

Orion National Air Rifle League 2016 League Program



Sponsored by Shooter's Technology LLC, makers of the Orion Scoring System

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Introduction

Purpose

Orion's National Air Rifle League (The League) is intended to create a bold new competition format, allowing teams from throughout the country to compete virtually in an exciting, spectator friendly league. The League seeks to simultaneously create a low cost, yet meaningful national competition for both elite and developing teams. Teams will compete against teams of their own relative skill level in a round-robin style format during the multi-week regular season, with the league culminating in a single-elimination tournament at the end of the season. All athletes will receive participation pins, and medals will be awarded to approximately 35% of the participating teams and athletes.

Important Dates for the 2016 Season

- Registration Deadline: 16 September 2016.
- Pre-Season: 5 September to 25 September 2016
- Coaches Meeting Webinar: The week of 19 to 23 September, exact date and time not yet set.
- Regular Season: 26 September to 20 November 2016.
- PostSeason Tournament: 28 November to 18 December 2016.

Major Changes from 2015 League Program

- Pre-Season tournament is added, allowing teams to practice for the league prior to the start of league play.
- Regular Season is changed to an 8 week 6 or 7 game season. Each team will be scheduled with at most one game a week, and have at least one bye week.
- Precision Discipline is changed to two conferences, "JROTC" and "Jr. Rifle Clubs."
- Precision Discipline course of fire is changed to 40 shot standing. Sporter league remains a 3x10.
- To ensure more equity among teams in a division, squadding into divisions has changed to be more dependent on a team's seasonal average from last year's season.

League Organization

The League is structured into disciplines, conferences, divisions, teams, seasons, and games. The two disciplines are Sporter air rifle and Precision air rifle. The Sporter discipline is made up of five conferences; these are (1) Army JROTC, (2) Marine Corps JROTC, (3) Navy JROTC, (4) Air Force JROTC, and (5) Jr. Rifle Clubs. The Precision Discipline has two conferences; these

are (1) JROTC and (2) Jr. Rifle Clubs. A conference can have multiple divisions of teams. A division is ideally a group of 8 teams of relatively equal skill level that compete against each other in games. A team consists of four or more air rifle athletes with a coach from a single school or club. A game is one competition between two teams. A complete season has three parts, a pre-season optional tournament, an eight week six or seven game regular season, and a three week single-elimination tournament for the top teams. During the regular season, teams compete only against the other teams from within their division.

Teams are organized into divisions, within a conference, according to their relative and historic skill levels. The division names (from highest to lowest), are Champions, Distinguished, Elite, Governor, Leaders, Master, Premier, Sharpshooter, Tops, and Wizards. The number of divisions within a conference will depend on the number of competing teams. During the regular season, teams compete against other teams in their division in a series of win-loss games. The winner of the division is the team with the highest winning percentage.

In the Sporter Discipline, the top team from each Champions Division, plus the next three teams with highest seasonal average from any division are invited to the single-elimination tournament. In the Precision Discipline, the top two teams from both champions division, plus the next four teams from any division are invited to the single-elimination tournament. There is one tournament for sporter air rifle and one tournament for precision air rifle. The league winner, for each discipline, is the winner of the respective single-elimination Tournament.

Teams will compete each week from their home range. Scores from each team will be merged on the Internet using Orion's Virtual Match technology. Results will be listed live online on Orion's Result Center.

To create year to year parity within divisions, teams are squadded into divisions based on their performance from last year. The Champions Division, in all conferences, is reserved almost exclusively for teams who participated in last year's league. It consists of the top four teams from the previous season's Champions Division, and the top two teams from the Distinguished Division. All other divisions are squadded based on their previous year's seasonal average. New teams will be squadded based on results from well known competitions.

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 makeup 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.

Organization

The League will be structured into disciplines, conferences, teams, divisions, games, and seasons.

