

Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition

Official MYSC Rules and Regulations

Revised 07/22 for 2022 State Event

The rules & regulations presented here are based on the Official Rules & Regulations the NRA has presented for use at the International YHEC event.

Per International YHEC Rules and Regulations, all Regional, State and Provincial sponsors are required to use the International YHEC Rules & Regulation for state YHEC events.

The MYSC Board

Official Rules and Regulations Manual NRA Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition

(A youth program of the National Rifle Association of America)

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(This manual rescinds any previously distributed Editions.)

The Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition Rules and Regulations are established in order to provide for the safe and efficient operation of the State Event, and to provide a fair and equitable basis for participants to compete. While this manual is to serve as the guideline and basis of operation, the MYSC officials reserve the right to alter and change any rule in order to ensure either safety or efficient operation of the State Event. Any rule changes will be either published, or participants will be advised prior to competing.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All **MYSC** participants and coaches are responsible to be knowledgeable of all event rules, regulations and contents for this program manual.

Use of cell phones (or other prohibited electronics) by participants, parents and/or coaches will lead to immediate disqualification at the event in which they are participating. Second offense will be disqualification from the event. No awards will be awarded to persons who have been disqualified in any event.

A Note from the NRA

Caution: Procedures and techniques outlined in this publication may require special abilities, technical knowledge, and/or safety considerations. The National Rifle Association of America (its agents, officers, and employees) accepts no responsibility for the results obtained by persons using these procedures and techniques and disclaims all liability for any consequential injuries or damages.

The mention of products or technical data does not necessarily mean they have been tested by the authors or NRA staff, and does not constitute endorsement or verification by the NRA.

Local restrictions may apply to some techniques, procedures, and products in your area. Check local laws and game regulations before proceeding.

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I. INTRODUCTION

About MYSC

The Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition (MYSC) is a National Rifle Association of America (NRA) and the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) program sponsored event and is open to any youth who has successfully passed a Hunter Safety Course and is in possession of a valid Hunter Safety Certificate; has not reached their nineteenth (19) birthday on or before August 1st of current year.

Participants in the Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition (MYSC) are also eligible to register and attend the NRA International Youth Hunter Education Challenge for the current year, which is conducted annually. Location and dates are announced by the National Rifle Association.

MYSC Events

The MYSC program is divided into eight (8) events or activities:

Four (4) Shooting Events –

1. Hunting Archery Challenge
2. Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge
3. Hunting Shotgun Challenge
4. Light Hunting Rifle Challenge

Four (4) Responsibility Events –

5. Hunter Responsibility Exam
6. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge
7. Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge
8. Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge

The Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition (MYSC) operates all eight (8) events and participants are expected to participate in all eight (8) events. It is the goal of our program to provide training, knowledge and experience in all phases of the hunting and shooting activities. A limited number of shotguns, rifles, bows and muzzleloaders are available for participants to use; however, it is **strongly recommended** that individuals provide their own equipment.

II. SAFETY RULES

Safety is Shooting's Most Important Rule

These rules provide for the efficient and orderly operation of the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) and have been adopted to be used at the Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition (MYSC). Many local range regulations exist for one reason alone – **SAFETY**. Others serve a dual purpose – smooth range operation and safety.

It's your responsibility as a participant, as a coach or as a MYSC official, to become familiar with the rules and to know the meaning behind those that are safety-oriented.

Event Safety Rules

- I. Actions of uncased firearms MUST always be open *with an empty chamber indicator (ECI) inserted in the chamber* except when on the firing line, ready to fire.

- II. Guns are to be unloaded except when on the firing line, ready to fire.
- III. Arrows will not be nocked until on the firing line.
- IV. All firearms must have a safety device with the exception of traditional muzzleloaders. The safety will remain on at all times except when ready to fire.
- V. All firearms will be pointed and bows drawn in a safe direction at all times.
- VI. Know and obey all range commands. Arrive at each activity at least 15 minutes prior to relay time in order to receive proper activity orientation.
- VII. ONLY one shell or cartridge may be placed in a firearm at a time, UNLESS otherwise specified in the rules for the activity or by the Event Director.
- VIII. All participants and officials must wear adequate eye and ear protection while on the firing line.
- IX. Firearms and bows MUST be transported in a case when going to and from events.
- X. Firearms and bows not in use at event sites MUST be placed in a gun/bow rack (rifles w/ ECI inserted in chamber).

Gun Safety Rules

The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling are:

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Then using or storing a gun, always follow these NRA rules:

4. Know your target and what is beyond.
5. Know how to use the gun safely.
6. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
7. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
8. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
9. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
10. Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
11. Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Protection of your sight and hearing are **YOUR** responsibility. Wear adequate eye and ear protection while on the firing line – as a shooter, official, or spectator.

To learn more about gun safety, enroll in a NRA safety training or basic marksmanship course, NRA hunter clinic or state hunter education class.

Archery Safety Rules

The fundamental rules for safe archery/bow handling are:

1. Do not nock an arrow on the bowstring until ready to use.
2. Always keep a bow with a nocked arrow pointed in a safe direction.
3. Never draw a bow with nocked arrow until ready to shoot.
4. Always keep field points or broadheads* covered until ready to use.
*Broadheads are prohibited in the YHEC (and MYSC) program.

When using or storing a bow, always follow these rules:

1. Be sure the bow is safe to operate.
2. Know how to safely use the bow and its equipment.
3. Use only the correct arrows and equipment for your bow.
4. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
5. Store bows and other archery equipment so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
6. Never dry-fire a bow.

III. PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Eligibility for Participation in the NRA MYSC

The MYSC event will be held at the Capital Area Sportsmen League in Lansing, Michigan.

Participation in the MYSC event is open to:

Any person, 18 years old or younger, as of August 1st for the current event year, who is interested in attending the Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition. Participants may register as individuals or with a five (5) member team. *Individuals may register only once and are not allowed to be a member of more than one team.*

All participants must have successfully completed a hunter education course in North America.

