



Version 12.0 Rules Amended September, 2016

ORGANIZATION OF TRI COUNTY TRAP CLUB

The organization shall be known as Tri County Trap Club, a non-profit organization with power to make its own laws and regulations. Tri County Trap Club incorporated as a Domestic Nonprofit on 1/25/2010.

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Section 1. Safety

- (a) It is the shoot officials' and the shooter's responsibility to conduct the shoot in a safe manner and to advise any contestant of unsafe gun handling.
- (b) All guns must be kept open, unless in the gun rack, and unloaded at all times, except when on the firing line. Violators subject themselves to immediate disqualification, without recourse, with dismissal from the grounds. A second violation should be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for review.
- (c) A contestant shall load their gun only when at the firing line and facing the traps. In singles and in handicap shooting, they may place only one shell in the gun at a time. In doubles they may place only two shells in the gun at a time, and they must empty the chamber before moving from one post to the next.
- (d) In case of misfire, the contestant shall keep their gun pointing downrange and open the gun with caution.
- (e) All guns used by contestants must be equipped and used so as not to eject empty shells in a manner to substantially disturb or interfere with other contestants.
- (f) The gun must be empty when the shooter is moving from post to post.
- (g) In handicap shooting, there shall be no more than two yards difference between adjacent shooters in the squad. The current ATA mandates and recommendations as amended from time to time will influence the club's squadding policy (See 5.07 - Squadding – Squads of less than 5).
- (h) The shooter on post five shall walk behind the other shooters when rotating to post one.
- (i) The practice of tracing targets behind a shooting squad is unsafe and disconcerting to the shooters and is not permitted.
- (j) As a safety precaution, no test shots are permitted.
- (k) Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted during any TCTC shooting event.
- (l) Eye and ear protection must be worn.

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Section 2. New Shooter Information

Section 2.01 Guests

- (a) A visiting shooter may shoot as a guest of the club at a reduced Guest rate. The visiting shooter may shoot at the Guest rate only twice during the TCTC shoot year.
- (b) After shooting twice at the Guest rate, visiting shooters shall pay the full member rate at subsequent shoots.
- (c) Shooters shooting as a Guest are ineligible for awards, unless otherwise specified.

Section 2.02 Annual Membership and Dues

- (a) Family membership: Family membership includes all family members for an annual fee of \$50.00. From April through September the annual fee will be reduced to \$25.00.
- (b) Individual membership: Individual members will be charged a fee of \$35.00 annually. From April through September the annual fee will be reduced to \$20.00.
- (c) A member receiving a Grand Champion award will be exempt from membership renewal fees for the next shooting year.
- (d) The club may run membership specials such as join in August and receive thirteen months of membership.

Section 2.03 New Membership Initiation Fee

- (a) New members will be charged an initiation fee of \$30.00 in addition to the annual membership fee.
- (b) New members are subject to review by the Board of Directors.

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Section 2.04 Inactive Members

- (a) Any member whose dues remain unpaid 60 days after October 1st will be declared an “inactive member” and may be removed from the mailing list.
- (a) Inactive members, whose membership has lapsed 12 months or more, will be charged the standard initiation fee as well as the annual membership fee when reactivating their membership, unless waived by the Board of Directors.
- (b) Requalification for awards and jackpots is also required if the shooter’s membership has lapsed 12 months or more.

Section 2.05 Membership and Target Year

The membership and target year shall run from October 1st through September 30th.

Section 2.06 Member’s Rights

A member who believes he or she has been damaged by any official ruling may file a complaint with the Board of Directors in writing within 30 days of the alleged grievance. If the Board determines that restorative action is appropriate it will cause that action to occur. No such action will negatively affect any other member who may have benefited from the original official ruling.

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Section 3. Classification and Handicap Yardage Assignments

Section 3.01 Classification of New Club Member Who is a Member of Another Trap Shooting Association

- (a) A new member who has previously been a member of another trap shooting association must notify the club Handicapper and initially shoot at their last classification and/or yardage if it is greater than the TCTC new member minimum requirements until they have undergone a three-score review.
- (b) A new member's official opening yardage for the shoot year shall not be established until 6 handicap scores have been posted.

Section 3.02 Singles and Doubles Classification of New Club Member Who is Not a Member of Another Trap Shooting Association

- (a) New club members will be assigned to "C" Class until known ability has been established by the results of 3 shoots.
- (b) The Handicapper may modify these classifications as circumstances warrant.

