



HANDBOOK

2010 High School National Champions
2010 Regional Varsity Champions & 2nd Place
2010 Regional Junior Varsity Championship - 2nd Place
2009 High School National Championship – 2nd & 4th Place
2009 Regional Varsity Champions
2009 Regional Junior Varsity – 3rd Place
2009 Regional Junior Varsity Skeet Champions & 2nd Place
2008 State Varsity Championship – 2nd Place
2008 State Junior Varsity Championship – 3rd Place
2008 Regional Junior Varsity Champions
2008 Cumberland County Shoot – Varsity 1st, 2nd, & 5th Place
2008 Cumberland County Shoot – Junior Varsity 1st & 2nd Place
2007 Junior Varsity National Champions
2007 Regional Champions
2007 District Champions
2007 1st Place Cumberland County Shoot
2006 4th Place Grand American
2006 9th Place Grand American

INTRODUCTION: The major purpose of athletics at the secondary level is to be a part of the total educational program. A part of this purpose is to stress the vital importance of sportsmanship. It is critical that students understand the major role that they play and the role model that they can be for others. Participation in competitive shooting sports teaches safe and responsible handling and use of firearms, further, participation in team organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and in a broad sense, society.

BOOSTER CLUB: The Trappers Booster Club is to support the trap program in raising money and promoting the activities of the trap team. The trap program could not exist or function properly without parental support. The Booster Club helps prepare registration forms, maintains documentation on students, organizes and runs club meetings, maintains the team website, communicates with parents and helps organize participation in competitive events. Numerous opportunities exist for parental involvement. Parents are urged to attend meetings, events, and to lend their support whenever possible. Meeting schedules will be announced, but generally the Booster Club will meet on the second Tuesday in October, January, March, April, and May at 6:30 PM in the Arlington High School library in addition to called meetings as necessary.

GENERAL RULES:

- 1) **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES. This is a zero tolerance issue. You must follow ALL range rules and commands.**
- 2) **The speed limit at MSSA is 15 MPH. You are expected to adhere to it. This is a zero tolerance issue. You will be removed from the range if there is a violation of this rule.**
- 3) **Shelby County Schools has a zero tolerance policy regarding weapons on any school campus. This includes the parking lot. DO NOT bring your shotgun to school in your vehicle.**
- 4) **The use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco in any form is strictly prohibited at any practice or competition. This is a zero tolerance issue.**
- 5) Wear appropriate attire (closed toe shoes only, no flip-flops or sandals allowed) and safety gear (approved eye and ear protection). The uniform for competition is khaki shorts or pants as approved by the Coach, team shirt, team shooting vest and optionally your team cap.
- 6) You must maintain a passing grade point average in at least five subjects in order to compete. Students will be required to present the Coach or his representative a current copy of their report card at the end of each grading period. Students who do not pass five subjects the previous school year will not be able to participate in the first semester until passing averages are received in five by the end of the first semester. Students must be satisfying the school's attendance requirements.
- 7) All students must provide the following documents prior to participation:
 - a) Proof of a current (not prior May 1) physical examination
 - b) Signed AHS agreement and full release
 - c) Signed AHS conduct agreement (contract)

- d) SCTP and ATA registration forms & agreement
- e) MSSA Rules and Agreement
- 8) You must attend practice in order to be on the team. There are no excused absences for conflicts with other team sports or jobs. If you attended school the day of practice, you are expected to be at practice. You should schedule your work around practice. If there has been a last minute change in the practice schedule, you may be excused due to work if the absence is approved in advance by the Coach. Shooters must make at least 60% of scheduled practices in order to be considered for one of the first three squads.
- 9) Be courteous to fellow students, parents, and the Coach. No yelling or physical contact. **ABSOLUTELY NO HORSEPLAY** (hitting, pushing, etc).
- 10) All fees must be kept up to date.
- 11) If a shotgun does not belong to you, **DO NOT TOUCH IT.**
- 12) You must abide by all rules of MSSA or any other range we may visit.
- 13) All Arlington team members have used up their lifetime "guest" visits at MSSA and cannot shoot as a guest of anyone. In order for Arlington Trappers to shoot at MSSA outside of an organized team practice, they must become a member of MSSA.
- 14) Any student found to be in violation of any rule will be given a warning. Three warnings of any kind will result in removal from the team for cause. One violation of a zero tolerance issue will result in immediate removal from the team for cause. There will be no refunds of dues/fees paid if a student is removed from the team for cause.

SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS GUN FREE POLICY: According to SCA Handbook 06-07: *Any student possessing or having had in his/her possession a firearm on a school campus or at a school sponsored activity will be expelled from the school system for a minimum of one (1) calendar year, one hundred eighty (180) school days, and referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.*

For purposes of this policy, firearms is defined in 18 U.S.C. §921, but shall also include shotguns, antique guns, and rifles. The superintendent has the authority to modify the expulsion on a case-by-case basis. (T.C.A. §49-6-3401). (Policy #6216)

TOBACCO, DRUG, AND ALCOHOL USE: Members of the trap team are strictly forbidden from the use of any form of tobacco, drugs or alcohol in the course of practice or competition. According to SCA Handbook 06-07: *In compliance with state and federal laws, the Shelby County Board of Education prohibits the possession, use, purchase, sale or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol by any student on school property or at any school sponsored activity. Furthermore, the selling or giving of any substance to another student under the guise of it being a controlled substance or prescription drug is prohibited and violations will be treated as a drug offense. (Policy #6206) Definition: For the purpose of this policy the words illegal drugs shall mean any mind-altering drug or any mind-altering substance, the purchase, possession, use, sale, or distribution of which is made illegal by any federal statute, statute of the state of Tennessee, or any ordinance of Shelby County Tennessee. This includes the selling, sharing, or possession of prescription drugs. The Shelby County Board of Education will not tolerate illegal drug or alcohol use by the students, the following recommendations are made for discipline action for students possessing, using selling or purchasing illegal drugs or alcohol at school or school sponsored activities: On the first offense of possession, use, purchase, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, the student will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. In addition, the student shall be expelled for one (1) calendar year (180 school days) except where modified by the superintendent. (T.C.A. §49-6-4018) On the first offense for possession of alcohol or impairment by alcohol, the student will be referred to the appropriate law*

enforcement agency. In addition, the student shall receive a long-term suspension or expulsion. (Regulation #6206) Alcohol use by parents at AHS Trappers events is also prohibited.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: According to TSSAA Handbook Article II Section 2: *To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year, the student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Students who are ineligible the first semester may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five subjects (1/2 credit) or three blocks (one credit per block) or the equivalent.*

AWARDS: Though we are not affiliated with TSSAA, in order to follow an established standard, we will use their guidelines: According to TSSAA Handbook Article II Section 19: *“A student may accept a medal, trophy, state championship ring, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket but nothing else of commercial value. (A sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket must carry the high school letter or other appropriate award emblem.) None of the approved awards shall be accepted from an individual or a non-school organization unless the giving of such award has been approved by the principal of the school the athlete attends. Acceptance of forbidden awards will cause a student to become ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs.” Per Coach Kermit Simons, in August 2007, the Arlington High School administration approved the awarding a scholarship in the form of a US “I” Series Bond to any Trapper who shoots a “straight 100” providing that a donor has contributed the funds necessary to purchase such award. No general funds may be used for this purpose.*

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND PARENTAL CONSENT: According to TSSAA Article II Section 10: *It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file with the principal a preparticipation medical evaluation form signed by a doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner stating that the student has passed a physical examination, not prior to May 1, and that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. No student shall be required to submit to a physical exam if his/her parent(s) or legal guardian shall file with the principal a signed, written statement (affirmed under the penalties of perjury) declining such physical examination on grounds of sincerely held beliefs or practices. It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate.*

FEES: All Trappers members are required to pay an activity fee as announced by the Booster Club upon sign-up. The fee is to cover the operating expenses of the trap program. This fee covers required apparel (shirt, vest, and cap), some or all ammunition, clay pigeons, range fees, entry fees, training. The fee does not cover transportation costs to competitions or the cost of food and lodging for out of town competitions. *We do not want financial difficulties to keep anyone from participating in the Arlington High School Trappers team.* Students will be given an opportunity to pay much of the fee through fundraising activities. It is the responsibility of the student to attend as many fundraising opportunities as possible.

Each student will have a “personal account” to which the entire fee will be charged. As the student participates in fundraising or receives sponsorship contributions, those funds will be

“deposited” into that “personal account”, crediting against the fee charge. If the student does not make progress toward the fees via fundraising according to the schedule below, then the student will be expected to pay the due amount of fees to the trap team according to the schedule below. The “personal accounts” exist on paper only; all funds are held in the general fund of the trap club.

Sponsorship contributions will be credited to “personal accounts” at the rate of 90% with 10% going into the general fund unless designated in whole to the general fund of the trap club.

The trap team receives NO FUNDING from Shelby County Schools. At each practice the student consumes ammunition and pigeons that must be paid for at that time, therefore, no student will be allowed to operate in a deficit. A 15 day grace period will be allowed from the day a fee is due until a shooter will be ineligible for practice and/or competition until the account is made current. A copy of the budget can be obtained from the treasurer of the Booster club.

