



SCYSF 2026-2027 SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SPORTING CLAY EVENTS

(Updates/changes are noted in red. Revised 08/11/2026.)

SAFETY | 100% SAFE | 100% of the Time | NO EXCEPTIONS!

Safety is everyone's responsibility. The Rules and Regulations for SCYSF events are designed with the goal of having a safe event. SCYSF will recognize all rules of the Host Club and NSCA unless specifically noted as follows. **The SCYSF Executive Board's decisions are final on all matters involving these Rules & Regulations, issues not covered by them, or any event-day situations.**

ANNUAL HEAD COACH MEETING

Each season, a mandatory Head Coach meeting takes place on the first Monday in August in Swansea, SC. The meeting, which usually starts at 3:00 PM and lasts around 2 hours, aims to discuss the upcoming season, potential changes to rules and regulations, and any other relevant thoughts or ideas. Details are sent to the previous season's head coach and/or new teams/head coaches in late June or early July. If the Head Coach is unable to attend, a team representative may attend in their place. However, a Head Coach cannot represent another team. Teams not represented at the meeting will be ineligible to participate in the upcoming SCYSF season.

HUNTER EDUCATION

All athletes, age 12 and older, are required to complete a valid state Hunter's Education course prior to participating in an SCYSF event. We recognize youth under 12 years of age are unable to take the online class. For those, we rely on the Head Coach of the team to ensure the safety of those athletes. Once the athlete turns 12, he/she can take the online class and submit the Hunter Education certificate number to the team's Head Coach and SCYSF.

Athletes turning 12 during the season will have 1 month to complete their hunter education certification. If an event falls within that 1 month, he/she may compete.

SECTION 1 | MEMBERSHIP AND TOURNAMENT FEES

- A.** Teams: any team may join SCYSF as long as they meet the coaching/athlete criteria.
- B.** Membership Fee: The annual membership fee for athletes participating with an in-state team is \$100. (Charlotte Catholic is grandfathered and the membership fee is \$100/athlete.)
The annual membership fee for athletes participating with an out-of-state team is \$150.
- C.** Tournament Registration Fee: The tournament registration fee is \$100 per athlete for the series events and \$110 for the State Championship. The fee is the same for in-state and out-of-state teams. Teams are to provide SCYSF with one check for the team, payable on event day prior to the start of that team's rotation.



SECTION 2 | SCYSF DIVISIONS

ROOKIE/INTERMEDIATE COURSE	
CLASS GRADE	DIVISION
5 th and 6 th Grade	Rookie
7 th and 8 th Grade	Intermediate 1 st Year
8 th Grade - Participated last season in 7 th grade	Intermediate Advanced

JV COURSE	
CLASS GRADE	DIVISION
9 th and 10 th Grade	JV 1 st Year
10 th Grade - Participated last season in 9 th grade	JV Advanced

SR COURSE	
CLASS GRADE	DIVISION
11 th and 12 th Grade	SR 1 st Year
12 th Grade - Participated last season in 11 th grade	SR Advanced

Athlete must be mature, demonstrate safe gun handling, able to load his/her own gun and be capable of shooting at 100 targets. SCYSF reserves the right to remove athlete from event if these requirements are not being met on event day.



SECTION 3 | TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

- A.** To prevent overloading rotations and courses, team rotation times are determined based on their practice location. At the start of the season, the Head Coach submits a form indicating the distance between the practice site and the tournament venue in miles. Using this, the Director provides a chart assigning a required rotation (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) for tournament registration. After registration closes, rotations are reviewed and adjusted to ensure balance. SCYSF retains the authority to reassign teams or squads to different rotations if necessary. Once the final rotation assignments are confirmed, the Director notifies the Head Coach, who can then share the finalized schedule with the team. This information is also essential for arranging golf cart rentals.
- B.** The Head Coach is responsible for the team registration on event day. The Head Coach should check in and pay prior to attending the coaches meeting. SCYSF will provide the necessary information for registration prior to the event.
- C.** Registration closes Monday at 8 AM, 12 days prior to the event.
- D.** One change (athlete) per team can be made no later than 8 am the Monday prior to event day. This is for athletes registered by the deadline. No athletes may be added after the initial tournament registration deadline.
- E.** The only other changes that can be made after 8 am the Monday prior to event day must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Death in the family.
 - 2. Medical requiring hospitalization, broken bone, stitches. A doctor's note will be required.
- F.** Entry Fee Credits/Refunds: No credits/refunds will be given until documentation has been presented and approved by the Director.



