



SPP HANDBOOK

**Scholastic
Shooting Sports
Foundation**



SCHOLASTIC PISTOL PROGRAM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	3
GLOSSARY & ABBREVIATIONS	5
OFFICIAL RULES	6
1. SPP Disciplines and Sanctioning Bodies	6
2. Participant Eligibility	6
3. Grouping Athletes – Divisions.	7
4. Teams – Definition of Terms	8
5. Team Requirements	8
6. State Advisor, Head Coach & Assistant Coach/Adult Volunteer – Registration.	9
7. Team – Registration Procedures	9
8. Rules Governing SPP Shoots	10
9. Safety - Required Procedures and Equipment	14
10. Dress and Conduct	14
11. Governance of the Scholastic Pistol Program	15
12. SPP State Team Championships	16
13. SPP State Championships – Entry Procedures	17
14. State Championships – Scoring and Awards	17
15. SPP National Team Championships	18
16. SPP National Team Championships - Entry Procedures	18
17. SPP Virtual E-Postal Match Series	19
18. Important Information	19
19. Contact the Scholastic Pistol Program	19

WELCOME

Welcome to the Scholastic Pistol Program

By joining the Scholastic Pistol Program (SPP) you are participating in the exciting and challenging family sport of “speed shooting”. SPP is a Youth Development Program that teaches the safe handling of pistols while at the same time developing positive life skills through a supportive environment taught by trained and supportive adult coaches. The SPP program was founded as a sister program to the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) in order to bring the same type of positive life skills and team spirit to the handgun shooting sports.

SPP, just like SCTP, is governed by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF). The SSSF raises money and other resources to support youth shooting programs. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has always been and continues to be a very consistent financial supporter of SSSF. The MidwayUSA Foundation also contributes a great deal of financial resources to our program and to the United States Youth Shooting Movement as a whole. The shooting and hunting industry understand that today’s youth are the future of our sport and we enjoy tremendous support from the hunting and shooting industry.

The backbone of the Scholastic Pistol Program is the Parents, Adults, and Volunteers who organize and run the program on the local and state level. Any successful youth program will always have a few dedicated passionate adults working in a leadership and guidance role. The amount of time, energy, and financial resources that these dedicated adults contribute to the program is staggering. However, when you meet the wonderful young athletes that the program produces, you will understand quickly why it is worth it and why they do what they do. The participants in the Scholastic Pistol Program are the greatest young people you would ever want to meet.

This handbook has been prepared to guide you through the SPP shooting year from registration to the completion of the SPP National Championships. More information is available at our website www.shootSCTP.org. Whether your child is interested in becoming a National Champion or just wants a fun and safe social activity to enjoy with his or her friends, SPP is the program for them!

Why not get them started today?

* * * * *

GOVERNING BODY

Since 2008, the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. (SSSF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational-athletic organization has provided the administrative support and direction for the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and the Scholastic Pistol Program (SPP). Our primary partner, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, continues its role as the founder and major supporter of the SSSF. In addition, SSSF also receives major funding from Larry and Brenda Potterfield, MidwayUSA, the MidwayUSA Foundation and many other Industry Partners.

SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation exists to raise funding and other resources for Youth Development Programs in the shooting sports industry.

SCHOLASTIC PISTOL PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Scholastic Pistol Program is a Youth Development Program where adult coaches and volunteers model sportsmanship, responsibility, and teamwork while using shooting sports programs to teach these and other positive life skills to SPP athletes.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Youth from ages 12-20, plus full-time college students are eligible to participate in the safe, educational, and enjoyable SPP handgun sport of “speed shooting”. The SPP, like SCTP, is ideally suited to become a school sponsored Title IX Sport. Similarly it offers an absolutely “level playing field” for gender participation in the shooting sports. The SPP is a perfect fit for youth organizations such as Boy Scouts, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Police Athletic Leagues, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, et al. Any youth organization is welcome to participate in the SPP.

All SPP activities incorporate two indispensable elements – SAFETY AND FUN. Safety is incorporated into every aspect of ALL SPP activities. The learning environment at team practices and at competitive shoots is designed to include the element of FUN for all participants. SPP participants learn the safe and responsible handling and use of pistols. 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.

ADULT LEADERSHIP

The program is led by trained and dedicated adult volunteer coaches who are committed to providing, promoting, and perpetuating opportunities for their young athletes to safely and enjoyably participate in a high-quality team-based sport. SPP Coaches must take very seriously the responsibility of being good role models to the SPP Athletes.

