

Official Match Program 2014 - 2015

The American Legion presents its 25th 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.

The Individual Tournament has three phases of competition: 1) Preliminary Round - State/Regional Championships; 2) Qualification Round; and 3) National Championships.

The Team Tournament has two phases of competition: 1) Preliminary Round - State/Regional Championships and 2) National Championships. **The preliminary round team tournament is a “paper” match and will be comprised of the top four athletes’ individual tournament scores. A club with at least four individuals enters one team; at least eight individuals enters two teams; and so on.**

The Preliminary Round - State/Regional and Qualification Round of the Individual Tournament are **postal matches** whereas the **National Championship** of the Individual Tournament is a **shoulder-to-shoulder competition**.

The Preliminary Round - State/Regional and National Championship phases of the Team Tournament are postal matches.

The Individual and Team Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with this Official Match Program (OMP) and the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules (current edition).

1. Who May Compete:

Sponsorship: Entry into the Individual and Team tournaments is limited to competitors who are **active members** of a **Junior Shooting Club sponsored by an American Legion Post**.

Age Limits: Competitors who have reached their 18th birthday or are a graduate of high school class of 2015 and those younger are eligible.

Teams: A team is composed of four firing members who represent the same Junior Shooting Club. More than one team may represent a club; however, **firing members can only participate on one team**. The preliminary round team tournament is a “paper” match and will be comprised of the top four athletes’ individual tournament scores.

Other Limitations: Each competitor may fire on only one set of “official match targets” during the State/Regional Championship phase of either tournament. **A competitor is INELIGIBLE to compete in the National Championship (Individual Tournament shoulder-to-shoulder match) having previously competed in the National Finals competition in Colorado Springs in successive years UNLESS he/she is moving FROM the Sporter Category TO the Precision Category. Additionally, an athlete can NEVER repeat in the Sporter category after having previously competed in the National Finals competition in Colorado Springs.**

2. Categories of Air Rifle:

Competitors may enter one of two categories in the tournament based on the type of air rifle they wish to use.

Precision Air Rifle Category: as described in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.4.

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.

A competitor may compete in only one category.

3. Course of Fire:

The Preliminary Round - State/Regional Championship 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 rounds from the **prone position**.

Twenty rounds from the **standing position**.

Twenty rounds from the **kneeling position**.

The Qualification Round (Individual) and the National Championship (Team Tournament) of competition will also consist of 20 rounds in each of the three positions.

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

4. Clothing:

Precision Air Rifle: As specified in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.6.

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.

5. How to Order Official Targets:

To order targets, go to: http://www.legion.org/shooting_forms/target_set_order
You will create an athlete roster online as you order. There is a **match entry fee of \$10.00** for each person entered.

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.

6. Return of Targets OR Self-Scoring on Orion:

All “Official Target Sets” (both fired and unfired) must be returned to The American Legion National Headquarters, **in accordance with the schedule established in the PHASES OF THE TOURNAMENT (found on pages five and six) of this Official Match Program.** During the State /Regional Championship phase, any missing target set(s) is grounds for disqualification of **all** entries from the same sponsoring organization.

State/Regional Champions (Individual Tournament) who do not fire and return the official target set, which is provided for in the **Qualification Round**, will forfeit all State Championship awards.

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.

Replacement targets will not be accepted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the athlete having used said same.

The following addresses are to be used to return fired target sets:

Postal mailing address — The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.

UPS/FedEx — The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

It is recommended to return the target sets via UPS or FedEx if the “tracking” of the delivery is desired. Sending target sets via certified or registered mail is acceptable but can cause significant delivery delays.

The American Legion IS NOT responsible for missing or improperly addressed packages.

If your club has the Orion Scoring System, you may score your targets and upload them on the Orion website. The name of the Virtual Match Parent is “The American Legion 2014-15 National Postal Tournament”.

7. Tournament Results Bulletins:

Tournament results can be monitored on the Orion website at:
<http://www.orionresults.com/team/MatchPage.aspx?MatchID=1.2002.465883740.1>.

Please keep in mind that these results are constantly being updated as new targets arrive and new scores are posted.