- All participants are **required to provide a copy of their Hunter Safety card** when submitting registration form to participate in the MYSC. ***ONLY participants who have a copy of their hunter safety card on file with the MYSC organization on the day of the event shall participate in the MYSC event.***

Registered participants are encouraged to participate in all eight (8) events of the MYSC event – Archery, Muzzleloader, Rifle, Shotgun, Hunter Safety Responsibility Exam, Hunter Safety Trail, Orienteering and Wildlife Identification. ***However, for an individual's score to be eligible to receive medals, they must have completed all four (4) responsibility events: Hunter Safety Responsibility Exam, Hunter Safety Trail, Orienteering and Wildlife Identification.*** (Note: Responsibility events are considered the tie breaking events.)

Persons /Teams participating in the MYSC must have:

- at least one (1) sponsoring adult for an individual or team

- **Teams** may include up to five (5) members with one (1) sponsoring adult per every five (5) member team. Members of teams will be eligible for individual awards and recognition.

Registration Options:

Option 1 - Register as an individual only. *Individuals may be grouped with other individual registrants into a five (5) person team in order to provide for efficient operation of the State Event. Teams created in such fashion will be at the discretion of the State Event Director, or registrar. Such teams will be composed of individuals within the same age category and they will be eligible for all team and individual awards. In case there is not a sufficient number of individuals to form a complete five (5) member team, individuals will be formed into a team of less than five (5) and will compete for team awards with less than five (5) members.*

Option 2 – Register as a participant and a team member.

A team may include up to five (5) members. Scores from registered team members will be compiled resulting in “team aggregate scores.”

Registration Requirements:

- All registration forms and fees must be submitted and received by MYSC **staff no later than the late registration date.**
- All registrants are **required** to provide a copy of their Hunter Safety card prior to the MYSC event along with their registration form.
- All registered participants are required to participate in all eight (8) events of the MYSC.

MYSC Divisions

The NRA Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition will use the following Divisions.

A. Divisions

1. **Junior Division** (14 years of age and under)

Participants who are 14 years of age and under, on or before August 1st of the current event year, may enter in the Junior Division.

Participants who are eligible for entry in the Junior Division, may upon their election, request to be placed on or as a member of a Senior Team. Individuals will score for individual Junior Awards. Their scores will be part of the aggregate team score and be counted as a member of a Senior Team. Such cross registrations are at the sole discretion of the MYSC staff.

2. **Senior Division** (15 through 18 years of age)

Participants ages 15 through 18 years of age, on or before August 1st of current event year, may enter in the Senior Division.

Senior participants MAY NOT be registered as part of a Junior Team.

NOTE: Individuals and/or coaches may not alter their participation division or team members after midnight on the date of the registration deadline. (Also see Section IX, Entries and Cancellations for MYSC Participants.)

IV. PROGRAM REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Safety will be the first and foremost consideration during all MYSC activities.

Participants and spectators assume all risk of personal injury or property damage as noted on the required release form located on the back of the registration form.

- Participants violating any safety rule as established within these program rules and regulations, *or as stated by MYSC Officials*, will be given one warning and face disqualification from further participation should a second infraction occur. **If the safety violation is severe (at the discretion of MYSC officials), the participant may not be given a warning, but may be subject to disqualification and removal from further participation. In addition, it may be required to remove the individual from the facility.**

Participants should provide their own firearms, bows and arrows, compasses and eye and ear protection. *The MYSC program may provide limited equipment (muzzleloader rifles, shotguns, .22 rifles) if available, and should circumstances merit. If such equipment is provided, by either the MYSC program or other individuals the participant will not be allowed additional time or provide for sight-in of borrowed equipment.*

Individuals may not participate for one another in any activity.

Participants are expected to exhibit behavior above reproach at all times.*

Safety is everybody's concern. Any unsafe act(s) or condition(s) may be addressed so as not to endanger individuals. Please bring all safety concerns to the MYSC State Event Director, or the NRA State YHEC Coordinator, as well as any Event Leader or Volunteer.

***NOTICE**

All participants and parents/guardians must sign a release regarding program regulations and code of conduct before the event. This will be sent to participants upon registration through email.

NRA Code of Conduct

(Adapted in full for MYSC Event)

Program regulations governing conduct for all attendees at the NRA Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition (MYSC) State Event: staff, participants, coaches, volunteers, spectators, etc.

The following regulations and conduct codes are to be adhered to at all times during the MYSC event.

It is understood that each participant will:

1. Always follow the NRA's rules of firearms safety.
2. Participate fully in all activities.
3. Fully cooperate and comply with all established rules and regulations, and reasonable requests made by MYSC officers, officials, directors, event leaders, and volunteers.
4. Know and follow all local, state, and federal laws.
5. Know and follow all rules pertaining to the event(s) in which you are participating.
6. Respect others and their property at all times.
7. Exhibit high moral and ethical standards.
8. Notify administration when situations occur that require attention.
9. Always dress in appropriate attire. Recognizing the publicity attracted by the NRA and its programs, it is important to promote a positive image for the hunting and shooting sports. Clothing worn during the MYSC event should be tasteful and appropriate for this type of event. Articles of clothing featuring controversial, questionable or offensive illustrations, slogans or language are prohibited. NRA officers, employees, and event directors are empowered to take action necessary to maintain acceptable clothing standards.

It is further understood that staff, participants, coaches, volunteers, and /or family members are PROHIBITED From:

1. Possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages, and/or illegal drugs/narcotic substances, tobacco products or electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) during the MYSC program. Use of tobacco and e-cig products may be used in designated areas only for persons of legal age. Smoking is **fully prohibited** in, around and near the Muzzleloading event.
2. Keeping ammunition in their housing units/areas. All ammunition must be turned in to MYSC officials at registration.
3. Going to, observing, and/or evaluating at an event before actual participation. *It is also prohibited for parents, coaches, spectators or other individuals from advising participants or coaches about the set-up, layout, or any other information which would enhance the participant's performance in a particular event prior to their participation in that event.*
4. Videotaping, taking still photographs, or written, recorded notes with the intent of showing participants (and/or coaches, non-participants, spectators) event layouts.
5. Using physical gestures and/or electronic equipment (i.e., walkie talkies, pagers, two-ways, beepers, cell phones and cell/camera phones) or other messaging/communications equipment with the intent of assisting individuals participating in events.
6. Communicating *in any manner with a participant performing in an event with the intent to assist or coach that individual so as to improve their performance in the event.*
7. Coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator area(s).