SECTION 4 | SPECIAL NOTES FOR SPORTING

- A. Single Shooter:** In some cases, a single shooter may walk with a squad. He/she must be eligible to shoot on the course with the squad. For example, a SR 1st Year can only shoot on the SR course whereas a Rookie can shoot on any course. The single shooter score is eligible for HOA on the course in which he/she is shooting. For example, if the shooter is a SR 1st Year, he/she is eligible for HOA in that division. A single shooter can replace a squad member should one of the original squad members miss the tournament due to one of the eligible reasons (see Section 3, D). This change must be requested prior to the start of the tournament and approved by the Director. If medical, a doctor's note must be presented prior to the change being allowed.
- B.** An athlete can only move up and participate in any higher division. However, when completing athlete registration form, place athlete in division based on chart. This will not affect the division athlete participates in as long as the division is the same or higher.
- C.** An athlete that moves up for one event can move back to their original division for future events.
- D.** All squad members must be a lady athlete to compete in ladies class.
- E.** Ladies can compete for HOA in one of the SCYSF Divisions and Ladies Class and not be on an all lady squad.



SECTION 5 | AWARDS

A. Participation Awards: The SCYSF does not support participation awards.

B. Overall Awards Will Be Based on the Following:

1. If there are 3 or less squads in a division, 1st place squad and HOA individual will be awarded.
2. If there are 4 squads in a division, 1st and 2nd place squad and HOA individual will be awarded.
3. If there are 5 or more squads in a division, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place squad and HOA individual will be awarded.

C. Lady Awards Will Be Based on the Following:

1. If there are 3 or less all-lady squads in a division, 1st place squad and HOA individual will be awarded.
2. If there are 4 all-lady squads in a division, 1st and 2nd place squad and HOA individual will be awarded.
3. If there are 5 or more all-lady squads in a division, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place squad and HOA individual will be awarded.

D. An All-Lady Squad is eligible to place in the overall division and lady only division.

E. A Lady Athlete is eligible to place in the HOA individual for the overall division and the HOA individual for the lady only division.

F. Tie Breaks: For the series event, SCYSF will use the "First Out" rule. Pre-determined stations will be chosen prior to scoring. For individual ties, SCYSF will start with the first pre-determined station and the first shooter to miss is out, making the other shooter the winner. For squad ties, the high overall individual score for the squad will be used in the "First Out." Shoot offs will be used for the State Championship.



SECTION 6 | ALL-STATE AWARDS

- A.** Three young ladies and three young men will be chosen for this award based on applications submitted by the team Head Coach.
- B.** An athlete is eligible to be nominated for this award if he/she is a junior in high school, maintains a 3.0 GPA and competes in 3 of our 4 series events. The Application will be available March 1st on our website under the Resource tab. Due date is April 1st.
- C.** Since this award is calculated by formula, an athlete is not required to be present during the state championship awards ceremony in order to be named.
- D.** Out-of-state team athletes are not eligible for the All-State program. (Charlotte Catholic is grandfathered and not considered an out-of-state team for the purposes of the All-State program.)

SECTION 7 | SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

- A.** To be eligible for Senior Scholarships, athletes must participate in 3 series events, the State Championship, and be present during the award ceremony at the State Championship.
- B.** Some scholarships are awarded by essay, and others are by random draw. Applications for the essay scholarships will be posted on our website by March 1st with a due date of April 1st. For random draw scholarships, there is nothing the athlete needs to do as SCYSF maintains participation records.
- C.** Out-of-state team athletes are not eligible for scholarships. (Charlotte Catholic is grandfathered and not considered an out-of-state team for the purposes of the Scholarships.

SECTION 8 | STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

- A.** An athlete is eligible to participate in the state championship by competing in 2 of the 4 series events.
- B.** An athlete is eligible to win prizes, guns and/or scholarships at the state championship by competing in three of the four series events. Athlete must compete in and be present during the awards ceremony to win guns and/or scholarships.
- C.** An athlete is eligible to win a special prize by competing in the four series events. Athlete must compete in and be present during the awards ceremony to win this special prize.
- D.** Athletes do not have to do anything to have their name in the drawings as SCYSF has the records indicating number of events athletes have participated in.
- E.** Out-of-state teams will have their own State Championship awards. They are eligible for prizes following the same guidelines as in-state teams above.