Disciplines and Conferences

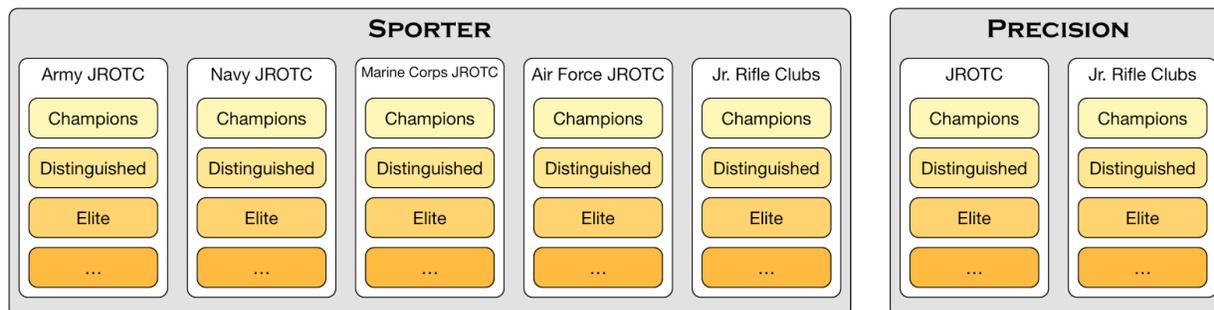
First, teams are sorted into their respective disciplines, Sporter or Precision. Within each discipline, teams will then be grouped within a conference. The Sporter Discipline has five conferences:

- Army JROTC (AJROTC)
- Marine Corps JROTC (MCJROTC)
- Navy JROTC (NJROTC)
- Air Force JROTC (AFJROTC)
- Jr. Rifle Clubs

The Precision Discipline has two conferences:

- JROTC
- Jr. Rifle Clubs

The “Jr. Rifle Club” Conference, in each discipline includes any rifle club that is not affiliated with a JROTC program.



Club, School, and Team Member Requirements

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 Sporter Discipline and one team in Precision Discipline. Individual athletes are only allowed to compete for one team within a single season. An athlete may not compete for a school's sporter team and the same school's precision team within a single season.

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).

Placement in Divisions

Once entries are made, teams will be placed into divisions within their respective conference and discipline. There are ten potential divisions in each conference. These divisions are (from highest seeded to lowest seeded):

1. Champions Division
2. Distinguished Division
3. Elite Division
4. Governor Division
5. Leaders Division
6. Master Division
7. Premier Division
8. Sharpshooter Division
9. Tops Division
10. Wizards Division

The total number of divisions used will be dependent on participation in a given season. There will always be a Champions Division within each conference. The number of additional divisions is likely to fluctuate between seasons.

In the event there are fewer than 5 teams in a conference in the Sporter Discipline, the two conferences with the lowest number of teams will be merged. The resulting merged conference will have one automatic bid into the single-elimination tournament, one additional at large bid will be available to the next highest qualifying team from any conference.

Conferences within the same discipline will not always have the same number of divisions. For example, in the Sporter Discipline, there may be 4 divisions for AJROTC, 3 divisions for NJROTC, 2 divisions for MCJROTC, 1 division for AFJROTC, and 3 divisions for Junior Rifle Clubs.

Each division will ideally have 8 teams. However, there could be as few as 5 or as many as 12 teams, depending on participation. There will be an emphasis to make divisions of an even number of teams, this is to try to allow each team to have one bye week during the season.

During the regular season, teams will only compete against teams from within their division. This ensures that teams are competing with and measured against teams of relatively equal marksmanship skill. Division rankings are based on a team's win/loss record, then subsequently the highest seasonal score average.

Team Seeding into Divisions

A major goal of The League is to divide teams into divisions of relatively equal skill level. To do this, teams will be seeded based on their performances in the previous year's regular season.

The Champion's Division, in each conference, will be composed of the following:

- The top four teams from the previous season's Champion's Division.
- The top two teams from the previous season's Distinguished Division.
- The remaining slots will be filled with the teams with the highest seasonal average from the previous season, or for new teams entering the league their qualifying score.

For all other divisions (e.g. Distinguished, Elite, etc) teams will be squadded into divisions based on either their previous season's seasonal average, or for new teams entering the league, their qualifying score. The teams with the highest seasonal average or qualifying score will be squadded into the Distinguished Division, the next highest teams into the Elite Division, and so on.

The qualifying score for new teams entering the league will be calculated from well known competitions. See the "Registration" section below for more information on how the qualifying score is calculated.