Failure to comply with the NRA Code of Conduct may result in immediate and permanent expulsion of individual(s) from the MYSC.

V. EVENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Rules and Regulations for Shooting Events

1. **Hunting Archery Challenge**

- a. Participants will move through a *thirty (30) target* archery course in a natural setting whenever possible. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while bowhunting.
- b. The Hunting Archery Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at targets varying in distance (*from 10 to 40 yards*). Targets will be either NRA life-size game targets or 3-D game targets with scoring areas directly over the vital areas of the animal.
- c. **Scoring** – Each participant will shoot a total of 30 shots. All shots breaking or touching the vital area will be counted as a “hit.” Shots touching leg or antler areas will not count as “hits.” Challenges must be made on the range before the next arrow is pulled. The Hunting Archery Challenge has the maximum possibility of 300 points. NOTE: A time limit of up to 45 seconds can be applied at each station. Time limits on some targets may vary depending on shooting station requirements. Participants will be advised of a time limit change upon arrival at the shooting station.

- d. **Archery Equipment**

Required

Shooters may use only one bow throughout this activity (exception - bow malfunction).

Bring your own arrows. It is suggested you bring enough arrows, for your skill level, to complete the course. There is limited time to retrieve lost arrows.

All arrows must have either glue on or screw in target or field points.

All arrows **MUST** be in a quiver (i.e. hip or bow quiver) while being transported between stations.

It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that all participants use armguards and finger tabs.

Permitted

Only hunting-type compounds, recurves or long bows will be permitted.

Bows may be equipped with hunting-type sights.

- Self-adjusting sights (i.e. Sightmaster).

Available at Archery Event

MYSC has a limited number of **low** poundage bows, arrows, arm guards, finger tabs, and quivers available for loan. Loaner equipment will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Participants using loaner equipment will be responsible for returning **ALL** equipment loaned – including arrows. If not returned, you will be charged a fee for missing equipment when you return to the registration table. (i.e. Cost of arrows will be determined on the day of the event, estimate \$6 - \$8 each)

Prohibited

Sky Drawing

Cable stops

Extended sight bars that measure farther than six (6) inches from the back of riser of bow to front of sight.

Manually adjustable sights may have no more than six sight pins or be adjusted to more than six sight positions

More than one (1) stabilizer

Stabilizers over twelve (12) inches

Range finders

Binoculars, monocular or spotting scopes

Crossbows (Exception: Those who are legally handicapped and have a legal crossbow permit.)

Broadhead hunting tips

Arrow shafts that do not have target or field points

Sights that have lens with or without magnification

Shocker & Bludgeon Points

Globes, cross hairs or other target sights are not permitted

MYSC Archery Rules

(Presented to participants before entering the course)

1. No range finders or binoculars allowed on the course
2. There will be no smoking on the course. This is for parents and coaches as well.
3. No broadheads, field tips only.
4. There will be 10 stations, 3 targets per station, shoot 1 arrow per target, for a total of 30 targets. The scoring will be 10, 8, 5, and 0.
5. Do not shoot at any targets until instructed to do so. The commands will be: CLEAR, NOCK ARROW, SHOOT.
6. No 'sky drawing' is permitted; penalty may include a warning or disqualification.
7. Do not retrieve arrows until instructed to do so. Do not pull arrows until they have been officially scored. Place one hand on the target, the other hand on the arrow and pull straight out. If necessary, please put the target back together or straighten it.

8. Challenges must be made on the range before the next arrow is pulled.
9. No running on the course.
10. Be aware of where you are and where your group is when looking for your arrows. Please do not go backwards on the course and possibly into the path of oncoming shooters.
11. Parents and coaches are allowed on the course; however, no coaching is allowed. If you do, you will be asked to leave the course. Help is appreciated looking for lost arrows but please don't crowd around the targets while the participants and scorer are scoring.
12. Stay well behind the shooting line when someone else is shooting. Also, please be quiet when others are shooting.
13. Arrows must be pointed down range at all times. All arrows MUST be placed in a quiver while moving from one station to the next.
14. If you have a cell phone or pager, please turn it off while on the course. Coaches and parents as well.
15. No food is allowed on the course!
16. Please don't leave without signing your score cards after you are finished shooting.
17. Above all else, be safe! Have Fun!!!

2. Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge

NOTE: Smoking is PROHIBITED on, near, or around this venue.

NO open cans of powder will be allowed on the firing line or loading bench.

- a) Participants will shoot the muzzleloader course in a natural setting or a range course. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while hunting.
- b) The Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge will be conducted with participants shooting at life-sized game targets or action targets. *"Clangor" targets may also be utilized. When this style of target is used, striking the designated area with a shot will be considered as a "hit". "Hits", when using clangor targets, will be at the determination of the MYSC scoring official.* Participants will shoot from three positions at three different distances; short range, medium range and long range. The Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge has the maximum possibility of 300 points.

Position one (1) – (short range) may have a distance of 35 yards or less. Participants will shoot from a standing position with no props permitted at these distances or positions.

Position two (2) – (medium range) may have a shooting distance of 50 yards or less. Participants may use any shooting position (excluding prone).

Position three (3) – (long range) may have a shooting distance of 75 yards or less. Participants may use any shooting position **and only props provided by the event director.**

- c. **Scoring** – Participants will shoot a total of twelve (12) shots worth twenty-five (25) points, four (4) from each of the three (3) different positions. Movement of the flag has to be a full swing to count as a hit. Any call to challenge must be made before proceeding to the next station. The Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

NOTE: A written test is given at the International YHEC event and these are the resources listed that you may use for preparation.

