

2021-22 ACUI CLAY TARGETS OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

The current ATA, NSCA, NSSA, USAS, and all ACUI rules will govern all ACUI competitions, including the 2021-22 Shotgun Bowl Series and the 2022 ACUI Collegiate Clay Targets Championships. It is the shooters' and coaches' responsibility to be familiar with these rules.

Eligibility

All ACUI events are open to college athletes and teams. However, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

- All participants must meet eligibility criteria established by their school.
- All participants are limited to six years of eligibility. Students enrolled at two-year institutions are limited to three years of eligibility; if they transfer to a four-year school, six years total.
- All undergraduate and graduate student participants must be in good academic standing with their institution in the academic term in which they qualified for the program.
- All participants must be enrolled as of the academic term in which they qualified for the program for at least nine credit hours (six credits for graduate students) and must complete six credit hours between all program appearances. Seniors who will be graduating at the end of the academic term, may be considered full-time if they are taking all hours needed to complete their degree.
- All undergraduate and graduate student participants must be enrolled as a student in good conduct standing at the institution they represent, as determined by the institution in which they are currently enrolled.

Submission of the eligibility form is not required for conference championships, but an original form complete with all signatures is required for nationals.

Community Code of Conduct

Negative posts, belittling accomplishments, bullying, posting of denigrating comments in public or on social media that create a hostile environment within our otherwise inclusive community are a violation of the ACUI code of conduct in place for all ACUI student programs. This explicitly states that as a participant it is an obligation to abide by the code of conduct guidelines and violation of them may jeopardize status as a participant in the ACUI Clay Targets program.

Refusal to turn in a scorecard, along with cheating, swearing, and verbal or physical abuse of an athlete, scorer, field judge, shoot official, or protest committee is activity deemed to be inappropriate and grounds for disqualification.

Alcohol, Marijuana, and Controlled Substances

Alcohol/illegal or unprescribed drugs and firearms do not mix. Consumption of alcohol and other illegal substances are strictly forbidden during any ACUI events. Further, any participant who is found to be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or drugs while using, cleaning, maintaining, inspecting, or otherwise handling their shotgun or other firearm at any time will be immediately disqualified from the event and asked to leave without refund.

Hat Shooting

Hat shooting is strictly prohibited. Any competitor who participates in hat shooting will be immediately disqualified and asked to leave the competition without refund. We recognize this is a celebrated tradition but encourage you to do your hat shoot at your next team practice.

Target Protests

Hits and misses must be protested immediately after the results of the shot is announced. To appeal, an individual hit or miss the athlete must raise their hand and announce cease fire. The referee can poll the squad but is not required to do so. The appeal ruling by the referee is final and no further protest is allowed. Once the shooter calls for their next target or the next shooter calls for their target the result of the last target is final. The total results of any round must be protested immediately after the round is completed and announced. Once the next round starts the results of the completed round are considered final subject to addition/math corrections in registration. If the referee still does not call out the results loud enough, a line supervisor should be notified. Participants should sign the score sheet (next to the score total) before leaving the line. When the athlete signs the score sheet, they are verifying the individual hits and misses and totals. Calculations are subject to addition/math corrections in registration. If a participant does not sign the score sheet, they forfeit all rights of protest.

Any protest should be conducted in a healthy, constructive form of conflict resolution. Reports of poor behavior demonstrated by the student athlete or coach can result in target penalties.

Scorecard

Each competitor is solely responsible for their scorecards. Take care when reviewing your scorecard before signing and/or handing off to match officials and address any concerns with the tournament director as soon as possible. Falsification or manipulation of scorecards will result in disqualification from the event and a suspension or ban from the ACUI Clay Targets program.

Late Penalty

The penalty for being late for a squadded event is a three-target penalty and will be assessed in American Skeet, American Trap, Doubles American Trap, Doubles American Skeet, International Skeet, and Bunker Trap. Sporting Clays and Super Sporting will be worked in if there is a conflict, but please be diligent about making these times as well. Once the first shot is fired, the squad is set and you have missed your time. Late participants should join the squad at the beginning of the next round. The missed round will be made up later in the day provided there are openings. The three-target penalty will be assessed on the rescheduled round's score sheet.

Enforcement, Questions & Complaints

Athletes may contact the match director with any concerns about the program at any time throughout the year. Misconduct, abuse of any rule, or other concerns – most importantly safety – may be reported by anyone, by any means to the match director. Informal reports should be followed by a formal written report including incident date, time, location, witnesses, and detailed description. It's likely that the match director will consult with a committee. The

concern will be processed once, information gathered, deliberation had, and a ruling made. Penalties will be determined by the severity of the infraction up to, and including, disqualification from the event and all future ACUI events. This ruling will be final. Any concern should be conducted in a healthy, constructive form of conflict resolution.

Registration

All participants must be registered and fully paid before competing. If payment may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, please notify ACUI staff immediately. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and will be done electronically through the ACUI website. All registrants are required to agree to the assumption of risk, code of ethics, media release, and cancellation policy.

Membership

Teams are not required to be members of ACUI to compete in any ACUI event. Membership with ACUI will provide registration discounts but is not required. To learn more, please email us at acuiclays@acui.org.

Ammunition

Conference Championship events: Cost of practice and competition ammo is at the expense of the competitor. Ammunition up to 1 oz. is allowed for the International events. For American events, please check the appropriate National Governing Body rules (ATA, NSSA, NSCA) rules for allowable loads.

