



Rules & Regulations

Updated September 2026

Practice Information

- * All practices are scheduled at Partridge Creek Gun Club, Ridgeville (unless noted otherwise).
- * Partridge Creek is a private, gated, members-only club. You are not allowed to practice on your own without being accompanied by a member. No exceptions.
- * The skeet/trap fields have lights. So, we may schedule some practices late afternoon/evenings sometimes during the week in order to give you ample range time for all tournament types.
- * Inclement Weather: We shoot in the rain. However, in the case of lightning or a shortage of coaches, we will cancel practice with at least two hours' notice via the Remind app and Facebook.

****Athletes are not allowed on cell phones during practice or tournaments. Everyone should be focused and undistracted. Safety first****

Tournament Dress Code:

We want our team to show up – and show OUT – at tournaments. Therefore, all shooters must wear team apparel. You must adhere to the rules of the SCYSF:

Not Permitted: open-toed shoes (i.e., flip-flops or sandals), jeans with tears/rips, shorts, or leggings of any kind. (If you are caught breaking a rule, **the team will be fined \$500**).

South Carolina Youth Shooting Foundation (SCYSF)

Mission Statement

The mission of the South Carolina Youth Shooting Foundation is to support all youth shooting disciplines within the state of South Carolina. Our focus is to provide a safe environment in which youth may participate in the sport of sporting clays. In addition, it is our desire to instill life skills such as commitment, focus, respect, sportsmanship, teamwork and a positive work ethic so that our youth will become productive, contributing members of society.

Sporting Clays – 3 Person Squads

Teams compete in three person squads, with one alternate. Despite being called an alternate, all four kids will shoot together on the course as a single unit. However, only the 3 person teams are eligible for team awards.

Shooters can move up in division, but cannot move down. (i.e. if a team is

comprised of two 10th graders and one 11th grader, the team would shoot up to the Senior Varsity bracket.)

Other awards include Highest Overall (HOA) in each age group, both boys and girls.

FIREARM SELECTION

There is no rule on firearms except no slings. The most important thing is that a gun fits your child correctly. 20 gauges are fine; 12 gauges are encouraged if your child is large enough to handle the additional weight and recoil (remember a tournament is 100 targets plus warm-ups). Though we have had kids break lots of birds with pump-action shotguns, semi-automatics and over/unders are way more prevalent and user-friendly.

SAFETY – 100% OF THE TIME – NO EXCEPTIONS

Whether as a parent, coach or another athlete, if you see someone or something happen that is unsafe, take action!

We adopt the SCYSF rules for safety :

A. Behavior

Anyone being rude, showing disrespect, using foul language, or not following the rules of the club, club staff, SCYSF staff, or volunteers will not be allowed to participate with SCYSF.

B. Ear and Eye Protection

All athletes, coaches, and spectators are required to wear ear and eye protection while on the course.

C. Qualified Ear Protection

AirPods, earbuds, Bluetooth devices, and music-listening devices are **not** qualified ear protection and are not allowed. Qualified ear protection is mandatory.

D. Actions Open

Automatic and pump shotguns must have the action open at all times, with the barrel pointed up (above the head) when walking or riding. The open action will face forward when carrying the shotgun.

Over/under shotguns must be carried over the shoulder with the action open, the barrel in front, controlled by the hand on the barrel, and pointed down.

E. Slings and Straps

Slings and straps attached to shotguns are not allowed at SCYSF events.

F. Muzzle of the Shotgun

The muzzle must be controlled and pointed in a safe direction at all times. The muzzle cannot be rested on any part of the body, including but not limited to the foot area, chin, hand, or arm.

G. Dress Standard

A dress standard is important because it directly supports the mission of the South Carolina Youth Shooting Foundation: to provide a safe environment for youth to participate in sporting clays while instilling life skills such as commitment, focus, respect, sportsmanship, teamwork, and a positive work ethic.

Appropriate dress helps reinforce safety, discipline, and personal responsibility at every event while also showing respect for teammates, coaches, host clubs, volunteers, and the sport itself. By maintaining a clear and consistent standard, SCYSF teaches young men and young ladies that how they present themselves matters and that following expectations is part of becoming productive, contributing members of society.

The dress standard applies for the **entire event day** and is not limited to the time participants are on the course.

This rule is designed for **TEAMS to monitor themselves**. If a team member on any course does not adhere to the dress standard, it affects all team members on **ALL courses**.

General: Clothing with no offensive or suggestive language is allowed.

Tops: Shirts with sleeves are required. No part of the torso may be visible. Halter tops and tank tops are not allowed. Athletes are not allowed to wear a vest only.

Bottoms: Long pants, such as blue jeans, khakis, etc., are required. Shorts, skirts, sweatpants, pajama bottoms, and form-fitting pants (leggings, yoga pants) are not allowed.

Footwear: Closed-toe shoes are required while on the course.