HONORING THE GAME

Competition is clearly a part of the SPP, an indispensable part; but it is not the underlying principle. The “win-at-all-costs” philosophy has no place in the SPP. Striving to win while playing by the rules does. Honoring the game, exhibiting good sportsmanship, and being a responsible Team Member, are the bedrock values the SPP strives to instill. It is the DUTY of everyone involved in the SPP – Coaches, Parents, and Athletes - to set good examples for SPP Team Members. Volunteers are expected to emulate and uphold high moral and ethical standards of personal conduct.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Divisions:</u>	Junior – ages 12-16 Centerfire (Varsity) Rimfire (Junior Varsity) Senior – ages 17-20 Centerfire (Varsity) Rimfire (Junior Varsity) College – no age limit Centerfire (Varsity) Rimfire (Junior Varsity)
<u>Head Coach:</u>	The Team Head Coach serving as the primary point of contact and the individual responsible for communication between SPP National Administrative Office and everyone involved with the Team.
<u>NGB:</u>	National Governing Body
<u>NSSF:</u>	NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION
<u>SCTP:</u>	SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM
<u>SPP:</u>	SCHOLASTIC PISTOL PROGRAM
<u>SPP Squad:</u>	The SPP competitive unit consists of four (4) Athletes to a squad. A Team may have as many squads as they wish.
<u>SPP Team:</u>	ALL Athletes, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Adult Volunteers registered under the same Head Coach at a “Home” Gun Club or Shooting Facility.
<u>SSSF:</u>	SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION

SCHOLASTIC PISTOL PROGRAM



OFFICIAL RULES

These rules are set forth to ensure the safe and equitable treatment of all SPP participants. Their enjoyment and safety is our reward.

1. SPP DISCIPLINES AND SANCTIONING BODIES

A. DISCIPLINES

The Scholastic Pistol Program offers opportunities for TEAMS to participate in the discipline of speed shooting.

B. SANCTIONING BODY

The **SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION** (www.shootSCTP.org) is the sanctioning body for the Scholastic Pistol Program (SPP). The SSSF's National Program Staff is responsible for the management of the SPP.

2. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

A. STUDENT STATUS AND AGE

All school-age boys and girls ages 12 - 20 that have the physical, mental, and emotional maturity to participate in a team sport are eligible to participate in the SPP. There is also a SPP College Division for college-aged participants. Participants must be bona fide students enrolled in an accredited school, home schooled program, college or university. The Athlete must be deemed academically eligible to participate in school-sponsored sports programs.

The SPP Junior and Senior Program eligibility ends once a student reaches his/her 20th birthday. If a student enrolls in SPP before turning 20 and then turns 20 during the target year, they will be allowed to finish out that target year. The SSSF National Program Staff has the option to grant a variance for age in view of special circumstances.

Some states have a minimum legal age requirement for handling and using pistols – check your state laws!

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 SPP (Athletes, Head Coaches, and Assistant Coaches/Adult Volunteers) and those ASSOCIATED with the SPP (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 SPP Rules including stipulations in the Sportsmanship Contract WILL be grounds for SUSPENSION or EXPULSION from the program.

3. GROUPING ATHLETES – Divisions

A. DIVISIONS

There are three competitive Divisions. These Divisions are designed to allow participants to compete on a level playing field.

All participants in the SPP must be registered on a specific team. 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 a SPP Team are encouraged to 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 SPP guidelines. Your State Advisor's contact information is listed on the SPP Website at www.shootSCTP.org. If your state has created its own SPP State Website, the link will be listed under the State Advisor's contact information.

SPP DIVISIONS	
JUNIOR DIVISION	Ages 12-16
Centerfire (Varsity)	
Rimfire (Junior Varsity)	
SENIOR DIVISION	Ages 17-20
Centerfire (Varsity)	
Rimfire (Junior Varsity)	
COLLEGE DIVISION.....	No age limit, see requirements
Centerfire (Varsity)	
Rimfire (Junior Varsity)	

Centerfire (Varsity)

Squads are organized based on age: Junior Division (ages 12 – 16), Senior (17 – 20) and Collegiate (no age limit). In the event a squad has both Junior and Senior Division members, in order to complete a squad the entire squad will be required to compete in the Senior Division.

Collegiate Division is open to all students enrolled in a post-secondary school such as a junior college, college, university, etc. and must be a full time student and in good academic standing. There is no age limit to Collegiate Division as long as they meet the current requirements.

Rimfire (Junior Varsity)

Rimfire (Junior Varsity) squads are organized based on the same age groups as Centerfire (Varsity): Junior Division (ages 12 – 16), Senior (17 – 20) and Collegiate (no age limit). In the event a squad has both Junior and Senior division members, in order to complete a squad the entire squad will be required to compete in the Senior Division.

Athletes may only participate in Rimfire for a maximum of two (2) years, after that they must compete in the Centerfire (Varsity) Division.

Once an athlete competes in a Regional or National event as a Centerfire (Varsity) they cannot compete in Rimfire (Junior Varsity).

4. TEAMS – Definition of Terms

A. TEAM FOCUS

The SPP is a **TEAM-BASED Youth Development Program**. The intent of the SPP 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 Section 5-B, Required Practices) and are expected to participate in team fundraising efforts and community service projects. -

B. DEFINITION OF SPP TEAM

A SPP Team is defined as one or more individual Athletes registered by and guided by a Head Coach. There is no upper limit to the number of Athletes on a team.