Games

A "game" is when two teams compete against each other. Current National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules will govern the conduct of each game, except where clearly stated otherwise within this league program. In the Sporter discipline each team will shoot a 3x10. In the Precision discipline each team will shoot 40 shots standing. 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).

In the Precision Discipline the course of fire was changed from a 3x10 in 2015 to a 40 shot standing match this season, due to a desire from NCAA coaches to see more standing air rifle scores from potential recruits.

In a regular season game, each team may shoot as many athletes as they wish but only the top four athletes' scores will count. In the single-elimination tournament, each team may only shoot five athletes, with the top four scores counting.

All scoring will be done electronically with Orion, using integer scoring and inner tens. 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.

Teams have the full calendar week, defined as Monday through Sunday, to shoot and submit their scores to Orion. Teams are encouraged to submit their scores before Saturday at 4:00 EST. This is Orion's telephone support closing time, if a team needs assistance with Orion they will not be able to contact support after this time. Team scores submitted after midnight Sunday EST will not be accepted, and the team will be given a Did Not Start (DNS).

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 circumstance, shoot one course and count its score for more than one game.

With the permission of the League Administrator teams are permitted to use targets and scores shot during un-related 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.

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:

- Playing music during the competition, as permitted by rule 7.14.
- 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.

Regular Season and League Tournament

A "season" is the complete set of games. In a season, each team will compete against other teams in their division. Each team competes in one or two games a week, with potentially one bye week. Weeks begin on Monday and end on Sunday (See the "Games" section for more details). The season's schedule of games will be announced one week prior to the start of the season.

There is one season per year, consisting of three parts, a "pre-season," the "regular season," and the "single-elimination tournament."

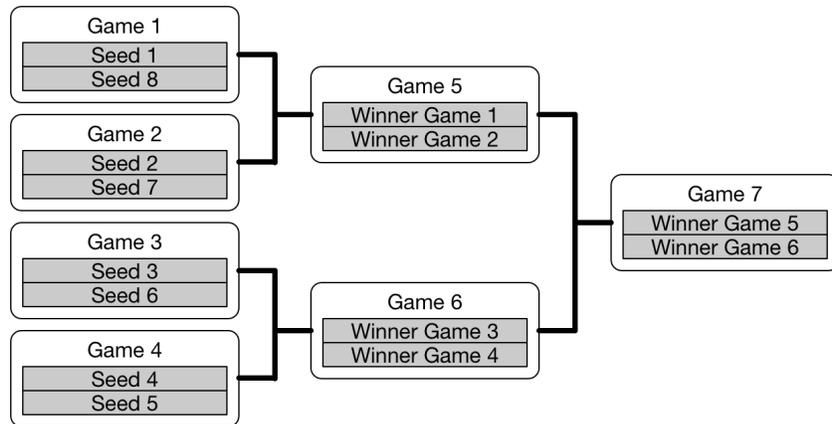
- The pre-season is optional but recommended competition for all teams. It consists of a single-game course of fire amongst all teams. Its purpose is to allow teams to practice competing in the league in a non-counting game. The pre-season competition lasts from 5 September to 25 September 2016.
- All teams will compete in the regular season. The regular season is 8 weeks long, and scheduled to end the Sunday before Thanksgiving, 26 September to 20 November 2016. Each team will compete in 6 or 7 games during the regular season. 7 games for divisions of an even number of teams, and 6 games for divisions of an odd number of teams. Depending on the size of the division, teams might not compete against all other teams, or they might compete against some teams twice. The regular season schedule is created randomly by Orion. Within a division teams are ranked by their win-loss record.
- At the end of the regular season, the top eight teams will be invited to participate in the single-elimination tournament also called the “post-season,” 28 November to 18 December 2016. The single-elimination tournament determines the league champion. There will be a tournament for Sporter air rifle and a tournament for Precision air rifle. Teams will be seeded, 1 through 8, into the tournament based on their seasonal average. All invited teams will participate in the first week of the tournament. The winning teams will then participate in the second week. Finally, the two remaining unbeaten teams in the tournament will compete for the championship title during the third week.

