M.S.S.P.

MISSISSIPPI SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING PROGRAM

Program Handbook

Table of Contents

Program Objectives 1

Team Requirements 2

Safety Rules & Requirements ..... 3 - 4

Costs 5

Discipline Overviews ..... 6 – 7

Shooting Divisions & Disciplines 8

Awards 9

Event Layout 10

Program objectives

The Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) is a team-based, youth development program that uses the shotgun sports of *5-Stand*, *Skeet*, and *Sporting Clays* to instill life skills such as discipline, safety, teamwork, ethics, self-confidence, and other life values. The program also utilizes these disciplines to teach hunting skills through the safe use of hunting equipment, including firearms, and their relationship to hunting situations. Team members can participate in any or all three of the clay target disciplines: *5-Stand, Skeet*, and *Sporting Clays.*

The MSSP is not designed to compete with 4-H or other youth based organizations, but should compliment them in schools. The MSSP will provide youth an opportunity to compete for their schools in a scholastic shooting sports program.

Team Requirements

Teams consist of schools wanting to compete in *Skeet, 5-Stand,* and *Sporting Clays.* Each team is required to schedule at least 8 practices a year. Each team must have at least one coach with one of the coaching credentials.

- **Head** – Head Coaches must have completed at least the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks *(MDWFP) 2-Day Shooting Coach Class*, before they can be a team coach on event day. MDWFP will also accept *4-H Shotgun Instructor Course*, *National Sporting Clay Association* (*NSCA)/National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) Level I, II, III* or *Scholastic Instructor Course Training*, and *NRA shotgun Instructor* credentials, as well.

- **Coaches Meeting** – There will be a mandatory coaches meeting prior to all *Sporting Clay, Skeet,* and *5-Stand* events. Any coach not attending the meeting will result in his/her team squad being disqualified from participating in the event.

- **Primary Responsibility** – The coach's primary responsibility on event day is to create a safe environment at all times for shooters, spectators, coaches, and range personnel. Teams are also responsible for a minimum of 8 practices per year.

- **Coaching the Squad** – The coach is allowed to coach the squad between stations, or while watching other squads shoot, but once the shooter enters the shooting box, all coaching must stop.

- **Assistant Coaches** – All teams will need at least one head coach that meet MDWFP coaching credentials. However teams may utilize assistant coaches, but a *Coach's Registration Form* must be filled out for each assistant coach. Each team must be accompanied by a coach during a competition.

Safety Rules & Requirements

1. **The Four Basic Firearm Rules are ALWAYS in effect at all MDWFP events:**

    - *All* guns are *always* loaded! Treat them that way!
    - *Never* let your muzzle cover *anything* you are not willing to destroy!
    - Keep your finger off the trigger, until your sights are on target!
    - *Always* be sure of your target!

2. **Ear and Eye Protection** – Both are required by everyone on the course - shooters, coaches, parents, spectators, and range personnel. **No exceptions**!

3. **Actions Open** - Automatic and pump guns must have their actions open at all times, with the barrel pointed up, when walking or riding. The ejection port must be facing forward, to be visible, when carrying the shotgun. Over/under shotguns must be carried over the shoulder, with the barrel in front controlled by the hand on the barrel and pointed down.

4. **Slings and Straps** - Slings or straps attached to the shotgun are NOT allowed at any MDWFP shooting event.

5. **Vehicles** - To operate a cart or any ATV, the operator must have a valid driver's license and meet all requirements of the host club to operate any onsite vehicle. All guns will be transported in a vertical position, while on vehicles.

6. **Muzzle of Shotgun** - The muzzle is to be controlled and pointed in a safe direction at all times. The shotgun's muzzle cannot be rested on any part of the body, including but not limited to, the foot area, chin, hand or arm.

7. **Footwear** - Open-toed shoes, such as flip-flops/sandals, *etc.*, are **NOT** allowed at any MDWFP sponsored shooting event.