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 the competitive unit for every SPP competition.

D. COMPETITIVE SQUAD

A SPP Squad that meets the Division criteria is considered a valid **COMPETITIVE SQUAD** and is eligible to enter and compete at the SPP State and National Team Championships. **A valid Competitive Squad is Four (4) Athletes.** There is **NO 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 any one SPP season. Once a participant registers with a team, the decision is an irrevocable one that remains in effect for the entire SPP 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 SPP State or National Team Championships. This practice runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the SPP and is expressly prohibited. **ATHLETES AND/OR COACHES VIOLATING THIS RULE WILL BE SUSPENDED AND MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM!**

Competition Shoots are not to be counted as practice sessions.

G. ATHLETE’S ELIGIBILITY FOR SPP COMPETITIONS

SPP Junior and Senior Divisions are based on ages. If a shooter ages out of a division during the target year, they will be allowed to finish out that target year. Participants must be bona fide students enrolled in an accredited school, home schooled program, college or university. The Athlete must be deemed academically eligible to participate in school-sponsored sports programs.

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 pistols in every facet of the Scholastic Pistol Program and must be willing to conduct the “Required Practices” as stipulated below in Section 5-B.

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE: For all SPP 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 National Organization and covered by SSSF Insurance. 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 SPP.

B. REQUIRED PRACTICES

Coaches must conduct a minimum of SIX (6) team practice sessions-

Team members must attend a minimum of SIX (6) team practice sessions in order to be eligible to shoot in a SPP State or National Championship event representing that team. In the event an Athlete lives more than 50 miles away from the local shooting range, verification of eligible practices may be required.

Competition 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. STATE ADVISOR, HEAD & ASSISTANT COACH/ADULT VOLUNTEER – Registration

A. STATE ADVISOR – (Must be 21 years of age or older)

A State Advisor's involvement in the SPP shall be strictly as a volunteer interested in promoting SPP activities within the Advisor's state and whose service is solely at the discretion and approval of the SPP National Office.

If interested in applying for the SPP State Advisor position in your State:

Please contact:

Scott Moore, SPP national director – jsmoore357@yahoo.com, 602.930.7778

Tammy Mowry, SPP program manager - tammy.mowry@zoominternet.net, 724.822.7390

B. COACH/ADULT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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

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

SPP Head Coaches are required to complete the Head Coach Registration form and fully register with SPP

Each State Advisor and Head Coach will have his/her contact information posted on the SPP Website (www.shootSCTP.org) for prospective participants looking to join a SPP Team in their area or for other Teams looking for Team competition. Listings will be by state and will include name, e-mail address, telephone number, and city/town.

D. ASSISTANT COACH/ADULT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION – (21 years of age or older)

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

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE: Your Head Coach must already be registered and created a Team before Assistant Coaches/Adult Volunteers can begin their registration.

E. ACCEPTED COACH CREDENTIALS

A qualified coach MUST be on the field at all times when a SPP Team is practicing or competing. Credentials from the following certificated coach training programs are accepted:

- ▶ NRA Certified Pistol Instructor Certification
- ▶ 4-H Shooting Sports Pistol Certification
- ▶ State Agency Coaches Course
- ▶ IDPA Safety Officer or SO Instructor Certification
- ▶ NROI Safety Officers Certification
- ▶ State Agency Coaches Course

Other certificated programs may qualify, please contact the SPP National Administrative Office 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 process below:

1. **Log on to the SPP Website at www.shootSCTP.org**

Click **Print Forms**, download and print copies of each form listed below. 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 (SPP Form “C&W”)**
- ▶ **Sportsmanship Contract (SPP Form “SC”)**
- ▶ **Medical Consent (SPP Form “MED”)**

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 SPP Website at www.shootSCTP.org**

Input your User ID and Password to access **Manage Teams > add new Team** for creating your Team. Follow the on-screen directions to complete the Team Registration.

Once the Team is registered, click on **Manage Teams > Athletes > Add New Athlete** button to complete the on-line Team Roster process. The Athlete Registration-Consent & Waiver Form registers individual Athletes, the Team Registration Form registers the Team with the SSSF.

To pay the Athlete Registration Fee, go to **Manage Teams > Missing Payments**. There you can choose to Pay by Check or Pay by Credit Card.

HEAD COACHES OF RETURNING TEAMS: There is no need to re-register, just update your Team's information using 'EDIT' under **Manage Teams**.

After updating your Team's information, click on:

- ▶ **Manage Teams > Athletes > edit** to update an Athlete's profile.
- ▶ To delete or add an Athlete, go to **Manage Teams > Athletes** and follow the on-screen directions.
- ▶ To pay the Athlete Registration Fee, go to **Manage Teams > Missing Payments**. There you can choose to Pay by Check or Pay by Credit Card.

