

Orion National BB Gun League 2018 League Program



Sponsored by Shooter's Technology LLC, makers of the Orion Scoring System
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Introduction

Purpose

Orion's National BB Gun League (The League) is intended to create a bold new competition format, allowing teams from throughout the country to compete virtually in an exciting, spectator-friendly league. The League seeks to simultaneously create a low-cost, yet meaningful national competition for both elite and developing teams. Teams will compete against teams of their own relative skill level in a round-robin style format during the multi-week regular season, with the league culminating in a single-elimination tournament at the end of the season. All athletes will receive participation pins, and medals will be awarded to approximately 30% of the participating teams and athletes.

Important Dates for the 2018 Season

- Registration Deadline: 19 January 2018.
- Last Day to Withdraw from League: 19 January 2018.
- Preseason: 1 January through 28 January 2018.
- Coaches Meeting Webinar: The week of 22 through 26 January, exact date and time not yet set.
- Regular Season: 29 January - 25 March 2018
- Post-Season Tournament: 2 April - 22 April 2018

Major Changes from the 2017 Season

- All games will be scored with decimal (tenth ring scoring). This change is consistent with the switch to decimal scoring for the Daisy National BB Gun Championship.
- Improved award program, including medals for all team members for the top three teams in each division, and banners for all teams making the postseason tournament.

League Organization

The League is structured into divisions, teams, seasons, and games. A division is ideally a group of 8 teams of relatively equal skill level that compete against each other in games. A team consists of five or more BB Gun athletes with a coach from a single club. A game is one competition between two teams. A complete season has two parts, a two month regular season followed by a two week single-elimination tournament for the top four teams. During the regular season, teams compete only against the other teams from within their division.

Teams are organized into one of two types of divisions. In “Skill-Level” divisions, teams are squadded according to their relative and historic skill levels. The skill-level division names (from highest to lowest), are Champions, Distinguished, Elite, Governor, Leaders, Master, Premier, Sharpshooter, Tops, and Wizards. In “Geographical” divisions, teams that specifically want to compete against each other, regardless of skill level, are squadded into the same division. Its expected, but not necessary, that these teams will all be from the same geographical area (e.g. state of Georgia). The total number of divisions will depend on the number of competing teams.

During the regular season, teams compete against other teams in their division in a series of win-loss games. The winner of the division is the team with the best win-loss record. The top two teams from the Champions division are invited to the single-elimination tournament, plus the next two teams with the highest seasonal average, from any division. The winner of The League is the winner of the single-elimination tournament.

Teams will compete each week from their home range unless specifically requested otherwise. Scores from each team will be merged on the Internet using Orion’s Virtual Match technology. Results will be listed live online on Orion’s Result Center.

To create year to year parity within skill level Divisions, teams are squadded into Divisions based on their performance from last year. The Champions Division is reserved almost exclusively for teams who participated in last year’s league. It consists of the top four teams from the previous season’s Champions Division, and the top two teams from the Distinguished Division. All other skill-level Divisions are squadded based on their previous year’s seasonal average. New teams will be squadded based on results from well known competitions.

Media Promotion

A key principle of The League is increasing the sport’s spectator appeal. The League will achieve this through regular press releases and social media posts using common sport terminology. The terminology and make-up of The League was selected specifically to be understood by almost anyone, whether or not one is familiar with the sport. By raising awareness and familiarity, the goal is to increase the spectator appeal and excitement of the sport.

Organization

The League will be structured into teams, divisions, games, and seasons.

Team Member Requirements

Team members must be active, participating members of the same club or school team. All athletes must be eligible to compete under the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rules,

including age requirement rule 2.3. More specifically, an athlete may compete in the league provided he or she turns 16 after the first day of the Regular Season (30 January 2017). Only “Local Club Teams” are permitted (rule 2.11 a); All-Star teams are prohibited.

