTRACT FORM** should be signed in ink, stapled together, and sent to SCTP National Headquarters for each Athlete registered. No one will be registered without these forms on file at SCTP National Headquarters. 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 the **MEDICAL CONSENT FORM** with original signature (signed in ink) on file. For your protection, please retain copies of ALL forms submitted to SCTP National Headquarters. **The Team ID Number must be included on all communications to SCTP National Headquarters.**

B. REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The DEADLINE for Team Registration is **thirty (30) days PRIOR** to the SCTP State Championship for a specific discipline. The on-line registration system will be locked out on May 01, 2009. Head Coaches wishing to register Teams or add Athletes to their Team roster after that date must contact SCTP National Headquarters.

8. SAFETY – Required Procedures and 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 Team to provide Team with 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 AND EAR PROTECTION

ALL SCTP registered Athletes and coaches MUST wear EYE AND EAR PROTECTION during ALL SCTP practice and competitive events.

C. SPECIAL SCTP SAFETY RULE FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

1. **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.
2. **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. SPECIAL SCTP SAFETY RULE FOR AMERICAN SKEET

Unless specifically approved to do otherwise by the Head Coach, competitors must load only ONE shotgun shell when shooting their single high and low house American Skeet targets. A Head Coach may approve the loading of more than one shell for Athletes shooting singles only when it has been proven to the Head Coach's satisfaction that the Athlete has demonstrated the ability to do so safely.

E. ALLOWABLE EQUIPMENT – SHOTGUN AND SHOTSHELLS

1. **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 being reloading.

2. **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, instrumental velocity.

9. **GOVERNANCE OF THE SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM**

A. **SCTP NATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF**

The SCTP National Program Staff (NPS) is responsible for the administration of the SCTP. The SCTP NPS is the arbiter and final decision making authority for resolving SCTP issues. The SCTP NPS is committed to optimizing **Participation** opportunities for SCTP Athletes. That commitment includes ensuring that no SCTP Athletes are disqualified due to circumstances beyond their control.

**SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION
SCTP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
56670 Jewell Road
Shelby Township, Michigan 48315
E-Mail address: S3F@comcast.net
Web site: www.sssfonline.org**

B. **SCTP STATE ADVISORS and SCTP STATE COMMITTEES**

SCTP State Advisors (formerly State Directors) are the SSSF's "point person" for the SCTP in their 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 the support for the SCTP from the state clay target NGB associations.

During the SCTP State Championship, State Advisors are responsible for ensuring that Teams are properly registered and that a procedure is in place for keeping and posting Teams' scores. State Advisors certify the winning Teams' scores to the SCTP National Headquarters.

It is highly recommended that State Advisors actively recruit a SCTP State Committee of stakeholders from state agencies, NGO's, school administrators, NGB's, organized youth groups, et al. This committee can plan and conduct the SCTP State Championships, hear protests, oversee shoot-offs, and settle programmatic issues. Several states have such a committee in place. Contact SCTP National Headquarters for more information.

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. Any issues regarding violation of SCTP rules will first be heard by members of this State SCTP Committee. If there is not a State Advisor in the state, the issue may be appealed directly to the SCTP National Headquarters.

C. **APPEALS**

Appeals may be filed **ONLY by an SCTP Athlete or Head Coach**. The injured or aggrieved party **MUST** be a registered member of an officially recognized SCTP Team. **Appeals from anyone other than from a registered SCTP Athlete or Head Coach WILL NOT be considered.**

1. **Issue in Dispute** - The issue in dispute must involve a violation of a specific SCTP rule or policy.
2. **Filing Procedure** - Within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident, an eligible appellant must submit a written appeal to the SCTP National Headquarters 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. Appeals may be transmitted via FAX or e-mail, but a written hard copy with the date and an original signature must be mailed to the SCTP Headquarters.
3. **Filing Fee** - All appeals must include a \$50 filing fee that will be held until a decision is made. **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 will be forfeited.**

4. **National Program Staff Response to Appellant** - Within ten (10) days of the receipt of the mailed copy of the appeal, the NPS will send the appellant a written notice of its decision. The decision of the National Program Staff is **FINAL**.

10. SCTP STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – Events and Eligibility

A. CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

SCTP State Championships offer **TEAM** competition in the following disciplines:

- ▶ **TRAP – 16-Yard Singles**
- ▶ **SKEET – Regulation Round**
- ▶ **SPORTING CLAYS – Walk Through**

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

A SCTP State Championship **MUST BE** conducted in each discipline for which a state plans to send a Squad to the SCTP National Championships for that discipline. SCTP Athletes must shoot the SCTP State Championship Event(s) in the state where they are registered and for the discipline(s) in which they are registered to be eligible to attend the SCTP National Championships.

C. RACES

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.