3. **Mail Forms to SPP National Administrative Office**

Copies of the **ATHLETE REGISTRATION/CONSENT & WAIVER FORM** should be sent to the SPP National Administrative Office for each Athlete registered. No one will be registered without these forms on file at the SPP National Administrative Office. 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 a copy of the **Consent & Waiver Form**, along with the **Sportsmanship Contract and Medical Consent Form** with original signature (signed in ink) on file. For your protection, please retain copies of ALL forms submitted to the SPP National Administrative Office.

B. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

The DEADLINE for **TEAM** Registration is **thirty (30) days PRIOR** to the SPP State Team Championship. The on-line registration system will be locked out on May 1st. Head Coaches wishing to register Teams or add Athletes to their Team Roster after that date must contact the SPP National Administrative Office.

8. **RULES GOVERNING SPP SHOOT**

All SPP competitions will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Scholastic Pistol Program.

MATCH RULES AND CONDITIONS

Eye and ear protection for all shooters and spectators are required. Individuals observed without eye or ear wear will be required to leave the shooting area.

A. **PISTOL CALIBER AND ACTION TYPE, ALLOWABLE CONDITION**

Centerfire

1. Handgun. All SPP matches will be shot with any "stock" handgun. For SPP, a stock handgun is defined in the IDPA rules covering Stock Service Pistol and Stock Service Revolver. For a current list of approved handguns visit: <http://www.idpa.com/Documents/IDPARuleBook2005.pdf>. SPP matches are shot with iron sights only; telescopes, red-dot and laser assisted sighting systems are prohibited. Revolvers chambered in .357 Magnum or .38 Special are also legal, as long as .38 Special ammunition is used.
2. Ammunition. While 9mm Luger (9x19) is the recommended caliber for SPP, .40 S&W, 45ACP or .38 Special may be used. The minimum power factor allowed for SPP competition is 125 (bullet weight x velocity divided by 1,000). For those using .357 Magnum / .38 Special revolvers, only .38 Special ammunition may be used with a minimum power factor of 105.

Rimfire

1. Handgun. ALL SPP rimfire matches will be shot with handguns with iron sights only - adjustable sights and fiber optics inserts are allowed but no electronic sights. No compensators, ported barrels, muzzle brakes or barrel weights.
2. Ammunition. All Handguns are to safely use .22 Long Rifle ammunition. Any commercially available .22 LR ammunition will be considered suitable for competition.

Disconnection or disabling of any safety device on any gun is not allowed.

B. SCORING

SPP is a timed event so your time is your score. The four "bang" targets must be hit during each string of fire and the "stop" target will be hit last to stop the time. A "bang" target is any of the four non-"stop" targets of a stage. Each athlete will shoot five strings. The best four out of five runs are combined a total score for each stage. If the stop target is hit before all bang targets have been hit, there is a 3 second penalty for each bang target not hit. The maximum time allowed for each individual run is 30 seconds. The competitor will be stopped and asked to prepare for the next string of fire if they reach the 30 second limit. Three (3) second procedural penalties will also be given for:

- Creeping, movement, or jumping before the start signal sounds.
- If competition is held with multiple stages on one bay, shooting at the wrong targets.
- Starting with finger within trigger guard – Verbal warning will be given for 1st time, 2nd time will result in a procedural.
- Reloading with finger within trigger guard – Verbal warning will be given for 1st time, 2nd time will result in a procedural.

When a Safety Officer or Score Keeper calls a miss, it is the athlete's responsibility to appeal the decision at the end of that particular string of fire. The Safety Officer and/or Score Keeper will then go down range and check the target. Once the next string of fire begins, there will be NO further opportunity to appeal the call.

NOTE: All Targets should be painted before each athlete begins his/her string of fire. Be sure all edges as well as the face are covered.

Competitors may fire as many rounds as they need to complete each string of fire. It is the responsibility of the athlete to check their scores as written on their scorecards after completing shooting. Any questions concerning the scores entered on the scorecard should be asked of the Range Officials at that time. If the question is not resolved, a Match Director will then be summoned. It is the athlete's responsibility to submit the correct scorecard for the each stage and match.

C. TIES

If a tie occurs for final ranking, the In & Out stage score will be used as the tie-breaker. If that does not break the tie, the fastest single run of that stage will be used as the tie-breaker. If still needed, the second and third run will be used as the tie breaker.

D. STARTING COMMANDS

Range Commands. The range commands for the SPP will be as follows:

1. **"Load and Make Ready"** – Before issuing this command, the Safety Officer should visually confirm that the competitor, and all others on the range, have eye and ear protection in place, that he/she is facing downrange, and that he/she is in all other respects prepared to handle the pistol.

The competitor may then pick up the pistol and magazine from the table, load the pistol and point at the low-ready flag down range. Once the "Load and Make Ready" command has been given, the competitor must not move away from the start location prior to issuance of the "Start Signal" without the prior approval, and under the direct supervision, of the Safety Officer.