The Muzzleloading Rifle Handbook – Item No. EZ 14290, may be ordered from NRA's website @ <http://materials.nrahq.org/go/products.aspx?cat+G-Books>.

d. **Muzzleloader Equipment**

Required

Shooters may use only one muzzleloader rifle throughout this activity (exception – muzzleloader malfunction).

Permitted

Any flintlock, disk, percussion, musket cap or 209-primer type muzzleloading rifles .54 caliber or smaller will be permitted.* (Refer to Available at Muzzleloader Event Section below)

Muzzleloading rifles will utilize granulated pyrodex or black powder, or pellets

*Projectiles will be round-ball or pure lead bullets only. (**No copper-jacketed bullets allowed.**)*

Muzzleloaders may have a set trigger BUT may not be set until ready to fire.

Muzzleloaders may be equipped with sporter type thumbhole stocks (non-adjustable).

Muzzleloaders may be equipped with a sling not to exceed 1 ½ inches (3.81 centimeters) in width.

Muzzleloader sights will open, peep, hooded or tunnel with standard front post and bead.

Muzzleloaders may be loaded with single projectile patched balls or pure lead bullets.

Participants are allowed to use their own accessories, **however** all accessories **MUST** be turned in at registration and inspected by event officials prior to participation. Caps to be used **MUST** be presented to range officials.

Participants may use a flask if filled on the range.

Available at Muzzleloader Event

- *Accessories for .50 caliber muzzleloaders will be available for use during the event. Participants choosing to use another caliber (i.e. .45 or .54) are required to furnish their own accessories and round balls; these **MUST** be turned in at registration.
- MYSC will provide .50 caliber round balls for utilization at the State Event, as well as Black Powder or Pyrodex.

- A limited number of traditional muzzleloader rifles are available at the Muzzleloading event.

Prohibited

Shooting mats

Binoculars, monoculars, spotting scopes or telescopic sights (optical devices)

Range finders

Open cans and/or dispensers of powder on the line

More than 60 grains ignition components by volume, *per load*

Pure lead bullets/balls weighing more than 385 grains

Kneeling rolls

Adjustable competition sling swivels

Adjustable thumbhole stock

Any smokeless or nitro cellulose-based powder

Muzzleloaders larger than .54 caliber

Wooden ramrods

Shooting sticks

Any jacketed bullet sabots

Sights with crosshairs

Copper jacketed bullets

Pre-filled flasks

- e. **Shooting Procedures** – Only participants will be allowed on the station or firing line while shooting each station. The score judge or range officer will oversee firing line, loading bench and the participant as required. The participant will shoot his/her quota of rounds and return the gun to the rack, or move to the next station (with unloaded firearm). This sequence is repeated for each participant until all have completed the activity. Participants will be allowed to clean firearms. The time limit to complete the entire course will be 45 minutes. (*NOTE: Times will be at the discretion of the Event Director.*)
- f. **Cross Fires (When using NRA Life-Size paper targets)**
If a participant's target has been struck by more shots than fired by the participant, that target shall be declared as having been crossfired:

The event director must determine that the crossfire was unintentionally caused (with no malicious intent) by participants on the firing line. If this is established, the crossfired target will receive the total score of rounds inside the scoring area (not to exceed the maximum score for that round of shooting). The participant committing a crossfire act will only be scored for the amount of rounds inside his/her actual target's scoring area.

Should the Event Director find that the cross firing was an intentional act by participants to gain unfair advantage, all parties involved will be immediately disqualified for the event and will subsequently receive "DQ" (amounting to '0") under both individual and team scores. Such individuals are also subject to violation of the Code of Conduct and may be subject to disqualification from the entire State Event.

g. Misfires

If a participant's Muzzleloading rifle misfires (fails to fire) as a result of improper loading, (omission of powder, patch, or ball or installing powder, patch, or ball in an improper sequence) that shot shall be determined as a "miss" and a zero is scored for that particular shot. **Failure for a percussion cap to detonate shall not constitute an improper load and misfire, and the participant will be allowed to replace the percussion cap and continue their course of fire.**

EXCEPTION: When using MYSC rifles you may not be penalized for the **FIRST** misfire; this decision will be made at the discretion of the range officer. (i.e. the barrel may possibly have been left too wet by the last participant.)

3. Hunting Shotgun Challenge

- a. When available, participants will move through a multiple station sporting clays course. This course is not patterned after conventional skeet and trap shooting but designed to simulate hunting conditions and situations. The layout will vary depending on the available topography. Shooting stations should make use of available cover to best depict running animals, bird flight, and shooting obstacles. NOTE: Optional courses may utilize trap and/or skeet fields when the facility does not have a sporting clays course.
- b. The Hunting Shotgun Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at clay targets. Sizes of the clay targets may vary depending on different situations. Singles and doubles will be thrown. Double targets may be presented as a report pair or true pair.
- c. **Scoring** – Each participant will shoot a total of thirty (30) shots, worth ten (10) points for a hit (broken target) and zero (0) points for a miss (lost target). The Hunting Shotgun Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.
 - MYSC event scoring will be done by designated MYSC officials. Only legal targets will be scored and the scorer will be the sole judge of whether a target is broken. The scorer may ask for assistance from the trap puller or the range official if they feel their assistance is required.
 - Scorers will call "lost" for any target they determine is missed. Any challenge to the call must be made immediately by the participant. The final decision will then be made by the scorer with assistance from the trap puller and/or the range official, if required.
 - Scoring Pairs:

Should the participant break both targets with either the first or second shot, they will both be scored as “dead” targets.

In the event of a “no bird” call on the second target of a report pair, the first bird is established as “dead” or “lost” and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair, the shooter must make a legitimate attempt to break the first target.

In the event of a “shooter malfunction” on the first target of a report pair, the first target is established as “lost.” The shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair, the shooter must make a legitimate attempt to break the first target.

