

NORTH RIDGEVILLE SHOOTING SPORTS TEAM HANDBOOK





The North Ridgeville High School Trap Team (Ranger Trap Team) operates as part of the USA Clay Target League, and the Ohio State High School Clay Target League. This league is unique among shooting sports in that you are shooting for your High School, and not an unaffiliated club. The league does allow students from other school districts to participate with the NRHS trap team if their school does not have a team, and there is not another team which is closer. A cooperative agreement form must be completed between the two schools. Students from other school districts can renew each year but are strongly encouraged to attempt to start a team at their own school, because this will grow the league both in students and in teams. The Lorain County Youth Team participates in the Scholastic Clay Target Program. All members are encouraged to participate in both programs. We believe the skills and relationships developed in this sport will last a lifetime.

Our priorities are:

Safety, Fun, and Marksmanship, in that order.

Firearms, ammunition, and gear should NEVER be on school grounds, either on your person or in your car. ALWAYS transport these items ONLY from home to the range, and back home.

Below is the school weapons policy:

5772 - WEAPONS

The Board of Education prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

Policy exceptions include:

items pre-approved by the building principal as part of a class or individual presentation

- A. under adult supervision, if used for the purpose and in the manner approved (working firearms and any ammunition will never be approved as a part of a presentation);*
- B. theatrical props used in appropriate settings.*

Students shall report any information concerning weapons and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the appropriate building administrator. Failure to report such information may subject the student to disciplinary action.

This policy shall be implemented through the Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Policy 5610, and Policy 5610.01.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish instructional programs on the weapons and the requirement that students immediately report knowledge of weapons and threats of violence by students and/or staff to the building principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

The Superintendent will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR /CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Ranger Trap Team, you must understand that you have been given a unique privilege to participate in this School Sport.

- You must follow all the rules as outlined by the OSHSCTL. You can find the league policies and procedures at ohclaytarget.com (drop down tab “rules”, then “policies and procedures”)
<https://www.usaclaytarget.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/USA-High-School-2023-Policies-Procedures.pdf>
- You will be respectful to all of your fellow team members and coaching staff at all times and represent the school and team with pride and integrity at all team events
- Athletes and parents will respect the coaches and follow their direction. This is necessary for safety reasons, to protect all athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators.
- You **MUST** have completed either the league SAFE course, or the Ohio DNR youth hunter safety education course (or another state approved course if applicable) in order to participate. Safety is our #1 priority.
- Courtesy and sportsmanship go hand in hand with safety to create a safe and fun environment. This also portrays our sport in the best possible light within our school and the greater community. There will be a strong emphasis on the value of team unity, sportsmanship, and hard work.
- Everyone participates at every competition and has the opportunity to shoot well and score points for the team.
- We will not tolerate discourteous behavior, such as heckling, bullying, trash talking, temper tantrums, or disobedience of directions from coaching staff. This is not only a matter of respect, but of safety. Disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the head coach. Reference the team harassment policy found on the team website, <https://www.nrshootingsports.com/>
- SHARING THE RANGE: When team members want to practice during regular club hours (eg Wednesday 3-5, Sunday 12-3), remember that we are sharing the range with other members and the public. This means being aware of others who may be waiting to shoot, waiting for your turn, or inviting others to shoot with you. In general, we should be keeping Trap 1 open for the public, and it should only be used when it is clear that there is no one else from the club or public present and intending to shoot.
- Our coaches have everyone’s safety as the first priority. We will always correct unsafe practices on the spot when we see them. This is not to insult anyone but is for the safety of all. We are here to instruct; **HOWEVER, BLATANT or SERIOUS violations of the safety rules will result in immediate removal from the firing line, and possibly the club grounds and possible expulsion from the team.** Upon review, if it is determined to let the student return, **A SECOND violation will result in expulsion from the team and forfeiture of any fees paid.** There is no appeal. This will be at the discretion of the Head Coach, whose decision is final.

