



NATIONAL PPP LEAGUE

Updated: 14 July 2015

Purpose and Background

The National PPP League is intended to provide significant and meaningful competition opportunities to junior air pistol athletes, encourage the growth of air pistol clubs, generate greater public awareness of the air pistol discipline, and develop athletes who can compete at the international level.

Definitions

The National PPP League will be structured into teams, division, seasons and games.

A Division is a group of 6 to 12 teams, of relatively equal skill level, that compete against each other in games.

A Game is one competition between two teams. A season is an 8-16 week period during which each team competes once against every other team within the division. The winner of the division is the team with the highest number of wins. Each team will have two designated firing members. Each firing member will shoot 40 shots. The winning team is the team with the highest sum of the two-team members' scores.

Each Team should expect to compete in a new game almost every week throughout the season.

There are four Divisions, labeled A, B, C, and D. Divisions A and B will be for teams comprising of only international standing athletes. Divisions C and D will be for "mixed" teams comprising of one standing supported athlete and one basic supported athlete (additional team make ups area allowed, see "Organization" section on page 4 for details). Medals will be awarded to the top three teams in each division. See chart below.

Division	Team Category	Team Members	Comments	Medals	Medal Count
A	Int'l Standing	2 Int'l Standing Athletes	Top seeded teams from previous competition scores	Gold, Silver and Bronze Team medals	6
B	Int'l Standing	2 Int'l Standing Athletes		Gold, Silver and Bronze Team medals	6
C	Mixed	1 Basic Supported and 1 Standing Supported	Top seeded teams from previous competition scores	Gold, Silver and Bronze Team medals	6
D	Mixed	1 Basic Supported and 1 Standing Supported		Gold, Silver and Bronze Team medals	6
				Each Competition Season *	24



Based on a minimum of 3-5 teams per division

- Gold medals - minimum of 3 teams
- Silver medals - minimum of 4 teams
- Bronze medals - minimum of 5 teams

The Ole Mill Range USAS Certified Training Center and Georgia Competitive Shooters are sponsoring the PPP League program and will provide the medals.

All athletes must be juniors as defined by USA Shooting.

Virtual competitions: Due to the geographical dispersion most games are expected to be virtual, where each team competes on their home range. In a Virtual Match coaches from opposing teams are encouraged to coordinate their schedule so that both teams shoot the game at the same time.

Electronic target systems: Clubs with Megalink, Sius or other electronic target systems will have to purchase an Orion Scorecard license to upload their scores into Orion's Result Center.

Orion Scorecard is an online tool that allows clubs to post scores online, including results, even when the Orion Scoring System did not generate those scores. The annual license fee for Scorecard is \$88/year.

A Season is the complete set of games. In a season each team will compete against every other team in their League division, one game a week. The season's schedule of games will be announced one week prior to the start of the season.

There are two seasons annually, Fall and Spring.

- * The Fall 2015 Season will start 14 September 2015 and will last until 13 December 2015.
- * The Winter 2016 Season will start 8 February 2016 and will last until 15 May 2016.

Background

All scoring must be done electronically and locally.

The National PPP League is modeled after the very successful German Shooting Federation's Bundesliga. The Bundesliga features 5-person teams, but the National PPP League will start with 2-person teams because of the small numbers of current participants. Teams are organized into divisions according to their relative skill levels.

All junior air pistol athletes in the United States are encouraged to participate, including athletes already a member of the National Junior Team or Junior Olympic Squad as well as less developed athletes still enhancing their skill.



During the season, teams in one division compete against each other on a head to head / win-loss basis. Teams are ranked according to their win-loss record. In the Bundesliga, at the conclusion of each season the top two teams advance to the next highest division, and the bottom two teams drop to the lower division. The National PPP League will use a similar format but only between the A and B divisions, and the C and D divisions.

There are only two types of divisions, one for teams of international standing athletes and one for mixed teams. This allows teams to be able to move up and down divisions between seasons. This achieves the goal of allowing teams to always compete against teams of similar skill level. A mixed team is a two person team composing of one basic supported and one standing supported, one basic supported and one international standing, two standing supported, or one standing supported and one international standing athletes.

With respect to the mixed division it is recognized that there are currently a significant number of basic supported athletes and fewer standing supported athletes. Given this, some clubs may argue for a division only of basic supported teams. The league did consider this option. However, an important goal of the league is to encourage the development of athletes who can win medals at the national and international level. Developmentally, once a basic supported athlete can consistently shoot 360 or better, he or she should be moved up to the standing supported position, regardless of age. By creating divisions of mixed teams the league will be encouraging clubs to move their top basic supported athletes to standing supported. This in turn achieves the league's goal of encouraging and developing air pistol athletes more quickly.

Another key principle of the National Junior Air Pistol League is increasing public awareness of the sport. The League will achieve this through regular press releases, social media, and using common sport terminology. The terminology and makeup of the League was selected specifically to be familiar to almost anyone, inside or outside of the sport. By raising awareness and familiarity the goal is to increase the number of participating teams and people following the sport.