2. **"Are You Ready?"** – The lack of any response from the competitor indicates that he fully understands the requirements of the course of fire and is ready to proceed. If the competitor is not ready at the "Are You Ready?" command, he must state "Not Ready".
3. **"Standby"** – This command should be followed by the audible start signal within 1 to 2 seconds.
4. **"Start Signal"** – The signal for the competitor to begin their attempt at the course of fire. If a competitor fails to react to a start signal, for any reason, the Safety Officer will confirm that the competitor is ready to attempt the course of fire, and will resume the range commands from "Are You Ready?"
5. **"Reload if Required and Make Ready for Your Next String"** – This command may be used following the 1st through 4th strings. (Experienced shooters may not need this command).
6. **"Stop"** – Any Safety Officer assigned to a stage may issue this command at any time during the course of fire. The competitor must immediately cease firing and wait for further instructions from the Safety Officer.
7. **"Unload And Show Clear"** – This command is used following the final string. If the competitor has finished shooting, he must lower his pistol, remove the magazine, then clear the chamber, lock the slide to the rear for inspection by both himself and the Safety Officer. The competitor, under commands from the Safety Officer, or the Safety Officer, will then place the pistol in a gun case, bag or other pistol carrying device. If the handgun is being used by the next competitor the Safety Officer should cant the handgun to the right berm before the Safety Officer can call the range safe and clear to go down range to score/paint targets.

E. SAFETY RULES

SPP ranges are cold! Pistols will not be loaded except as directed by Safety Officers/Match Officials.

Always follow the basic Safety rules:

- Always assume a gun is loaded
- Never point a gun at something you're not prepared to shoot
- Be sure of the target and what's behind it
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are on the target

Semi-autos will have an empty chamber and magazine well. Revolvers must have all chambers and cylinders empty.

After firing, no competitor may leave the firing position until the pistol has been unloaded, inspected and cleared by the Safety Officer. The competitor, under commands from the Safety Officer, or the Safety Officer, will then place the pistol in a gun case, bag or other pistol carrying device. If the handgun is being used by the next competitor the Safety Officer should cant the handgun to the right berm. The Safety Officer may also move the pistol to table or station under his/her control.

During loading or unloading, engaging the course of fire and during clearing the pistol in the event of a malfunction, the muzzle of the pistol must ALWAYS be kept pointed down range AND FINGER OUTSIDE OF THE TRIGGER GUARD. If the limit line (180 degrees of the shooter box) is violated with a loaded gun, the shooter will be asked to unload and will be disqualified from the entire match.

In the event a pistol cannot be unloaded due to a broken or failed mechanism, the shooter will notify the Safety Officer/Match Director. In no case, will an athlete leave the line with a loaded pistol.

During a SPP match, athletes should not handle their pistols, except when instructed by a Match Official or in designated areas.

Should a pistol be dropped during a course of fire, the athlete will not pick up the pistol, but allow the Safety Officer/Match Official to do so. The Safety Officer/Match Official will then unload and inspect the pistol.

F. SAFETY VIOLATIONS

Any of the following two (2) violations shall result in disqualification:

- Dropping of an unloaded pistol.
- Any grossly uncontrolled shot or accidental discharge. Uncontrolled is defined as a shot that is contained downrange within the berm and more than six feet from the shooter.
- Picking up a dropped pistol without the direction of a match official.
- Starting with Finger within trigger guard – After 3rd violation (see section B on scoring procedural for first two violations).
- Reloading with finger within trigger guard - – After 3rd violation (see section B on scoring procedural for first two violations).

The following violations shall result in automatic disqualification from the tournament:

- Pointing a loaded or unloaded pistol up range.
- Dropping a loaded pistol.
- Leaving the line with a loaded pistol.
- Any shot fired into the ground within six feet of the contestant or over the backstop/berm.
- Unsafe handling of a loaded pistol.
- Contestants under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs.
- Any behavior or action in violation of sportsmanship codes, or that which directly and/or adversely affects the performance of another competitor.
- Any disrespectful words and/or gestures to or towards a Safety Officer/Match Official.

Coach must be notified of athlete violations.

G. STAGES

The official stages of SPP are:

- Go Fast!
- In and Out
- Focus
- Speed Trap

H. TARGETS

Action Targets is a founding partner of the Scholastic Pistol Program. In addition, targets may be also purchased from GT Targets or may be manufactured by the club as long as they meet specifications as listed in the Steel Resource Guide at http://www.actiontarget.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/pt_Steel_Target_Resource_Guide.pdf

Target Specifications

All round targets are 5' high to the top of the target and all rectangles are 5'6" to the top of the target (as set by a transom from the shooter's box).

All targets are painted white and will be re-painted prior to each Athlete's first run on each course of fire.

9. SAFETY – Required Procedures and Equipment

A. SUPERVISION AT SPP EVENTS

For all SPP 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 National Program, to provide 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 SPP.