Section 3.03 Handicap Yardage Assignment for New Member Who is Not a Member of Another Trap Shooting Association

- (a) The Handicapper shall have discretion to classify new members according to the following guidelines:
 - (1) Male shooter 18 or older may be assigned to the 22 yard line.
 - (2) Lady or Junior shooter may be assigned to the 20 yard line.
 - (3) A new member's official opening yardage for the shoot year shall not be established until 6 handicap scores have been posted.
 - (4) The Handicapper may modify these classifications as circumstances warrant.

Section 3.04 Sub-classification

- (a) Shooters eligible for sub-classification can participate in only one sub-class at a time. The order of precedence is:

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- (1) Guest: Any non-member participating without classification or eligibility for awards.
 - (2) Junior: Any shooter 12 years of age, but not yet the age of 18.
 - (3) Lady: Any female shooter 18 years of age or older.
 - (4) Veteran: 65 but not yet 70 years of age.
 - (5) Senior Veteran: 70 years of age or older.
- (b) It is the responsibility of a Lady, Junior, Vet or Sr. Vet to note their eligibility for sub-classification on their shoot ticket in order to qualify for any sub-class awards.

Section 3.05 Responsibility for Proper Classification

It is the responsibility of each shooter to shoot in their correct class and/or yardage group. Any shooter competing in the wrong class or yardage must, for that event or events, forfeit all prizes, trophies, and buckle points otherwise earned in that event.

Section 3.06 Classification/Yardage Assignment Review

- (a) Monthly Advances
- (1) Singles and Doubles: The Handicapper will increase, by one class, the classification of any member who:
 - i) Shoots or ties the high score in his or her class.
AND
 - ii) Shoots a score equal to or greater than the established buckle point score for the class above the shooter's current class. (By example, if you win or tie in C class, your score must meet or beat the buckle point score for B class in order to advance.)
 - (2) Handicap: The Handicapper will increase, by one yard, the assigned yardage of any member who shoots or ties the high score in his or her yardage group.
 - (3) Handicap Advance by Request: A member may request an advance of up to two yards which may be granted at Handicapper's discretion. If

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granted, the member must continue to shoot at that yardage until the next semi-annual review unless advancing by win or tie.

(b) Singles and Doubles Quarterly Review for Reductions and Advances

The Handicapper will perform a review of singles and doubles scores preceding the January, April, and July shoots. The review will use the shooter's year-to-date actual average with a minimum of three scores required. If three scores have not been posted, the shooter will not be reviewed until the following quarter.

- (1) The Handicapper will adjust the shooter's classification by comparing the shooter's YTD average for the current shoot year to the previous year's club averages for that event. The chart of classification ranges based on the previous year's club averages for singles and doubles can be found on the Tri County Trap Club website.
- (2) A member may refuse to accept a reduction in class, but if they do, they will remain at their pre-reduction class for the balance of the shoot year unless the shooter advances by win or tie, or is advanced as a result of quarterly review.

(c) Semi-Annual Handicap Reduction Review

- (1) There will be two handicap reduction reviews per shoot year: Preceding the April shoot and the year-end review in Item (d) below. The review will be performed using the shooter's year-to-date actual average. A minimum of three scores must be posted to be eligible for review.
- (2) The Handicapper will reduce, by one yard, the handicap yardage assignment of any member whose YTD actual average is under that period's established reduction target average. The reduction target average may be found on the Tri County Trap Club website.
- (3) A member may refuse to accept a reduction in yardage, but if they do, they will remain at their pre-reduction yardage for the balance of the shoot year unless the shooter advances by win or tie.

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None of the above reviews will result in an increase or reduction in classification or handicap yardage assignment of more than one class or one yard.

(d) Year-End Review

- (1) Singles and Doubles: The Handicapper will review each member's singles and doubles classifications before the start of the new target year. The starting classes for the following shoot year will be based on the shooter's YTD averages for singles and doubles. The Handicapper will use the chart of club averages from the shoot year just completed as the basis for adjusting the classifications of shooters. Handicapper's analysis of scores may also be used to classify shooters. The maximum change is two classes.
- (2) Handicap: The Handicapper will review the yardage assignment of each member before the start of the new shoot year. If the shooter's YTD handicap average is below the reduction target average, the Handicapper will reduce the shooter's yardage assignment by one yard. A member may choose to refuse a reduction in yardage, but if so, he/she will remain at their pre-reduction yardage for the entire shoot year unless advancing by win or tie.

(e) Effect of Class or Yardage Assignments from Other Organizations

After the initial class and yardage assignments, a member's classification or yardage will no longer depend on their class or yardage in any other organization.