SECTION 9 | COACHES TRAINING

A. Head Coach: To be a Head Coach for an SCYSF Team, an individual must successfully complete the following training:

1. SCYSF Assistant Coaches Training for Sporting Clays – this training is mandatory and must be successfully completed prior to the first event of the season, NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. In addition to the above training, one of the following courses must also be successfully completed. NOTE: The Assistant Coaches Training is a pre-requisite before any of the following CSM training can be taken.
 - CSM Sporting Clays Level 100 Certification
 - CSM 200 CLAYS Certification and/or CSM TRACS 300 Certification
 - NSCA Instructor Certification I, II and/or III
3. A one-year grace period is granted to all new teams starting and existing teams with the loss of a Head Coach. The SCYSF Assistant Coaches Training for Sporting Clays is mandatory to be a Head Coach during that period – NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. The expectation is for a Head Coach to attend every event in which his/her team is participating. The minimum however is attendance at one event per season. If the Head Coach cannot attend an event, he/she must choose a designee and report this name to the SCYSF Director prior to event.
5. A person may only be the Head Coach for one SCYSF team.

B. Assistant Coach: To be an Assistant Coach for an SCYSF Team, the coach must complete the SCYSF Sponsored Assistant Coaches Training for Sporting Clays. (Regarding 4H Shotgun Training – any coach that has completed prior to the 2016-2017 season is considered “grandfathered” and will be recognized by the SCYSF with a copy of certificate of completion submitted with the Assistant Coach Registration form.) A certificate of certification or completion must be submitted for new Assistant Coach Registration.

C. Inactive Coach: Should any Assistant Coach become inactive for two or more seasons, he/she will be required to complete the necessary SCYSF training to reinstate his/her coaching certification. To remain active, an Assistant Coach will be assigned to a squad in a minimum of one event every two seasons. This gives larger teams the opportunity to place all Assistant Coaches with a squad every two seasons. Should any Head Coach become inactive, he/she will be required to complete the necessary SCYSF training to reinstate his/her coaching certification. To remain active, a Head Coach must attend at least one event per season.



SECTION 9 | COACHES TRAINING, Cont'd.

D. SCYSF Event Day: A properly trained Assistant or Head Coach is required for each three-person squad at all SCYSF events. Each squad coach is allowed an additional squad having no more than one athlete, or two squads with two athletes each is allowed – for a total of four athletes max. The squads must be shooting on the same course and starting at the same station.

E. Event Day Coaches Meeting: All squad coaches must attend the Coaches Meeting prior to all sporting events. The meeting is mandatory. The meeting will be called to order at the scheduled time. A roll call of participating coaches will be called using the squad scorecard. Any coach not attending the meeting or if late will result in his/her team squad being disqualified from participating in the event, NO EXCEPTIONS. A substitute coach is allowed to replace the squad coach if present at the meeting thus eliminating squad disqualification.

F. Primary Responsibility: The primary responsibility of a coach on event day is to create a safe environment always for athletes, spectators, club personnel and themselves.

G. Coaching the Squad – “One and Done” Rule:

A Squad Coach becomes a Safety Director once the 15’ barrier of a shooting stand is broken. Anything a coach, parent, and/or spectator says or does that could improve the shooter's score once inside the 15’ barrier of a shooting stand is considered coaching. This includes telling the shooter to take his/her safety off, load the shotgun, or load 2 shells.

The squad coach must always be within arm’s length of the competitor while shooting. Once the competitor is in the shooting stand, the shotgun is pointed down range and over the front rail, the coach must be behind the shooter within arm’s length to immediately take possession of the shotgun if there is a gun or ammunition malfunction or a safety infraction, otherwise the shotgun cannot be touched.

If a coach is found in violation, the “One and Done” rule will be enforced. The coach and squad competitors are disqualified and will be asked to leave the range. The scorecard will be marked “Disqualified.” The coach is disqualified for the season. The competitors may return with a different coach at the next event.

Once a squad is in the shooting box, show pairs have been viewed, the coach can't pull them back out (to the 15-foot line) to coach them and then send them back in.

Squad members may coach each other at any time.

