

The American Legion Department of Florida



Post/District ROTC & Shooting Sports
Manual
2023-2024

2023-2024 ROTC/Shooting Sports Chair

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Chair Responsibilities

- Contact the J.R.O.T.C./R.O.T.C units in high schools and colleges in their local area.
 - Make an appointment with the instructor at the local schools and find out how the Legion can assist them.
- Promote the J.R.O.T.C. military/scholastic awards available from Dept. Headquarters.
- Bring materials with you.
 - Brochure are available from Department Headquarters or online at www.floridalegion.org.
- Contact schools *early* to plan presentation of R.O.T.C. awards.
- Be accurate in your end of year reporting on the National Consolidated Post Report and the Department Addendum.

Where to get information about JROTC Programs:

U.S. Air Force - Headquarters AFJROTC/DOJI, 551 E Maxwell Blvd, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6106, 800.522.0033x5275, www.afoats.af.mil

U.S. Navy - Department of the Navy, 800.628.7682x29395, www.nrotc.navy.mil

U.S. Army - Headquarters U.S. Army Cadet Command, www.rotc.usaac.army.mil OR www.goarmy.com/rotc

U.S. Marine Corps - Training Programs Branch, Training and Education Division, C462R MCCDC, 2034 Barnett Ave STE 201, Quantico, VA 22134-5012, 703.784.3705, officer.marines.com/marine/making_marine_officers/commissioning_programs/nrotc

Official Match Program

The American Legion presents its 33rd Junior 3-Position Air Rifle Tournament which provides competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation.

A. **The Individual Tournament** has two phases of competition:

- 1) First Round - State/Regional Championships.
- 2) Second Round - Qualification Round for National Championships.

B. **The Team Tournament** has two phases of competition:

- 1) First Round – State Championships.
- 2) Second Round – For recognition of top teams in the nation.
 - **All team members must be entered on the same team per class. To determine rankings, the team score will be comprised of the top four scores fired in each class. Teams will be broken down into multiple teams of four shooters. This will continue until there are less than four shooters remaining per team.**

C. **The First Round and Second Round** of the Individual Tournament are **postal matches**, whereas the **National Championship** is an individual event that is a **shoulder-to-shoulder competition**.

D. **The First Round and Second Round** phases of the Team Tournament are postal matches.

- **A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then returned for scoring and ranking awards.**
- The Individual and Team Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with the Official Match Program (OMP) and the 2022-2024 National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Book, 14th Edition.

Who May Compete:

A. **Sponsorship:**

- Entry into the Individual and Team tournaments is limited to competitors who are **active members** of a **Junior Shooting Club AFFILIATED** with an **American Legion Post**. Completed affiliation form on file with The American Legion National Headquarters. Affiliation form can be downloaded here: http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/jss_affiliate_form.pdf
- Affiliation forms must be filled out and signed no earlier than 1 September of the current Match Season and submitted during the registration process.

B. **Age Limits:**

- Competitors who are a member of the high school class of 2024 and those younger are eligible.

C. **Teams:**

- A team is comprised of four competitors who represent the same Junior Shooting Club.
- More than one team may represent a club; however, **only one competitor may represent a club/team**.

- The First Round of the team tournament is a postal match and will be comprised of the top four competitor's individual tournament scores.

D. Other Limitations:

- Each competitor may fire on only one set of “official match targets” during the State Championship phase of either tournament.
- **A SPORTER COMPETITOR IS INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN CONSECUTIVE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS UNLESS HE/SHE IS MOVING FROM THE SPORTER CATEGORY TO THE PRECISION CATEGORY (CAN ONLY COMPETE AS A SPORTER ONCE). THIS SPORTER SHOOTER COMPETITOR MUST WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE RETURNING TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AS A SPORTER COMPETITOR.**
- **A PRECISION COMPETITOR IS INEGLIBLE TO COMPETE IN CONSECTUVIE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WHETHER THAT IS IN PRECISION CATEGORY OR SEEKING TO RETURN AS A SPORTER COMPETITOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THIS PRECISION COMPETITOR MUST WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE RETURNING OT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE PRECISION CATEGORY.**

Categories of Air Rifle:

