

SECTION VIII

RIFLE GUIDE

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THIS EDITION OF THE RIFLE GUIDE IS A SUPPLEMENT TO AND DOES NOT REPLACE ANY PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE RIFLE GUIDE.

Section VIII Rifle uses the following rulebooks:

1. AIR RIFLE COMPETITION — NRA PRECISION AIR RIFLE POSITION RULES
Updated FEB. 2007 (purple book)
2. NYSPHSAA Handbook
3. Section VIII Directory and Handbook
4. NYSPPHSAA Riflery Handbook for Regional Championships
5. Section VIII Rifle Guides
6. NRA International Rifle Rules — Revised February 2007 (Tan Book) Used in
Regional Air Championships only
7. THESE RULE BOOKS, AS MODIFIED BY SECTION VIII AND THE NYSPHSAA ARE
USED TO GOVERN ALL MATCHES

High School sports fall under the jurisdiction of NYSPHSAA and SECTION VIII; consequently, any rules and regulations of these two organizations will take precedence over NRA rules.

NYSPHSAA is the overall governing body for high school sports. NYSPHSAA rules, regulations and procedures are used to govern all Section VIII Athletics.

SECTION VIII RIFLE HISTORY

Rifle is a sport with one of the greatest longevities of any sport contested in Nassau County. According to records, it dates to the pre-World War 2 era and had its origins in the recognized need for ROTC programs in high schools. At one time there were 35 districts in the county participating in Rifle. Several of these districts had two or more schools with rifle teams.

During that time there were several changes in format as the competitive shooting world developed. Originally Section VIII fired only in the Prone and Standing position using only .22 rifles and firing 20 shots for record. It expanded to include Prone, Standing, Kneeling and Sitting with 5 shots in each position for a total of 20 shots. The next change came in 1974 by dropping the sitting position and increasing the number of shots to ten per target for a total of 30 shots. The target used at this time was the A-17 target. In 1987 the target was changed to the A-36 target. At that time, we counted five shooters for a team score. In 1989 we started experimenting with Air Rifle. In order to accommodate the time needed for an air rifle relay, our smallbore program was changed to counting four shooters in two relays and adding one relay of air rifle counting three shooters from each team. These relays were all shot on the same day. Competing with both smallbore and air on the same day proved to be very difficult because of the increased length of time and schools did not have enough air rifles for all shooters. Some schools only had one air rifle and had to share. Along with these problems and the fact many schools were dropping their smallbore programs we adjusted by separating the smallbore and air rifle to separate days. As more schools went to an air rifle format, we formed two separate leagues, one for smallbore and one for air. Schools that competed in both smallbore and air had two separate schedules. We made our last change by equalizing the number of competitors that count for team score to four in both smallbore and air.

We no longer compete in smallbore. We now compete in 3P air rifle.

NYSPHSAA no longer competes in smallbore. The Smallbore was replaced with 3P air. So now there is standing air and 3P air which consist of standing, kneeling and prone. Some colleges on the NCAA level are already using this format. Several NCAA officials have told us that they expect the NCAA to change to an exclusive air rifle program within the next seven years.

Hempstead was the dominate team during the 1940's, Freeport in the 1950's, Massapequa in the 1960's, East Meadow in the 1970's and early 1980's, New Hyde Park (Sewanhaka District) in the 1980's and early 90's. Massapequa and Sewanhaka District were the leading schools in the late 1990's and early 2000's, with Valley Stream being the dominant team through the mid 2010's and early 2020's.

About 20 years ago the US Olympic Committee issued a call for the various sports governing bodies to develop a pool of 50,000 new competitive shooters from whose ranks will come the next generation of Olympians. This new generation would have some very large shoes to fill because the shooters of the US teams in the 1970's and 80's were among the best this sport has ever produced. To a large extent, this goal has been achieved. American student/athletes have developed to the point where they are challenging the very best shooters in the world. In this regard, Rhonda Barush of Farmingdale High School and Thrine Kane of Bellmore/Merrick District have well represented Nassau County. Rhonda won a World Championship in Women's Sport Pistol (she converted from smallbore rifle to pistol). Thrine made the US Olympic team as a 19-year-old college student. She competed in the Olympics in Australia. Some other young shooters (not from Nassau Country) include Kim Rhode in Shotgun and Mike Anti and Matt Emmons in Smallbore.

REASONS WHY COMPETITIVE SHOOTING IS IMPORTANT

In athletics, we know there are several reasons to participate in high school sports. Developing teamwork, encouraging the art of setting goals and working to achieve those goals, supporting group activities and improving self-esteem are a few of those reasons. Sports also provide a positive outlet for the excess energy that most adolescents seem to have. Some of these reasons can be accomplished in a team situation, but unfortunately, for most, this all ends when the student athlete finishes school. There are several sports, including rifle shooting that we may compete in throughout our entire lives.

