



Improving Youth Shooting Programs

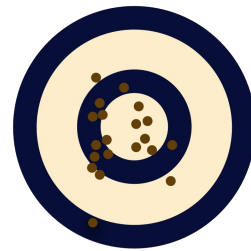
Erik Anderson Ph.D.

Gary Anderson DCM Emeritus

2 July 2017

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Logistics

- Team Leaders Briefing
Saturday 14:15 to 15:00, team coaches only.
- Stat Officers Clinic
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00, open to all.
- *Improving Youth Shooting Programs*
Sunday 13:00 to 14:00, open to all.
- Please ask questions, make comments.
- Today's presentation available via email.

www.orionscoringsystem.com/52

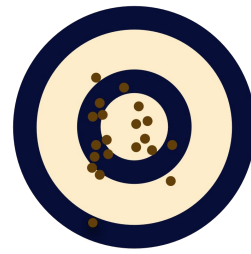
Improving Youth Shooting Programs

- Improving Facilities
- Improving Programs
- Improving Competitions

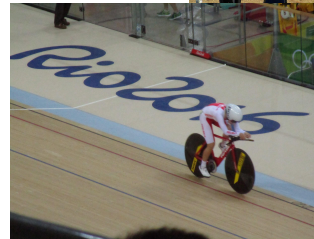


Improving Facilities

Range Improvements



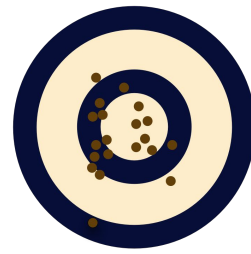
- Get the mop out and clean!
- Have a chair for every firing point.
- Adopt a consistent look and feel for your club and range.
 - Team clothing.
 - Club and Range painting
- Improve range lighting.
 - 1500 to 2000 lux on targets.
 - 800 to 1000 lux on firing line.



Although an extreme example, the Olympic Games adopted a recognizable look and feel for every event, official, and facility.

Range Decorations

- Display your team awards.
- Track and display your team records.
- Hang shooting posters.
 - Safety rules.
 - Highlight shooting's heros.
- Paint a mural.



AIR RIFLE RANGE SAFETY RULES



Rifle **MUZZLES** must always be pointed upward or downrange. Air rifles must never be pointed at any person.

Rifle **ACTIONS** must remain open at all times except when actually shooting.



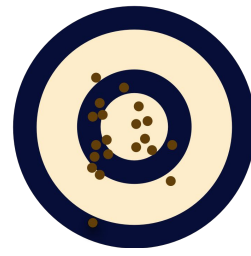
Fingers must remain outside of the **TRIGGER** guard until the rifle is aimed at the target and is ready to shoot.

OTHER IMPORTANT RULES FOR THIS RANGE

- Ⓢ A Range Officer or other responsible adult will be in charge of firing.
- Ⓢ No one will load or fire an air rifle until the Range Officer has given the commands LOAD or START.
- Ⓢ No one may go forward of the firing line until all air rifles are unloaded and grounded, with clear barrel indicators (CBIs) inserted.
- Ⓢ Shooters may not pick up air rifles, get into position or load and fire their rifles until everyone is behind the firing line and the Range Officer has given instructions to handle rifles.
- Ⓢ Muzzles must be pointed upward or downrange towards the target during loading.
- Ⓢ When firing is completed, air rifle actions must be opened immediately. Air rifles must be grounded and CBIs inserted.
- Ⓢ Only air rifles with a muzzle velocity of less than 600 feet per second may be fired on this range.
- Ⓢ Everyone present during air rifle firing is urged to wear eye and hearing protection.



Lead Management on Air Gun Ranges



- Lead management is a real issue.
- USA Shooting and CMP worked together to write the “Guide to Lead Management for Air Gun Shooter.”

[Download the Guide](#)

- Lead management issues come from:
 - Handling of pellets.
 - Passage of pellets through the barrel.
 - Fragmentation of pellets as they hit the backstop.
- Lead risk in air gun ranges is minimal, but you must follow common sense rules.
 - Wash hands with soap and water after each shooting session.
 - No food or open beverage containers on the range.