Future Considerations

League rules are expected to change over time. In the first few League seasons, league rules will encourage participation, planting the foundation for future growth. As the league develops, the rules will be modified to encourage participation less and athlete development and competition more. This document will list both the current League rules as well as intended future changes. Future changes will be *italicized*.



Organization

The Orion Air Pistol League will consist of 4 divisions. Each division will consist of 6 to 12 two person teams. The exact number of divisions and teams per division will depend on participation. The divisions and their makeup are as follows:

- * **A Division:** Two person teams, each member shooting International Standing.
- * **B Division:** Two person teams, each member shooting International Standing.
- * **C Division:** Two person “mixed position” teams (see below for definition).
- * **D Division:** Two person “mixed position” teams, (see below for definition).

Each team will compete against every other team in their division, with one game almost every week. Bye weeks will be built into the schedule to allow athletes to compete in major national competitions (e.g. the Junior Olympic Shooting Championships) and major holidays (e.g. the week of thanksgiving). Each game will determine a winning team and losing team. Within each division, teams will be ranked according to their respective win-loss record. Ties are broken by the team’s average score during the season. Weekly competition is essential to reaching program goals because only through frequent practice and competition can young pistol athletes experience real growth.

Teams will be seeded based on their performances in the previous League season. In principle, the two lowest ranking teams in last season’s A Division would drop to the B Division in the current season. Likewise, the two highest-ranking teams in last season’s B Division would advance to the A Division this season. The same will occur with the C and D Divisions. Teams joining the league for the first time will be seeded in the lowest ranking divisions.

Because team composition is expected to change from one season to the next, it won’t always be possible for the exact same team members to shoot together in a new season. When this occurs the team coach may designate a different team, with at least one of the same team members from the previous season, as the replacement team for the new season. For example, if “Amanda and Ben” shot together in Division A during the previous season, but Ben is no longer competing, the team coach can designate “Amanda and Chris” as the replacement team to compete in division A in the new season. The team coach could not designate “Chris and Daniel” as the replacement team since neither of these were on the original team. “Chris and Daniel” are a new team and will be placed in the lowest seeded division.

The League Administrator is authorized to promote teams to higher seeded divisions when open team slots are available. Open team slots would be available in instances where a team drops out of the league from one year to the next, or the division is expanded to a larger number of teams. Open team slots in a division will be filled from teams in the next lowest division based solely on the team's seasonal average from the previous season. The team with the highest average will get promoted.



A “**mixed position**” team may be any of the following:

- 1 Basic Supported and 1 Standing Supported athlete.
- 1 Basic Supported and 1 International Standing athlete.
- 2 Standing Supported athletes.
- 1 Standing Supported and 1 International Standing athlete.

Teams of two basic supported athletes are prohibited.

If participation is high enough additional divisions of either type (international standing or mixed teams) may be added.

In future iterations, the league is considering, for the top two teams in Division C (the top mixed team division), requiring at least one, if not both, of the team members to advance to the next highest position starting with the next season. By winning, or placing second in Division C, the team members have demonstrated a mastery of their current PPP position. By requiring one or both of them to move to the next most difficult position the league is once again encouraging the development of pistol athletes.

Team members must be active, participating members of the same club or school team. No all-star teams are allowed (athletes selected from more than one club or school). An athlete may only be a member of one team. A club or school may enter multiple teams in the leagues. A team member alternate may be used in a game instead of the regular team member in cases where the regular team member cannot compete that week (e.g. due to illness). Alternates may not be a member of any other team in the same division or in a higher division (an alternate may be a member of a team in a lower division) and must compete in the same or more difficult PPP position. Clubs are not allowed to exchange team members during a league season, but they may change team members between seasons.

In one to two years the team make up will be re-evaluated. Possible changes include the following:

- * *Teams may consist of three firing members, not two.*
- * *A club will designate three club members for each game.*
- * *The firing members from each club must include at least one male athlete and one female athlete.*
- * *Regional leagues may be added to accommodate even greater participation.*

Games Administration

Current USA Shooting PPP rules will govern the conduct of each game, USA Shooting rules will be used for tie-breaking (rule 6.15.1).

Electronic scoring is important to ensure that all shots are scored according to the same standards and that scores are reported in a timely manner.



The Orion Scoring System will do all scoring electronically with integer scoring and inner tens or any ISSF approved Electronic Scoring System (e.g. MegaLink or Sius) may be used.

Clubs with electronic target systems will use Orion Scorecard to upload and import their scores into the League management system. Scores will be reported to Orion's Result Center (www.orionresults.com), which will manage and display the league season including rankings.

Where geographically possible and individual team schedules permit, games should be at a single location at the same time. Due to the geographical dispersion most games are expected to be virtual, where each team competes on their home range. In a Virtual Match coaches from opposing teams are encouraged to coordinate their schedule so that both teams shoot the game at the same time.