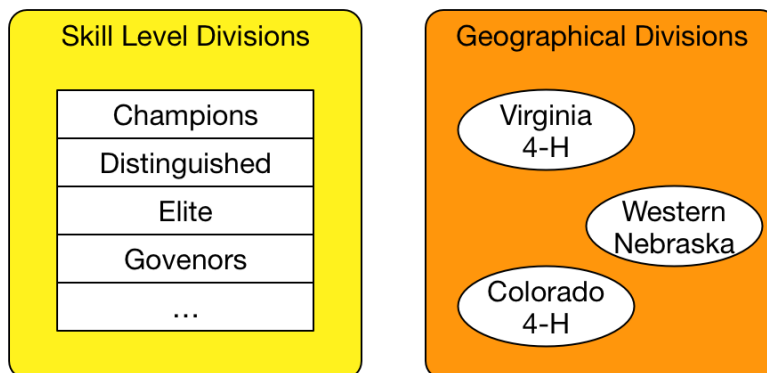
Any club may enter a team in The League, but may only enter exactly one team. Individual athletes are only allowed to compete for one team within a single season.

As further described in the “Games” section, during the regular season each team may have as many athletes compete in a game as they have eligible team members, but only the top five individual scores count towards the team’s total for each game. Teams with fewer than five team members for any given game will be given a Did Not Start (DNS). In the post-season, each team may only have five athletes compete, with all five scores counting towards the team total.

Divisions

Teams are organized into one of two types of divisions. “Skill-Level” divisions, teams are squadded according to their relative and historic skill levels. “Geographical” divisions, teams that specifically want to compete against each other, regardless of skill level, are squadded into the same division. Its expected, but not necessary, that these teams will all be from the same geographical area (e.g. state of Georgia).

Teams wishing to compete within a geographical division must contact the league administrator to make the request. A geographical division must have a minimum of 6 participating teams and maximum of 12 teams.



All team entries, not in a geographical division, will be placed in a skill-level divisions. There are ten potential divisions. These divisions are (from highest seeded to lowest seeded):

1. Champions Division
2. Distinguished Division
3. Elite Division
4. Governor Division
5. Leaders Division

6. Master Division
7. Premier Division
8. Sharpshooter Division
9. Tops Division
10. Wizards Division

The total number of divisions used will be dependent on participation in a given season. There will always be a Champions Division within each conference. The number of additional divisions is likely to fluctuate between seasons.

Each skill-level division will ideally have 8 teams. However, there could be as few as 6 or as many as 12 teams, depending on participation. There will be an emphasis to make divisions of an even number of teams, this is to try to allow each team to have exactly one bye week during the season.

During the regular season, teams will only compete against teams from within their division. For skill level divisions this ensures that teams are competing with and measured against teams of relatively equal marksmanship skill. Division rankings are based on a team's win/loss record (see Regular Season and League Tournament for exact ranking rules).

Team Seeding into Skill Level Divisions

A major goal of the League is to divide teams into Divisions of relatively equal skill level. To do this, teams not competing in a geographical division, will be seeded into a skill level division based on their performances in the previous year's regular season.

The Champion's Division will be composed of the following:

- The top four teams from the previous season's Champion's Division.
- The top two teams from the previous season's Distinguished Division.
- The remaining slots will be filled with the teams with the highest seasonal average from the previous season, or for new teams entering the league their qualifying score.

For all other Divisions (e.g. Distinguished, Elite, etc) teams will be squadded into Divisions based on either their previous season's seasonal average, or for new teams entering the league, their qualifying score. The teams with the highest seasonal average from last season or qualifying score for new teams will be squadded into the Distinguished division, the next highest teams into the Elite division, and so on.

Squadding into geographical divisions is based on mutual request of the teams.

Games

A "game" is when two teams compete against each other.

Current National Rifle Association BB Gun Rules will govern the conduct of each game, except where clearly stated otherwise within this league program. Each team will shoot a 4x10. The winning team is the team with the highest sum of their top five athletes' scores. Games will not include a written test.

Athletes may only use the Daisy Model 99, Model 299, Model 499, or 499B in League Games. This rule is to ensure that no team has an equipment advantage over any other team.