GUIDE TO LEAD MANAGEMENT FOR AIR GUN SHOOTING

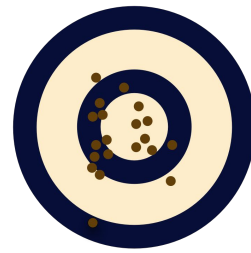


A Guide to Ensuring Participant Health during Air Rifle and Air Pistol Shooting through Proper Range Design, the Effective Management of Lead Exposures, Personal Hygiene Practices and Range Cleaning Procedures.

Produced by USA Shooting and the Civilian Marksmanship Program

© USAS & CMP, 2013

Lead Management on Air Gun Ranges



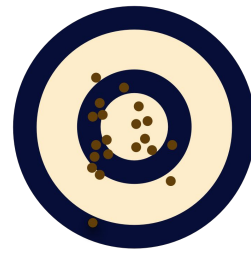
- On air gun ranges lead deposited in two locations:
 - In front of the firing line.
 - Area around the backstop.
- Lead particles produced by air guns are too large to stay in the air, they fall to the floor.
 - NOTE: lead particles produced by smallbore pistols and rifles are smaller, they will stay in the air, proper ventilation is needed.
- To minimize risk due to lead particles:
 - Have a dedicated lane to walk down range.
 - Reduce the number of people who can go down range.
 - Range staff should hang and pull targets, not athletes.
 - If possible, use pellet traps that are behind the firing line.
 - Use disposable plastic shoe coverings.
 - Regularly and properly clean the range floor with tri-sodium phosphate.





Improving Programs

Treat Shooting like a Sport

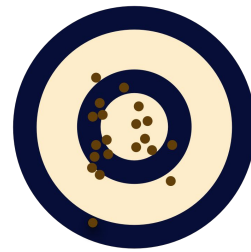


- Lead a warm up before each training session (stretching, dry-holding, etc).
- Require athletes to attend all training sessions, with notable exceptions for family and academics.
- Include physical training.
 - Cardiovascular training.
 - Strength training.
- Encourage training at home.



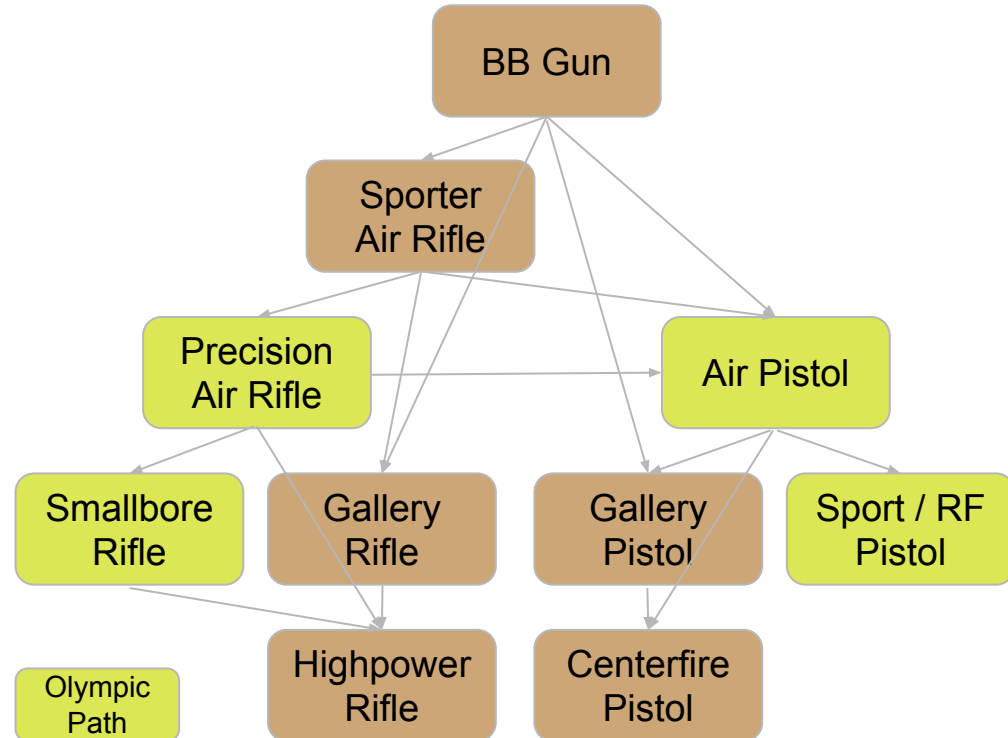
Warm up drills are common in nearly every sport. We should warm up in shooting too.
Photo from qtsdsoccer.com