First Offense: Any **TEAM MEMBER** who chooses not to adhere to the dress standard will result in a **\$500 fine for the TEAM** (not just the squad). The head coach will be notified of the violation; however, team members may continue shooting and scores will count. The fine must be paid prior to the next event. If the offense occurs at the State Championship, the fine is due that day.

Second Offense: The **TEAM** (not just the squad) will be allowed to shoot; however, scores will not count. If the second offense occurs at the State Championship, scores will not count; however, athletes will still be eligible for prizes and scholarships.

H. Safety Meeting

All athletes and coaches must attend the Safety Meeting prior to their rotation. The meeting is mandatory. It is recommended that spectators attend as well.

The Safety Meeting location will be designated by the **“SCYSF Safety Meeting”** flag on each respective course and noted on the club site map.

I. Aids

While a shooter is in the stand (shooting position), no device that can record, transmit, or show live video, give verbal feedback, or pass along any other information is allowed.

J. Factory Ammunition Only

No reloads are allowed.

No lead shot smaller than U.S. #9 or larger than U.S. #7-1/2 shall be used in any load. No steel shot smaller than U.S. #9 or larger than U.S. #6 shall be used in any load.

Any athlete found using illegal ammunition will be **disqualified — NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Legal lead ammunition for 12, 16, 20, 28, and .410 gauge cannot exceed shot size greater than #7-1/2 shot. #8, #8-1/2, and #9 shot are legal.

The maximum load for all shot shells, 12 gauge and smaller, shall not exceed **1-1/8 oz.** in a **2-3/4" length shell** for 12, 16, 20, and 28 gauge, and a **2-1/2" length shell** for .410.

Tracer and black powder shells are not allowed.

K. Aids – Visual Training Devices

Visual training aids and tracking devices, including cameras attached to gun barrels, are not allowed.

L. Athletes Can Load 2 Shells Maximum

Athletes may load a maximum of **two shells**. There are no single shots on the course.

Coaches must make sure the athlete exits the shooting stand with a safe gun and that the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction after the competitor has completed the station.

M. Golf Carts, Clays Carts, ATVs, and UTVs

Each team will receive **one cart pass for every three shooters** on its roster for the season.

For example, if a team has 20 athletes on its roster, the team will receive seven (7) passes.

It is up to the head coach to distribute the passes to the team as he/she sees fit. Passes may not be shared with other teams. Passes will note the team name and will be numbered. Passes must be visibly displayed on carts.

If a cart does not have a pass, the driver will be asked to remove the cart from the course.

Passes will be mailed to teams by the end of November so the head coach can distribute them prior to the first event.

If a pass is lost, a **\$25 replacement fee** will be charged.

Cart Pass Rules:

- **1-Person Squad:** 1 cart pass for 1 cart
- **2-Person Squad:** 2 cart passes for 2 carts
- **3–4 Person Squad:** 3 cart passes for 3 carts

The intent is to provide one cart pass for the athletes and assistant coach, with the remaining passes available for spectators.

“Spectator Carts” should be used to shuttle additional spectators to the course for those capable of walking.

If a team has extra passes on an event day, those passes are **not** allowed to be used outside of the Cart Rules noted above.

N. Cart Rules

1. Stay on the side of the course that club rules and/or the course manager dictates, not both sides. This will help alleviate traffic-flow issues.
2. Do not move ahead of others in line for shooting.
3. Do not drive backward on the course.
4. Only carts shooting in the rotation are allowed on the course.
5. No inappropriate driving is allowed on the course and/or club grounds. For example, no racing or “joy riding.”
6. No loud music is allowed from any cart while on the course and/or club grounds.

O. Transporting Guns

All guns will be transported with the muzzle pointed **up or down** while on a vehicle.

P. Vehicles

No vehicles are allowed on the course. Only golf carts, clays carts, ATVs, and UTVs are allowed on the course.

Q. Weather/Mitigating Circumstances

NSCA rules will be followed in the event of extreme weather conditions, power failure, trap failure, or unusually early darkness.

SCYSF staff will work to make a decision that considers everyone's safety.

TEAM FUNDRAISING

The team will subsidize fees and expenses if possible. Much of this is dependent on fundraising. There are opportunities to help the team generate money:

- 1) Donations – help subsidize team costs. Check with your CPA regarding tax deductibility.
- 2) MidwayUSA Foundation – MidwayUSA (a 501c3) offers shooting teams the opportunity to grow a long-term endowment account with a cash grant from it annually. This donation can be private. If privacy is not a concern, please contact the team for a donation, as often we can get the donation matched PRIOR to providing it to Midway (which only increases our endowment account that much quicker). More information can be found here:
<https://www.midwayusafoundation.org/programs/team-endowment-account-program/>

Palmetto Elite's TEAM ID is R12754, and our donation page can be located at:
<https://secure.midwayusafoundation.org/2017-pages/profile-display-donor-list-bbittest?reid=gl%2fzBs0tk6o%3d>

- 3) Sponsorships: please contact us if you are interested in a sponsorship