Section 3.07 Handicapping Renewing Members

Any shooter re-applying for TCTC membership, who was previously assigned to a classification or handicap yardage, shall resume shooting at that classification and yardage unless the shooters ATA classification or yardage, if applicable, is greater than the previous assignment.

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Section 4. Awards and Prizes

Tri County Trap Club offers a unique “Multiple Awards System” of Monthly Awards, Annual Champion, and Class Champion Awards and Special Achievement Awards. A shooter may win more than one 1st place award in any monthly shoot, unless otherwise specified.

Section 4.01 Monthly Awards

(a) 16-Yard Singles

- (1) Awards are provided for the 1st place score in each class.
- (2) Awards are also provided for High Lady, High Vet, High Sr. Vet and High Junior provided that the member did not win their class in singles. Winning an over average point does not exclude a member from the sub-class win. Only shooters who declare their eligibility at the time of entering the event are eligible for subclass awards.

(b) Handicap and Doubles

- (1) Awards are provided for the 1st place score in each yardage group and for the 1st place score in each doubles class. There are no sub-class awards.

(c) Champion and HOA

- (1) Awards are provided for the overall HOA Champion(s) and all HOA class winner(s) or ties.

(d) Other Awards

- (1) From time to time the board of directors may add other awards. These will be separate from those outlined above. The rules governing these separate awards will be determined at the discretion of the board. Examples of these awards have been the monthly buckle program and Hunter awards.

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Section 4.02 Annual Champion and Class Champion Buckle Awards

The annual champion buckle program provides for a minimum of 32 awards for shooting achievements based on the member's average and participation throughout the shoot year. A member receiving a Grand Champion buckle will become ineligible for any lesser award. A member receiving a High Over All Class Champion buckle, or a High Singles, High Handicap, or High Doubles buckle, will become ineligible for the lesser singles, doubles or handicap championship awards, but is eligible to receive more than one buckle of the buckles itemized here. In the case of tie scores, duplicate buckles will be issued.

(a) The awards are as follows:

- (1) (High Over All) Grand Champion (min. of 1 Buckle)
- (2) (High Over All) AAA-AA-A-B-C-D Champions (min. of 6 Buckles)
- (3) High Singles, Handicap and Doubles Champions (min. of 3 Buckles)
- (4) Singles AAA-AA-A-B-C-D Class Champions (min. of 6 Buckles)
- (5) Handicap Yardage Group Champions (min. of 5 Buckles)
- (6) Doubles Class AAA-AA-A-B-C-D Champions (min. of 6 Buckles)
- (7) Lady, Veteran, Senior Veteran and Jr. Champions (min. of 4 Buckles)
- (8) Past President Award (1 Buckle)

(b) Qualification for Annual Championship Buckle Awards

- (1) The member must participate in at least 9 monthly shoots to qualify.
- (2) Qualifiers' averages are calculated using the member's best 9 scores for the target year in each of Singles, Handicap and Doubles.
- (3) Your HOA Class is the same as your "best 9" Singles Class. HOA is calculated by adding your best 9 singles average plus your best 9 handicap average plus your best 9 doubles average.
- (4) Your award Handicap group is your beginning year yardage.
- (5) Awards are calculated in the exact order listed in 4.02(a).
- (6) Classes for Singles and Doubles Annual Championship Buckles are not necessarily based on the class a member shoots in during the year, but rather based on where his best-of-nine average falls on the following table.

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CLASS	SINGLES	DOUBLES
AAA	98 and greater	47.5 and greater
AA	96.25 but less than 98	45.5 but less than 47.5
A	94.75 but less than 96.25	44 but less than 45.5
B	93 but less than 94.75	42.5 but less than 44
C	90 but less than 93	40 but less than 42.5
D	Less than 90	Less than 40

Section 4.03 Annual Special Achievement Awards

(a) 12-Point Buckle Award Program

This program awards points to shooters who shoot scores equal to or higher than the previous year's average winning scores. Qualifications Are:

- (1) The member must be in good standing to be eligible.
- (2) The member must earn a minimum of 12 buckle points in the target year. Points cannot be carried over from one target year to the next.
- (3) The winning score by class or yardage in Singles, Handicap, and Doubles earn 1 point.
- (4) The HOA Champion and the HOA class winners earn 1 point.
- (5) The High Lady, High Vet, High Sr. Vet and High Junior winners each earn a point for their high score in the Singles sub-class except when they have already earned an over average point in the Singles event.
- (6) A member shooting a score equal to or higher than the previous target year's 12 month average winning score in the member's Class or Yardage Group will receive a point unless the member earned a point for high score in that Class or Yardage Group. Winning a point by this method does not necessarily mean the shooter will receive advancement in class.
- (7) It is possible for more than one shooter per class to earn a point.
- (8) It is not possible for any shooter to earn more than 1 point per event or more than 4 points per shoot.
- (9) A 12-Point Buckle will be awarded to qualifying members the first time they qualify. Members who qualify again in subsequent years will receive a 3 mm (10 point) diamond enhancement installed in their original buckle with the year earned engraved next to the diamond. The diamond and date will be awarded each subsequent time the member qualifies.