B. REQUIRED EYE AND EAR PROTECTION

ALL SPP registered Athletes, Coaches, and anyone on the shooting field **MUST** wear EYE AND EAR PROTECTION during ALL SPP practice and competitive events.

C. ALLOWABLE EQUIPMENT – HANDGUNS AND AMMUNITION

1. PISTOL.

Centerfire: All SPP matches will be shot with any "stock" pistol. For SPP, a stock pistol is defined in the IDPA rules covering Stock Service Pistol and Stock Service Revolver. For a current list of approved pistols visit: <http://www.idpa.com/Documents/IDPARuleBook2005.pdf>. SPP matches are shot with iron sights only; telescopes, red-dot and laser assisted sighting systems are prohibited. Revolvers chambered in .357 Magnum or .38 Special are also legal, as long as .38 Special ammunition is used.

Rimfire: ALL SPP rimfire matches will be shot with handguns with iron sights only - adjustable sights and fiber optics inserts are allowed but no electronic sights. No compensators, ported barrels, muzzle brakes or barrel weights.

2. AMMUNITION –

Centerfire: While 9mm Luger (9x19) is the recommended caliber for SPP, .40 S&W, 45ACP or .38 Special may be used. The minimum power factor allowed for SPP competition is 125 (bullet weight x velocity divided by 1,000). For those using .357 Magnum/.38 Special revolvers, only .38 Special ammunition may be used with a minimum power factor of 105. Reloads are **ALLOWED** for practices and competitions, provided they meet the power factor.

Rimfire: All Handguns are to safely use .22 Long Rifle ammunition. Any commercially available .22 LR ammunition will be considered suitable for competition.

10. DRESS AND CONDUCT

A. APPROPRIATE DRESS

Each registered SPP participant, whether Athlete, Coach, or Adult Volunteer, represents not only the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, but also the entire Scholastic Pistol Program including one's team, the team's sponsoring institution (e.g., school, club, church, community organization, youth organization, etc.), and at the national level, their state. Promoting a positive image is in the best interest of the SPP and everyone involved with it. Appropriate dress for everyone associated with SPP goes a very long way in making a positive impression.

- 1. TOPS – Shirt must have sleeves.** Items of clothing that expose any part of the torso are prohibited. These include, but are not limited to, cutoff T-shirts, halter tops, tank tops, etc.
- 2. BOTTOMS – Shorts must be no higher than six (6) inches above the knee.** Short shorts and low riding shorts or pants revealing undergarments or buttocks are prohibited.
- 3. CLOTHING ADORNMENTS –** Shirts, hats, pants – any clothing – and any other associated items carried, worn, etc., with pictures, caricatures, designs, messages, writings, or other embellishments with direct or indirect references to alcohol, tobacco, sex or sexual connotations, drugs, gambling or profanities are prohibited.
- 4. FOOT WEAR –** Shooting in flip-flops or opened-toed shoes/sandals is prohibited. Violation of this rule may be grounds for disqualification.

B. CONDUCT

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

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

11. GOVERNANCE OF THE SCHOLASTIC PISTOL PROGRAM

A. SSSF NATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF

The SSSF National Program Staff is responsible for the administration of the SPP and is the arbiter and final decision making authority for resolving SPP issues. SPP is committed to optimizing **Participation** opportunities for SPP Athletes. That commitment includes ensuring that no SPP Athletes are disqualified due to circumstances beyond their control. Special circumstances may be brought to the attention of the SSSF National Program Staff at the following address:

**SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION
SPP NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
288 Crisswell Road
Butler, PA 16002
E-Mail address: tammy.mowry@zoominternet.net
Website: www.shootSCTP.org**

B. STATE ADVISORS, STATE STEERING COMMITTEES, AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF DEVELOPMENT

SPP State Advisors are the SSSF's "point person" for the SPP in the 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 SPP Teams, working with State Wildlife Agencies to develop cooperative agreements, partnering with established youth organizations, and actively pursuing support for the SPP from the various NGB state associations.

SPP National Program Staff are at-will employees with the SSSF. Volunteer positions are done on an annual basis and serve at the pleasure of the National Program. The National Program may or may not choose to reinstate a State Advisor, Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Adult Volunteer or State Steering Committee member with or without cause.

During the SPP State Team Championship, State Advisors are there to assist Head Coaches in the procedures for registering their team and to ensure a procedure is in place for keeping and posting teams' scores. State Advisors certify the winning teams' scores to the SPP National Staff and post scores to the website.

It is highly recommended that each State have a SPP State Steering Committee composed of stakeholders from state agencies, school administrators, high school athletic directors, NGB's, organized youth groups, et al. This committee can plan and conduct the statewide program.

C. APPEALS

Before an appeal is submitted to the SPP National Administrative Office, the aggrieved party must first submit the issue at the local level (i.e., the team or club). Failing resolution at the local level, the issue must be submitted to the State Steering Committee or State Advisor for resolution. If the issue cannot be resolved at the local or state levels or if the State Advisor is involved in the issue, then it must be appealed to the Director of Development, then and only then, after these avenues have been exhausted, the Director of Development may certify the issue is unresolved and must forward the appellant's SPP APPEAL FORM to the SPP National Administrative Office.