- A. Competitors may enter one of two categories in the tournament based on the type of air rifle they wish to use.
- B. **Precision Air Rifle Category:** as described in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.4.
- C. **Sporter Air Rifle Category:** as described in National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.2 with the following limitations:
- **Sights:** As described in National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.2.8 (Sporter) and 4.5 (Precision).
 - The sight must be factory issue for the Sporter air rifle being used. Telescopic sights are not permitted.
 - A Precision air rifle **CANNOT** be modified in any way in order for it to comply as a Sporter Air Rifle.
- D. **A competitor may compete in only one category.**

Course of Fire:

- A. The First Round – State Champion ship level (Individual and Team Tournament) of this air rifle match will consist of 60 rounds for record (3 x 20), fired at ten (10) meters.
- **Twenty shots** from the **prone position.**
 - **Twenty shots** from the **standing position.**
 - **Twenty shots** from the **kneeling position.**
- B. The Second Round – Qualifications (Individual) and the Second Round -National Championship (Team Tournament) of competition will also consist of 20 rounds in each of the three positions.

- C. The 10-meter **Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP)** Three Position Air Rifle Target AR 5/10 (designed for use with the Visual Image Scoring technology) will be used at all stages of the tournament.

Clothing:

- A. **Precision Air Rifle:** As specified in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.6
- B. **Sporter Air Rifle:** As specified in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.3. All shooting clothing must be made of soft flexible, pliable material, which does not give artificial support to the competitor. No special shooting jackets or pants are allowed.

How to Register & Order Official Targets:

- A. **To order targets, go to:** <https://www.legion.org/jssp-club-registration>.
- There is a **match entry fee of \$18.00** per target set (6 targets).
 - There will be an administrator (payer of target sets) and a coach function if needed. Administrator can give coach access to club to put in competitor information.
 - Competitor information will need to include competitor (or family) email address, phone number and CMP number.
 - What type of rifle (Sporter/Precision).
 - Will need to fill in Post information that will prefill an Affiliation Form. You can either print, get Post Commander's signature and upload or upload an Affiliation Form you may have already gotten a signature on. However, we will not accept any Affiliation Forms signed prior to 1 September 2023. Affiliation Forms must be uploaded as part of the registration process. We will not accept any Affiliation Forms sent to National HQ for this year's registration.
 - The individual responsible as the youth contact person must have completed the Risk Management course and background check in accordance with American Legion guidelines. Cost of the background checks is \$22.00.
 - You will not be able to pay for target sets until all steps, including uploading the Affiliation Form and confirming background check and risk management course completion, is complete.
 - Target sets must be purchased no later than December 15, 2023.
 - ALL returned fired postal target sets must be received by the CMP and/or postmarked no later than February 1, 2024.
- B. Clubs/teams **must be affiliated** with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.
- There is no cost to affiliate. Information regarding affiliation is available from The American Legion, 317.630.1204 or legion.org/shooting/resources.
 - Target sets will be distributed and scored by the CMP. Scoring inquiries/disputes should be directed to the CMP.
 - 2022-2024 National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Book, 14th Edition.

Return of Targets OR Self-Scoring on Orion:

- A. All “Official Target Sets” (both fired and unfired) must be returned to the CMP, **in accordance with the instructions and schedule provided online by the CMP and included in target sets.**
- B. Damaged or questionable fired target sets may result in re-firing and/or disqualification. This decision will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- C. **Only CMP provided competitor targets will be accepted.**

Tournament Results Bulletins:

- A. Tournament results can be monitored at http://www.legion.org/shooting/postal_match .
- B. Results will be updated daily.
- C. A **FINAL** results bulletin will be posted on The American Legion website, www.legion.org/shooting at the conclusion of the First and Second Rounds (Individual and Team Tournament).
- D. A final Tournament Results Bulletin will be posted after completion of the National Championship (Individual Tournament should-to-shoulder match).

Recognition and Awards:

- A. **First Round – State Championships (Individual and Team Tournament):**
 - The Individual State Champion in each category (Precision Air Rifle and Sporter Air Rifle) will each receive distinctive awards.
 - The Team State Champion in each category (Precision and Sporter) will each receive a team award for the members on the team listed.
 - Based on the First Round scores, the **overall** top ten (**10**) teams and **overall** top twenty-five (**25**) individuals (to include tie scores) in each category, will receive distinctive Shooting Sports embroidered sew-on patches from The American Legion and entry into the Second Round (Team and Individual Tournaments respectively).
 - Target sets will be distributed by the CMP to all Second Round (Individual) and (Team Tournament) qualifiers.
 - **STATE CHAMPIONS DO NOT RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO THE SECOND ROUND.**
- B. **Second Round – Qualifications (Individual Tournament):**
 - No trophies or recognition awards are presented for the Second Round.
 - Based on Second Round scores, the **top fifteen (15) competitors in each category** will be **invited to compete** at the **National Championship**.
 - Those who accept will receive a financial grant to help cover travel and living expenses.