8. **Shooters Can Load 2 Shells, Maximum** - Do **NOT** load your shotgun, until you are within the confines of the shooting station/platform, with the barrel pointed down range. Load only **TWO** shot shells at a time and do **NOT** step off of the platform, until your gun is unloaded!

9. **Hunter Education Requirement** - All shooters must have completed a *Hunter Education Program* to be eligible to shoot in any competition.

10. **Disqualification** - If any of these rules are broken, it will result in shooter(s) being disqualified. **No exceptions!**

11. **Shoot Rules** – Our *Sporting Clays* and *5-Stand* competitions will follow NSCA rules. Our *Skeet* competitions will follow NSSA rules.

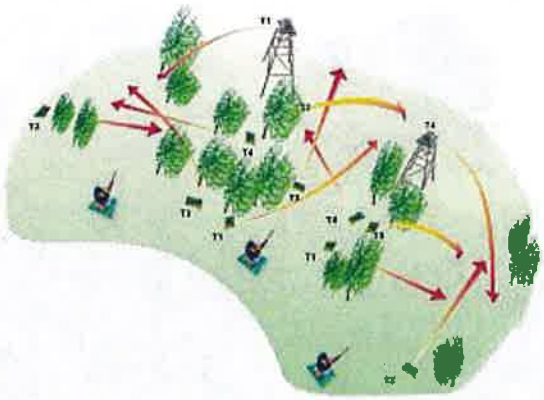
Cost Estimates

1. **Shotgun:** Each shooter will need a shotgun. They can shoot a pump, semi-automatic, or a double-barrel shotgun, but no single-shot shotguns are allowed, as they would be inappropriate for use in these sporting events.
2. **Shells:** Teams are required to have at least 8 practices per year. We suggest at least 100 rounds per shooter, per practice session. That would work out to be 800 shotgun shells/year, for practice sessions, and at current prices, would cost approximately $208.
3. **Clay Targets:** Target fees at all MDWFP ranges are 25¢ per clay target. Thus, 800 clay targets/year would cost $200. *(This cost may be higher at a non-MDWFP range.)*
4. **Competitions:** There will be no charge for clay targets at state competitions. However, shooters must provide their own shotgun shells. If a shooter participates in each of the annual events, it will take 100 shotgun shells, at a cost of $26. (We strongly suggest bringing extra shells for each shooter for gun malfunctions and trap malfunctions.)
5. **Uniforms:** This is up to the school or club to which the shooter belongs. Uniforms can be anything from a tee shirt to a high end shooting vest. Uniforms are not required.
6. **Total Minimum Cost:** The total minimum cost per shooter, per year, meaning the cost of shotgun shells and clay targets (*if* you are shooting at an MDWFP range) for each shooter, will be **$450**. Again, this amount may be higher, if you do not have access to an MDWFP range. Contact your local range to determine fees/rates. (8 practices is a minimum practice amount. We highly suggest more practices.)
7. **Offsetting the Cost:** Schools can offset cost by applying for *Youth Program Initiative (YPI)* grants through the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Discipline Overview

Sporting Clays

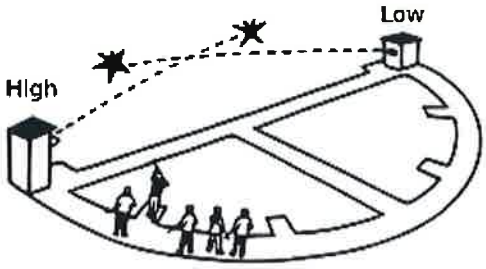
Sporting Clays date back to the early 1900s and is often described as golf with a shotgun. Unlike the confined field of *Trap* and *Skeet*, *Sporting Clays* is set on a walking course in a natural environment. The shooter moves from station-to-station where targets are presented differently at each station to mimic hunting situations for species such as quail, grouse, pheasant, dove, ducks, geese, and rabbits. Target presentation names have root in game species such as "springing teal" and "running rabbit."



