

Scopos National Air Rifle
“New Shooter” League
2024 League Program



Sponsored by Scopos
Makers of the Orion Scoring System, Athena Target System, and Results
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Last Revised December 2023

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Introduction

Purpose

The Scopos National Air Rifle “New Shooter” League (The League) is an offshoot of the National Air Rifle League intended for young athletes in their first year of competition. It seeks to create a bold competition format, allowing teams from throughout the country to compete virtually in an exciting, spectator-friendly league. Teams of “New Shooters,” athletes in their first year of competition, will compete against each other in a 8 game, 10 week season. The League seeks to reward participation and improvement over competition. As a result all athletes will receive participation pins, and medals will be awarded to approximately 50% of the participating teams and athletes.

Important Dates for the 2024 Season

- Early Registration Deadline: 12 January 2024.
- Last Day to Register or Withdraw from League: 22 January 2024.
- Preseason: 2 January through 28 January 2024.
- Coaches Meeting Webinar: 24 January, exact time not yet set.
- Regular Season: 29 January - 7 April 2023.

League Organization

The League is structured into teams, seasons, and games. A team consists of four or more Sporter air rifle athletes with a coach from a single school or club. A game is one competition between two teams. A complete season is all sets of games from all teams. The season lasts 10 weeks and each team competes in 8 games.

Each week during the season, teams will get scheduled to compete against one other team using dynamic scheduling. The goal of dynamic scheduling is to allow teams of near equal skill level to compete with each other each week. In this method, and as the league progresses, the top teams will compete against each other and the developing teams will compete against each other. Teams will be ranked according to their League Points, a combination of seasonal average and win-loss record.

Teams will compete each week from their home range unless specifically requested otherwise. Scores from each team will be merged on the Internet using Orion’s Virtual Match technology. Results will be listed live online on Scopos’ Results (<https://results.scopos.tech>) and Result Center (<http://www.orionresults.com/>).

The League will adhere to current National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules except where clearly stated otherwise within this league program.

Media Promotion

A key principle of The League is increasing the sport's spectator appeal. The League will achieve this through regular press releases and social media posts using common sport terminology. The terminology and make-up of the League was selected specifically to be understood by almost anyone, whether or not one is familiar with the sport. By raising awareness and familiarity, the goal is to increase the spectator appeal and excitement of the sport.

Differences with National Air Rifle League

The National Air Rifle "New Shooter" League differs from the main National Air Rifle League in a few key areas.

- The New Shooter league is only open to athletes competing in their first year. Whereas the main National Air Rifle League is open to all high school age athletes regardless of competition experience.
- Teams are not split into conferences or skill based divisions. Instead, all teams compete in the same (single division) league.
- The New Shooter league is for Sporter athletes only.
- The New Shooter league just has a regular season, there is not a postseason tournament.
- Awards emphasize participation and improvement over competition.

Organization

The League is structured into teams, seasons, and games. A team consists of four or more Air Pistol athletes with a coach from a single club. A game is one competition between two teams. A complete season is all sets of games from all teams. The season lasts 10 weeks and each team competes in 8 games.

Club, School, and Team Member Requirements

All athletes must be in their first year of competitive marksmanship experience. For the purposes of the League this is defined as any athlete whose first air rifle or smallbore rifle competition was on or after 1 August 2023. Athletes who only competed in BB Gun, Air Pistol, or other shooting disciplines are still eligible to compete.

Team members must be active, participating members of the same club or school team. All athletes must be eligible to compete under the National Three-Position Air Rifle Rules (section 3.1). No all-star teams are allowed. A club or school may only enter one team in the League.

An athlete who may be eligible to compete for two teams, for example one JROTC program and one Junior Rifle Club program, may only compete for one of those teams. He or she must compete for only that team for the duration of the season.

The League is for Sporter class athletes only.

An eligible athlete may compete in both the 2023 National Air Rifle League and the 2024 “New Shooter” League.