- Rule and/or procedure violations may be referred to the MYSC event director for settlement, but legality of targets is the responsibility of the scorer. Only targets with a visible piece broken off will be scored “dead”. Dusters, targets deflected or redirected in flight (but with no visible breakage) will be scored “lost”.
- Based on the scorer’s judgment, should a target hit an obstruction (i.e. tree or tree limb) before the participant has had ample time to fire, a new target will be thrown. However, should the participant have ample time to fire (in the scorer’s judgment) and fails to do so before the target hits an object near the end of its path and breaks, the target will be scored “lost”.

d. Shotgun Equipment

Required

Participants may use only one shotgun throughout the activity (exception – gun malfunction).

Participants must bring their own ammunition to the event for inspection by the Event Director.

Only new, factory loaded, shells in the original box will be allowed.

NO RELOADS WILL BE PERMITTED.

The shells can be no larger than 2 ¾ inches with 1 ⅛ oz. of lead shot

The shot size must be #7 ½, #8, or #9

Once the Event Director determines the ammunition is satisfactory, the participant will carry their ammunition with them throughout the course of the event.

- Responsibility for safe handling of the ammunition is placed on the participant and coach
- Any incident that is determined to be unsafe will be brought to the Event Director and MYSC board for disciplinary action.

Permitted

Any shotgun 12 gauge and smaller.

True and Report pairs may be thrown in some instances; therefore, the shotgun should be capable of holding two (2) shells.

A limited number of 12 and 20 gauge shotguns will be available for use at the event.

Prohibited

Shotguns 10 gauge or larger.

Release triggers

Shot size larger than #7 ½

Ventilated rib greater than ½ inch in height or width

Lenses, optics, and illuminated-type sighting fixtures

Shotguns without a safety or the safety has been disable

e. Shooting Procedures

Each group of shooters will be allowed to see one legal target from each trap prior to shooting the activity at the station.

Only participants will be allowed in the shooting station or on the firing line.

The participant will shoot his/her quota of targets then wait for instruction from the scorer or range officer as to whether the gun shall be returned to the gun rack or which carry position is appropriate.

The sequence for calling for a target is”

a. The participant will say “Trapper Ready.”

b. The trapper will acknowledge.

c. Upon the trapper’s acknowledgement, the participant will say, “Pull.”

d. The trapper will have up to 3 seconds to release the target.

➤ The “ready position” in calling for the target requires the gun to be off the shoulder with the butt plate below the armpit. The firearm may not be shouldered until after the target is visible. In other words, in case of a delayed pull, the participant cannot call for the target and immediately shoulder the gun. The participant must wait for the target to appear. For the safety purposes, MYSC officials may have less experienced participants start with the shotgun on the shoulder prior to calling for the target.

f. Shotgun Shooting Rules

(1) Safety and courtesy are first in gun handling; therefore, all guns will be carried unloaded, with actions open, *and pointed in a safe direction*.

(2) Shotguns, shotguns with choke tubes as well as shotgun barrels, are not to be changed during the shotgun activity.

(3) Cheek stocks or butt plates may be adjusted (taped) prior to event orientation. No further adjustments will be allowed once competition has begun.

g. Legal / Illegal Targets

Legal Target – A whole clay target that is thrown from the trap in a prescribed pattern within the three (3) -second time limit after the participant calls for the target.

Illegal Target – A target broken by the trap or another obstruction. Illegal targets will be re-thrown for the participant, regardless of whether or not the participant fires at the target. Scorers will declare as soon as possible “no target”. When pairs are thrown and one (1) or both targets are broken by the trap or are declared “no target” – both must be re-thrown and reshot.

h. Malfunctions

- a. The following occurrences will be considered malfunctions and new target(s) will be thrown:
 - Ammunition malfunction
 - Trap or trap operator failure
- b. The following malfunctions **will not be allowed**, and targets will be scored “lost”:
 - Participant error
 - Failure to load gun
 - Failure of gun to fire (other than defective ammunition)
 - Failure of gun to reload
 - Failure to select safety to off
- c. Should a gun break through no fault of the participant, another gun may be borrowed and the activity continued. However, if the breakage occurs during the firing at a target, and the target is missed, it will be scored as “lost”.

In the case of an ammunition malfunction, the shooter must remain in place, the gun pointing safely down range, and must not open the gun or tamper with the trigger, safety or barrel selector until instructed to do so by the MYSC staff or volunteer present.

The MYSC staff or volunteers will determine if the firing pin hit the primer. If the firing pin did, an ammunition malfunction will be declared and the targets will be re-thrown. A second ammunition malfunction by the same participant will require the Event Director to determine if it is a gun malfunction or true ammunition malfunction.

4. Hunting Light Rifle Challenge

- a. Participants will move through a rifle field course in a natural setting or stationary course whenever available. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while hunting.
- b. The Hunting Light Rifle Challenge will be conducted with participants shooting at approved action targets varying in distance, with scoring areas determined based upon the type of target(s) used.

➤ **Participants will shoot from three positions.** Time limit: 2.5 minutes per station with the complete course to be fired in 15 minutes. Participants may only use props provided by the event director.

Position one (1) – (short range) may have a distance of 30 yards or less.

Participants will shoot from a standing position with no props permitted at these distances. (NOTE: in certain circumstances specific to the range layout a prop may be used at the discretion of the event director.)

Position two (2) – (medium range) may have a distance of 60 yards or less.

Participants may use any shooting position (excluding prone) with the vertical post prop (if available) as the only aid.

Position three (3) – (long range) may have a distance of 75 yards or less. Participants may use any shooting position.

- c. **Scoring** – Each participant will shoot a total of thirty (30) shots, each scoring ten (10) points each. Either life-size paper targets or NRA- action type targets will be used.

When using life-size paper targets, each shot which is within or touching the scoring ring designating the vital area of the game shall constitute a “hit” and will be scored as ten (10) points.