H. Position of Coach for Sporting Events: Once the athlete is in the box with his/her shotgun in hand assuming the shooting position, the coach must stand directly behind the athlete within arm's length. Arm’s length is the rule on event day. A coach found in violation of the rule will be disqualified immediately resulting in the entire squad being eliminated from the event.

I. Coach Designation: The squad coach is designated by an orange armband. This armband must be worn visibly on the arm anywhere from wrist to shoulder.



SECTION 10 | SAFETY ON EVENT DAY

- A. Behavior:** Anyone being rude, showing disrespect, using foul language, and not following rules of the club, their staff, SCYSF staff and volunteers, will not be allowed to participate with SCYSF.
- B. Ear and Eye Protection:** All athletes, coaches and spectators are required to have ear and eye protection while on the course.
- C. Qualified Ear Protection:** Airpods, ear buds, Bluetooth 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 always with the barrel pointed up (above head) when walking and riding. The open action will be facing forward when carrying the shotgun. Over/under shotguns must be carried over the shoulder, action open with the barrel in front controlled by the hand on the barrel and pointed down.
- E. Slings and Straps** attached to the shotgun are not allowed at SCYSF events.
- F. Muzzle of the Shotgun:** The muzzle is to be controlled and pointed in a safe direction always. Muzzle cannot be rested on any part of the body including but not limited to foot area, chin, hand and 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 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 or tank tops not allowed). Athletes are not allowed to wear a vest only.
- Bottoms:** Long pants such as blue jeans, khaki's, etc. are required. Shorts, skirts, sweatpants, pajama bottoms, form fitting pants (leggings, yoga pants) are not allowed.
- Footwear:** Closed toe shoes are required while on the course.
- Violations First Offense:** Any TEAM MEMBER that chooses not to adhere to the dress standard will result in a \$500 fine for the TEAM (not just the squad). Head coach will be notified of violation however team members may continue shooting and scores will count. Fine must be paid prior to the next event. If offense is at the State Championship, fine is due that day.
- Violations Second Offense:** TEAM (not just the squad) will be allowed to shoot however scores will not count. If the second offense is at the State Championship, scores will not count however athletes will still be eligible for prizes and scholarships.



SECTION 10 | SAFETY ON EVENT DAY, Cont'd.

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 allowed. No lead shot smaller than US #9 or larger than US #7-1/2 shall be used in any load. No steel shot smaller than US #9 or larger than US #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 cannot exceed shot size greater than #7-1/2 shot (#8, #8-1/2 or #9 shot is legal). The maximum load for all shot shells 12 GA and smaller shall not exceed 1-1/8 oz. in a 2-3/4" length shell for 12, 16, 20, 28 GA and a 2-1/2" length shell in a .410. Tracer and black powder shells are not allowed.

K. Aids: Visual training aides and tracking devices including cameras attached to gun barrels are not allowed.

L. Athletes Can Load 2 Shells Maximum: There are no single shots on the course. Coaches make sure the athlete exits the shooting stand with a safe gun and muzzle is pointed in a safe direction as competitor has completed the station.

M. Golf Carts, Clays Carts, ATV's, UTV's Rules: Each team will receive a cart pass for every 3 shooters on their roster for the season. For example, if a team has 20 athletes on their roster, the team will receive 7 passes. It is up to the head coach to distribute 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. These will need to be displayed visibly 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 that the head coach can distribute prior to the first event. If a pass is lost, a \$25 fee will be charged for replacement.

Cart Rules:

1 Person = 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 idea is one cart pass for athletes and the assistant coach, and remaining passes for spectators. "Spectator Carts" should be used to shuttle additional spectators to the course for those capable of walking. Should a team have extra passes on an event day, they are not allowed to be used outside of the Cart Rules noted above.



SECTION 10 | SAFETY ON EVENT DAY, Cont'd.

N. Cart Rules:

1. Stay on the side of the course that the club rules and/or 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 backwards on the course.
4. Only carts shooting in the rotation are allowed on the course.
5. No inappropriate driving allowed on the course and/or club grounds.
For example, no racing or "Joy Riding."
6. No loud music allowed from any cart while on the course and/or club grounds.

O. Transporting Guns: All guns will be transported with muzzle up or down while on vehicle.

P. Vehicles: No vehicles allowed on the course, only golf, clays carts, ATV's and UTV's 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.