As further described in the “Games” section, games will be scored using the “Best Four Count Teams” rule (rule 3.2.2). This means teams can have as many athletes compete in a game as they have eligible team members, but only the top four scores count towards the team’s total. Teams with fewer than four team members for any given game may be given a Did Not Start (DNS).

Games

A “game” is when two teams compete against each other. Each team will shoot a 3x10 course of fire in Kneeling-Prone-Standing (KPS) order. Current National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules will govern the conduct of each game, except where clearly stated otherwise within this league program. The winning team is the team with the highest sum of their top four athletes’ scores, using the “Best-Four-Count-Teams” rule (rule 3.2.2). Each team may include as many eligible club members as they wish.

All scoring will be done electronically with Orion, Athena, or other approved Electronic Scoring Target systems, using decimal scoring. Manual methods of scoring and challenges are prohibited. All games, by default, will be virtual. This means each team will compete from their home range. Where geographically possible and the opposing coaches agree, games may be local. A local game is when both teams compete at the same time on the same range. In a virtual game, coaches from opposing teams are encouraged to coordinate their schedule so that both teams shoot the game at the same time. Please notify the League Administrator (league@shooterstech.net) one week prior to the game if the opposing coaches would prefer a local game instead of a virtual game.

With the permission of the League Administrator teams are permitted to use targets and scores shot during unrelated national level postals for their weekly game scores. For example, if a team is participating in the JROTC Postals, organized by the Civilian Marksmanship Program, a team may use the same targets shot during the postal for the league game that week.

If a team is competing in two games in a given week, which may occur if a game has to be rescheduled, the team coach must shoot the two games completely separately (e.g. shoot one 3x10 game on Tuesday, and one 3x10 game on Thursday). Coaches may not, under any circumstances, shoot one course and count its score for more than one game.

Deadline to Turn In Scores

Teams have the full calendar week, defined as Monday through Sunday, to shoot their weekly game. Scores need to be submitted by Noon EST each Monday.

- Team scores submitted after Noon Monday EST will not be counted towards the game's outcome. Teams instead will be given a Did Not Start (DNS).
- Team coaches are responsible for submitting their team scores before the deadline and verifying the scores were submitted successfully.
- The League Administrator may allow teams scores submitted after the Noon Monday EST deadline to count towards the team's season average. May further be used to change a DNS to a LOSS, but will not be used to change a DNS to a WIN regardless of the score.

Teams who are unable to shoot their game during the scheduled week for circumstances beyond their control (e.g. a weather emergency, COVID-19) should contact the League Administrator as soon as possible so alternative scheduling can be made.

Range Command Script

Teams will be provided a written script to follow to include instructions for running a League game. Teams using Athena will use the script integrated with Orion and displayed on the athlete monitors. These scripts are to help ensure all teams conduct their games under similar conditions and according to the rulebook.

Target Integrity Check

Targets will be periodically reviewed, checking for correct scoring and correct application of penalties. In each instance that scoring is done improperly the League Administrator will correct the score on the target and may assess an additional 2 point penalty.

Media Production During Games

Teams are encouraged to use audio and visual media production during each game to help improve the quality and excitement of each game. Media production includes:

- Displaying the online scoreboard on a large TV or projector during the competition.
- Announcing the names of athletes who shot a personal best after the game's conclusion.

Rule Violations

The League is run under the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules. The Team Coach plays a critical role ensuring their team follows all rules and ensures the validity of scores reported each game.

The League Administrator may disqualify (DSQ) a team for a league game for serious rule violations. These include but are not limited to:

- Unsportsmanlike behavior by the team or any team member, including attempts to gain an unfair advantage.
- Safety violations by the coach or any team member, including not having a team leader present during shooting.
- The intentional manipulation, or even attempted manipulation, of their submitted team's scores.
- Failure to follow range commands or time limits as set forth by the National Three-Position Air Rifle Rules.

For serious or repeated rule violations the League Administrator may remove a team from future games in the current season, or impose up to a three year ban for the school or club in all Orion Leagues.

Season Format

The League's Season is the complete set of games and consists of a preseason and regular season. There is one season per year.