COMPLAINTS

If at any time you believe a complaint needs to be made, please contact the Head Coach. If the Head Coach is unavailable, please communicate the issue to one of the other senior coaches. The complaint or issue needs to

be brought by the athlete for discussion with the coaching staff. We want to ensure that the needs and safety of all athletes are met.

Traveling to and from the range

- Again, NEVER take firearms or ammunition onto school property..
- Upon turning into the club drive, SPEED LIMIT IS 5 MPH, all the way to the club house.
- Respect the vehicles and other's personal equipment. Immediately report any damage.
- Keep a positive attitude when arriving and leaving from practice/competition.

Upon arrival at the range

- Firearms should be left in the vehicle, or uncased and put in the appropriate gun rack. It is preferable to leave your case in the car.
- Check in with the coach/scorer to determine which field and squad you are assigned.
- Be sure you have targets on your card prior to arrival or arrive early (before club closing) to put targets on your card. If you are paying as you go and using the team card, pay as you check in.
- Please listen and be ready to go when your squad is called. This helps us to finish on time and is respectful of your teammates with less delay.

Promatic Cards

- These cards are used to purchase your targets and operate the trap house. Everyone is encouraged to obtain their own card, which can be obtained from the club house. The white card is for trap and skeet, and a gold card is for sporting clays.
- It is your responsibility to ensure you have targets on your card before each event. The club house closes at 3 pm on Sunday, and we are unable to add targets to your card after closing.
- You are responsible for your card and if you lose it, you not only lose targets on your card that you have paid for, but it will cost \$5 to replace the card.
- New students will receive instruction on using the card.

Range Behavior

- No cell phone usage on the firing line.
- No alcohol or tobacco products
- No food or drink on the firing line
- No talking on the firing line except to establish readiness and communicate with coaches.
- ALWAYS keep your firearm pointed down range
- When walking from rack to range, and back, your gun should be unloaded, pointed up, chamber open and facing out, or if break action, muzzle in front and pointed down.
- ALWAYS listen to the range safety officer (RSO). If you hear the command “cease fire”, you MUST stop, keep firearms pointed down range, and unload.
- If you have a problem on the line, keep your gun pointed down range, raise your hand, and the RSO/coach will assist you.
- When changing stations, the shooter on station 5 should turn to the right, and then walk BEHIND the other shooters to station 1. The squad leader should not start the next round until everyone is in position and ready.
- Everyone on the line must have situational awareness. If you see a safety concern, raise your hand. If the scorer calls a lost, but anyone sees a hit (even a chip counts), raise your hand and address it with the scorer and squad before the next shooter calls for a target.
- DO NOT rest the barrel of your gun on your foot. This is strictly prohibited. Magnetic leather barrel rests can be provided by the team for this purpose, and recommended.
- No flip flops, sandals, or open toed shoes
- No throwing hulls. If you have a semi auto gun, it is **required** to have a shell catcher so you are not ejecting shells at your teammate on the next station.
- Only load one shell at a time (unless shooting pairs in skeet). You may load your gun in advance of your turn, but DO NOT close your gun/chamber until it is your turn to shoot. **NEVER** move to another station with a round in your gun.
- Shoot only when it is your turn
- Eye and Ear protection MUST be worn at all times when shooting.
- You should only be holding your firearm when on the range, going to and from the range, or working with a coach. **NO ONE** may go to the grease board without a coach present.
- If you see an orange cone on the trap house, this means there is someone in the trap house, eg: loading targets. You should not go up to the firing line if this is in progress. If already on the line and targets run out, immediately unload your firearm, and await instructions from the RSO.

Special situations

- Hang-fire: When a round does not fire after pulling the trigger. Keep the firearm pointed down range. Be prepared, the round may fire anytime in the next few seconds. Raise your hand and call for help immediately. DO NOT turn around, keep the gun pointed down range and under control.
- Squib Load: When there is less than normal pressure after ignition. The shot and the shot cup may not have exited the barrel. You may have noticed an off or unusual sound or felt a lesser recoil. If this happens, stay calm, stop, keep your gun pointed down range, and raise your hand/call for help, and have you barrel inspected.
- If there are any gun malfunctions or you need assistance, keep the firearm pointed down range and raise your hand, a coach or range safety office will come to assist.