Teams have the full calendar week, defined as Monday through Sunday, to shoot and submit their scores to Orion. Team scores submitted after midnight Sunday (EST) will be given a DNS (did not start) and assigned a loss.

Both team members must fire their scores at the club range on the same date and time, shooting on adjacent firing points.

Teams will be ranked according to their win-loss record. Teams with the same winning percentage will be ranked according to the highest seasonal score average. Teams with the same seasonal average will be ranked by the highest game score they shot during the season, then the second highest game score, and so on, until the tie is broken.

Team Registration, Selection, and Fees

Team registration is free. However, the sponsoring club must be an Orion for Clubs customer or an Orion Scorecard customer with access to an electronic target system.

Clubs may register a team by completing the entry form at the end of this document. Clubs are allowed to submit multiple teams in the League. An athlete may only be a regular team member for one team.

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.

One coach and two junior athletes may form a team and enter the team in the League. It is not necessary that the team represent a USAS affiliated club. To compete in the league, a team needs a place to shoot, two air pistols and an Orion for Clubs or electronic target system (with an Orion Scorecard license).

Teams from clubs who registered for previous seasons but subsequently failed to actively participate may not be allowed to register for the current season.



Teams from outside the United States are allowed to compete in the league with permission from the League Administrator. If a team from outside the United States wins a medal, due to higher shipping costs, the league will unlikely be able to ship the medals to the team. However, the team may elect to pay for the international shipping costs if they wish to receive the medals.

Press Releases

To attract greater positive attention to the sport, to the League, and to the participating clubs and athletes, the League will actively write and distribute press releases. Press releases will be prepared prior to the start of each season, every week recapping the results from the previous week's games, and at the conclusion of the season.

Starting with the Winter 2015 season, each team may be required to provide head shot photographs of their team members. These photographs may be used as part of any press release 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 conducting each game according to USA Shooting PPP rules. They are responsible for scheduling each game within the time frame of the week, and submitting the scores to Orion by midnight Sunday (EST) each week.

Team Coaches will designate two firing members for each game. The regular team members are required to compete unless the team coach notifies the League Administrator 1 hour prior to the start of the game (email is sufficient). Single game alternates may be made from either an athlete in a lower division representing the same club, or a club athlete not participating in the league in any division. An alternate must shoot the same or more difficult PPP position as the regular team member.

Team Coaches who know in advance that one or both of his or her team members will not be available for a particular game (e.g. they are traveling to a national competition) the coach may, with permission from the League Administrator, elect to shoot their game early or ask for the game to be reschedule later in the same season. Team Coaches should make such requests at or near the start of each season, once the schedule is announced. Team Coaches may also ask for a game to be rescheduled due to exceptional circumstances, such as inclement weather.

Team coaches are responsible for the correct use of either their Orion or electronic target system.

Team coaches are responsible for the honesty and integrity of their competition procedures, their team members, and all team representatives.

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 one weeks prior to the start of the league.



From time to time team coaches will be asked to verify the scores they submit. Verification can be achieved through a photo screenshot from an electronic target system, or submitting the paper targets if scored by Orion. Failure to provide verification will result in a lost game. If any club is found to have intentionally manipulated any submitted score or intentionally violated USAS PPP rules, all teams from that club will be disqualified, and the club will have a two-year ban on competing in the National PPP League.

Instructions for Coaches to Report Scores

Instructions for participating in a League Game and reporting scores is available on Orion's website at <http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/106>.

League Administrator and Jury of Appeals

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 changes to League rules, to accommodate specific needs of club, will be allowed if approved by the League Administrator.

The League Administrator may issue clarification statements regarding the conduct of the League during the season. The League Administrator may only make changes to the League rules between seasons.

League Administrator responsibilities will be split between two individuals, Mike Theimer with USA Shooting and Erik Anderson with Orion Scoring System. Contact information will be as follows.

Mike Theimer
USA Shooting
719 866 4889
Michael.Theimer@usashooting.org

Erik Anderson
Orion Scoring System
703 335 7760
erik@shooterstech.net

In case of a rules dispute or disagreement over the conduct of the league USA Shooting assistant national pistol team coaches will serve as the Jury of Appeals. They are Mike Theimer, Steve Faught, and Eric Pueppke.



Registration Form Instructions:

- * Complete the online registration form: <http://www.usashooting.org/membership/youth-programs/youthpistol/national-ppp-league-program>
- * Select either the International Standing category (A and B divisions) or Mix Position category (C and D divisions). Clubs submitting teams for the Mix divisions must enter one Standing Support and one Basic Supported athlete (or a more difficult position).
- * List air pistol scores fired by each athlete in competition from the last 12 months. Include scores from national championships prior to scores from local competitions.
- * Clubs may enter multiple teams.