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(b) Champion of Champions Shoot

- (1) The Champion of Champions competition will occur concurrently with the typical monthly club shoot in July.
- (2) The Champion of Champions trophy will be awarded to the qualifying member shooting the High Over All score at the above mentioned Club shoot. The Champion of Champions trophy could be a buckle, leather products or other awards as determined by the club's current board.

(c) Qualification for the Champion of Champions Award

There are three ways to qualify. In all three ways the member must have participated in a minimum on nine shoots from October of the prior target year through June of the current target year (9 out of 21 shoots).

- (1) Nine shoots (see above) plus the member must have earned a minimum of 12 point buckle in any prior target year.
- (2) Nine shoots (see above) plus the member must have earned 12 points from October of the current target year through June of the current target year.
- (3) Nine shoots (see above) plus member must have won at least one Singles Event, one Handicap Event and one Doubles Event from October of the prior target year through June of the current target year (9 out of 21 shoots).

(d) Shoot-Off for Tied Scores for the Champion of Champions HOA Award consisting of 40 targets as follows.

- (1) Ten singles targets
- (2) Ten handicap targets from their designated yardage
- (3) Ten pairs of double targets
- (4) Shooters will continue with additional 40 target sets until the tie is broken. Shoot-off sub-events must be completed.
- (5) If the shoot-off is a carryover to the next month's shooting event then the 40 target sets will be determined by using the first two targets on each post of the first field in both singles and handicap. Doubles will use the first two pair on each post. This format will continue to repeat until the tie

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is broken if possible. This array of targets from each post by all competitors will best emulate an actual shoot off.

- (e) The awards are as follows:
 - (1) Champion of Champions Award (1)
 - (2) Awards determined by president for HOA-AAA, HOA-AA, HOA-A, HOA-B, HOA-C, HOA-D, HOA-Vet, HOA-Senior Vet, HOA-Lady, and HOA-Junior

Section 4.04 Handicap Jackpot

- (a) An optional rolling Jackpot in each handicap yardage group is available to members and can be entered at the time of event entry.
- (b) New members must participate in a minimum of six Tri County shoots before they become qualified to enter the jackpot. These six shoots do not need to be consecutive, nor do they need to be in the same calendar year.
- (c) Any member who has missed six consecutive shoots, become disqualified and must re-qualify to again become eligible to enter the jackpot.
- (d) Any qualified member entering the jackpot, who shoots a perfect 50 in the handicap event, shall win the total amount in the yardage group jackpot. Any entry that shoots a score of 49 will win half the yardage group jackpot, if not paid to someone shooting a 50.
- (e) Shooters with tie scores will divide their yardage group jackpot amount equally.
- (f) It is the responsibility of members who enter a jackpot to be knowledgeable of and abide by the jackpot rules. Any ineligible member who pays a jackpot fee will have the fee refunded.
- (g) Jackpot fees accumulate and totals grow until won by a qualified entrant. Current jackpot amounts are published in the newsletter and are available at each monthly shoot.

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Section 5. Tri County Trap Club Tournaments

Section 5.01 Guns and Ammunition

- (a) The largest gauge used in TCTC competitions is 12 gauge. Guns of smaller gauges are permissible, but no special consideration shall be given to their use in any shooting event.
- (b) Shot charges shall be no larger than 1 1/8 oz. of number 7.5 and be made from lead. Tracers, copper, and nickel-coated shot are not allowed.
- (c) Ammunition velocity must conform to current ATA rules. Black powder is not permissible.

Section 5.02 Responsibilities of a Tri County Trap Club Member

- (a) A contestant must be prepared to compete when called by the shoot director.
- (b) Shooters not responding when called may be subject to re-squadding, and if not present to shoot after re-squadding may forfeit all event fees.
- (c) A contestant must in no manner interfere with the other shooters on the squad.
- (d) It is the duty of the contestant to see that his or her score, as determined by the referee, is correctly recorded. In case of error, it shall be the duty of the contestant to have the error corrected before firing a shot on their next post or before they leave the trap if the target was within the last five targets of that sub-event.