Athlete Development Program



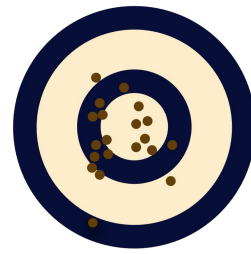
- What happens to your athletes after they age out of BB Gun?
- In Germany, athletes are club members for life. What can we learn from this?
- Make connections with local High School, JROTC Coaches, Junior Rifle Clubs.
- Develop Adult shooting.
 - Council and NRA Air Rifle rules have categories for adults.
 - Air pistol!!!
- Stay within the mainstream events.
- Develop a coach training program.

[USA Shooting Coach Academy](#)

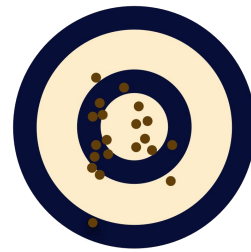


Competition Schedule

- Competition breeds success.
- Work with the clubs in your area to have regular competitions.
- Run your competitions according to the national rulebooks.
- Post your competition schedule prominently on the range and on social media.
- Participate in leagues.
 - National BB Gun League, open to all BB Gun teams, January - April every year.



Add Finals to Competitions



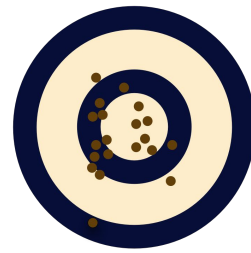
- Finals are exciting for the athletes and spectators.
- Athletes who want to progress past BB Gun will have to learn how to shoot Finals. Get them started early!
- Two types of Finals:
 - Accumulative: Top 8 athletes come back, fire 10 more shots standing. Scores in Final are added to qualification.
 - Start from Zero. Top 8 athletes compete for the championship. Qualification scores are thrown out, only scores in the Final count for the championship. Athletes are eliminated one by one.



Men's Air Pistol
Finalists - Rio
Olympics 2016

Social Media

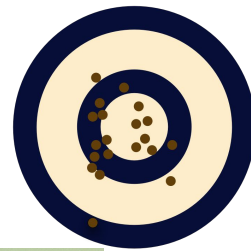
- Establish a club facebook page or Twitter account.
- Encourage your athletes and athlete coaches to follow.
- Post your competition schedule.
- Make frequent reminders of practices and competitions.
- Post photos and results on competition days.
- Highlight athletes who performed well in practice (e.g. personal best).



[How to create a Page on Facebook.](#)



Improving Competitions



Playing Music During the Competition

- A quiet range is a boring range.
- Music livens up the atmosphere.
- Music helps drown out background noise.
- Its simple to add to a range.
 - Just need speakers and a music source.
 - Start as competitors come into the range.
 - Stop once the competition is over.
- Streaming services work well (e.g. Amazon Music or Pandora) but avoid stations with commercials.

ISSF explicitly mandates music.

[ISSF Playlist](#)

NTPARC and USAS encourage music.

NRA doesn't prohibit it.



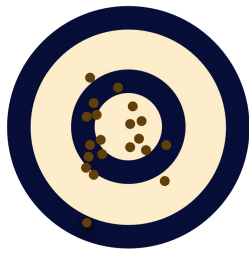
Gina Thrasher (USA) Competes in Women's Air Rifle Qualification - Rio Olympics 2016

Total Athlete Experience

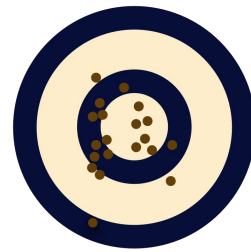
- Have a “Warm Up Area,” for athletes, a place where athletes may stretch, dry fire, and perform holding exercises.
- Have an “Athletes Lounge,” an area where athletes can relax before and after the competition.
- Open a concession stand.
- Have a “pizza party” or similar event, after the competition for all the athletes and coaches.



Photo from [TwinCities.com](https://www.twincities.com)



Athlete Introduction



Ibtihaj Muhammad (USA) and Olena Kravatska (UKR) are introduced prior to their Women's Individual Sabre Bout - Rio Olympics 2016

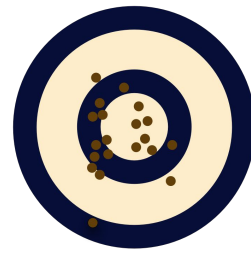
- Athlete introduction is common in almost every sport - *except shooting?*
- Adds a personal connection between the athletes, teams, and spectators.
- Can easily be done:
 - During 15 minute preparation and sighting period (Council and USAS rules).
 - During 10 minute preparation period (NRA rules).
- Keep introductions to 1 or 2 sentences.
 - Firing point, name, club or team, and any known biographical information.