A **FINAL** results bulletin will be posted on The American Legion website, **www.legion.org/shooting** at the conclusion of the Preliminary Round - State/Regional Championships (Individual and Team Tournament).

A final Tournament Results Bulletin will be posted after completion of the National Championship (Individual Tournament shoulder-to-shoulder match).

8. Recognition and Awards:

Participation Awards: The **first 400 competitors in the Individual Tournament** to return their fired target sets (in accordance with the instructions provided with the target sets) will receive distinctive Shooting Sports embroidered sew-on patches from The American Legion.

Preliminary Round - State/Regional Championships (Individual and Team Tournament): The State/Regional Champion in each category (Precision Air Rifle and Sporter Air Rifle) will each receive distinctive awards.

Individual Tournament: In those cases where there are fourteen entries or less from a particular state, entries from that state will be grouped into an “at large” category from that region. Regions are identified on page six of this program.

Based on scores, the top forty (40) competitors (to include tie scores) in each category, regardless of state/region, will receive a target set in order to compete in the Qualification Round (Individual Tournament). State/Region champions ***NO LONGER RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO THE NEXT ROUND.***

Team Tournament: In those cases where there are four or less teams from a particular state, teams from that state will be grouped into an “at large” category from that region. Regions are identified elsewhere in this program.

Based on scores, the top twenty teams (to include tie scores) in each category, regardless of state/region, will receive a target set in order to compete in the National Championship Round (Team Tournament). State/Region champions ***NO LONGER RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO THE NEXT ROUND.***

Qualification Round (Individual Tournament): No trophies or recognition awards are presented for the Qualification Round. Based on Qualification 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.

National Championship (Individual Tournament): Awards will be presented in each of the three position matches comprising the National Championship Tournament. 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 in the tournament.

The champion in both the Precision and Sporter category will receive a **\$5,000 college scholarship**, provided by The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion.

National Championship (Team Tournament): Distinctive trophies will be presented to the top five teams and members of each team in both the Precision and Sporter category.

9. Match Conduct:

All phases of the Individual and Team Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with this Official Match Program and the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules. A separate match program will be published for the National Championship Individual shoulder-to-shoulder match.

10. Integrity:

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

Within each state, The American Legion's Shooting Sports Chairman or in his/her absence, the individual designated by the state commander, is responsible for investigating suspected cheating. Any individual or team discovered taking advantage of tournament rules would be disqualified.

11. Phases of the Tournament:

- **Preliminary Round - State/Regional Championships (Individual and Team Tournament) — Ends February 1, 2015**

The State/Regional Championships are postal matches to determine individual champions (one per category) in each state/region.

To obtain targets, visit: http://www.legion.org/shooting_forms/target_set_order the **"Target Sets must be purchased NLT than January 10, 2015. Returned fired postal targets must be postmarked not later than February 1, 2015.**

- **Qualification Round (Individual Tournament) — Ends March 30, 2015**

The Qualification Round is a postal match to determine the order of precedence for inviting competitors for the National Championship. The Junior Shooting Club sponsoring an individual State/Region Champion will receive an official target set for the Qualification Round. **These targets will be mailed to the club's adult leader of record by March 1, 2015. Returned fired postal targets must be postmarked not later than March 30, 2015.**

Qualification 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.

- **National Championship (Team Tournament) — Ends March 30, 2015**

The National Championship Round is a postal match to determine the team National Champions in each category. The Junior Shooting Club sponsoring a State/Region team Champion will receive an official target set for the Championship Round. **These targets will be mailed to the club's adult leader of record by March 1, 2015. Returned fired postal targets must be postmarked not later than March 30, 2015.**

National Championship (Team Tournament) 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.

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.

- **25th Annual National Championship (Individual Tournament) — July 21 – July 25, 2015, USA Shooting Facility, United States Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

The National Championship will be fired at the USA Shooting Facility range, Olympic Training Center, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Fifteen (15) competitors in each category will be invited based on their scores in the Qualification Round. The competition will be conducted in accordance with a separate Official Match Program. A financial support grant for travel and living expenses will be provided to competitors who compete at the Championships. The grant may not cover all expenses.

12. 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

13. Tournament FAQ's:

The preliminary round team tournament is a “paper” match, using the individual scores of four athletes. 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.