C. National Championship (Individual Tournament):

- Awards will be presented in each of the three positions matches comprising the National Championship.
- The overall Three Position Championship awards, determined by the aggregate score of the tournament matches plus a 10-round shoot-off from the standing position by the top eight competitors in each category, will recognize the top competitors of the tournament.

D. National Championship (Team Tournament):

- Distinctive trophies will be presented to both the top **five (5)** place overall team and team members in the Precision and Sporter category.

E. Scholarships:

- The champion in both the Precision and Sporter category will receive a **\$5,000.00 college scholarship**, provided by The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion. The overall second place finisher in each category will each receive **\$1,000.00 college scholarship**, provided by The American Legion Auxiliary.

Match Conduct:

A. All phases of the Individual and Team Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with this Official Match Program and the 2022-2024 National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Book, 14th Edition.

B. A separate match program will be published for the National Championship Individual shoulder-to-shoulder match.

Integrity:

A. Postal tournaments are conducted with the expectation that each competitor will have the integrity to fire the match according to the rules.

B. Within each state, The American Legion’s Department Shooting Sports Chair, or in his/her absence, the individual so designated by the state commander, is responsible for investigating suspected cheating.

C. Any individual or team discovered taking advantage of tournament rules would be disqualified.

Phases of the Tournament:

2023-2024 American Legion Junior Three Position Air Rifle National Championships	
September 1, 2023	First round postal match competition target sales and registration opens.
December 15, 2023	First round postal match competition target sets sales and registration closes.
February 1, 2024	Targets due to the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) – must be postmarked on or before February 1, 2024 to be eligible for scoring.
February 15, 2024	Second round postal match competition targets mailed out by the CMP.
April 1, 2024	Second round postal match competition ends. Targets due to the CMP – must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2024 to be eligible for scoring.

July 2024	33rd Annual American Legion National Championship (Individual Tournament)
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A. First Round – State Championships (Individual and Team Tournament) – Ends February 1, 2024.

- The First Round is a postal match to determine the individual and team state champions (one per category) in each state.
- To order and purchase targets, visit: http://www.legion.org/shooting_forms/target_set_order. **The Target Sets must be purchased no later than December 15, 2023.**
- The American Legion will authorize **mailing** of Target Sets by CMP following verification of **American Legion Post affiliation** and payment by credit card.
- **ALL returned fired postal Target Sets must be received by the CMP and/or postmarked no later than February 1, 2024.**
- First round postal targets must be fired under the observation of an “Official Match Witness” who will be an officer in the local American Legion post that has affiliated with the Junior Shooting club.
 - Responsibilities are explained in the “Official Match Witness” document that will be sent along with the targets to the club.
 - Measure the firing line (with a tape provided by the school/club) to determine that the distance is 10 meters to the face of the targets.
 - Monitor the time of each relay (times are indicated in the Match Firing Checklist).
 - Observe range procedures.
 - Complete and return the Match Firing Report to CMP (return envelope is provided).
 - Sign where indicated on each athlete’s Match Entry Form upon completion of the firing and return to CMP.
 - Observe the placement of the fired target sets into the return envelope and sign across the back of the seal.

B. Second Round – Qualifications (Individual Tournament) – Ends April 1, 2024.

- The Second Round is a postal match to determine the order of precedence for inviting competitors for the National Championship.
 - Targets are sent to all marksman based on first round score of 530 for Sporter and 575 for Precision as well as their eligibility to compete in the National Championship.
- **These targets will be mailed by the CMP to the club’s adult leader of record by February 15, 2024. Returned fired postal Target Sets must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2024.**
- Second Round postal targets must be fired under the **observation** of an “Official Match Witness” who will be an **officer** in the local **American Legion Post** that has **affiliated** the Junior Shooting Club. Responsibilities are listed in the First Round.
- **STATE CHAMPIONS DO NOT RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO THE SECOND ROUND BASED UPON THEIR ELIGIBILITY TO QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**