In a regular season game, each team may include as many eligible club members as they wish, but only the top five athletes' scores will count. In the single-elimination tournament, each team is limited to five athletes, with all scores counting.

All scoring will be done electronically with Orion, using decimal scoring. Either Orion's Competition BB Gun target or Orion's Practice BB Gun target may be used in a league game. Manual methods of scoring and challenges are strictly prohibited, this rule supersedes NRA rule 14.3.1.

All games, by default, will be virtual. This means each team will compete from their home range. Where geographically possible and the opposing coaches agree, games may be local. A local game is when both teams compete at the same time on the same range. In a virtual game, coaches from opposing teams are encouraged to coordinate their schedule so that both teams shoot the game at the same time. Please notify the League Administrator (league@shooterstech.net) one week prior to the game if the opposing coaches would prefer a local game instead of a virtual game.

Teams have the full calendar week, defined as Monday through Sunday, to shoot and submit their scores to Orion. Teams are encouraged to submit their scores before Saturday at 4:00 EST. This is Orion's telephone support closing time, if a team needs assistance with Orion they will not be able to contact support after this time. Team scores submitted after midnight Sunday EST will not be accepted and will be given an DNS (did not start).

Media Production During Games

Teams are encouraged to use audio and visual media production during each game to help improve the quality and excitement of each game. Media production includes:

- Playing music during the competition. Playing music is permitted during league games.
- Displaying the online scoreboard on a large TV or projector during the competition.
- Announcing the names of athletes who shot a personal best after the game's conclusion.

Regular Season and League Tournament

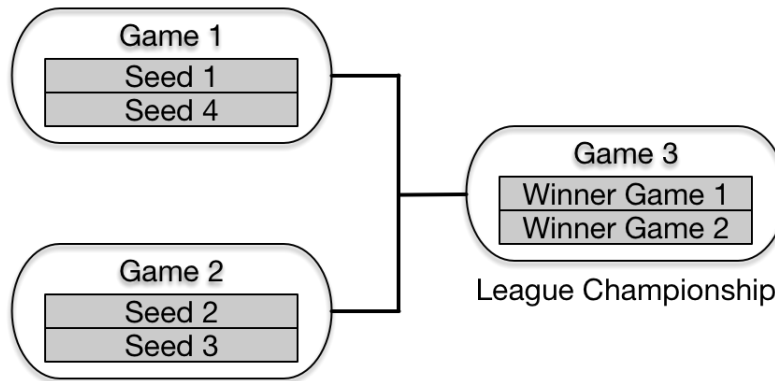
A “season” is the complete set of games. In a season, each team will compete against other teams in their division. Each team competes in one game a week, with at least one bye week. A team may have to compete in two games in a week, if a game in their schedule had to be rescheduled. Weeks begin on Monday and end on Sunday (See the “Games” section for more details). The season’s schedule of games will be announced one week prior to the start of the season.

There is one season per year, consisting of three parts, a “pre-season,” the “regular season,” and the “single-elimination tournament.”

- The pre-season is optional but recommended competition for all teams. It consists of a single-game course of fire amongst all teams. Its purpose is to allow teams to practice competing in the league in a non-counting game. All teams will be entered into the pre-season once. On request teams may compete in the pre-season multiple times. The pre-season competition lasts from 1 January through 28 January 2018.
- All teams will compete in the regular season. The regular season is 8 weeks long, and scheduled from 29 January to 25 April 2017. Each team will compete in 6 or 7 games during the regular season. 7 games for divisions of an even number of teams, and 6 games for divisions of an odd number of teams. Depending on the size of the division, teams might not compete against all other teams, or they might compete against some teams twice. The regular season schedule is created randomly by Orion. Within a division teams are ranked by their win-loss record.
- At the end of the regular season, the top four teams will be invited to participate in the single-elimination tournament also called the “post-season,” 2 April to 15 April 2017. Note, all teams will have the week of 26 March through 1 April off, due to the Easter holiday. The single-elimination tournament determines the league champion. Teams will be seeded, 1 through 4, into the tournament based on their seasonal average. All invited teams will participate in the first week of the tournament. The two winning teams will compete for the championship title during the second week.