Weather

- We shoot in most weather conditions. We stop only for low visibility, lightning, and thunder.

Clean Range/Grounds

- We WILL leave the grounds and clubhouse in a clean condition. When shooting is finished, it is expected that everyone stays to clean up. This generally means emptying buckets of hulls, emptying trash cans, loading trap houses, laying microphones down, and in general cleaning up the grounds. The coaches have put a lot of time and effort into developing a relationship with the club, and the club has been very supportive of our team, so let's be on our best behavior, and do everything possible to facilitate our relationship with the club.

Uniforms

- No cut off t-shirts, halter tops, tank tops, short shorts, or revealing clothing
- Proper footwear (see range safety).
- No clothing with inappropriate messages/pictures (eg: references to sex, drugs, alcohol, profanity)
- Team Jersey: All team members will be issued a Jersey their first year. Since the school does not provide team uniforms, we must purchase the jerseys ourselves. Thanks to our generous sponsors we have been able to keep costs at a minimum. We request that you wear it for all team competitions. If cold, wear it over your sweatshirt if possible. We are a team, and we want to look and function as a team.

Equipment

- 12-gauge shotgun is preferred, 20 gauge is acceptable. HIGHLY RECOMMEND cleaning and oiling your gun after every use. It will make your gun safer, shoot better, and last longer.
- Choke should be modified, improved modified, or full for trap. For skeet the choke should be skeet, improved cylinder, or modified.
- Ammunition is 2 ¾ inches, ounces of 7/8, 1 or 1 1/8, and shot size of 7 ½, 8, or 9 (9 shot is preferred for skeet, but 8 is good too). Maximum velocity is determined by the range rules. Reloads are NOT allowed for USA or Ohio Clay Target events.
- Safety glasses. Prescription glasses are acceptable if polycarbonate (most are these days)
- Ear protection. There are many options, not very expensive, find the one that works best for you. DO NOT use ear plugs that connect to a mobile device for playing music while shooting, it is imperative to be able to hear range commands.
- A shooting vest or hip shell bag.

Competition

- Occurs on specific days, at scheduled team events. Under normal circumstances, competition occurs on a weekly basis, and you must shoot your round for score for that competition week during said week, on a scheduled team day. Makeups are not allowed. Changes to these rules may be done for extenuating circumstances according to league policy, or if the league revises its policy for the season.
- Each competition week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Results and standings usually can be seen on ClayTargetScoring.com the following Sunday after 12 noon.
- Everyone competes, but only a certain number of scores will be used. This number will be set by the league prior to the start of the season and is dependent on the size of the competing teams. These scores will be placed in the league's scoring system, compared with scores from other teams in our conference, and points awarded.
- Check the team website for weekly squad and trap field assignments.
<https://www.nrshootingsports.com/>

Safety Tips Summary

1. Keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction at all times
2. Keep your finger OFF the trigger until ready to shoot
3. Keep your firearm unloaded until ready to use
4. Keep action of your gun open until ready to shoot
5. Use eye and ear protection
6. Use a vest or shell bag
7. Be sure firearm is clean and safe to operate
8. Be familiar with your firearm and know how to use it safely
9. Know the range rules

NEVER BRING A GUN OR AMMUNITION TO SCHOOL, OR ONTO SCHOOL GROUNDS

Review the Safety and Trap Shooting Basics document at least once a year. This can be found on the team website at: nrshootingsports.com

Academic Eligibility

Our goal is to develop the total student in our program. Academic eligibility is the same as for NRHS athletics, which is:

In order to be eligible for the first grading period upon entrance into grade 9, you must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) classes in the immediately preceding grading period. In order to maintain eligibility for grades 9-12, you must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.