D. APPEAL PROCESS

- **Issue in Dispute** - The issue in dispute must involve a violation of a specific SPP rule or policy.
- **Qualified Appellant** - The injured or aggrieved party **MUST** be registered with the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation and a member of a SPP Team officially recognized by the SSSF. Appeals from anyone other than a SPP registered member **WILL NOT be considered.**

- **Head Coach Concurrence** - Appeals filed by an SPP Athlete must have the concurrence of the Athlete's Head Coach. The Head Coach must sign the SPP Appeal Form.
- **Filing Procedure** – If all efforts at the local level to resolve the issue have failed, the eligible appellant must submit a written appeal on the **SPP APPEAL FORM** (which is available via email from SPP National Administrative Office) within 72 hours of the incident to the State Advisor, State Steering Committee or Director of Development specifying which SPP 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. In the event no State Advisor or State Steering Committee exists, appeals may be transmitted directly to the Directors of Development. A written hard copy with the date and an original signature must also be submitted and received before any decision is reached or announced.
- **Filing Fee** - All appeals must include a \$50 filing fee (cashier's check or money order only) that will be held until a decision on the appeal is reached. 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 is forfeited.
- **National Program Staff Response to Appellant** - Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the mailed copy of the appeal, the appellant will receive a written notice of the decision on the appeal. The appellant has the right to appeal the National Program Staff's decision to the SSSF's Board of Trustees. The decision of the Board of Trustees is **FINAL**.

12. **SPP STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS**

SPP Teams entering valid Competitive Squads may compete for Team awards in the following divisions:

- ▶ JUNIOR
- ▶ SENIOR
- ▶ COLLEGIATE

B. **ELIGIBILITY FOR SPP NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS**

A SPP State Team Championship should be conducted in which a state plans to send a Squad to the SPP National Team Championships. While it is encouraged for states to have an SPP State Championship, for the competition year of 2012-2013 ending August 3, it will not be a requirement for Athletes to attend the 2013 SPP National Team Championships.

C. **EVENT SCHEDULING**

SPP State Team Championships may be held whenever desirable. The State Advisor must post the event details on the SPP website (www.shootSCTP) or contact the SPP National Administrative Office with the event details.

D. **COMPETITIVE SQUAD**

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

ALL Team Members should be encouraged to participate in the SPP State Team Championship even if they cannot be made part of a valid COMPETITIVE SQUAD. State Advisors will assist in forming "Mixed Squads" of SPP participants not entered on a Competitive Squad. If possible, a special set of awards should be made available for "individual awards".

"Mixed Squads" are NOT eligible to compete for SPP Team Awards.

E. **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES RULE – "BUMP UP"**

In exceptional circumstances where a valid Competitive Squad cannot be constituted (i.e., not enough Junior or Senior athletes for a complete squad of either), the squad must be elevated or "Bumped Up" to the Senior Division in order to fill short squads.

If a "BUMPED UP" squad changes dues to graduation, squad member leaving, etc. and the new athletes are of Junior age, the squad may return to the Junior Division.

F. MATCH SCORE REGISTRATION

All match scores at SPP State Team Championships will be registered with the SPP National Administrative Office.

13. SPP STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS – Entry Procedures

A. STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FORM

Entry into a SPP State Team Championship requires the Head Coach to submit a SPP STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD ENTRY FORM to the SPP National Headquarters for each SQUAD entered. This form **MUST** be submitted via email or fax or other means to the SPP National Administrative Office.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE SQUAD ENTRY FORM IN A TIMELY MANNER MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFYING THE SQUAD FOR SPP TEAM AWARDS.

Head Coaches that do not have access to the Internet should contact either their SPP State Advisor or the SPP National Administrative Office for assistance with the Squad entry procedure.

Changes may be made to Squad Entry Forms, by Head Coaches, through the SPP Web up to 72 hours prior to the State Championship, so long as the substitution does not alter the division and category of the Squad. **The SPP National Administrative Office 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 Championship event. After 72 hours, Head Coaches will need to contact the State Advisor (or authorized shoot manager for the event if State Advisor is unavailable) for the event 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. Simply put, if a team member indicates he or she will attend the event, they have an obligation to the team and particularly to their squad mates to attend the event.

B. SQUAD SUBSTITUTIONS

Changes may be made to the SPP State Team Championship Squad Entry Form prior to the event.

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 SPP Website up to 72 hours before the State Championship event. 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 of a legal run. Once a Squad Member fires a legal run in ANY SPP State Team Championship event, his/her score will be counted as part of the Squad's aggregate score even if he/she cannot finish the event.

14. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – Scoring and Awards

A. SCORE TABULATION AND POSTING

The State Advisor (or designated representative) checks and posts ALL squad scores. Scores should be submitted the SPP National Administrative Office as soon as possible.