C. Second Round – National Championship (Team Tournament) – Ends April 1, 2024.

- The Second Round is a postal match to determine the National Championship team in each category.
 - Targets will be sent to the top 10 teams as determined by first round scores.
- **These targets will be mailed by the CMP to the club's adult leader of record by February 15, 2024.**
- **All returned fired postal Target Sets must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2024.**
- **Second Round** postal targets **must** be fired under the **observation** of an "Official Match Witness" who will be an **officer** in the local **American Legion Post** that has **affiliated** the Junior Shooting Club. Responsibilities are listed in the First Round.
- **NOTE: Substitutions to the original team that fired in the Preliminary Round are permitted: however please remember that a team member may only fire with one team/club.**

D. National Championship (Individual Tournament), July 2024.

- Fifteen (15) competitors in each category will be invited based on their scores in the qualification round.
- This is an Individual Championship and participants must abide by The American Legion guidelines for participation to include:
 - Competitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or a family member over the age of 21. Signed parent or guardian permission must be provided if parent or guardian is not accompanying the competitor.
 - The preference of The American Legion for those over 18 is to be accompanied by a parent.
- The competition will be conducted in accordance with a separate Official Match Program.

Regional Assignments:

- **Region 1** - Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont
- **Region 2** - Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island
- **Region 3** - *Delaware*, D.C., France, Maryland, Pennsylvania
- **Region 4** - North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
- **Region 5** - Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina
- **Region 6** - Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Mexico, Texas
- **Region 7** - Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
- **Region 8** - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma
- **Region 9** - Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin
- **Region 10** - Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Wyoming
- **Region 11** - Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington
- **Region 12** - Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah

Tournament FAQ's:

Q: What is the Preliminary Tournament?

- The preliminary round team tournament is a "paper" match and will be comprised of four athletes' individual tournament scores as designated by the club adult leader and the proper entry fees have been paid when the target sets have been ordered.

- A club may enter more than one team into competition. A competitor is **INELIGIBLE** to compete in the National Championship (Individual Tournament shoulder-to-shoulder match) in successive years **UNLESS** he/she is moving **FROM** the Sporter Category **TO** the Precision Category.

Q: What is The American Legion Junior Shooting Program?

- It's a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards, and Air Rifle Competition.
- During the Eight years of this program's continued growth, thousands of male and female junior shooters have participated, with a perfect safety record of no reported gun-related injuries.
- Participants in The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program can be any gender, ages 14 through 18. Handicapped youth are encouraged to participate.

Q: What is the Basic Marksmanship Course?

- It is a comprehensive instruction package for the beginning shooter that has little or no marksmanship experience.
- The course insures understanding by the student and easy use by the instructor
- Gun safety and marksmanship fundamentals are taught through a balanced mix of short lecture or discussion followed by hands-on activity.
- The package of instruction and support materials include:
 - Instructor's Guide: Detailed information for the instructor to teach the course.
 - Student Handbook: Now in its third edition, this popular handbook is a comprehensive reference text for beginning shooters, thoroughly covering the fundamentals of position shooting.

Q: What are the Qualification Awards?

- If an effective job is done presenting the BMC, most graduates will want to keep improving their marksmanship skills.
- The National Rifle Association provides Marksmanship Qualification Course for Air Rifle. These courses offer a personal skill development ladder where individual shooters work to achieve established performance standards.
- For each level of success, a sew-on patch and certificate of achievement are presented
- Junior shooters may enroll in these programs upon graduation from the Basic Marksmanship Course.

Q: What is the Air Rifle Competition?

- It is not a sport which gives an advantage to individuals of great size or strength. Physical fitness and stamina are important, but it is mental toughness and self-discipline which determine success.
- Competitive shooting is also one of the few sports where men and women can compete as equals. It is open to anyone willing to practice and to test their shooting skills on the firing line.
- The American Legion Junior Position Air Rifle Tournament is an annual tournament that begins with postal matches to determine state and/or regional champions.
- The next stage is a Qualification Round (also a postal match) to determine shooters who will earn expense paid trips to compete in the National Championship.
- The National Championship is a shoulder-to-shoulder match held during the summer and is conducted at the Olympic Training Center/USA Shooting Range Facilities in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This is the same facility that our Olympic shooters train and practice on.