Teams invited to the Sporter Tournament will be:

- The first place team from the Army JROTC Champions Division.
- The first place team from the Navy JROTC Champions Division.
- The first place team from the Marine Corps JROTC Champions Division.
- The first place team from the Air Force JROTC Champions Division.
- The first place team from the Jr. Rifle Club Champions Division.
- The next three teams with the highest seasonal average, from any division or conference.

Teams invited to the Precision Tournament will be:

- The first and second place team from the JROTC Champions Division.
- The first and second place team from the Jr. Rifle Club Champions Division.
- The next four teams with the highest seasonal average, from any division or conference.



Teams with two or more Did Not Starts (DNS) or one or more Disqualified (DSQ) games are not eligible for the single-elimination tournament.

DNS and DSQ games do not count towards a team seasonal average.

Tie-breaking between teams of equal win-loss record within a division, during the regular season, will be as follows:

- Fewest number of DSQ games.
- Fewest number of DNS games.
- Highest seasonal average.
- 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.

Tie-breaking between teams of equal season average, for invitations into the single-elimination tournament, and for squadding into the single-elimination tournament will be as follows:

- 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 by completing the entry form at the end of this document or online at www.orionscoringsystem.com/airrifleleague. Schools and clubs are allowed to submit one team registration in the Precision discipline and one team registration in the Sporter discipline.

Registration is open until 16 September 2015.

A team coach must be listed for each team. He or she will be the designated point of contact for the team and be responsible for submitting scores to Orion for each game. His or her contact information will be shared with all other coaches in the division.

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.

Teams participating in the National Air Rifle League for the first time will be asked to provide historical scores from well known matches. These scores will count towards the teams "qualifying score" for purposes are squadding into divisions. Some examples of well known matches scores may be pulled from include the JROTC postal competition, the US Army Junior Air Rifle Championship, state three-position Junior Olympics, and the NRA Open Air Gun Championship.

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:

- 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 who want to shoot in either Precision or Sporter air rifle.
- An athlete may only be compete for one team.

The sponsoring school or club must be an Orion for Clubs customer and has the Result Center enabled. Clubs that do not yet have Orion Scoring Systems may purchase a bundle from Orion Scoring System's website (<http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/orion/BundleList.aspx>).

Fees

There will be an annual per team registration fee to participate in a League. For the 2016 season, the annual fee is \$60 per team. If a club or school chooses to have both a Precision air rifle team and a Sporter air rifle team, the annual fee must be paid for both teams (\$120).

Teams are responsible for having a valid, uptodate Orion license and providing their own Orion air rifle targets for the games. Targets may be purchased from Orion Scoring System's website (<http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/orion/TargetList.aspx>).

The registration fee is complimentary (\$0) for clubs or teams who have purchased an Orion Scoring System since 1 June 2016. 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 participation and award schedule for 2016 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.
- Engraved medals for up to ten athletes in each of the top three teams within each division.
- An Orion Scoring System hat for coach for the top three teams in each division.
- A banner for each of the top three teams within each division.
- A trophy for each team that makes the single elimination tournament.
- Each athlete who participates in the single-elimination tournament will receive a participation medal unique for the tournament.
- A plaque for the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in each single-elimination tournament; the MVP is defined as the athlete from the team that wins the tournament who has the highest average score throughout the tournament, and who participated in all three tournament games.
- 2,000 Orion air rifle targets for the league champion team.

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 and post-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 Leagues 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 www.facebook.com/NationalAirRifleLeague.

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 Orion Scoring System.
- 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.

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.

From time-to-time, team coaches may be asked to verify the scores they submit. Verification can be achieved through submitting the target images scored by Orion via the Orion cloud backup. Failure to provide verification will result in a DSQ for that game.

If any team is found to have intentionally manipulated any submitted score or intentionally or through negligence violated National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules, all teams from that school or club will be immediately disqualified from the current season, and the school or club will have a three year ban on competing in any Orion 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 preventing a team from shooting one week.

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, 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

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.

Instructions for Reporting Scores

The following subsections generally explain how to report scores for League matches. More detailed instructions with relevant links for participating in a League Game and reporting scores is available on Orion's website at <http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/106>.

Matches will be available to download each Monday after 12:00 noon EST.

