

OPERATIONS HANDBOOK 2011



**OFFICIAL YOUTH PROGRAM OF THE
AMATEUR TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION**

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Note:

This handbook and the forms within it may be periodically revised as seen fit for the betterment of the AIM program.

PURPOSE STATEMENTS



The Amateur Trapshooting Association serves as the governing body for the sport of American style trapshooting. The ATA's mission is to promote and govern the sport throughout the world. As the faithful protector of trapshooting, the ATA not only governs the sport's rules and regulations, but also seeks ways to enhance the sport and stimulate participation. The ATA has been instrumental in developing programs to increase interest in the sport with its creation of National Trapshooting Day, Satellite Grand Americans, Achievement Recognition, and other valuable programs which now include AIM.



AIM

The purpose of AIM, ATA's youth shooting program focusing on academics, integrity and marksmanship, is to provide a safe and positive experience with firearms for youth, elementary school through college age. AIM encourages good sportsmanship and personal responsibility through competition in order to make trapshooting a life-long avocation. This program is open to all organizations and gun clubs with a youth trapshooting program.

TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

AIM

601 West National Road

Vandalia, OH 45377

937-898-4638

fax: 866-476-1708

aim@shootata.com

www.shootata.com

www.aim4ata.com

WHY SHOOT AIM?

- Learn firearm safety and trapshooting etiquette
- It's the official youth program of the Amateur Trapshooting Association
- Enjoy the thrill and excitement of registered trapshooting
- Categories and classes are designed to create a more level playing field
- It's the sport that grows with you and that you can participate in for your entire lifetime
- It's for EVERYONE
- It's a unique sport that is heavily reliant on mental focus
- Compete at Local and State/Provincial Levels as well as at the Grand American World Trapshooting Championships
- It instills important values that will influence your life positively
- Meet new friends and enjoy a sense of camaraderie unlike ever before
- Coach training is available starting at age 15 so you can give back to your sport by teaching your friends and the next generation of trapshooting
- A sport for generations of entire families to enjoy together

OFFICIAL RULES:

ATA Rules will govern the AIM Program unless otherwise noted in this handbook. ATA will keep all averages of individuals, but participants are also required to keep his/her average card up to date after each event. Squads will be classified based on the total compiled average of the individuals that the squad consists of, allowing squads to shoot against squads of like ability. It is the responsibility of coaches and participants alike to be familiar with all aspects of the ATA Rule Book. A qualified coach or adult must be present while athletes are on the field during practice or competition. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that all applicable laws within their jurisdiction are complied with.

FEES:

ATA membership is required so that targets may be registered. The total fee to participate in the AIM Program is \$25. The ATA fee constitutes \$12 of this fee and the AIM Fee constitutes \$13 of this fee. ATA Members who have already paid an annual membership fee of \$20 and decide to be a part of AIM only need to pay an additional \$5. One hundred percent of participant registration fee monies will go toward awards and scholarships.

AGE CATEGORIES:

Age 11 and Under	Pre-Sub
Age 12-14	Sub-Junior
Age 15-19	Junior*
Age 18-23	Graduates**
Age 18-23	Collegiate***

TARGET YEAR:

September 1 - August 31

Age based categories are established on the birthday of the shooter. For purposes of determining age category the category declared by the participant on the first day he/she shoots shall be used.

Shooters who become eligible for new age based categories during the target year may elect to continue to compete in the previous category for the remainder of that target year. (For example a shooter reaching age 15 may elect to continue to shoot as a Sub-Junior for the remainder of the current target year.) However, once a shooter has elected to move to the new category that decision is irrevocable and he/she may not again declare eligibility for the previous category.

A shooter must declare before the start of the shooting season whether he/she will be a part of the Collegiate or Graduate Category.

** “Graduates” are high school graduates who are pursuing a career path that does not require being a full-time (12 credit hours) undergraduate at an accredited degree-oriented learning institution. “Graduates” may participate through the target year in which they turn 23.

*** “Collegiate” participants must be full-time (12 credit hours) students in an accredited degree-oriented learning institution. “Collegiates” may participate through the target year in which they turn 23.

Collegiate/Graduate Squads

A squad deemed as a collegiate squad needs to be comprised of five shooters all of whom attend the same University. It is no longer acceptable for shooters who are comprised of the same squad on the collegiate level to be from varying Universities. Squads deemed as collegiate squads are not able to compete for a Gun Club but must represent a University.

The ATA will not allow a squad to be comprised of shooters in the Graduate Category and shooters in the Collegiate Category. A squad must declare as a Graduate Squad or a Collegiate Squad. A collegiate shooter may shoot on a Graduate Squad but the squad will be deemed as a Graduate Squad; this would require the shooter to declare him or herself as a “Graduate” at the start of the shooting season if they wish to compete on a graduate squad.