When using action type targets, “clangors”, *the target must flip completely over (360 degrees) to score ten (10) points, a shot that makes the target swing will score five (5) points. The score judge or range officer will be the final judge as to whether the target flipped, swung or has missed completely. Any discrepancies will be decided between the score judge, range officer and event director. Any call to challenge must be made before moving on to the next station.* The Hunting Light Rifle Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

d. **Rifle Equipment**

Required

Participants may only use one rifle throughout the activity (exception – gun or scope malfunction)

All ammunition must be .22 caliber long rifle cartridges

Standard and high velocity will be acceptable

Bullets must be lead with a round nose, **NO HOLLOW POINTS**

All ammunition must be submitted during the event registration in a container labeled with the team name. The individual boxes inside the container must be labeled with the participants name. **DO NOT PLACE LABELS ON THE BOXES SO THEY OBSTRUCT THE SPECIFICATION OF THE SHELLS.**

Event staff will move the ammunition to the rifle event for inspection by the Event Director

Coaches will be responsible for removing and securing any remaining ammunition once the team has completed the event

Permitted

Only standard type .22 caliber rifles designed primarily for hunting will be permitted. It shall be the discretion of the MYSC Officials to determine if a particular firearm is considered as a standard hunting style rifle.

All action types, EXCEPT fully automatic, will be permitted. The rifle may not exceed eight pounds & 8 ounces (8.8) in weight without a sling and must have a minimum trigger pull of two (2) pounds (907 grams)

Rifles may be equipped with a hunting sling not to exceed 1 1/2 inches (3.81 centimeters) in width. Slings must be attached at both ends of the firearm (forearm and butt stock) during the course of fire.

Slings and scopes may be adjusted after the instructions and the order to commence firing at each station. Adjustments must be completed prior to the first shot. After the first shot at each station NO adjustments may be made. The maximum time for each station includes any scope and /or sling adjustments.

Adjustments to the scope include power and/or focus adjustments.

Rifles may also be equipped with sporter-type thumbhole stocks (non-adjustable).

Sights will be open, peep with standard front post and bead, or hunting scopes, fixed or variable power optics nine power or less.

Available at Light Rifle Event

A limited number of .22 field rifles with 4x scopes will be available to use at the light rifle event.

Prohibited

Clothing with added padding, stiffness or shirt cup designed to assist shooter in remaining steady

Shooting mats

Adjustable competition sling swivel

Kneeling rolls

Competitive (adjustable) thumbhole stocks

Palm rests or forearm of stocks exceeding 2 ½ inches wide or 2 ½ inches deep as measured from the centerline of the bore

Scope, fixed, or variable power optics with capabilities greater than nine power. **NOTE:** Taping of scopes will not be allowed.

Range finders

Peep sights with rear aperture less than two millimeters

Binoculars, monoculars or spotting scopes

More than one shooting position per shooting sequence

Shooting sticks, bipods or other similar equipment.

Stocks with adjustable combs

Scopes with internal rangefinders

e. Crossfires

If a participant's target has been struck by more shots than fired by the participant, that target shall be declared as having been crossfired.

The event director must determine that the crossfire was unintentionally caused (with no malicious intent) by participants on the firing line. If this is established, the crossfired target will receive the total score of rounds inside the scoring area (not to exceed the maximum score for that round of shooting). The participant committing a crossfire act will only be scored for the amount of rounds inside his/her actual target's scoring area.

Should the Event Director find that the cross firing was an intentional act by participants to gain unfair advantage, all parties involved will be immediately disqualified for the event and will subsequently receive "DQ" (amounting to '0") under both individual and team scores. Such

individuals are also subject to violation of the Code of Conduct and may be subject to disqualification for the entire State Event.

Rules and Regulations for Responsibility Events

5. Hunter Responsibility Exam

- a. Participants will complete a written examination that will include a number of objective questions (multiple choice or true/false) determined by MYSC Officials.

NOTE: This exam will be read aloud to accommodate participants with specific learning requirements.

- b. The Hunter Responsibility Exam consists of broad-based hunting and conservation information. NRA's publication, *The Hunter's Guide* will serve as the main reference text. It may be obtained by contacting the NRA Hunter Services Dept., 703-267-1503. *Michigan Hunting & Trapping Digests, any other Michigan Digests published at www.michigan.gov/dnr and Ducks at a Distance may also be used as resources to prepare for this exam.*
- c. **Scoring** – Participants will be asked to answer all or as many questions possible in the allotted amount of time. Participants must answer all test questions with no assistance from other participants, written materials or coaches. Students will have 60 minutes (one hour) to complete the test. The Hunter Responsibility Exam will consist of 50 questions, with a maximum possibility of 300 points. *The value of each question will be based upon the number of questions asked. (i.e. for a 60 question test each question would have a value of 5 points each.)*

d. No Equipment Required

Prohibited

Hunter education books

Written, taped or transcribed information, and reference materials

Use of cell phones, texting or other forms of communications or communication devices between the participants, coaches or other individuals while taking the exam.

Talking between two or more participants/coaches once exam has started

(ONLY Exception: assigned MYSC Officials may be called upon to clarify or to assist in reading for youth requiring such assistance.)

6. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge

- a. Participants will walk through a multiple station, predetermined trail, designed to

simulate actual hunting conditions and situations. Participants will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of hunter safety on this practical field course.

NOTE: Participants will receive a MYSC hunting license (valid for current MYSC event only) and regulations at check-in.

b. The Hunter Safety Trail Challenge will be conducted with participants moving from station to station with each situation varying greatly. Participants may be tested and scored on the “do’s” and “don’ts” of firearms safety and “shoot/don’t shoot situations” encountered in a hunting environment. Stations may include, but are not limited to, hunter game situations, target identification, landowner relationships, and safe gun handling afield. NOTE: Participants may be required to be knowledgeable of game laws and bag limits. Information will be provided at event check-in.

c. **Scoring** – Each participant may travel to several different stations with a given number of points at each. The Hunter Safety Trail Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

The value of each station will be dependent on the total number of stations to be encountered. (i.e. if the course would consist of ten (10) stations, each station would have a point value of 30.)

d. Equipment Required

Arrive at the Safety Trail Challenge wearing a legal amount of hunter’s orange

Bring your signed MYSC hunting license (which you will receive in your registration packet or at Safety Trail check in) with you when you participate in the Hunter Safety Trail Challenge

Current Michigan DNR Digests (necessary guides will be provided to you at Safety Trail check in)

Prohibited

Hunter education books

Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials

Use of cell phones, texting or other forms of communications or communication devices between the participants, coaches or other individuals while on the course.

