



HANDBOOK

2019 – 2020 Season

2007 Sctp National Champions
2010 Sctp National Champions
2011 Sctp National Champions
2013 Sctp National Champions
2014 Sctp National Champions

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*** NOTE *** *Proof of a current physical examination (not prior to June 1), proof of insurance / copy of insurance card, and proof of Hunter's Safety must be submitted with signoffs.*

Welcome

The Arlington Trappers coaches' staff would like to welcome all parents and shooters that have shown interest in being part of the nationally ranked Arlington Trap Team. Our coaches are very dedicated to building character, commitment, and teamwork among young men and women who decide to become Trap Shooters for our team. Our coaching staff consists of experienced coaches that will develop inexperienced shooters as well as improve techniques of experienced shooters.

We are excited about the 2019-2020 season! Our goal is to make this our 6th National Championship season!!

Introductions

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 they play and the role model they can be for others.

Participation in competitive shooting sports teaches safe and responsible handling and use of firearms. 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 / Parent Meetings

The purpose of the Trappers Club is to support the trap program in raising money and promoting activities of the trap team. The trap program could not exist or function properly without parental support. The 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 both shooter and 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 host the Monthly Parent Meeting that will be held on the second Tuesday in October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and May at 6:30 pm at the announced location, in addition to called meetings when necessary.

There will be a Parent Meeting Handout distributed at the meetings to discuss items for that particular month. A copy of the Parent Handout, as well as Minutes from the Meeting, will be sent via email by the secretary to all coaches, parents, and shooters to ensure information is being sent to everyone.

Fees

All Trap members are required to pay an activity fee as announced by the Club upon sign-up. The fee is to cover the operating expenses of the Trap program. This fee covers required apparel (shirt, vest, cap, towel, backpack, patches), some or all ammunition, clay pigeons, range fees, league dues and fees (such as ATA & SCTP), insurance, and training...etc. ***The fee does not cover transportation costs to competitions nor the cost of food and lodging for out of town competitions.....also not included... gun, personal equipment (glasses, ear protection,etc), MSSA membership.*

Students will be given an opportunity to pay much of the fee through fundraising activities. 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 their “personal account”, crediting against the total fee charge. Those credits will be applied to the final payments first, aka “**backloaded**”. The student will be expected to continue making the scheduled minimum payments to the Trap club until their adjusted balance is paid off. Balance can be paid off at anytime as long as minimums payments are maintained. The “personal accounts” exists on paper only; all funds are held in the general fund of the Trap Club.

The Trap Club receives NO FUNDING from outside sources. At each practice, the student consumes ammunition and targets that must be paid for at that time. Therefore, no student will be allowed to operate in a deficit. A copy of the budget can be obtained from the Treasurer of the Club.

There is a \$250 fee due at the time of sign up that is non-refundable after the 1st practice. ***If you miss a payment, you are expected to consult with Coach Swatts. A minimum payment schedule is below.***

November 1	1/6 Activity Fee	November 15 Cut Off
January 1	1/6 Activity Fee	January 15 Cut Off
February 1	1/6 Activity Fee	February 15 Cut Off
March 1	1/6 Activity Fee	March 15 Cut Off
April 1	1/6 Activity Fee	April 15 Cut Off
May 1	1/6 Activity Fee	May 15 Cut Off

Trappers

Arlington Trappers is not just another Trap team. We are a **5-time National Championship Team** with back-to-back Championship wins for the 2010-11 seasons and the 2013-14 seasons!

Our accomplishments have been a result of the combined commitment of our coaching staff, trap shooters and trap parents.

The Arlington Trappers Coaching Staff is committed to teaching and improving shooting techniques, mentoring shooters in order to build character and commitment and continue to develop our young men and women into becoming National Championship Teams.

It takes more than commitment from our coaches to be a winning team. The shooters must also be committed to the success of our trap team. This commitment includes:

1. Attend **ALL** practices from the beginning of the season through Nationals in July.
2. Be on-time, properly dressed and have all appropriate shooting attire for practices and tournaments.
3. Properly conduct themselves as members of the Arlington Trappers both “on and off” the field.
4. Communicate *personally* to Coach Swatts for Varsity, Coach Boyd for JV when missing practices, etc.

In addition to the shooter commitment, parents must be committed to the success of our trap team as well. This commitment includes:

1. Getting your athlete that are not of driving age to ALL practices from the beginning of the season through Nationals in July.
2. Participating in potlucks at ALL monthly tournaments at MSSA.