D. EVENT SCHEDULING

Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays SCTP State Championships may be held whenever desirable during the state NGB affiliates' championships. In some cases, due to overcrowding at an NGB State Shoot, scheduling conflicts, or for other reasons, the SCTP State Championship may be held independently at a different time and place. In either case, the State Advisor of the discipline will contact the SCTP National Headquarters with its SCTP State Championship details for the discipline.

E. VALID COMPETITIVE SQUAD

ALL SQUADS entering the SCTP State Championships must be deemed a **VALID COMPETITIVE SQUAD** (see Rule 4-D, Valid Competitive Squad). **Head Coaches may enter as many VALID COMPETITIVE SQUADS as they wish in the SCTP State Championships.**

ALL Team Members should be encouraged to participate in the SCTP State Championship even if they cannot be made part of a **VALID COMPETITIVE SQUAD**. State Advisors will assist in amalgamating "Mixed Squads" of SCTP participants not entered on a Valid Competitive Squad. **"Mixed Squads" 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, lower Division Athletes may be elevated or "Bumped Up" either to a higher Category within a Division or to a higher Division in order to fill short Squads. Once a lower Category or Division Athlete has been "Bumped Up", he or she must compete at the higher level 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 during the season. All "Bump Up" requests must first be submitted to the State Advisor for a recommendation. State Advisors will communicate their recommendation to the SCTP National Program Staff for a final decision. If there is no State Advisor in the state, submit the request directly to SCTP National Headquarters.

G. NGB TARGET REGISTRATION – SQUAD'S CHOICE

All SCTP State Championships will be registered with the appropriate NGB for each discipline contested. Rules regarding registration for each discipline are as follows:

1. **TRAP** – Each **SQUAD** may choose to either register or not register targets with the A.T.A. This requires a unanimous agreement from Squad Members. **NO mixed Squads (registered and non-registered participants) are allowed.** **ALL** Squad members must make the **SAME** choice: choosing to register targets or choosing not to register targets. This decision can be made at the SCTP State Championship event, but it must be made when the Squad is cashing AND **BEFORE** the first shot is fired. **In no case will a SQUAD be allowed to register targets after the targets have been shot.**

2. SKEET & SPORTING CLAYS – ALL SQUADS shoot registered targets.

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE: Each discipline at the SCTP National Championships will be a **REGISTERED TARGET EVENT.** Membership in the appropriate NGB is required.

11. SCTP STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – Entry Procedures

A. STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FORM

Entry into a SCTP State Championship requires the Head Coach to submit a SCTP STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD ENTRY FORM to the SSSF National Headquarters for each SQUAD entered. The SCTP State Championship Squad Entry Form **MUST** be submitted electronically through the Login page of the SSSF Web site at 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 SCTP State Championship.

Submitting Squad Entry Forms electronically through the Web site 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 21 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DESIGNATED SCTP STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.** Failure to submit the Squad Entry Form in a timely manner can result in **disqualification.** Head Coaches that do not have access to the Internet should contact either their SCTP State Advisor or SCTP National Headquarters for assistance with the Squad entry procedure.

Changes may be made to Squad Entry Forms, by Head Coaches, through the SSSF Web up to 72 hours prior to the SCTP State Championship, so long as the substitution does not alter the Division and category of the Squad. **SCTP National Headquarters 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 Shoot. After 72 hours, Head Coaches will need to contact the State Advisor or whoever is running the SCTP State Championship 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.**

B. ENTRY DEADLINE

All SCTP STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD ENTRY FORMS MUST be completed through the SSSF Web site no later than 21 days prior to the designated SCTP State Championship for the discipline entered. NO SQUAD will be entered in any SCTP State Championship without a SCTP State Championship Squad Entry Form on file with SCTP National Headquarters.

C. ENTERING ALL TEAM MEMBERS

Every Athlete registered by the 30-day deadline for an officially recognized SCTP Team is eligible to shoot at the SCTP State Championship. Teams unable to place every Team Member on a Valid Competitive Squad for entry into the SCTP State Championship should take ALL members along and allow them to shoot for the experience. State Advisors will assist in amalgamating “Mixed Squads” of SCTP participants not entered on a Valid Competitive Squad. **“Mixed Squads” are NOT eligible to compete for SCTP Team Awards.**

D. SQUAD SUBSTITUTIONS

Changes may be made to the SCTP State Championship Squad Entry Form prior to the event. Substitutes must be members of the Team that have met the 30-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 SSSF Web site for up to 72 hours before the SCTP State Championship 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 the SCTP State Championship event, his/her score will be counted as part of the Squad’s aggregate score even if he/she cannot finish the event.

Squad Entry Forms submitted on the SSSF Web site 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 contact the shoot management to inform them of the number of SCTP entries. If problems are encountered with scheduling, the SCTP State Championship may be a stand-alone event (see Rule 10–D, Event Scheduling).