Our mission in creating a collegiate category is to provide genuine competition between University teams. This will encourage individuals to seek out other shooters that attend his or her University.

Collegiate/Graduate Individuals

If a shooter had decided to declare him/herself as a Collegiate Shooter at the start of the shooting season he/she must shoot on behalf of the University in which he/she attends. He/She is not able to represent a Gun Club.

If a shooter wishes to represent a Club he/she must declare him/herself as a Graduate.

The Collegiate Category is similar to that of a Special Category Declaration.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:

Parents and coaches should encourage their athletes to be good students. Coaches should ask parents to ensure their children are academically eligible.

SQUAD COMPOSITION:

Coaches and AIM participants must follow the rules for the shooting sports within their school and/or gun club if no school team is available. Younger shooters may shoot on a squad composed of members of an older age group, but may move up only one age group. Moving up in age group is for team purposes only and does not affect the individual’s classification with AIM or the ATA.

AIM participants are to sign up with one school or one local club and participate with that organization for the entire target year. Violators of this “spirit of the program” may be disqualified.

TARGETS:

The target requirement to shoot in the AIM Grand Championships without penalty is 500 registered singles targets per individual. The Target Requirement to shoot in State/Provincial shoots without penalty is 300 registered singles per individual. In order for the targets to be applied toward the tournament target

requirements, targets must be shot within the current target year. If no average is available for the current target year, known ability may be used (ATA Rulebook Section V, C. 1., a.,). Please refer to the table below for AIM Team and Individual penalty classification.

Category	Penalty Score	Penalty Class
Pre-Sub	75	B
Sub-Junior	85	B
Junior	93	B
Graduate	93	B
Collegiate	93	B

To facilitate getting the minimum number of registered targets, clubs, especially those with one or two trap fields, are encouraged to work with their state association to host an ATA registered tournament which may be limited to AIM participants only. Teams are also encouraged to get their club to participate in the AIM Online Zone Championship Shoot in May and the Fall Online Handicap in October. Hosting clubs must comply with state/provincial associations and ATA Rules governing registered tournaments.

ATA DISCIPLINES:

Singles will be the main event, but coaches are encouraged to train their team members in handicap and doubles to prepare them for their future as ATA shooters. To foster this growth the ATA will be hosting the AIM Online Handicap each October.

AVERAGES FOR SQUADS AND INDIVIDUALS:

Collegiate, Graduate, Junior

Class A: 100-95%

Class B: 91% and under 95%

Class C: 80% and under 91%

Class D: under 80%

Sub Junior

Class A: 100-90%

Class B: 80% and under 90%

Class C: 70% and under 80%

Class D: Under 70%

Pre-Sub:

Class A: 100-80%

Class B: 70% and under 80%

Class C: 60% and under 70%

Class D: under 60%

Example: Your Sub-Junior squad has members with averages as follows: Mary (87%), Kim (85%), Doug (83%), Dennis (75%), and Larry (70%). These percentages average to 80%, so the squad would be Class B. Should an adjustment need to be made to the squad because of illness or because Chuck is now out-shooting Larry, re-calculate the Team average using the Individual averages. Coaches will be responsible for their team's classification and to ensure it's accuracy. Inaccurate classification will be grounds for disqualification. (Note: Penalty shooters will use the penalty average on Page 4 of the AIM Handbook)

AIM AWARDS PROVIDED BY ATA:

Awards will be presented for squads and individuals, at the State/Provincial (or equivalent qualifier), Zone and AIM Grand Championship events. Awards for Individuals will be by Age Category. (All references to Class pertain only to AIM Classification standards)

STATE/PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS:

AIM State/Provincial Directors and ATA staff members will work together to promote youth trapshooting opportunities in each state or province to include the scheduling of AIM State/Provincial championships. State/Provincial Directors will monitor and encourage good sportsmanship among coaches and participants.

RELOADS:

Reloads will be permitted where allowed by law. (Disclaimer: Coaches, parents and AIM participants are encouraged to take a shot shell reloading course, or thoroughly read the manual that came with the reloader, or to get the manual off the Internet from the manufacturer.)

DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

In this document, AIM Coaches and Participants are asked to abide by the highest levels of sportsmanship and decorum.

However, should disciplinary action be necessary, ATA Rule Book, Section XII, Disciplinary Action, Disqualification and Reinstatement, will be followed.

COACH REQUIREMENTS:

Above all else, coaches are responsible for ensuring the safe and responsible use of firearms and instilling these practices in their team members. Coaches are also responsible for making the team experience fun for all!

Having qualified coaches has become a necessity in today's litigious world. Having coaches who have completed a comprehensive coach education program adds an extra dimension to starting the next generation of trapshooters on the correct road to a lifetime of enjoyment of our sport. Having qualified coaches with whom we can communicate quickly will help build and maintain a cohesive ATA youth program.