Teams invited to the Post-Season Tournament will be:

- The first and second place team from the Champions Division.
- The next two teams with the highest seasonal average from any division.



Teams with two or more Did Not Starts (DNS) or one or more Disqualified (DSQ) games are not eligible for the single-elimination tournament.

DNS and DSQ games do not count towards a team seasonal average.

The League Administrator has the authority to expand the post-season tournament to a three week eight team tournament if 32 or more teams participate in the League. If this threshold is met, the League Administrator will send out an amended Match Program detailing the new post-season tournament.

Tie-breaking between teams of equal win-loss record within a division, during the regular season, will be as follows:

- Fewest number of DSQ games.
- Fewest number of DNS games.
- Highest seasonal average.
- The team with the highest game score from any game during the regular season.
- The team with the second highest game score, then third highest, then fourth highest, and so on, from any game during the regular seasons until the tie is broken.

Tie-breaking between teams of equal season average, for invitations into the single-elimination tournament, and for squadding into the single-elimination tournament will be as follows:

- The team with the highest game score from any game during the regular season.
- The team with the second highest game score, then third highest, then fourth highest, and so on, from any game during the regular seasons until the tie is broken.

Team Registration and Fees

Registration

All shooting clubs located in the United States or its territories are eligible to compete in The League. Teams outside the United States may compete with the permission of the League Administrator.

Teams may register by completing the entry form at the end of this document or online at www.orionscoringsystem.com/bbgunleague. Only one team per club is allowed.

Registration is open until 19 January 2018.

Teams may withdraw from the League, with a full refund, until 19 January 2018. After this date withdrawing from the league is impossible and no refunds will be given.

All team names must directly reference the school or club they represent. 4-H teams will use the county they represent followed by "4-H," for example "Fairfax County 4-H."

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.

A team photo is required from each team at the start of each season. The photo will be used in press releases, blogs, and social media entries. The team photo may be sent to the League Administrator at league@shooterstech.net.

Teams participating in the National BB Gun League for the first time will be asked to provide historical scores from well known matches. These scores will count towards the teams "qualifying score" for purposes are squadding into skill-level divisions. Some examples of well known matches scores may be pulled from include the Daisy National BB Gun Championship, NRA BB Gun Sectional, and state 4-H Championship.

Teams wishing to compete against each other in a geographical division will need to contact the league administrator (league@shooterstech.net) prior to the registration deadline.

As previously mentioned in the "Team Member Requirements" subsection there are a few things to consider while registering:

- Team members must be active, participating members of the same local club (rule 2.11 a); all star teams are not allowed.

- All athletes must be eligible to compete under the National Rifle Association BB Gun rules.
- Athletes are eligible to compete provided their 16th birthday is after the first day of the regular season, 29 January 2018 (rule 2.3). Stated another way, athletes must be born on or after 30 January 2002.
- Teams must be composed of at least five eligible athletes.
- An athlete may only be compete for one team.

The sponsoring school or club must be an Orion for Clubs customer and has the Result Center enabled. Clubs that do not yet have Orion Scoring Systems may purchase a bundle from Orion Scoring System's website (<http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/orion/BundleList.aspx>).

Fees

There will be an annual per team registration fee to participate in a League. For the 2018 season, the annual fee is \$75 per team.

Teams are responsible for having a valid, uptodate Orion license and providing their own Orion BB Gun targets for the games. Either Orion's Competition BB Gun target or Orion's Practice BB Gun target may be used in a league game. Targets may be purchased from Orion Scoring System's website (<http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/orion/TargetList.aspx>).

The registration fee is complimentary (\$0) for clubs or teams who have purchased an Orion Scoring System since 19 January 2017. In future years, the registration fee will be complimentary for clubs or teams who purchased Orion within the last 12 months.

Awards

To help encourage the development of young athletes and recognize top performers, The League seeks to provide as many awards as possible to deserving teams and their team members.