No phones, cameras or video equipment are allowed at this event.

Conversing with or coaching others about the Hunter Safety Trail event prior to all teams or individuals’ participation in the event. Coaches or participants witnessed conversing or coaching regarding the Hunter Safety Trail event may result in a no-score by the participants or coaches involved for the event.

7. Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge

- a. Participants will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of outdoor skills by completing a written test and use a compass to follow bearings to a predetermined outdoor stations. A participant may request to have the written test read to them.
NOTE: Time limits may be applied to each task.

- b. The Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge will be conducted with participants taking bearings with their compass. Participants may also be asked to close a triangle, identify map symbols, or define words (i.e. contour lines, scale, or declination).

NOTE: All compass calibration & pacing checks must be completed at the Practice Area before entering the Orienteering Event.

Participants may be asked to describe how nature provides individuals with different directions of travel (north, south, east and west, etc.). These situations, as well as others, may be used in the Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge (not to be announced before the program).

- c. **Scoring** – Participants will be asked to demonstrate compass skills and complete a predetermined number of written, map and field questions. The Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge has a possibility of 300 points. The value of each station will be dependent on the total number of stations or questions established for the State Event. In addition, at the discretion of the MYSC Officials, various aspects of this event may be awarded point values greater for certain tasks greater than others. (i.e. the point value of negotiating a predetermined compass course may carry a higher point value of each leg greater than questions asked at other stations.)

d. **Orienteering Equipment**

Only compasses may be used on the Hunting orienteering Skills Challenge course. The information for this event has been taken from:

- NRA's ***The Hunter's Guide***, (See Responsibility Exam Section for ordering information)
- U.S. Department of the Interior – ***U.S. Geological Survey Topographic Map Symbols*** publication – ISBN 0-607-84384-5 (Contact 1-800-USA-MAPS for ordering information)
- ***The Backcountry Classroom*** by Jack Drury and Bruce F. Bonney
- ***Compass and Map Navigator Book – The Complete Guide to Staying Found*** by Michael Hodgson
- These and other Nexus publications and orienteering resource materials may be purchased through The Brunton Co., 620 East Monroe Avenue, Riverton, WY 82501 – 800-443-4871.
- ***Be Expert With Map and Compass – The Complete Orienteering Handbook*** by Bjorn Kjllstrom. (This Silva Compass publication may be purchased through Johnson Camping, P.O. Box 966, Binghamton, NY 13902, or by calling 1-800-847-1460.)

Permitted

Pacing Chart for yardage; card is not to exceed the size of a 3x5 index card and may include ONLY pacing conversions for the participant using the card.

Prohibited

Calculators

Orienteering books, encyclopedias, written, taped or transcribed information, and reference materials

Electronic equipment including electronic or battery-operated compasses, PDA's, cell phones, radios, and other communication devices.

Use of cell phones, texting, or other forms of communications or communication devices between the participants, coaches or other individuals while taking the exam. (*ONLY Exception: assigned MYSC Officials may be called upon to clarify or to assist in reading for youth requiring such assistance.*)

Tripods or other means of support for compass

Range finders, binoculars, etc.

Crossing established boundary (marked with orange, red or yellow ribbon) lines.

8. Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge

a. Participants will walk through a predetermined number of stations in a field and/or woodland course in a natural setting whenever available.

b. The Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge will be conducted with participants observing North American game animal tracks, mounted (game or non-game) animals, and reading and identifying wildlife signs. All Specimens can be hunted or trapped somewhere in North America. Wildlife will constitute mounted or tanned hides, depending upon availability. Animal tracks may be original or molds made of prints. Other wildlife signs may be real or reproduced.

This information is taken from the

NRA's The Hunter's Guide, (see Hunter Responsibility Exam section for ordering.)

Field Guide to Eastern Birds, R.T. Peterson

Field Guide to Western Birds, R.T. Peterson

Field Guide to Mammals, Burt C. Gorssenhider

These books may be purchased through the Houghton Mifflin Company, Wayside Road, Burlington, MA 01803, or by calling 1-800-225-3362.

NOTE: While the above reference materials will cover most questions and situations, the MYSC officials reserve the right to have additional questions which may or may not be covered in these materials.

c. **Scoring** – Participants may be asked to identify up to 30 animals, tracks or wildlife signs, each worth up to 10 points for correct answers and zero for incorrect answers. The Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

d. **No Required Equipment**

Prohibited

Wildlife identification books, encyclopedias, etc.

Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials

Electronic equipment

Use of cell phones, texting, or other forms of communications or communication devices between the participants, coaches or other individuals while taking the exam. (*ONLY Exception: assigned MYSC Officials may be called upon to clarify or to assist in reading for youth requiring such assistance.*)

VI. SCORING / TIE BREAKING CRITERIA

Scoring Criteria for MYSC Events

Correctly answering a predetermined number of questions, making a certain number of hits in a prescribed target area, or correctly completing a prescribed activity accumulates event points. The maximum possible points for each event are 300.

Specific scoring criteria are provided as item (c) under each event section of this manual.

MYSC follows the scoring criteria as it is established for the NRA's YHEC Program. Any changes and/or additions to these criteria are included in this manual.

MYSC utilizes the rules and regulations (with some minor adjustments) and will provide eligibility for their participants to take part in the YHEC program. (i.e. Regional – Local, State, Provincial, or International levels.)

Individual scores will be compiled for each participant in the State Event. Individual scores will be compiled for each event and as an overall aggregate total of all events by participant's division of registration.

Team scores will be compiled as an aggregate score of all members of a team. Team scores will be compiled for each event and as an overall aggregate total for all events, by the participating teams division of registration.