B. WEB POSTING OF SCORES

State Advisors and/or Head Coaches should submit the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place squad scores for each Division, plus all squad scores to the SPP National Administrative Office. Child protection issues require that posted scores list only the Athletes' names and their scores. Additional information may include the Coach's name, names of the Squad and Team, and the City or Town.

C. SPP STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation will provide awards for the winning Squads placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each Division at the SPP State Team. Each Squad Member and the Head Coach for each of these Squads will receive similar awards.

15. SPP NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

SPP Teams entering valid Competitive Squads may compete for Team awards in the following Divisions:

- ▶ JUNIOR
- ▶ SENIOR
- ▶ COLLEGIATE

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR SPP NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNIOR AND SENIOR: For the 2013 National Championships All SPP Athletes may register and shoot at the SPP National Team Championships.

COLLEGIATE: For the 2013 National Championships, All SPP Athletes may register and shoot at the SPP National Collegiate Championships at Fort Benning, GA.

C. SQUADS

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

D. SQUAD SUBSTITUTIONS

Head Coaches of valid **COMPETITIVE SQUADS** entered in the SPP National Team Championships are allowed ONE (1) substitution to their squads. Additional substitutions may be allowed with specific approval of the State Advisor and the SPP National 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 SPP State Championship event.

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE: NO SUBSTITUTIONS will be allowed after a competitor fires the first shot of a legal run. Once a Squad Member fires a legal run in ANY SPP State Team Championship event, his/her score will be counted as part of the Squad's aggregate score even if he/she cannot finish the event.

"MIXED SQUADS" ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR SPP TEAM AWARDS.

16. SPP NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS - Entry Procedures

A. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FORM

Entry into the SPP National Team Championships requires the Head Coach to submit a SPP NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD ENTRY FORM to the SPP National Administrative Office for each SQUAD entered. The SPP National Championship Squad Entry Form **MUST** be submitted to the SPP National Administrative Office.

Changes may be made to Squad Entry Forms, by Head Coaches, so long as the substitution does not alter the Division of the Squad. **The SSSF National Program Staff must approve any change that affects Division.** Head Coaches should print off a revised Squad Entry Form to submit to the State Advisor upon registering for the National Championships.

Head Coaches are urged to emphasize to their Athletes the importance of making a commitment to the TEAM and keeping it. Simply put, if a team member indicates he or she will attend the event, they have an obligation to the team and particularly to their squad mates to attend the event.

B. ENTRY PROCEDURE

Registration forms are available from the SPP National Administrative Office.

C. SPP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDS

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation will provide awards for the winning Squads placing First through Third in each Division. Each Squad Member and the Head Coach will receive a similar award.

DECISIONS OF THE SSSF NATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF ARE FINAL.

17. SPP VIRTUAL E-POSTAL MATCH SERIES

The Virtual E-Postal Match Series is designed so teams can compete without having to travel to other ranges. To compete in this series the team/squad must shoot the entire course of fire and submit their scores for registration. The shoot season is September 1 – August 31. The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation will provide awards for the winning Squads placing First through Third in each Division. Each Squad Member and the Head Coach will receive a similar award. Scores submitted and registered will also be eligible random drawn prizes, so everyone has a chance to win something.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR VIRTUAL E-POSTAL MATCH SERIES CHAMPIONSHIPS OR RANDOM DRAWN PRIZES A TEAM / SQUAD MUST REGISTER AT LEAST THREE (3) SCORES.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPP VIRTUAL E-POSTAL MATCH SERIES

Any team/squad that is registered in the SPP is eligible and encouraged to compete in this series.

SUBMITTING SCORES

Coaches must register each score by submitting them to tammy.mowry@zoominternet.net. The cost of registration is \$4 per squad per match score.

18. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 SPP 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 SPP shall be solely responsible for collecting, recording, disseminating, substantiating and reporting all contributions or support they receive. Neither the SSSF nor the SPP shall be responsible for any activities that organizations or individuals may engage in with respect to their participation in the SPP. Any questions regarding tax deductibility should be directed to your financial advisor.

B. SPP LOGO

"Scholastic Pistol Program", "SPP", and the SPP logo are trademarks or registered trademarks. Organizations and individuals, whether or not participating in the SPP, are prohibited from using the SPP trademarks without the prior written consent from the SSSF. To obtain consent to use SPP trademarks, please send a written request to SSSF National Headquarters at the address in Section 19, below.

19. CONTACT THE SCHOLASTIC PISTOL PROGRAM

Mailing Address: Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.
SPP National Administrative Office
288 Crisswell Road
Butler, PA 16002

For questions regarding the SPP, please send an e-mail to: tammy.mowry@zoominternet.net
Office: (724) 822-7390
SPP Website: www.shootSCTP.org

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation and the Scholastic Pistol Program, reserve the right to make any changes without notice should safety or unfair play become a concern due to unforeseen circumstances.

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