



Scout Inter-County – Team Airgun Championships. 12-13th April 2025



Dear All,

Thank you for your interest in this, the 24th annual Inter-County Team Shooting Championships for Scouts.

The competition has been arranged for the weekend of 12-13th April 2025 at the NSRA Shooting Centre Aldersley, Wolverhampton, West Midlands. The event is designed to enable the best shooters from each Scout County to come together and compete shoulder to shoulder at National level. The event is open to all invested Scouts subject to these competition rules.

The trophy for the event is “The Andrew Hill Memorial Shield”, established in memory of a shooter who spent a great amount of his time in the training and promotion of young shooters. It is competed on an annual basis.

The range will be available on Saturday 12th April, principally for training and practice. The match is scheduled for the Sunday. If compelling reasons exist, the organisers may exceptionally permit the early completion of match cards on Saturday. The time taken by any early shoots will be deducted from that team’s allocation on the Sunday.

The overall structure is as previous competitions. Teams will be allocated a total of 5½ lane-hours of range space in which each member of the 8-person team is to shoot 40 competition shots: 20 with an air rifle and 20 with an air pistol.

The structure of this team event is designed to encourage entries at varying levels of age and experience, so don't be put off if shooting in your County is in its infancy. You are encouraged also to bring “travelling reserves” who will shoot for individual honours in a Reserves Match, of which there will be one for each age group (Under 13 and 13+) if not called up into their county team. This is an opportunity to give developing shooters competition experience. Counties not entering a team may still enter up to four individuals (all aged under-18) into the reserves match.

Entries will be on a first come first served basis as they arrive with the organisers. However, entry is limited to one team per Scout County so if the organisers receive multiple entries from the same Scout County, the applicant team captains will be contacted and asked to put forward a single team to represent that County.

To prevent congestion of the range area, the maximum number of persons in any team present on or behind the firing point will be limited to 3, with the rest of the team members remaining in a holding area (25m range area) until required on the firing point. This allows for 1 person shooting, 1 waiting or getting ready to shoot and 1 coach. The person who has finished shooting then returns to the holding area to inform the next shooter to come into the range to make ready and so on.

The re-adjustment of a rifle for a different shooter may be carried out on the firing point and compressed air refilling may be done on or immediately behind the firing point between shooters. Once a shooter has commenced their series of shots the coach is not permitted to handle any equipment on the firing point (including rifle, pistol, pellets, target cards or changer) until the end of the series. If requested by their shooter, the team coach may speak quietly with the shooter on the firing point without asking the Range Officer on each separate occasion but if work on a rifle or pistol is required (other than normal adjustments by the shooter) the RO's permission must be sought for its removal from the firing point and subsequent replacement or return.

The cost per team this year will be £120.00 per team plus £12 per travelling reserve – the entry fee being payable with your application. Entries may be made by post or email, preferably the latter. Payment may be made by direct bank transfer in either case but must be by this means if entering by email. Entries will not be accepted by telephone.

Cheques should be made payable to Shropshire Scouts County Fund.

Bank details are: Sort code 20-77-85, A/c No. 60814474, with reference “Rifles[County]” and email to countytreasurer@shropshirescouts.org.uk; john.dohoo@shropshirescouts.org.uk when payment is made.

The closing date for entries is Tuesday 25th March.

Entries must be complete but subsequent substitutions will be permitted. Acknowledgement of entry form acceptance will be by email.

The competition will consist of all the members of the team (8 persons per team) shooting both air pistol and air rifle and the aggregate score for both will decide the Championship Trophy winners. Annual trophies for the highest scoring team for pistol, rifle and aggregate scores will be awarded. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded to each member of the top three placed teams in the aggregate class. Gold medals will be awarded to the highest scoring shooters (Rifle, Pistol & Aggregate) under 13 and over 13. Gold, (and silver and bronze medals if entries warrant) will be awarded to top performing individual aggregate scorers in the each of the two Reserves matches.

Packed lunches should be brought with you. There will be a break of approx. 30 minutes for lunch to be taken.

Shooters should dress for comfort. Participants should bring with them their Scout uniform for the prize-giving at the end of the competition.

It is the responsibility of individual leaders/groups etc. to ensure that "Permission to Shoot/Camp" forms are completed for the event. If you plan to stay over-night prior to or during the event (and any of Patshull, Wrekin, Beaudesert and Kinver Scout Campsites amongst others may be suitable) it is the responsibility of the individual teams to arrange local accommodation or camping facilities and Nights Away notification.

The Rules:-

Competition General

The Range officer's decision is final in all matters of safety, range discipline and competition rules.

NSRA competition rules apply to equipment, clothing and conduct except where changed specifically for this competition as indicated by these rules or by the organisers. Scout POR Rule 9.11.5 also applies. The coach/leader of each team is responsible for familiarising themselves and the other members of the team with the relevant rules.

All shooting shall be at 10 metres.

Formal equipment control will not be required on arrival but random checks may be made during the event. Attention is drawn to the 500 gram trigger weight requirement for both air pistols and Sporter air rifles. Breaches of the rules could result in the individual and/or team being disqualified.

Date of birth of competitors aged under 18 must be provided, and ages will be calculated as on the day of the competition. Competitors aged 18 and over need not provide their date of birth but must provide their Scout Association member number.

Teams are responsible for providing their own equipment, which must include at least one Sporter-compliant air rifle, at least one air pistol and sufficient flat headed wadcutter pellets. Teams are also responsible for compressed air resupply if using pre-charged equipment.