The participation and award schedule for 2018 is as follows:

- Each athlete from each team will receive a participation pin.
- Each athlete will receive a specially designed league sticker that may be placed on his or her rifle.
- A league poster for each participating team.
- Engraved medals for each athletes in each of the top three teams within each division.
- A banner for each of the top three teams within each division.
- A banner for each team that advances to a post-season tournament.
- Each athlete who participates in a post-season tournament will receive a participation medal unique for the tournament.

- A plaque for the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in each single-elimination tournament; the MVP is defined as the athlete from the team that wins the tournament who has the highest average score throughout the tournament, and who participated in each tournament game.
- 1500 Orion BB Gun Competition targets for the league champion team.

Awards will not be provided to teams who have not paid their registration fees.

Press Releases and Social Media Postings

To attract greater positive attention to the sport, to The League, and to the participating teams, Orion Scoring System will actively write and distribute press releases. Press releases will be prepared at least for each game during the regular season and post-season.

Orion Scoring System will also maintain a League Facebook page. The Facebook page will be used as a platform to promote The League, teams, and athletes by providing updates on results and other general postings about League news and updates. All coaches, athletes, parents, etc. are encouraged to share the Facebook page with friends, family, and basically anyone else! Because one of the key principles of The Leagues is to increase the sport's spectator appeal, postings will include easily understood terminology. Consequently, those unfamiliar with the sport will be able to keep up with their friends and family competing in a league. The page can be found at www.facebook.com/NationalBBGunLeague.

Each team is required to provide one or more team photos. These photographs may be used as part of any press release, social media posting, 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 the following:

- Safely conducting each game according to current National Rifle Association BB Gun Rules.
- Scheduling each game within the time frame of the week, and submitting the scores to Orion by midnight Sunday each week.
- The correct use of Orion Scoring System.
- Contacting the League Administrator for any outstanding circumstance, such as a rule interpretation question, rule violation, or a scheduling conflict causing a delay in reporting scores.
- Act as the Official Referee, Range Officer, and Statistical officer at each game (NRA rule 11.2, 11.5, and 11.6) or assign these responsibilities to another responsible adult leader.
- The honesty and integrity of their competition procedures, their team members, and all team representatives.

- Being familiar with this League Program and following all rules and procedures outlined within it.

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 two weeks prior to the start of the league.

From time-to-time, team coaches may be asked to verify the scores they submit. Verification can be achieved through submitting the target images scored by Orion via the Orion cloud backup. Failure to provide verification will result in a DSQ for that game and team will not be eligible to compete in the post-season.

If any team is found to have intentionally manipulated any submitted score or intentionally or through negligence violated National Rifle Association BB Gun Rules, the team will be immediately disqualified from the current season, and the school or club will have a three year ban on competing in any Orion League.

League Administrator

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 deviations to League rules to accommodate the specific needs of a team will be allowed during the season if approved by the League Administrator. For example, the League Administrator would be authorized to allow an extension to report scores due to inclement weather preventing a team from shooting one week.

League Administrator is authorized to cancel games if conditions warrant such action. For example, if a team's range is closed for a week or more due to an extreme weather event such as flooding or a tornado, the League Administrator may cancel one or more games for that team.

The League Administrator is allowed to clarify league rules during the season. League rules, however, may only be changed between seasons. Based on feedback from team coaches and previous seasons' operations, the League Administrator is responsible for changing League rules between seasons to ensure that the League remains efficient, effective, and relevant. All changes will be made within this League Program. Team coaches are strongly encouraged to provide feedback to the League Administrator using the phone number or email address Below.

League Administrator responsibilities are held by Erik Anderson with Orion Scoring System. Contact information is as follows:

Erik Anderson
Orion Scoring System
league@shooterstech.net
(703) 596 0099

In the case of a written competition protest, the League Administrator will appoint a three member jury, consistent with NRA rule 11.2.1. The jury is responsible for adjudicating the protest and must base its findings only on the rules and the league program.

Instructions for Reporting Scores

The following subsections generally explain how to report scores for League matches. More detailed instructions with relevant links for participating in a League Game and reporting scores is available on Orion's website at <http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/106>.