Requirements

- Version 2.3.26 of Orion.
- Each participating team has to be an Orion for Clubs customer and have the Result Center enabled.

Competing in a Game

To Orion, a league game is a special type of Child Match. The game has to be downloaded from Orion's Result Center. By doing so, Orion will know the rulebook, course of fire, and most importantly, the teams competing. Once downloaded competing in the game is almost identical to any other match.

1. Download the Game

- a. Open Orion to see Orion's "Welcome Screen." Or if Orion is already open, from Orion's menu bar, click on 'File' then 'Show Welcome Screen.'
- b. Under "Create a New Match" click on the name of the match to download it from the Internet.
 - Matches will be available to download after 12:00 EST on Monday of each week.
 - The Match may only be downloaded once.
 - If you can not find the match to download please contact the League Administrator at league@shooterstech.net.

2. Specifying Team Members

The team names were downloaded with the game, so there is no need to create the team on the 'Match Teams' tab, however you must still specify the team members.

- a. Click on the 'Match Competitors' tab.
- b. In the row that represents the shooter to add to a team, select the appropriate team in the Team column drop down list.
- c. Repeat for each team member.

3. Scoring Targets

Score and assign targets normally. Scoring targets in a game is just like a traditional Orion Match. For questions regarding scoring targets please contact Orion's support at (703) 596 0099.

4. Uploading Results

Orion will automatically upload your game's results to the Internet, provided your computer has Internet access. No special action is required.

2016 Orion National Air Rifle League Registration Form

For more information, including the complete League Program or to register online visit

www.orionscoringsystem.com/airrifleleague

Registration Deadline is 16 September 2016

School or Club Name: _____

Orion Account Number: _____

Coach's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Shipping Address

(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Please check the team's discipline/League (Clubs/Schools may enter only one team in the Sporter league and one team in the Precision league. Check both if entering both leagues.)

Precision Air Rifle

Sporter Air Rifle

The fee to compete in only one discipline for the 2016 season is \$60 per club/school. If a club/school is participating in both Sporter and Precision, the total fee is \$120. Please mail your team's check (made payable to "Shooter's Technology LLC") and this registration form to Orion Scoring System at:

10302 Bristow Center Drive, PMB #55,
Bristow, VA 20136.

Please check the most appropriate team designation:

Army JROTC

Navy JROTC

Marine Corps JROTC

Air Force JROTC

Junior Rifle Club/Other

Number of athletes expected to compete: _____

Did your team participate in the 2015 Air Rifle League: Yes No

On behalf of my team, athletes, and fellow coaches, we pledge to abide by the National Three-Position Air Rifle Rules, adhere to the National Three-Position Air Rifle League program, and conduct ourselves with the highest ethical, moral, and sportsmanship standards in each game and throughout the season. I have read and understand the 2016 National Air Rifle League Program, and I agree to follow the rules and regulations within it.

(Coach's Signature)

(Date)

2016 Orion National Air Rifle League Registration Form - Cont.

A key principle of The League is increasing the sport's spectator appeal. To attract greater positive attention to the sport, to participating teams, and to The League, Orion Scoring System will actively write and distribute press releases and post on social media. To provide greater visibility for your team at a local level, please provide the name and contact information of your school and/or local newspaper.

School Newspaper: _____
(Name) (Email Address)

Local Newspaper: _____
(Name) (Email Address)

If you would like for us to send results to any other media outlets, please write in the name and email address at the bottom of this page.

Orion Scoring System will maintain a League Facebook page. The page can be found at www.facebook.com/NationalAirRifleLeague. We recommend "liking" the page and sharing it with your athletes, as it will be used to provide League information and updates for participants. Additionally, 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 page with friends, family, and basically anyone else!

Because one of the key principles of The Leagues 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 through sharable postings.

Please remember that 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. Please attach the team photo to an email and send to league@shooterstech.net.

Important Dates

- Registration Deadline: 16 September 2016.
- Pre-Season: 5 September to 25 September 2016
- Coaches Meeting Webinar: The week of 19 to 23 September.
- Regular Season: 26 September to 20 November 2016.
- PostSeason Tournament: 28 November to 18 December 2016.