12. SCTP STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – Scoring, Shoot-offs, and Awards

A. SCORE TABULATION

The “Mom” scoring program for all SCTP disciplines was designed specifically for the SCTP. Squad scores are automatically tabulated. This scoring program is HIGHLY recommended and all State Advisors are encouraged to use it. The State Advisor checks and posts the scores by Squad. Squad scores are the combined scores of the Squad Members [five (5) for American Trap; three (3) for all other disciplines].

B. SHOOT-OFFS 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 held to determine the champion or place of finish. Ties in all three disciplines will be settled by shoot-offs.

IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE: A SQUAD qualifying for a shoot-off MUST shoot in the shoot-off OR its score from the main event will be entered as its final score. ONLY those Squad Members who qualified the Squad for the shoot-off will be allowed to shoot in the shoot-off. NO SUBSTITUTIONS!

C. SHOOT-OFF PROCEDURES

1. Trap – Shoot-offs will be conducted only to break ties between or among SQUADS. Each Squad will take the line on a separate field. Shoot-off rounds will be shot from the 16 yard line, “**miss and out by post**”. Each member of the Squad will shoot five targets from his/her assigned post (the same shooting order as squadded in the event). Any shooter missing a target on his/her first post will withdraw on the post change. This process will continue for each post. Shooters still “Alive” after 25 targets will move to the 22-yard line continue the shoot-off. Shooters still “Alive” after the second round will move to the 27-yard line and continue until the Squad with the “**LAST SHOOTER STANDING**” is declared the winner.

2. SPORTING CLAYS – Shoot-offs will be conducted only to break ties between or among Squads. Shoot-offs may be conducted on a Walk-Through Sporting Clays course, a 5-Stand field, or a Compak layout. The shoot-off will be a “miss and out” competition.

The Shoot Director will choose the target presentation and may change the presentation between rounds (each pair attempted is considered a “round”) so long as all shoot-off participants shoot the same presentations. All target presentations will be **TRUE PAIRS**. **ALL Squad Members** shoot in the first shoot-off round.

Any shooter missing one or both targets is removed from the competition except for the following conditions:

- a. If NONE of the shoot-off participants hit a target, then all shooters are still “ALIVE” and move to the next round in the shoot-off.
- b. If NONE of the shoot-off participants hits both targets, but some hit one target, then only those hitting one target are still “ALIVE” and move to the next round in the shoot-off.

Shooters that are still “ALIVE” continue to repeat the process until the Squad with the “**LAST SHOOTER(S) STANDING**” is declared the winner.

3. SKEET – Shoot-offs will be conducted only in the event of ties between or among SQUADS. All shoot-offs will be **DOUBLES** shot from stations 2, 6, 3, 4, 5 in that order, “miss and out by station”. All Squad Members start shooting Doubles from Station 2. Shooters missing a target drop out. All shooters still “ALIVE” move to Station 6 and shoot Doubles. Shooters missing a target drop out. Shooters still “ALIVE” move to Station 3 and shoot Doubles. Shooters still “ALIVE” continue the process from Stations 4 to 5, 5 to 4, 4 to 3, 3 to 4, and so on, until a single Squad having the “**LAST SHOOTER(S) STANDING**” is declared the winner.

D. CERTIFICATION OF STATE WINNERS

The SCTP State Advisor or Designated Representative for each discipline submits the SCTP State Squad Entry Forms of the top three scoring SQUADS in the competition, separated by Division and Category, and

indicating in the box the place (i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd) the Squad finished. The State Advisor or his/her designee submits these forms electronically through the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org.

E. WEB POSTING OF INDIVIDUAL SCORES

Head Coaches or State Advisors may choose to submit the names and scores of all individual Athletes for posting on the Web site. Scores should be submitted in this order: Last name, first name, discipline, and total score. Scores should be in rank order from highest to lowest. Scores will be posted on the SSSF Web site at www.sssfonline.org.

F. 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 Championships in Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays. Each Squad Member and the Head Coach for each of these SCTP State Championship Squads will receive similar awards.

13. SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP – Events and Eligibility

A. CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

SCTP National Championships will be contested in these disciplines:

- ▶ TRAP – 16-Yard Singles
- ▶ SKEET – Regulation Rounds
- ▶ SPORTING CLAYS – Walk Through
- ▶ ISSF TRAP – Regulation Rounds
- ▶ ISSF SKEET – Regulation Rounds

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

TRAP, SKEET, AND SPORTING CLAYS: Each registered Valid Competitive Squad must have competed in ITS state's SCTP State Championship and the Squad's scores from the SCTP State Championship must be on file at SCTP National Headquarters. SCTP Athletes NOT on a VALID COMPETITIVE SQUAD may register and shoot at the SCTP National Championships IF they shot at their SCTP State Championship.