- The preseason is an optional but recommended competition for all teams. It consists of a single-game course of fire amongst all teams. Its purpose is to allow teams to practice competing in the league in a non-counting game. All teams will be entered into the pre-season once. On request teams may compete in the preseason multiple times. The pre-season competition lasts from 2 January through 28 January 2024.
- Each team will compete in the regular season. The regular season is 10 weeks long where each team will compete in 8 games. Each week during the season, teams will get scheduled to compete against one other team, with two bye weeks built into the schedule (for the regular 10 week season). The regular season is scheduled dynamically so that teams compete against other teams with similar rankings throughout the season (see scheduling below).
- There is no postseason.

Scheduling

Games will be scheduled dynamically throughout the regular season. The goal of dynamic scheduling is to allow teams of near equal skill level to compete with each other each week.

In general, each week during the regular season, the League Administrator will announce the games for the following week. This will allow teams to know who they are competing against and if they have a bye week.

The first two weeks of the league (the first two games) games will be scheduled randomly. The first two weeks' schedule will be announced one week prior to the start of the league.

After the first week (the first game is completed), the League Administrator will schedule games for the third week. After the second week (the first two games are completed), the League Administrator will schedule games for the fourth week. This pattern of scheduling games will continue throughout the regular season.

Scheduling, after the first two games, is done in such a way that teams of near equal skill level are squadded against each other. "Near equal skill level" is based on the team's ranking (team ranking score, see below for details) at the time the scheduling is done. To encourage diversity of scheduling, the degree of near equal skill level will be more broad at the beginning of the season, and then tighten up towards the end.

Other factors will influence scheduling, including the following:

- An odd number of teams may force the League Administrator to give a team a "forced bye week."
- Teams that have requested bye weeks will not be scheduled.
- Two teams may compete against each other more than once during the season; however, no two teams will be scheduled to compete against each other in successive games.
- Teams may request to compete against a specific team on a specific week.
- Any team that has two consecutive Did Not Start (DNS) will be considered dropped from the league and will no longer be scheduled for future games.

All teams will be given at least two bye weeks, and they may request when their bye weeks will take place.

Teams may request more than two bye weeks during the regular season. Doing so puts the team at a disadvantage as this limits the number of "win points" they can earn contributing to their team ranking score.

A "forced bye week" is when the League Administrator has to give a team a bye week during the season beyond their guaranteed bye weeks, or one more bye week than requested. If this happens, it will happen towards the end of the season.

The forced bye week rule also applies to teams who can not compete due to exceptional events beyond their control, such as a canceled game caused by a natural disaster or COVID-19.

All bye week requests must be submitted one week prior to the start of the season. The league Administrator may not be able to fulfill bye week requests received with insufficient time.

The COVID-19 pandemic is tragic and unpredictable. Unfortunately, it is expected to cause many schedule disruptions, most of which will be without warning. As it is important that teams take all necessary precautions to remain safe, no team will be penalized if they are unable to participate in a scheduled game. In the event a team is affected by COVID-19 please contact the League Administrator as soon as possible. The League Administrator will first try to provide an opportunity for teams to participate by rescheduling existing games. However, if this is not possible existing games may be canceled, with teams credited with a forced bye week. Teams with unscheduled games that will not be able to be scheduled, will be credited with forced bye weeks.

League Point Calculation during Regular Season

During the regular season teams will be ranked according to their League Points, a combination of seasonal average and win-loss record.

A team's League Points is equal to their seasonal average plus:

- 10 points for each win they have earned.
- 0 points for each loss.
- 5 points for each "forced bye week."
- -10 points for each DNS.
- -40 points for each DSQ.

For example, if a team average is 880 and has a 5 - 3 record (with no DNSs), their team ranking score is $880 + 5 * 10 = 930$ (five wins times 10 points for each win).

Tie-breaking between teams of equal team ranking score, will be as follows:

- The team with the highest number of wins.
- The team with the highest game score from any game during the regular season.
- The team with the second highest game score, then third highest, then fourth highest, and so on, from any game during the regular seasons until the tie is broken.