Therefore, each team must have at least one ATA Shooting Coach on the coaching staff and be led by a Coach age 21 or over. *Current coaches will have through the 2011 target year to become an ATA Shooting Coach.*

To become a credentialed coach an AIM Coach must successfully complete the NRA/USAS/ATA Shotgun Coach Course. When you attend the school, please check the box titled "American Style Trap" on your test sheet. By checking this box you will automatically receive your credential from the ATA. If you have already successfully completed this course please turn in the "Request for Credentialing as an ATA Coach" form at the back of this handbook. To see courses scheduled in your area please visit shootata.com and click on the coaching logo on the

right hand side of the page. Contact information for the school “sponsor” will be listed. To schedule a school in your area please contact Don Sipes at dsipes@nrahq.org.

All coaches involved with AIM participants, whether they have taken the Coach School or not, must abide by the Coaching Ethics Code. Graduates of the Coach Schools have already signed that they will abide by the Coaching Ethics Code. For all other coaches, this document may be viewed on line at: www.nrahq.org/education/training/coaching_ethics.pdf

For new participants on a Club or School team and their parents, Coaches are to give a brief introduction to the sport of trapshooting so the entire family understands the sport. Parents may want to take up the sport too!

The youth trapshooters of today are the future of our member clubs. Our member clubs that go through the effort to sponsor a youth trapshooting program need to be thanked. Coaches are urged to instill in their shooters and parents the desire to “give back” to their host club by volunteering service hours to the benefit of the club.

Coaches are urged to make good use of grant opportunities (such as Friends of NRA, NSSF, State Associations, etc.) for necessary equipment and supplies for his/her programs.

Coaches will gather all participant and coach forms and monies and submit them to ATA, 601 West National Road, Vandalia, OH 45377.

INSURANCE STATEMENT

“AIM” has been added as an additional named insured on ATA’s policy and is afforded the same liability protection as is currently in effect for all of the other approved ATA entities and activities. Third party liability for bodily injury and property damage is included up to the current policy limits. Coaches, volunteers, employees and members “working” on behalf of the ATA are insured for covered claims brought against them for negligent acts that arise out of “work” that they perform, or have performed, on behalf of the ATA, an AIM club or organization. Bodily injury and property damage coverage, as a result of ATA’s negligence, for non-compensated coaches, volunteers, members and guests is available for covered losses up to the policy limits. It is not the intent of the ATA (AIM) policy to provide individual liability protection to anyone who is not “working” or volunteering for the ATA. Shooting participants and parents need to look at, and rely on, their own personal liability coverages and should review their personal situation with their insurance consultant or lawyer.

GLOSSARY

ATA Discipline - One of three types of events in American Style Trap; Singles, Handicap, and Doubles.

Category - A subset of shooters based on age and/or academic status.

Class - A subset of shooters based on their average. In AIM, classes are assigned based on either a team or individual basis.

Credentialed - Having documentation of having been appropriately instructed through an NRA/USAS/ATA Shotgun Coach Course.

Doubles - This event must be shot from 16 yards, with each shooter in order shooting at two (2) targets thrown simultaneously from the trap house until all have shot the specified number of times, then rotating in a clockwise manner to the next post. A Doubles event may be shot by having each squad shoot successive alternating 15 pair and 10 pair sub-events on the trap or traps being utilized, or Shoot Management may elect to throw Doubles in sub-events of 25 pairs.

Handicap - The ATA Handicap system is the method whereby shooters whose ability to win or compete at a level of accomplishment has been demonstrated and shooters whose ability is unknown are handicapped by shooting a greater distance from the trap house. *The minimum handicap is 18.0 yards and the maximum is 27.0 yards.* A shooter's yardage is determined by Rules governing new shooters, by yardage earned, or by his/her established handicap yardage, which is based on known ability and 1000 target reviews, thereafter.

Individual - A single shooter competing as himself rather than on a squad of five (5) shooters. A shooter can be on a team and still compete as an individual.

Reload - A shotgun shell that has been previously fired and then the hull has been reloaded with new components for re-use.

Squad - A squad is a set of 5 shooters shooting together.

Singles - This event must be shot 5 or 10 shots at each post from 16 yards with each shooter in order shooting at one target until all have shot 5 or 10 times, and then rotating in a clockwise manner to the next post. Should Shoot Management elect to change to 50, 16-yard targets per trap (10 per post) after a shooter has made entry, the shooter must be allowed the option to withdraw and be refunded or change his/her option entry.