ISSF SKEET AND ISSF TRAP: SCTP Athletes wishing to compete in these two events will have to qualify in their State Junior Olympic (JO) Match. If your state is not hosting a JO Match, SCTP Athletes may attend either a neighboring state's match and shoot a Mean Qualifying Score (MQS) or compete in the USA Shooting National Championship, which will grant them an automatic invitation to the SCTP JO National Championship for their ISSF discipline(s). USA Shooting Rules will govern the SCTP ISSF Trap and ISSF Skeet events. These events will be held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

C. RACES

Rookies shoot a 100-target race in each of the disciplines. The Intermediate and Senior Division Teams will shoot 200-target races in the American disciplines of Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays. **ALL TARGETS SHOT AT THE SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL BE REGISTERED TARGETS.**

D. EVENT LOCATION

SCTP National Championships for Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays will be conducted at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta, Illinois, on July 23-26, 2009.

E. SQUADS

ALL VALID COMPETITIVE SQUADS (see Rule 4-D) are welcome to enter the SCTP National Championships. **Coaches may enter as many VALID COMPETITIVE SQUADS in the SCTP National Championships as they choose to enter.**

F. SQUAD SUBSTITUTIONS

Head Coaches of VALID COMPETITIVE SQUADS entered in the SCTP National Championships are allowed to make TWO (2) substitutions to the rosters of a Trap Squad and ONE (1) substitution to the roster of a Skeet and Sporting Clays Squads. Additional substitutions may be allowed with specific approval of the State Advisor and SCTP National Program Staff. 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. Substitutions/changes made to a Squad must fit within the Division definition of the original Squad submitted.

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

G. ALL REGISTERED TEAM MEMBERS ELIGIBLE

Every Athlete registered by the 30-day deadline for an officially recognized SCTP Team and who shot at the SCTP State Championship is eligible to shoot at the SCTP National Championships. Teams unable to place every Team Member on a Valid Competitive Squad for entry into the SCTP National Championship should take ALL members along and allow them to shoot for the experience. The SCTP National Championship Staff will form amalgamated "Mixed Squads" of SCTP participants not entered on a Valid Competitive Squad. **"Mixed Squads" are NOT eligible to compete for SCTP Team Awards.**

14. SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – Entry Procedures

A. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FORM

Entry into the SCTP National Championships requires the Head Coach to submit a SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD ENTRY FORM to the SCTP National Headquarters for each SQUAD entered. The SCTP National Championship Squad Entry Form **MUST** be submitted electronically through the Login page of the SSSF Web site at 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 SCTP National Championship.

Submitting entry forms electronically via the SSSF Web site 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 21 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DESIGNATED SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.** Failure to submit the Squad Entry Form in a timely manner may result in disqualification.

Changes may be made to Squad Entry Forms, by Head Coaches, through the SSSF Web up to 72 hours (See Rule 13-F, Squad Substitutions) before the SCTP National Championships, so long as the substitution does not alter the Division of the Squad. **SCTP National Headquarters 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 Championship.

Head Coaches are urged to emphasize to their Athletes the importance of making a commitment to the TEAM and keeping it.

B. ENTRY PROCEDURE

Registration and entry procedures will be conducted on-line through the SSSF Web site. Forms and instructions will be posted by June 01, 2009.

15. SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – Scoring, Shoot-offs, and Awards

A. SCORE TABULATION

The SCTP National Program Staff is responsible for tabulating the scores.

B. SHOOT-OFF PROCEDURES

Shoot-Off procedures for the SCTP National Championships will be the same as those used for SCTP State Championships. Please see Rule 12- B & C above.

C. SCTP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation will provide awards for the winning Squads placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each Category and Division in Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays. Each Squad Member and the Head Coach will receive a similar award. **A special award will be presented to Teams placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.**

D. DECLARATION OF WINNING SQUADS

The SCTP National Program Staff will declare all winners. Results will be posted on the World Shooting and Recreational Complex's SCTP Scoreboard as soon as all the scores have been carefully checked and www.sssfonline.org. **Decisions of the SCTP National Program Staff are FINAL.**

16. IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ!

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.

17. CONTACT THE SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM

Mailing Address: Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.
SCTP National Headquarters
56670 Jewell Road
Shelby Township, MI 48315

Office: (586) 781-8229
Fax: (586) 781-6802

E-mail: S3F@comcast.net
Questions regarding the SCTP Program

SCTP Web site: www.sssfonline.org

Registering Teams, submitting Squad Entry Forms for SCTP State and National Championships, downloading the SCTP Handbook, accessing up-to-date program information, looking up State Advisors, Coaches, Team locations, and finding SCTP State Championship dates.