On firing point number two, representing West Potomac High School, Shawn White.

On firing point number three, also representing West Potomac High School, the 2016 Potomac league champion, Jennifer Davis.

On firing point number four, representing Robinson High School, Kimberly Nichols.

Encourage Spectators



- Have a designated area for spectators.
- Spectator education (see next slide).
- Display a scoreboard.
 - Knowing who is winning, who is losing, is a part of every sport.
 - Orion's Scoreboard makes it possible to display results on the range.
 - Automatically updates results as targets are scored.
 - Just need a projector or large screen TV and a computer to run the display.
- Make updates on Social Media.
 - Results
 - Photographs

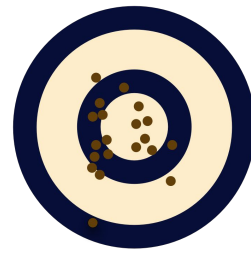
Georgia 4-H State BB Match - May 6, 2017

Team - All

Rank	Participant	Region	Prone	Standing	Sitting	Kneeling	Test	Team
1	Walton 1	Athens, GA	492 - 37	455 - 13	485 - 32	469 - 16	480	2363 - 92
2	Pierce 1	Athens, GA	467 - 17	455 - 6	471 - 19	467 - 16	496	2338 - 57
3	Gwinnett Individual	Athens, GA	95 - 5	83 - 0	96 - 5	90 - 4	100	464 - 14
Rank	Participant	Region	Prone	Standing	Sitting	Kneeling	Test	Team
4	Coweta 1	Athens, GA	489 - 32	443 - 8	464 - 15	446 - 12	484	2311 - 63
5	Madison 1	Athens, GA	475 - 21	443 - 8	474 - 20	463 - 21	472	2310 - 65
6	Union 1	Athens, GA	471 - 18	447 - 14	465 - 18	466 - 16	472	2305 - 64
7	Paulding 1	Athens, GA	474 - 16	438 - 7	465 - 16	461 - 15	496	2305 - 54
8	Carroll 1	Athens, GA	478 - 21	441 - 9	469 - 19	452 - 14	484	2301 - 57
9	Elbert 1	Athens, GA	474 - 20	435 - 10	469 - 17	468 - 17	472	2300 - 58
10	Walton 2	Athens, GA	477 - 24	433 - 5	463 - 17	460 - 20	472	2299 - 63
11	Appling 1	Athens, GA	472 - 22	429 - 9	474 - 18	444 - 7	500	2298 - 53
12	Haralson 1	Athens, GA	472 - 19	423 - 6	468 - 17	451 - 16	488	2286 - 51
13	Forsyth 2	Athens, GA	478 - 23	445 - 10	463 - 14	451 - 11	480	2285 - 48
14	Tift 2	Athens, GA	481 - 23	435 - 7	471 - 16	449 - 14	456	2284 - 56
15	Wayne 1	Athens, GA	478 - 25	443 - 10	454 - 11	456 - 11	468	2282 - 56
16	Coweta 2	Athens, GA	474 - 21	423 - 11	462 - 17	445 - 10	484	2279 - 53
17	Union 1	Athens, GA	463 - 15	427 - 0	457 - 12	461 - 20	469	2276 - 57

For complete results visit www.orionresults.com/georgia4h

Spectator Education



- Sports are more than just the athletes, they are also about the spectators.
- Educate and commentate to the spectators as the match progresses.
- Announce a two minute summary:
 - Start of competition explaining the match.
 - Between stages / positions highlighting the preliminary results.
 - End of competition, announcing winners.

Example Script for a 3-Position Air Rifle



During the Rio Olympics Track-Cycling had the best spectator education program of any sport. The announcer explained the intricacies of the sport, allowing spectators to understand both the scoring and strategies involved. Ultimately making it easier for spectators to be engaged in a sport many had never seen before.



Thank You

Office Hours and Contact Information

Monday through Friday 10AM – 6PM

Saturday : 9 AM – 4PM

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