Target Year - The year in which targets are registered in correspondence to the "shooting season." The ATA target year runs from September 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Team - A team is comprised of multiple shooters from one club or school. Teams can be made up of both squads and individuals. For example, a "Team" can consist of multiple squads and individuals, therefore if "X Team" has 13 team members, they can have 2 squads and 3 individuals.

AIM Sponsors

Platinum

Remington
Federal Premium Ammunition
Beretta
Cabela's
TechPro
White Flyer

Silver

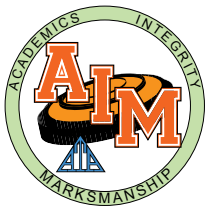
Browning

Bronze

Winchester

Supporters

Trap & Field
National Shooting Sports Foundation



Rev. 4/24/09
SEND FORM TO:
Amateur Trapshooting Association/AIM Coaching
601 West National Road
Vandalia, OH 45377
Fax: (937) 898-5472
Phone: (937) 898-4638
Email: aim@shootata.com

AIM Coach Registration Form

(Please print clearly)

Personal Information (*required)

*Last Name: _____ *First Name: _____ *MI: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip: _____

e-mail Address: _____ *Age 21+? _____

Telephone: _____ (Check one: Day, Night, Cell)

*School or Club Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

ATA Shooting Coach Credential Number: _____

ATA Shooting Coach Credential Expiration Date: _____

*I will abide by the Coaching Ethics Code (Sign and Date):

_____ (Date) _____

My Coaching Staff Includes (attach additional pages as necessary):

*Last Name: _____ *First Name: _____ *MI: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (Check one: Day, Night, Cell)

*I will abide by the Coaching Ethics Code (Sign and Date):

_____ (Date) _____

REQUEST FOR CREDENTIALING AS ATA SHOOTING COACH

(For use by Graduates of the NRA/USAS Shotgun coach School ONLY)

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (day, night, cell) _____

ATA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____

I AM AN NRA/USAS/ATA SHOTGUN COACH LEVEL: _____

NRA/USAS/ATA SHOTGUN COACH EXPIRATION DATE: ____/____/____

I AM IN POSSESSION OF AND HAVE READ THE NRA/ATA TRAP COACH SCHOOL
TRAPSHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS CHAPTER.

(signed) _____ Date ____/____/____

REFERRALS (Please check one):

 ATA may provide my name and contact information to those seeking a
Trap Coach. I do not wish to be referred to those seeking a Trap Coach.

Coach patch/rocker sets @ \$ 5.00 per set \$ _____

Total payment remitted \$ _____

 Check enclosed (payable to ATA) Credit Card: Card Type: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Last three digits on back of credit card: _____

Send Request Form with payment to ATA, Attn: ATA Shooting Coach Program, 601 W. National Road,
Vandalia, OH 45377. For more information, call ATA Coaching 937-898-4638.

ATTENTION AIM VOLUNTEERS!

Are you a team administrator, assistant coach, family support volunteer for an AIM team? Register to receive informational e-mails, order an AIM patch with Volunteer rocker, and let us know if you wish to schedule an NRA/ATA Trap Coach School at your home club!

(Please print clearly)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (Check one: Day, Night, Cell)

I volunteer for (team/school): _____

Our Head Coach is: _____

_____ Please contact me about scheduling a Coach School.

_____ Enclosed is \$5 per patch/rocker set for _____ sets \$ _____

_____ Check enclosed (payable to ATA)

_____ Credit Card: Card Type: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Last three digits on back of credit card: _____

Send Request Form with payment to:

ATA

Attn: ATA Shooting Coach Program

601 W. National Road

Vandalia, OH 45377.

For more information, call ATA Coaching 937-898-4638.



Participant Registration Form

Participants of AIM **MUST** be a member of the ATA

ATA Membership+AIM Fees=\$25 AIM Fees Only (current ATA Members only)=\$13

Payment Method: Check MC Visa Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Last 3 digits on back of card: _____

Name on card: _____

Participant Information

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/____ Male Female Grade in School: _____

Current ATA Member? Y N ATA Membership Number: _____
(You **MUST** be a member of the Amateur Trapshooting Association to participate in AIM. ATA Annual dues for AIM members is \$12 in addition to the \$13 registration fee.)

Category Declaration Pre-Sub (11 & under) Sub-Junior (12-14)
 Junior (15-18) Graduate (18-23) Collegiate (18-23)

School or Club Affiliation: _____

Coach Information

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) ____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

Parental Consent and Contact Information

I/we knowingly and willingly agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Amateur Trapshooting Association, its officers, directors, authorized agents and/or volunteers from any and all claims or causes of action arising from or associated with our participation in the AIM program.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) ____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

Please return this form along with payment to:
Amateur Trapshooting Association/AIM
601 West National Road
Vandalia, OH 45377
Fax: (937) 898-5472
Phone: (937) 898-4638
Email: aim@shootata.com