Nationals: Please refer to the nationals match program for any further ammunition specifications.

Guns

All guns must be fired while mounted on the shoulder. Any gun that cannot be shoulder mounted will not be allowable during competition.

Independent Athletes

Individual students attending a school with an established team may "pay their way" and compete only if the coach and/or team leader approves of their participation. At conference championship events, the individual can compete as an "Independent" if the coach/team leader does not want them competing with the team but is okay with their participation. If the student does not receive approval to participate by the coach and/or team leader, the individual will not be able to participate. An individual from a school that does not already have a team represented at Nationals is welcome to compete and represent their institution, assuming they meet all other eligibility requirements.

All athletes (outside of the situation outlined above) have to be affiliated with the institution that signs off on their eligibility form. Students representing more than one institution are not permitted to compete as a team.

Classification System

To recognize more deserving student athletes at the ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Championships, ACUI uses a classification system for competition at the National Championships. The system will be based on an athlete's average from participation in any of the 2021-22 academic year conference championships.

Classes will be determined as follows:

- Performance in American Skeet will determine class for American Skeet and Doubles American Skeet at Nationals.
- Performance in American Trap will determine class for American Trap and Doubles American Trap at Nationals.
- Performance in Sporting Clays will determine class for Sporting Clays and Super Sporting at Nationals.
- If more than one conference championships event is attended, athletes will be classified by their average score in each event. All percentages are rounded up.

The breakdown of scores for the classes are available below. If the athlete elects to shoot in class, they will shoot in class for all six events. Any athlete can decline shooting in class and elect to compete in open class. The classes are Open, A, B, C. New participants and those with no average are automatically placed in open class. If an athlete elects to shoot in class and their scores are in the top three scores of open class, in any one event, they will receive the open class award and everyone in the respective class will move up. Any class changes must be requested before the first shot of the event.

The following participants are required to shoot in open class: past national champions in any shooting organization, past or present USA Shooting team member, NSCA Master class, NSSA A class or above, ATA A class or above. Shoot management reserves the right to move classes for athletes based on known ability.

Regardless of class, athletes can be squadded together but only compete against athletes in their own class.

Classes are:

Open – Top average score of 95 or above

A – 85-94

B – 75-84

C – 74 or below

Divisions

Divisions will be used to help recognized talented students from all size programs. Schools will compete in their respective divisions:

Division I – Schools with 21 or more representatives

Division II – Schools with 11-20 representatives

Division III – Schools with 1-10 representatives

Division IV – Junior colleges, community colleges (technical or vocational), or any institution competing at Nationals for the first time.

Coaches or student leaders may opt to have their schools participate in the larger school categories (aka “bump up”) during the registration process but must notify the match director of changes to the original intention during or before onsite check-in. A school remains in “home” division as noted by number of participants in an event. Division only applies to team awards and do not affect individual awards.

Student Transfers

A student who wishes to consider transferring to another school and participate in their shooting sports program should first obtain written permission in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from their current coach and other appropriate offices on campus if scholarships are involved. The MOU will be signed between coaches and a student to express mutual agreement that a student has performed especially well as a shotgun athlete but has the opportunity to transfer to a school that provides a better education opportunity impacting the student’s future. This could mean that the institution has more on-campus interviews, networking possibilities, course offerings, and name recognition for the field of study. The MOU should express a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action. Once a student athlete makes a written request for permission to contact other schools, the school has seven business days to acknowledge the request. If the school misses the deadline, the acknowledgement is automatically assumed. Coaches agree that no contact should be made without presentation of this MOU by the student athlete, without contacting the current team’s head coach or advisor, and never at a competition. Recruiting conversations college-to-college from anyone to an enrolled athlete should never occur while at an ACUI competition.

Repeat reports of coaches or institutions refusing to follow student transfer rules may result in an investigation and possible suspension.

Professional Athletes

Students will not be considered a professional athlete in any shooting sport until such time the sport is able to sustain a participant with a standard living wage net of entry fees and related competition expenses.

Dress Code

Participants are representing their institutions and the Association. All participants should adhere to the dress code for their respective events. The dress code is designed to provide safety, be professional, as well as respect individuality, be conducive to learning, and preserve the dignity of each student who participates. For reference, the ACUI Clay Targets dress code encompasses most of those items spelled out for the U.S. Olympic shooting sports athletes with leniencies as deemed appropriate for our level of competition. The ACUI dress code states;

- All persons, spectators, athletes, field judges, and range personnel must wear eye and ear protection on the course. All ear equipment should be disconnected from electronic devices on the firing line to ensure all safety commands can be heard.
- An athlete may choose competitive gear of their choice with the manufacturer's marks. An ISSF strip is required on your vest if you are shooting in the International Shoot-Out Skeet event.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to wear college/university identification for both the competition and the awards ceremonies.
- Appropriate footwear must always be worn in all events; flip-flops or similar sandals are not appropriate. Footwear must have closed toes and heel straps or closed heels.
- Appropriate attire displays no pictures or graphics of a sexual or offensive nature and no words or phrases that include offensive language or political statements.
- No sleeveless shirts are permitted.
- The clothing on the leg should be an appropriate length, such as longer than six inches above the center of the knee. Likewise, top clothing should completely cover the abdomen at all times.