Matches will be available to download each Monday after 12:00 noon EST.

Requirements

- Version 2.4.1 of Orion.
- Each participating team has to be an Orion for Clubs customer and have the Result Center enabled.

Competing in a Game

To Orion, a league game is a special type of Child Match. The game has to be downloaded from Orion's Result Center. By doing so, Orion will know the rulebook, course of fire, and most importantly, the teams competing. Once downloaded competing in the game is almost identical to any other match.

1. Download the Game
 - a. Open Orion to see Orion's "Welcome Screen." Or if Orion is already open, from Orion's menu bar, click on 'File' then 'Show Welcome Screen.'
 - b. Under "Create a New Match" click on the name of the match to download it from the Internet.
 - Matches will be available to download after 12:00 EST on Monday of each week.
 - The Match may only be downloaded once.
 - If you can not find the match to download please contact the League Administrator at league@shooterstech.net.

2. Specifying Team Members

Orion will ask if you want to confirm downloading the game and if you want to add your Favorites to the Team. Select yes to both questions.

3. Scoring Targets

Score and assign targets normally. Scoring targets in a game is just like a traditional Orion Match. For questions regarding scoring targets please contact Orion's support at (703) 596 0099.

4. Uploading Results

Orion will automatically upload your game's results to the Internet, provided your computer has Internet access. No special action is required.

2018 Orion National BB Gun League Registration Form

For more information, including the complete League Program or to register online visit

www.orionscoringsystem.com/bbgunleague

Registration Deadline is 19 January 2018

School or Club Name: _____

Orion Account Number: _____

Coach's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Shipping Address

(Street Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

The fee to compete in the 2018 season is \$75 per team. Please mail your team's check (made payable to "Shooter's Technology LLC") and this registration form to Orion Scoring System at:

10302 Bristow Center Drive, PMB #55,
Bristow, VA 20136.

Number of athletes expected to compete: _____

Did your team participate in the 2017 BB Gun League: Yes No

On behalf of my team, athletes, and fellow coaches, we pledge to abide by the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rules, adhere to the National BB Gun League Program, and conduct ourselves with the highest ethical, moral, and sportsmanship standards in each game and throughout the season.

I have read and understand the 2018 National BB Gun League Program, and I agree to follow the rules and regulations within it.

(Coach's Signature)

(Date)

2018 Orion National BB Gun League Registration Form - Cont.

A key principle of The League is increasing the sport's spectator appeal. To attract greater positive attention to the sport, to participating teams, and to The League, Orion Scoring System will actively write and distribute press releases and post on social media. To provide greater visibility for your team at a local level, please provide the name and contact information of your school and/or local newspaper.

Local Newspaper: _____
(Name) (Email Address)

If you would like for us to send results to any other media outlets, please write in the name and email address at the bottom of this page.

Orion Scoring System will maintain a League Facebook page. The page can be found at www.facebook.com/NationalBBGunLeague. We recommend "liking" the page and sharing it with your athletes, as it will be used to provide League information and updates for participants. Additionally, the Facebook page will be used as a platform to promote The League, teams, and athletes by providing updates on results and other general postings about League news and updates. All coaches, athletes, parents, etc. are encouraged to share the page with friends, family, and basically anyone else!

Because one of the key principles of The Leagues is to increase the sport's spectator appeal, postings will include easily-understood terminology. Consequently, those unfamiliar with the sport will be able to keep up with their friends and family competing in a league through sharable postings.

Please remember that each team is required to provide one or more team photos. These photographs may be used as part of any press release, social media posting, or related news story. In addition, coaches and athletes may be asked to provide additional quotes, interviews, or photographs. Please attach the team photo to an email and send to league@shooterstech.net.

Important Dates

- Registration Deadline: 19 January 2018.
- Last Day to Withdraw from League: 19 January 2018.
- Preseason: 1 January through 28 January 2018.
- Coaches Meeting Webinar: The week of 22 through 26 January, exact date and time not yet set.
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