Tie Breaking Criteria for MYSC Events

Scoring ties for **all*** individuals/teams per event, and overall will be broken. The following tie breaking criteria will be used in the MYSC state event:

In the event of a tie,

- 1 - The individual/team with the highest level of achievement in the **Hunter Responsibility Exam** will be declared the winner(s). If a tie remains,
- 2 - The individual/team with the highest level of achievement on the **Hunter Safety Trail Challenge** will be declared the winner(s). Should a tie remain,
- 3 - The individual/team with the highest level of achievement on the **COMBINED** level of achievement in the **four (4) responsibility events** (Hunter Responsibility Exam, Hunter Safety Trail, Orienteering Skills Challenge, Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge), will be declared the

- winner(s). The final tie breaker will be based on
- 4 – The individual/team with the highest level of achievement on the **COMBINED** score of the **four (4) shooting events** (Hunting Shotgun Challenge, Hunting Light Rifle Challenge, Hunting Archery Challenge, Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge).

Should individuals/teams **tie in the Hunter Responsibility Exam**, the tie breaking formula will start at the second criteria – the Hunter Safety Trail Challenge.

Per International YHEC Rules and Regulations, all Regional, State and Provincial sponsors are **required** to use the tie breaking criteria as established above.

*Ties for all categories, individual per event, overall individual scores, team per event and team overall will be broken.

VII. CHALLENGES/PROTESTS/ALIBIS

Challenges During MYSC Events

Challenges concerning the value of shots as scored must be made immediately by the participant and will be resolved at each event. When shot value scores cannot be determined between the participant and the volunteer score judge, the Event Director will make the final determination. **Only participants may challenge and all challenges must be made during the challenge period.** (The challenge period is immediately before the next participant comes to the station or firing line or as outlined in the specific event regulations.)

Protests During MYSC Events

Protests are to be brought to the attention of the Event Director. If the individual receives no satisfaction, a written protest may then be submitted to the MYSC Protest Committee within two (2) hours of the protest, for review, consideration and final decision. The committee will be composed of four (4) individuals (MYSC Program/Event Director, NRA State YHEC Coordinator (whenever possible) and two (2) or three (3) assigned MYSC volunteers.

For MYSC Shooting Events Only! If the participant's protest is approved, the participant has the option of reshooting the entire event course or taking the score that they have already received. The participant must notify the NRA MYSC Program Director of their decision immediately, upon notification of the protest decision.

Per International YHEC Rules and Regulations, all Regional, State and Provincial sponsors are **required** to handle protests as established above.

Alibis During MYSC Events

Only range, trap, target or ammunition malfunction will constitute an alibi. Alibis will not be allowed for firearm, arrow or bow malfunctions. In the event of a firearm or bow malfunction, participants may borrow a firearm or bow and continue the relay. NO practice or sighting-in will be allowed for borrowed firearms once the NRA Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition activities have begun.

Per International YHEC Rules and Regulations, all Regional, State and Provincial sponsors are **required** to use the alibi criteria as established above.

VIII. YHEC EVENT DATES

International YHEC will not be held in 2019. Additional information may be obtained at <http://international-yhec.org> or by contacting NRA Hunter Services at (703)267-1500. Mansfield, PA. Go to www.NRA.org for current information.

IX. PARTICIPANT ENTRIES/CANCELLATIONS/TRAVEL

Entries and Cancellations for MYSC Participants

The Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition Board of Directors will establish a date and location for the MYSC State Event.

For State level participants to become eligible to participate in the current year's MYSC program, an official NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge International Registration Form, with accompanying copies of the participant's hunter education card, registration fee must be submitted to the MYSC registrar by the deadline established below.

NOTE: For the State MYSC event, an individual may not alter their participation division after midnight on the registration deadline. (See Section III, MYSC Divisions – Participation Guidelines.)

All participant registrations and registration fees MUST be postmarked no later than the deadline posted on the MYSC website to be eligible to participate in the current MYSC event. Registration fees have been established to offset operational expenses (Such as but not limited to: ammunition, awards, targets, keepsakes, entry packet items and annual Scholarship presented each year to a college freshman.)

MYSC Participant Accommodations, Meals and Travel

Any and all accommodations, meals and travel-related expenses incurred while participating in MYSC will be the sole responsibility of participants / coaches.

X. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interstate Transportation of Personally Owned Firearms

Federal law does not restrict an individual (except convicted felons, persons under indictment for felonies, mental defectives or incompetents, illegal users of controlled drugs, illegal aliens, veterans dishonorably discharged, those who have renounced their U.S. Citizenship, and fugitives from justice) from transporting firearms across state lines. Thus, there is no federal interstate transportation permit for firearms.

However, many states have laws governing the transportation of firearms. In addition, many cities and localities have ordinances restricting transportation of firearms. Travelers must be aware of these laws and comply with the legal requirements in each jurisdiction. Additional details on transporting firearms may be found in the NRA

publication Guide to the Interstate Transportation of Firearms now available for download at <http://www.nraila.org/gun-laws/articles/2010/guide-to-the-interstate-transportation.aspx>.

Firearms Aboard Aircraft

Federal law prohibits the carrying of any firearms, concealed or unconcealed on or about the person or in carry-on baggage while aboard an aircraft. **Contact Your Relevant Airline Carrier Prior To Your Departure TO Obtain Up-To-The-Minute Regulations Regarding The Transport of Firearms.**

For Information on:

Interstate Transportation of Personally Owned Firearms

Firearms Aboard Aircraft

YHEC Sponsor Requirements

YHEC Incentive Program

See International YHEC Rules and Regulations available at www.nrahq.org/hunting/youthed.asp for this information.

NOTE: MYSC (and the NRA) reserves the right to make modifications in this NRA Michigan Youth Sportsmen Competition Rules and Regulations manual as they may pertain to the NRA Youth Education Challenge. These changes may occur to accommodate shooting range facilities, schedules, manpower limitations, safety, promotional needs or other requirements, as NRA deems necessary. The MYSC Administrative board will make every effort to notify all participants of significant changes in this publication.