SECTION 11 | MALFUNCTIONS

A. Ammo and Gun Malfunctions: When a gun malfunctions, there is the potential of two hot ends, muzzle and action. The coach is to take control of the gun immediately and ask the athlete to step back and out of the way. Keep the muzzle pointed down range and the action/chamber pointed down and away. Wait 30 seconds, unload the gun with both ends pointed in a safe direction. Shooting can continue after gun is cleared and safe.

B. Malfunction: Each athlete is allowed a total of three malfunctions without any loss of targets. After three malfunctions, all others will be scored as lost targets. Athlete error is not considered a malfunction and targets will be scored as lost.

C. Major Gun Problems: We encourage you to remove guns that continue to have problems from the rotation and provide another gun for the competitor.



SECTION 12 | GENERAL R&R

- A. Alcohol:** Alcohol is not allowed on the courses and is discouraged at SCYSF events.
- B. Breakdowns:** If there is a breakdown, please do not go around and start shooting another station unless an SCYSF official or club management directs the squad to do so.
- C. Club Rules/Staff:** Be courteous to the trappers and respect the host club rules/staff. A "thank you, yes sir/ma'am, and no sir/ma'am" are always appreciated. Should an athlete, coach, guest and/or parent be found not respecting club rules such as parking locations, cart driver rules, etc. the squad and/or team may be disqualified.
- D. Coaching:** Athletes can coach and help each other at all times.
- E. Fundraising On-Site:** Teams can walk around selling raffle tickets, etc., but cannot set up fundraising anywhere on the club's property.
- F. Parent Concerns:** Raised with the team Head Coach first, who then contacts the Director.
- G. Parent, Family Members, and/or Spectators:** Parents, family members, and/or spectators cannot address the trapper over a protest or called shot. SCYSF has the authority to disqualify the entire squad. We highly suggest parents, family members, and/or spectators not get involved. Additionally, parents, family members, and/or spectators cannot shout out instruction in attempt to coach any squad member once the shooters are within 15 feet of the shooting stand. This will be considered coaching. Please refer to the "One and Done" on page 8.
- H. Pets:** Are welcome however they must be well behaved and leashed always.
- I. Pick-Up:** All squads that started the rotation together will pick up and clean the last station together. All shell hulls, boxes and trash are to be picked up and placed in the trash container at the station.
- J. Previewing Targets:** When previewing targets from behind the station, squad (or squads) must show respect and stand at a distance so as not to interfere with coach and/or shooter in the box.
- K. Proceed in Rotation:** One station after another in sequence.
- L. Protest:** If a referee's call is in question, it must be addressed by the athlete or a squad member first and then the coach before leaving the station. If the problem cannot be resolved with the referee, the coach can file a protest in writing for \$50 at the registration table after the completed round. Winning the protest will return the \$50. The protest committee's decision is final.



SECTION 12 | GENERAL R&R, Cont'd.

- M. Score Cards:** Coaches are to verify athletes scores at the last station and leave the score cards with the trapper. A cell phone photo of the score card is a good idea for later use. Leave clipboards with score cards and armbands with the trapper at the last station.
- N. Scoring and Honor System:** If any target is scored wrong, giving the athlete a higher score because the scorer missed the call or didn't know better, the coach is obligated to make the correction and the right call. Do the right thing and teach a life lesson.
- O. Shotgun Start:** We begin all rotations at SCYSF sporting events using a "Shotgun Start." The course manager will choose a time based on his/her cell phone. This will be used as the "Shotgun Start" for each course. When the entire squad is at their starting station and the time is noted on their cell phone, the first squad may view show pairs and begin shooting the event.
- P. Show Pairs:** A maximum of 2 show pairs are allowed for each squad at each station. All squad members must view the show pairs from the shooting stand together.
- Q. Start Station:** Start on the station as indicated on the score card. Many times, there is an A and B squad at the first station. When your squad has completed shooting, the squad moves to the next station. Shoot and move. Do not wait on the next squad to shoot and move in a big group.
- R. Teams:** Once an athlete is registered for his/her first event of the season, he/she cannot change teams. Exceptions: if a team becomes inactive, if athlete changes schools or if a family moves to another area of the state.
- S. Verify Scores:** When the scorecards are returned to the coach and before the squad leaves the shooting station, scores are to be verified. If the shooter leaves and returns later, the target will be scored as the trapper called the target.