7 and 8th grade must have passing grades.

Lettering Requirements

Our team is considered a club activity, and trap shooting is not a recognized sport with the OHSAA, Therefore, NRHS does not award varsity letters for participation with our team.

The NRHS trap team, however, will award a team specific varsity emblem, in lieu of a letter, if you meet one of the following requirements:

1. Your season average is greater than or equal to 20 (out of 25), and no more than one excused absence.
2. Scoring a 48/50 or above in a weekly competition, state or national tournament, or 90/100 and above, at either the OHSCCTL state or the USACTL national meet.
3. Participation on the team for 3 or more years.
4. In skeet, a season average greater than or equal to 30 (out of 50) or a round of 35 or higher in any league competition or tournament, or 70 or higher at the state tournament.
5. In Sporting Clays, a season average of 30 or greater, or a round of 40 or greater, in competition. Currently there is not a state or national tournament in sporting clays.

North Ridgeville Shooting Sports Team

PHOTO OPT-OUT FORM

Throughout the year, the team athletes are photographed and sometimes video recorded as they participate in routine or competition activities. Team photos are taken each season and are used in team related promotional and advertising materials disseminated to the public through newspapers, magazines, team website, social media, school yearbook and other channels deemed appropriate and safe by the North Ridgeville High School Trap Team and The North Ridgeville Shooting Sports Team. Unless otherwise indicated below, I give the North Ridgeville High School Trap Team and The North Ridgeville Shooting Sports team permission to use, edit, reproduce and publish photographs, video and audio of the Athlete listed above both while the athlete participates with the team and thereafter in perpetuity. This authorization permits the use of photographs, video and audio in any medium or form of distribution, including but not limited to the team website, social media sites, newsletters, brochures, yearbook, media outlets, promotional materials, or in any other manner as determined by the sole discretion of the North Ridgeville High School Trap Team and The North Ridgeville Shooting Sports Team. This consent will remain in effect until changed in writing by using this opt out form.

Please Note: Only complete and return this form below if you wish to OPT OUT of this release.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Athlete Name: _____

North Ridgeville Shooting Sports Team Release of Liability

1. Students and their parents/guardians understand that there are risks and dangers associated with the use of firearms which include, but are not limited to, serious injury, permanent disability and death. While the North Ridgeville High Trap Team will emphasize proper safe firearm handling and shooting skills at all events, the risk of serious injury does exist.
2. THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE of those persons released from liability below and assume full responsibility for the Student's participation.
3. THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS the North Ridgeville High School Trap Team, the North Ridgeville Shooting Sports Team, and its staff including, but not limited to, coaching staff, range safety officers, score keepers, officials, staff and/or agents "Releasee's", WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, except that which is the result of gross negligence and/or wanton misconduct. Students and their parents/guardians agree to defend, indemnify, hold harmless Releasee's against any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, judgments and expenses (including legal fees) by third parties (including Students own family) for any bodily injury, death or property damage or other incident occurring due to, arising out of, or in connection with Student's own participation during any North Ridgeville High School Trap Team event.
4. Students and parents/guardians give their consent to the North Ridgeville High School Trap Team staff to provide emergency services and transportation as warranted in the event of an injury while attending a North Ridgeville High School Trap Team event.
5. I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

Athlete Name _____

Athlete Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

North Ridgeville Shooting Sports Team Handbook

My signature below indicates that I have received a copy of, read and understand the North Ridgeville High School Trap Team Handbook and harassment and bullying policies.

I understand that this handbook contains information regarding team and school rules and regulations.

I understand that the team harassment and bullying policy is posted on the team website, <https://www.nrshootingsports.com/>

I acknowledge that I have read and understand these rules and regulations.

I also understand that the Team Staff may revise, supplement, or rescind policies or procedures described in this handbook.

Please sign, date, and return this page to the head coach either by email or in person. Participation will not be allowed until this has been completed.

Athlete Name _____

Athlete Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____