Sporting Clay Course

Skeet

Skeet dates back to the early 1900s as a way to simulate the criss-crossing hunting action of flying upland birds, such as dove. The shooter rotates through different stations along a semi-circle, as targets from two opposing houses (one at each corner of the semi-circle) "pass" across the field. The 2-target presentations are thrown one-at-a-time, and at the same time, for an additional challenge.



Skeet Shooting

5-Stand

5-Stand is a type of shotgun sport shooting similar to *Sporting Clays, Trap*, and *Skeet*. There are 5 stations, or *stands*, and 6 - 8 strategically placed clay target throwers (called traps). Shooters shoot in turn at various combinations of clay birds. Each station will have a menu card that lets the shooter know the sequence of clay birds at which he or she will be shooting (*i.e.,* which trap the clay bird will be coming from).

5 Stand

Shooting Divisions and Disciplines

Divisions

Senior Varsity - Grades 10, 11 & 12

Junior Varsity - Grades 7, 8 & 9

Senior Varsity Team - Grades 10, 11 & 12 (4-shooter teams determined by the coach)

Junior Varsity Team - Grades 7, 8 & 9 (4-shooter teams determined by the coach)

Disciplines

Individual Sporting Clays – In this event, individual shooters compete against each other on a 50-round *Sporting Clay Course*. The winner is the shooter that has the most number of hits out of 50, for their division. [If a shooter competes in *Team Sporting Clays*, the score that he/she shoots in *Team Sporting Clays* is his/her score for the *Individual Sporting Clays* event.]

Team Sporting Clays – In this event, 4-shooter teams compete against each other for the best combined score on a 50-round *Sporting Clay Course*. The winning team is the one with the most number of hits out of a possible 200. The composition of each team must be decided by the coach, prior to registration. Each team member must be in the same division.

Individual Skeet – In this event, 5 individual shooters from your school compete against each other on a 25-round *Skeet Course*. (The 5 shooters must be determined by coaches)

Individual 5-Stand – In this event, 5 individual shooters from each school compete against each other on a 25-round *5-Stand Course*. (The 5 shooters must be determined by coaches)

School Title

Each year there will be an *Overall School Champion*. This title will only be awarded to schools and will be determined by taking each school's average score, in each event, and totaling them to determine the highest average score encompassing all 4 events.

Awards

(All awards will be given to both Jr. and Sr. Varsity for Sporting Clays)

- 1st Place Overall Female Sporting Clay
- 1st Place Overall Male Sporting Clay
- 2nd Place Overall Sporting Clay
- 3rd Place Overall Sporting Clay
- 1st Place Sporting Clay Team (4 People)
- 2nd Place Sporting Clay Team (4 People)
- 3rd Place Sporting Clay Team (4 People)
- 1st Place 5-Stand
- 2nd Place 5-Stand
- 3rd Place 5-Stand
- 1st Place Skeet
- 2nd Place Skeet
- 3rd Place Skeet

Events and Time Schedule for an

MDWFP Scholastic Shoot

Events

- *Team Sporting Clays* - 50 Rounds
- *Individual Sporting Clays* - 50 Rounds
- *Individual 5-Stand* - 25 Rounds
- *Individual Skeet* - 25 Rounds

Schedule

8:00 a.m. - Shooter registration begins.
8:30 a.m. - Coaches meet with event organizers to explain the day's flow. Coaches will get a list of times when each of their shooters will be shooting.
9:00 a.m. - *Team Sporting Clays* begins with a shotgun start.
9:00 a.m. – *Individual Skeet* starts
9:00 a.m. - *Individual 5-Stand* starts.

* Lunch plates will be available for purchase.

For Additional Information Contact:
Jad Touchton
jadt@mdwfp.state.ms.us
601-859-5164

Jad Touchton
Turcotte Range

506 Hwy 43 S
Canton, MS 39046

Office: 601-859-5164
Cell: 601-826-8877
Fax: 601-859-1818
Email: jadt@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
MISSISSIPPI