October 31	\$200	Nov. 15 cut-off
January 1	1/5 activity fee	Jan. 15 cut-off
February 1	1/5 activity fee	Feb. 15 cut-off
March 1	1/5 activity fee	Mar. 15 cut-off
April 1	1/5 activity fee	Apr. 15 cut-off
May 1	1/5 activity fee	May 15 cut-off

OUTSIDE COMPETITIONS: While members of the AHS Trappers are encouraged to participate in individual competitions as they desire, they may NOT compete in any competition other than a Trappers event on a team competition date.

PARENT CHAPERONES: The team travels individually in personal vehicles which means we are accompanied by a fairly large number of parents. Because the Coach cannot possibly supervise every student at all times and locations, the success of the program relies heavily on the presence of good parental leadership. The team may stay in hotels and certainly will be eating in restaurants. Every parent should be active and assume responsibility, not only for their student but for all students on the team. They should not hesitate to stop any practices which seem questionable, out of place, or definitely wrong. The following are examples of activities which will not be tolerated:

-rowdiness

-vandalism

-untidy appearance

-anything which might reflect negatively on the expected conduct of the team.

Students must comply with requests from any parent to modify their behavior. Any poor conduct or disrespect should be immediately reported to the Coach.

SQUADDING PROCEDURE: The Coach will be the ultimate authority for determining squad lineups. Squadding will be based on the following criteria:

1) SCTP classification as follows:

Senior Division – Jr. Varsity: Open only to eligible participants in grades 9-12 for a maximum of one (1) SCTP season while participating in this discipline. (**Ineligible for Jr. Varsity**: Any 9th – 12th grade participant who, since beginning grade 9, was ever a member of a Jr. Varsity or Varsity squad (previously identified as a Sr. Novice or Sr. Experienced squad) in a SCTP National Championship where their squad placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd (for this discipline).

Senior Division - Varsity: Open to participants in grades 9-12 who are beginning their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th SCTP season participating in this discipline since beginning grade 9 -or- to any participant in grades 9-12 wishing to compete at an advanced level. **Also eligible**: Any 9th – 12th grade participant deemed ineligible for the Jr. Varsity Division by their squad's placement of 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a SCTP National Championship (for this discipline).

- 2) practice attendance record (shooters must make at least 60% of scheduled practices in order to be considered for one of the first three squads)
- 3) overall attitude, conduct and demeanor of the student
- 4) shooting average
- 5) how a given group of students perform as a unit
- 6) fees must be current to be considered for a competitive squad

The Coach is given discretion to make squadding determinations based on his intent to develop a successful team at large.

RANGE COMMANDS:

1. Shooters to the firing line.
2. Firing line is ready (Eye and ear protection in and the range is hot).
3. Position 1 (shooters name) load your firearm (shooter starts when ready).
4. Cease Firing, cease firing clear and safe your firearm (after five shots).
5. Rotate positions at high port (break open to show gun is unloaded and safety on).

COMMANDS FOR THE GENERAL RANGE:

1. CEASE FIRING, CEASE FIRING! (Immediately safe all fire arms, no ammo in hands.)
2. Firing line is now clear (Range is now safe).
3. All shooters safe your fire arms and clear the line (rack fire arms at high port).
4. Police all shells (no shells in hand).

Range safe: all fire arms safe (taken to rack at high port).

Range hot: Shooters are shooting.

Always follow instructions immediately! Ask questions later. Always follow any adults' instructions.

HISTORY: Trap's origins date to the English live pigeon shoots of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Although shooting pigeons released from "traps" (actually boxes or top hats) grew to be extremely popular with shooters on both sides of the Atlantic, the cost and controversy of using live targets prompted a search for an inanimate substitute.

Inventive shooters tried glass balls full of feathers, tin birds, even exploding targets, until George Ligowsky of Cincinnati made the first "clay pigeon." The first successful "clay" was actually invented here in the United States. The story goes that in 1880, Ligowski was watching boys skip clam shells across the water. Being a shooter, he saw potential in the soaring bivalves and immediately developed a disk made of shells bonded together. Discovering that the flying clam was practically impervious to lead pellets, Ligowski tried a mixture of river silt and tar. It was a smash, literally, and the first clay target was born.

As live bird shooting declined, trap shooting as we know it rose in popularity around the turn of the century. Today trap is thriving, particularly among youth, thanks to the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). In 2006, 7,000 students from fifth through 12th grade now take part in trap, skeet and sporting clay activities and competitions in 35 states.