

Eagan Clay Target Team FAQ

Who can join the team?

Depending on interest, priority is given to High School athletes. If all spots are not filled, middle-school athletes will be allowed. All athletes (male or female) must be 12 years old or older, be in grades 6-12, and must have successfully completed their MN Firearm Safety training or Student Athlete Firearm Education (SAFE) prior to the registration period. We don't plan to exceed 60 athletes

When can I sign up for the team?

The sign-up period will be communicated by the league. All athletes must complete their online registration with the league and be paid in full in order to have their spot reserved. Registration will end by the league deadline, or when the team fills up. We recommend that you watch e-mails for this communication.

Can I be on the team if I also participate in another spring sport or activity?

Yes, however we do expect that the athlete attends most, if not all trap shooting nights. If you are unable to meet this expectation, we request that you not sign-up so there is another available slot for another athlete.

Can I make up a round if I miss a night of shooting?

The league rule is that you must shoot on the night your team is assigned to shoot. Reach out to coaches if you know you are going to miss a night prior to missing. There is no "back-dating" scores.

When and where does the team shoot?

Our team shoots weekly on Thursday evenings at the West End Gun Club in Eagan – 4899 Brooklyn Lane, Eagan. Shooting time begins at 3:45 pm but may change due to team size. There may also be a Sunday at 2:00 option if coaches are available.

How much does it cost to participate?

The athletic fee for Trap is \$150 to the team and \$35 payable online to MN Clay Target League (for registration). This includes all targets/shooting fees, does not include SHELLS. A team jersey, shell bag, ear and eye protection will be required at a minimal cost. Sweatshirts and hats may be optional and would be an additional cost. The fees do NOT include any expenses that may be incurred for optional practice or tournaments.

Do I have to travel to other shooting ranges to compete each week?

No. All shooting is done at the local gun club and scores are submitted by the coaches via the league website and compared against other schools' scores within the conference. You will need your own transportation for practice and for the optional MSHCTL state tournament in Alexandria.

Can a student LETTER in the sport?

Yes, see the Eagan Trapshooting lettering policy.

What does the team schedule look like?

A week or two of practice and/or reserve week, five weeks of competition, and a final week for a team event. There is an annual state tournament in June. Typically, a team informational meeting is also held prior to both the fall and spring seasons to get new athletes familiar with the shooting protocol and safety procedures.

Do I need to provide my own gun?

Yes. Each athlete is responsible for providing their own shotgun and there is no sharing of guns during competitions. Only gauges are 12 or 20 are allowed. All athletes should put a piece of tape on their gun with their name on it, as there are many similar guns. Neither the coaches nor the West End Gun club is responsible for any guns or equipment. The athletes are also reminded that guns are NOT allowed on school property at any time. Make arrangements ahead of time for getting your gun transported to the gun club.

It is best that families determine which gun works best for their son/daughter, well before the registration period. This can be accomplished by practicing at any of the local gun clubs.

Can I bring my own shells during team shooting nights?

YES. You MUST supply your own shells. We recommend having a minimum of 16 boxes per season. Shells must be "Target" or "Trap Loads". No hunting or High Performance shells are allowed at WETC

What other items are required by the athletes?

Each athlete must provide:

- Shotgun (recommend 12 or 20 ga.)
- Shell bag, pouch, or vest
- Ear protection
- Eye protection (not required if athlete already wears prescription glasses)
- Closed toe shoes

How many rounds will the athlete shoot during weekly competitions?

Each athlete will shoot two rounds of 25 targets. Averages are calculated by using the number of hit targets, divided by the number of rounds. The average will be a cumulative average throughout the season. The league average does not include practice rounds. Example: For a specific night, during the athlete's two rounds, they hit 15 targets in the first round and 17 targets in the second round. Average = 16 (32/2)

How do schools across the state compete?

It is a “virtual” competition. The League will group schools into classes and conferences by team-member size. Each team competes against all other teams within their conference. Teams shoot at their local shooting range and then the coaches submit their scores to the League via an online entry system. Scores are tabulated weekly, and results and overall standings are posted on the website so students can see how their school stacks up against others across the state.

Are there different competition levels for the athletes?

Only for the MSHSCTL State Tournament. Throughout the competition weeks, each athlete will have a running average of the number of targets they hit. At the end of the season, their final average will be used to determine what LEVEL they will shoot at during the MSHSCTL State Tournament. Below are the three LEVELS of shooting:

NOVICE: Shooting average is 0 – 14.9

JV: Shooting average is 15 - 18.9

VARSITY: Shooting average is 19 – 25

Can my athlete shoot more practice rounds on their own?

Yes. Practice rounds are allowed on different days from when the team shoots.

Check with the gun club for available times. Parents are responsible for supervising their athletes during any non-team related practice rounds.

Is there a State Tournament?

Yes, there are two of them. There is a MSHSCTL State Qualifying Tournament that occurs in early June. Every League participant is invited to attend. The participation fee for the MSHSCTL State Tournament is usually \$20 to \$40 which includes targets and official Championship t-shirt. Participants are responsible for providing their own ammunition, other expenses and transportation to the tournament in Alexandria.

What is the number 1 priority for being on the team?

SAFETY. All athletes are expected to follow team shooting procedures. Failure to do so can result in being removed from the team. No reimbursements will be made.

How safe is trap shooting?

Trap shooting is one of the safest sports available to student athletes. There have been zero reported injuries and no Gun-Free School Zone violations since the League started in 2001.

Are there coaches or supervisors?

Yes, there will be multiple coaches or RSOs (Range Safety Officers) on shooting nights to supervise the athletes and to enforce safe shooting protocol. The Eagan Clay Target Team is very fortunate to have many parent volunteer coaches, scorekeepers and range safety officers and we are confident this tradition (with your help) will continue again this year.

Want more information?

See the MSHSCTL league website at: mnclaytarget.com

Web Site: www.eaganclaytargetteam.com

Email: info@eaganclaytargetteam.com