Team Registration and Fees

Registration

All schools or shooting clubs located in the United States, its territories, or department of defense schools are eligible to compete in The League. Teams outside the United States may compete with the permission of the League Administrator.

Teams may register online at :

<https://www.orionscoringsystem.com/orion/restricted/LeagueRegistrationStart.aspx?LeagueRegDetailID=31>

or online at www.national-leagues.com.

Registration is open until 22 January 2023.

Teams may withdraw from the League, with a full refund, until 22 January 2023. After this time withdrawing from the league is impossible and no refunds will be given.

Please note there is a separate registration for the main National Air Rifle League that takes place each Fall.

All team names must directly reference the school or club they represent. JROTC teams will use the school's name followed by "JROTC" service reference, for example "West Potomac NJROTC." Non-JROTC high school teams will use the school's full name, for example "Robinson High School." 4-H teams will use the county they represent followed by "4-H," for example "Fairfax County 4-H."

A team coach must be listed for each team. They will be the designated point of contact for the team and be responsible for submitting scores to Orion for each game.

Team coach contact information will be shared between all coaches. This information is provided to allow coaches to promote sportsmanship and communicate with each other for the sole purpose of the league. Coaches are encouraged to contact their opposing team each week to wish them luck, and congratulate them on winning as appropriate.

By entering the league the team coach is giving the League Administer permission to contact them for the purpose of conducting the league in the current season, and promoting the league for future seasons.

A team photo is required from each team at the start of each season. The photo will be used in press releases, blogs, and social media entries. The team photo may be sent to the League Administrator at league@shooterstech.net.

As previously mentioned in the "Club, School, and Team Member Requirements" subsection within the "Organization" section, there are a few things to consider while registering:

- All participating team members must be "new shooters." This is defined as any athlete whose first air rifle or smallbore rifle competition was on or after 1 August 2023.
- Team members must be active, participating members of the same club or school team.
- All athletes must be eligible to compete under the National Three Position Air Rifle Rules (section 3.1).

- Teams must be composed of at least four eligible athletes.
- An athlete may only compete for one team.

The sponsoring school or club must be an Orion for Clubs customer and have the Result Center enabled. Clubs that do not yet have Orion Scoring Systems may purchase a bundle from Orion Scoring System's website (<https://www.scopos.tech/store/orion/systems.html>).

Fees

There is a per team registration fee. For the 2024 season, the annual fee is \$120 per team. For teams who register before January 12th, the fee is \$100 (a \$20 discount).

Teams are responsible for having a valid, up-to-date Orion license and providing their own Air Rifle targets for the games. Targets may be purchased from Orion Scoring System's website (<https://www.scopos.tech/10m-air-rifle-12-bull-target.html>).

The registration fee is complimentary (\$0) for clubs or teams who have purchased an Orion Scoring System since 15 January 2023. In future years, the registration fee will be complimentary for clubs or teams who purchased Orion within the last 12 months.

Awards

To help encourage the development of young athletes and recognize top performers, The League seeks to provide as many awards as possible to deserving teams and their team members. The League is purposefully choosing to emphasize participation and improvement over winning.

The participation and award schedule for 2024 is as follows:

- Each athlete from each team will receive a participation pin.
- Each athlete will receive a specially designed league sticker that may be placed on his or her rifle.
- A league pennant banner for each participating team.
- Engraved medals for each athletes in each team that meets two of the three criteria, with specially designed medals for the top three teams:
 - Participates in all eight games during the season.
 - Shows improving scores during the season (see below for calculation).
 - Wins 5 or more games during the season.
- A banner for each team that meets the above criteria.

Awards will not be provided to teams who have not paid their registration fees. Teams must participate in at least four games to be eligible for awards.

The “shows improving scores” criteria, listed above, is measured using the six best team scores from the season (lowest score is dropped) with Microsoft Excel’s “LINEST” function. To meet the criteria, the slope result must be greater than 5.0 points per game.

For example, if a team shoots a 834, 828, 843, 830, 848, 862, 870, 856 in the eight game season, based on Excel LINEST function and dropping the lowest score, this team’s improvement is measured at 5.4 points per game. Thus, this team meets the criteria.