Section 5.03 16 Yard Singles Event

- (a) A 16 yard six class system will be used: Classes AAA, AA, A, B, C and D. This event must be shot five shots at each post from 16 yards with each shooter in order shooting at one target until all have shot five times, and rotating in a clockwise manner to the next post.

Section 5.04 Handicap Event

- (a) There will be five yardage groups assigned: 20, 21, 22-24, 25-26 and 27. This event must be shot five shots at each post, with each shooter shooting at one target at a time until all have shot at five targets, and then rotating in a clockwise manner to the next post.
- (b) A contestant must stand on the yardage assigned to him or her. A shooter may not stand on a higher yardage than they are assigned.

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Section 5.05 Doubles

- (a) This event must be shot from 16 yards with each shooter in order shooting at two targets thrown simultaneously from the trap house until all have shot at 5 pair of targets, and then rotating in a clockwise manner to the next station.

Section 5.06 Squadding – Squads of 5

- (a) In all Club events contestants shall shoot in squads of five except when there are less than five contestants available in an event.

Section 5.07 Squadding – Squads of less than 5

- (a) When the yardage difference in handicap make it unsafe.
Guidance:
Squads with 18,19 or 20 yard shooters, no more than 1 yard between shooters and a max difference of 2 yards in the squad.
Squads with 21 to 27 yard shooters, no more than 2 yards between shooters and a max difference of 3 yards in the squad.
- (b) When there are withdrawals from the squad after the competition has begun and the squad is scheduled.
- (c) When, in the opinion of the Club officials, the harmony of the shoot may be enhanced by squadding less than five.

Section 5.08 Squadding – More than 5

- (a) Squads of more than five shooters are NOT allowed.

Section 5.09 Squadding – Practice Shooters

- (a) The squadding of practice shooters with those shooting club events shall NOT be allowed.

Section 5.10 Squad Leader – The Shooter in Position One is the Squad Leader and Should:

- (a) Ascertain that all members of the squad are ready before commencing the event.

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- (b) Call for one (only one) target or pair before starting their squad to shoot the sub-event.
- (c) Verify the scores with the squad and scorer, and initial the score sheet at the end of each sub-event.

Section 5.11 Shoot Interruptions

- (a) If during an event, a contestant is thrown an illegal or broken target, the contestant shall have the right to see one legal target or pair before resuming shooting.
- (b) If there is a delay due to trap or gun trouble, the contestant in turn may ask to see a target.
- (c) A change of fields for any reason is not permitted without the permission of the Shoot Director.

Section 5.12 Official Scoring of Broken or Dead Targets

- (a) A broken or dead target is one that has a visible broken piece from it, or one that is completely reduced to smoke. If no perceptible piece is seen, it is not a broken target. Dust off a target is NOT a broken target.

Section 5.13 Lost Targets – When The Scorer shall call “LOST”

- (a) When the contestant shoots and fails to break the target, either missing completely or when only dust is seen.
- (b) When the whole target appears promptly at command of the contestant and is within the legal limits and the contestant does not voluntarily shoot.
- (c) When an illegal target, or a freak target, is shot at and missed. Contestants may refuse illegal targets, but if they shoot, the results must be recorded.
- (d) If a contestant has more than two failures to fire in any sub-event, any additional failures to fire will be recorded as a lost target.
- (e) When a contestant voluntarily withdraws from or is disqualified, and takes no further part in the event after having shot one or more targets, and thereby, has not shot the total number of targets for that event, the referee shall declare all targets not shot at as lost and scored accordingly.
- (f) When the score sheet comes in to the Scorekeeper with one or more targets not scored at all, they shall be scored as lost.
- (g) If a contestant uses a shell after it has misfired, they shall abide by the result obtained through the use of that shell.

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- (h) A contestant whose firearm breaks during the competition will have five minutes to repair or replace the firearm and continue. If unable to do so, they must re-squad if possible, otherwise the remaining targets of the sub-event are to be scored as lost.
- (i) Current ATA scoring rules as amended from time to time will take precedence.

Section 5.14 Tie Scores and Shoot-Off Rules

- (a) Ties will be determined by long run.
- (b) Long run will be determined by the longest string of broken targets anywhere within the score.
- (c) If there is a long run tie, the winner will be determined by the 2nd and 3rd long run respectively, of that event.
- (d) Shoot management will decide the nature of awards for unresolvable ties.

Section 5.15 Shoot Cancellation

- (a) A consensus among the participating shooters will determine the modification, postponement, or cancellation of an event due to inclement weather, darkness or other causes.

END