3. Participating in fundraiser events (Sporting Clays Fundraiser, trout Pond, Quail Forever Donations, Delta Fair Parking Lot, and other fundraisers as they arise).
4. Ensuring your shooter attends any out of town shoots (times, places TBD.)
5. Ensuring your shooter attends the Regional Shoot at MSSA.
6. Ensuring your shooter attends the State Championship Shoot in Nashville, TN.
7. Ensuring your shooter attends the National Championship Shoot in Marengo, OH. (location can change)
8. Parents will support the coaches by word and deed.

Arlington Trappers coaching staff has high expectations of both the shooters and parents. It is that level of expectation that has resulted in 5 National Championships. When coaches, shooters and parents are committed and working together, it is evident by the reputation and results that are what makes the Arlington Trappers who we are.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!!

Trappers

- 1) SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES. This is a zero tolerance issue. You must follow ALL range rules and commands.
- 2) Arlington Community Schools has a zero tolerance policy regarding weapons on any school campus. This includes the parking lot. DO NOT bring your firearm to school in your vehicle.
- 3) The use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco (including vaping) in any form is strictly prohibited at any practice or competition. This is a zero tolerance issue.
- 4) The speed limit at MSSA is 15 MPH. You are expected to adhere to it. You will be removed from the range if there is a violation of this rule.
- 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 to June 1) physical examination
 - b) Proof of insurance/copy of insurance card
 - c) Proof of Hunter's Safety
 - d) Signed Trapper Agreement and Full Release
 - e) Signed Trapper Conduct Agreement (contract)
 - f) ATA/AIM Registration
 - g) TNSCTP Code of Conduct
 - h) TNSCTP Parent & Athlete Hold Harmless & Release/Code of Conduct
 - i) SSSF Athlete Consent & Waiver
 - j) 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.

- 9) Be courteous to fellow students, parents, and coaches. No arguing or physical contact. If you disagree with a coach, do so respectfully. If the issue cannot be resolved immediately, ask for another coach to be involved so the issue can be discussed (including discussion with the parents and head coach), and resolved. Respect is earned when respect is given. **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, including the speed limit, or any other range we may visit. You will also abide by the rules of the national SCTP and SASP handbooks, found online at sssfoonline.org.
- 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) Pay attention to the coach when he/she is speaking/instructing. Goofing/disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will earn the athlete a day on the bench.
- 15) The athlete will complete their workout as instructed to improve their physical ability to compete. If you have a problem doing a specific physical activity, discuss this with your coach. Making fun of others (including negatively commenting about someone's ability to complete a workout) will earn you a day on the bench.
- 16) Do what your coach instructs you to do, when they instruct you to do it.
- 17) Squad leaders are responsible for the squad's conduct. Each member of the squad is accountable to each other for their conduct.
- 18) Athletes who violate the above rules (other than a zero tolerance rule) will earn a day on the bench for a full practice. The athlete will sit on the bench, away from other athletes and without phone or other device and will not interfere with or distract other athletes. The athlete must apologize to the coaches and team before being allowed to shoot again.
- 19) If the athlete has been benched 3 times in a month, they will be removed from their current squad. In addition, the parents will be asked to meet with the coaches. If the athlete is already on the last squad, they will sit the bench for a period of time determined by the coaches. The athlete must attend the practices to stay on the team.
- 20) Parents should come to the Board with any concerns they have with any shooter or coach that has not been able to resolve a concern by working with the Head Coach.
- 21) Any shooter who violates any of the three zero tolerance rules above (number 1-3) may be immediately removed from the team for cause. Also, an athlete who continues to have discipline problems, which are not corrected by benching and parental involvement, may be removed from the team with Head Coach and Board approval. **No refunds** of dues/fees will be given if a shooter is removed from the team with cause.

General Guidelines

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS GUN FREE POLICY: According to ACS 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 ACS Handbook 06-07: In compliance with state and federal laws, the Arlington Community School 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 Arlington Community School 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 Trapper 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.

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 pre-participation 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 June 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.

Squad Procedures / Guidelines

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) Overall attitude, conduct and demeanor of the student.
- 3) Shooting average.
- 4) How a given group of students perform as a unit.
- 5) 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.

Competition Guidelines

OUTSIDE COMPETITIONS: While members of the Arlington 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.