Press Releases and Social Media Postings

To attract greater positive attention to the sport, to The League, and to the participating teams, Orion Scoring System will actively write and distribute press releases. Press releases will be prepared at least for each game during the regular season.

Orion Scoring System will also maintain a League Facebook page. The Facebook page will be used as a platform to promote The League, teams, and athletes by providing updates on results and other general postings about League news and updates. All coaches, athletes, parents, etc. are encouraged to share the Facebook page with friends, family, and basically anyone else! Because one of the key principles of The League is to increase the sport’s spectator appeal, postings will include easily understood terminology. Consequently, those unfamiliar with the sport will be able to keep up with their friends and family competing in a league. The page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/scoposrezults>.

Each team is required to provide one or more team photos. These photographs may be used as part of any press release, social media posting, or related news story. In addition, coaches and athletes may be asked to provide additional quotes, interviews, or photographs.

Team Coach Responsibilities

Team coaches are responsible for the following:

- Conducting each game according to current National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules.
- Scheduling each game within the time frame of the week, and submitting the scores to Orion by midnight Sunday each week.
- The correct use of the Orion Scoring System.
- The correct use of Athena or other electronic scoring target system if used.
- Contacting the League Administrator for any outstanding circumstance, such as a rule interpretation question, rule violation, or an outstanding circumstance causing a delay in reporting scores.
- The honesty and integrity of their competition procedures, their team members, and all team representatives.
- Being familiar with this league program and following all rules and procedures outlined within.

- Respect the privacy of other coaches in the league and use the shared coaches contact information list for league competition communication only.

Team coaches are encouraged, but not required, to attend a league webinar, to be held approximately one week prior to the start of the league. The exact date and time will be announced to all participating coaches approximately two weeks prior to the start of the league.

League Administrator

The League Administrator is responsible for the conduct of each League season. This includes accepting team applications, seeding teams, scheduling games, monitoring game activity, and adjudicating any rules issues.

Reasonable deviations to League rules to accommodate the specific needs of a team will be allowed during the season if approved by the League Administrator. For example, the League Administrator would be authorized to allow an extension to report scores due to inclement weather or COVID-19 preventing a team from shooting one week.

The League Administrator is authorized to cancel games if conditions warrant such action. For example, if a school is closed for a week or more due to an extreme weather event such as flooding or a tornado or COVID-19, the League Administrator may cancel games for that team.

The League Administrator is allowed to clarify league rules during the season. League rules, however, may only be changed between seasons. Based on feedback from team coaches and previous seasons' operations, the League Administrator is responsible for changing League rules between seasons to ensure that the League remains efficient, effective, and relevant. All changes will be made within this League Program. Team coaches are strongly encouraged to provide feedback to the League Administrator using the phone number or email address Below.

League Administrator responsibilities are held by Erik Anderson with Orion Scoring System.

Contact information is as follows:

Erik Anderson

Orion Scoring System

league@shooterstech.net

(703) 596 0099

The following individuals will assist the League Administrator to fulfill his duties during the season.

- Greg Glatts
- Zachary Snell
- John Becker

In the case of a written competition protest, the League Administrator will appoint a three member jury, consistent with rule 6.3 from the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council rulebook. The jury is responsible for adjudicating the protest and must base its findings only on the rules and the league program.

Conducting Your League Game

There are three resources coaches may turn to learn how to conduct their league game using Orion.

General instructions for competing in a League Game are found on Orion's support website. <https://support.orionscoringsystem.com/index.html?how-do-i-compete-in-a-league-g.html>

The League's Instructions and Range Command manuals are available from the league's website (for Sporter Air Rifle). Click on the image below to open in your web browser.

Sporter Air Rifle

Scopos National Air Rifle League
Sporter Air Rifle Instructions
and Range Commands



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Finally, coaches are encouraged to watch our video on participating in a league game. Click on the image below to open in your web browser.



Participating in a National Air Rifle
or National Air Pistol League Game

Erik Anderson Ph.D.
League Administrator
August 2019