Rifle

All air rifles used shall be Sporter-compliant and all rifle shooters shall dress and shoot in accordance with the Sporter Rifle Rules¹ save only that a maximum of 3 team members aged Under-13 may shoot taking support from the bench. If bench-resting only the body and/or elbows are permitted to touch the firing point – specifically not either hand - whether gloved or otherwise, forearm nor any part of the rifle.

Those aged 13 and above shall shoot free standing. Rifle stands are permitted.

Targets will be NSRA Air 3/89-18 and competitors shall fire 20 shots on 4 competition cards (one shot per target diagram).

Pistol

Juniors aged under 13 may fire two handed. All others to use one unsupported hand.

All must shoot free standing, with no part of the body or gun touching the bench. Devices, means or garments which support or immobilise the shooter's legs, body or arms are prohibited. Footwear must not cover the ankle.

Targets will be NSRA Air 4/89-18 and competitors shall fire 20 shots on 4 competition cards (five shots per card).

Travelling Reserves

Will compete as individuals in a match to be conducted along the same lines (20 shots air rifle in a 20-minute detail in the morning and 20 shots pistol in a 20-minute detail in the afternoon). Equipment can be provided for reserves if required. The lanes for this match will be additional to those allocated to teams.

¹ <https://www.nsra.co.uk/index.php/downloads/sporter-air/category/82-rules?download=71:sporter-air-rifle-rules-1-jan-2013>

Notes

Any person bringing airguns to the range must do so with due regard to the laws relating to the carrying of firearms in public places. (The car park at Aldersley is a public place).

Only standard **open sights** will be allowed, this can include ring sights (diopetre), standard notch and post, etc. **No telescopic, red-dot or laser** type sights are permitted.

Scoring will be in accordance with NSRA rules.

The competition will be run in 2 parts, with each team being allocated a lane for the whole event. Lane positions will be allocated on booking-in, and all the members of the team will normally use the same lane. The organisers may, in order to accommodate more teams, to meet the needs of particular teams or to respond to special circumstances, vary this within the overall limit of 5½ lane-hours per team for the entire competition.

Sighting shots may be fired but the time taken in sighting is from within the team's overall allocation of 5½ lane-hours.

The ranges will be open for shooting between 1000hrs to 1245hrs and from 1315 to 1600hrs. Rifle shall normally be shot in the morning and pistol in the afternoon. However, this may be varied at the range officer's discretion if unforeseen circumstances warrant it.

The event will commence with a safety briefing at 0930hrs. Make sure you arrive early enough to start at this time.

The presentation of medals and trophies is scheduled for 1620hrs so that everyone may depart at around 1700hrs.

It is the responsibility of each team captain to ensure their shooters are safe and suitably competent in both air rifle and air pistol shooting at 10m and to ensure discipline of their team members both on the firing point and in the holding area.

Sighting targets will be available and sighting shots are permitted but within competition time. It is up to each individual/team to ensure that their equipment is set up correctly prior to arrival at the range.

Only those targets issued specifically for the competition will be used.

Disabled shooters holding an NSRA dispensation should bring their dispensation certificate with them.

Disabled shooters with a Paralympic or DSGB classification of SH1 or SH2 may shoot in accordance with the conditions of the relevant class (subject to the use of a Sporter Air Rifle and non-specialised clothing etc.). It is regretted that SH3 (visually impaired) shooters cannot be included in teams as the scoring system is incompatible with those relating to Air-3 and Air-4 targets.

The Team

Teams consist of **8 people, all of whom must be members of The Scout Association** and must be accompanied by or include at least one person with a relevant target shooting qualification. The team captain (who may shoot but is not required to do so) must hold an adult appointment within the Scout Association. There must be at least one adult aged 21 or over in or with the team.

The team

- **MUST** include at least one, but not more than 3 Scouts aged 12 or under, who will be permitted to shoot rifle bench-rested.
- **Must NOT** include more than one Scout aged 18+.
- It is permissible to include additional Scouts aged 12 and under if they will shoot rifle free standing. They will still be permitted to shoot pistol two-handed in accordance with NSRA Rule 9.4.2.² Any such team members shall be identified as "Under-18" (rather than "Under-13") on the entry form.

² <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/667570e3a7522e577cf7cab4/t/6737112dca102e1dc512d600/1731662126026/Rules+%26++Regs+2024.pdf>

Please complete and submit the entry form electronically if possible as this eliminates transcription errors. Any team substitutions should be indicated on arrival to the event, or earlier wherever possible, to enable the score sheets to be updated accordingly. A column is included in the entry form to indicate if the individuals entered within the teams already belong to one of the regional or national shooting squads. It is important that this information is made available as recommendations to higher Scout, NSRA or British Shooting squads may be made on the basis of performance at this competition.

Entry forms should be submitted, **complete with entry fee**, in writing to arrive no later than **Tuesday 25th March 2025** to John Dohoo at john.dohoo@shropshirescouts.org.uk or, if by post: 31 Pear Tree Lane, WHITCHURCH, Shropshire SY13 1NG

Compliance Notices:-

Use of Photographs

During the event, and the award presentations afterwards, it is likely that individuals and/or groups will appear in photographs being taken of the event participants. Some of these may be included in a round up report publication, advertisement for next year's event or otherwise for the promotion of Scout target shooting. Please indicate in writing (preferably accompanying your entry form) if permission is withheld for the use of photographic material including any/all of your group being included in any publication.

Absence of response to this request will imply permission for the organisers to use images taken at the event for *bona fide* Scouting purposes.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment for the event can be supplied, on request, via e-mail.