Among the many skills involved in rifle shooting are developing the ability to control certain muscle groups so that the individual can, not only hold up the target rifle, but control movement of those muscles so that he/she can keep the rifle pointing toward the target. Along with muscle control, hand-eye coordination must be developed to recognize the proper sight picture and then be able to discharge the rifle while maintaining that sight picture. Without all these skills the competitor will not be able to achieve the best score.

A program known as “Mental Management” has been developed by Lanny Bassham, a former Gold Medal Olympic shooter. He teaches, that not only are these skills important in competitive shooting, but they will also carry over throughout adulthood and help the individual achieve “life goals”.

Finally, one last reason shooting is important. It is FUN!

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN SECTION VIII RIFLE

Because this guide may be used over several years between editions, it is not possible to put exact dates here. However, below are listed the approximate dates for the various meetings and activities for our sport.

SECOND WEEK IN OCTOBER: Preseason coaches meeting

THIRD WEEK IN NOVEMBER: Beginning of the rifle season

LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER: Second coaches meeting and Scoring Clinic.

FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY: This meeting will be held only if necessary for scoring of the Coaches Tournament and/or Junior Varsity Match targets.

SECOND TUESDAY AND THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY: Section VIII Air Rifle Championships and 3P qualifier for the sectional tournament.

FIRST WEEKEND IN MARCH: New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Regional Championships

THIRD or FOURTH WEEK IN MARCH: The Section VIII Rifle Awards Dinner

FIRST WEEK IN APRIL: Coaches meeting if deemed necessary by the coordinator

SAFETY

Safety is to be considered the number one concern in our sport of competitive shooting. All coaches, range officials, coordinators along with everyone in the rifle range or ready room must be constantly aware that all safety rules and regulations are followed to the greatest extent. NYSPHSAA and Section VIII have charged the State and Section Coordinators with responsibility to ensure that our sport remains accident free. There was an incident with an ROTC team several years ago and the entire ROTC program was shut down. We do not want to have that happen here. Listed below are some of the rules that are to be always enforced.

1. Each school shall have a red or similar color safety light. When the light is on or flashing it indicates that it is not safe to touch or handle the rifles. Violation of this will result in disqualification for that match. This is an established policy that dates to the mid-1980's.

2. All rifles will be transported in a case. (September 30, 1974)

3. Triggers on all rifles used in Section VIII competition shall be maintained to function in a completely safe manner. Accidental discharge shall not be considered a safe manner and will result in the shooter's disqualification from that match and the score not counted. (December 5, 1982 & November 1989)

4. There will be no "horse play" in the facility. This includes the range, ready rooms or any other area where any rifle team equipment may be located. Coaches should provide supervision for participants when they are not on the firing line.

5. All rifles will be kept safe with the bolts always removed or in the open position, except while on the firing line and when the range officer or referee has given permission to close the bolts. It is now required in Section VIII and

recommended in NYSPHSAA Championship events that an “Empty Chamber Indicator” be used whenever possible. This may be a commercial product or a homemade product. The Section Coordinator can supply coaches with guidelines.

6. No one will go downrange at any time unless the proper official has declared the range “safe”, and the safety light is turned on and the official has given permission to do so.

7. No rifle shall be loaded until the range official has given the command “load”. Loading before the proper command is considered a safety violation and may result in disqualification.

8. No shot will be made before the command “commence firing”. This is considered a major violation and WILL result in disqualification. (Dec. 1982, Nov. 1989)

9. First Shot Rule: At the state meeting in January 1980, the following rule was adopted regarding the first shot on target: “If the first shot on a target is outside the sighting shot circle and does not strike a scoring bull, it is considered a misplaced sighting shot and is not counted for any value. If the first shot at a target card strikes outside the sighting shot circle and hits a scoring bull, the shooter gets the value of that shot. These two statements apply to the FIRST SHOT AT A TARGET CARD. Subsequent shot at the target card outside the sighting circle are governed by the regular NRA Rule Book and each shot outside of the “SS” ring will be scored as a miss (value = 0/ minus 10). This is an example where the state is adopting a more stringent rule than is generally accepted in NRA rulings.

Note: If there is a shot outside the sighter circle (the first shot at the target card) the shooter may continue to fire at the sighter bull. Any subsequent shots outside the sighter circle shall be recorded as stated above. The shooter is NOT required to go for a score if he fires such a misplaced sighter.

10. At the command “cease fire”, all bolts will be immediately opened and checked to make sure the rifle is empty. If there is a round in the chamber, the competitor is to notify the range official immediately. If the chamber is empty, the “empty chamber indicator” must be inserted.

11. The muzzle will be pointed upward with the “empty chamber indicator” inserted when moving the rifle into and out of the range.

12. During the course of fire, the muzzle must be pointed down range. The muzzle is not permitted to point toward the walls, ceilings, toward any columns or toward any other obstruction in the range. Recently, there has been some misunderstanding of this rule. This rule is to ensure that if there is any inadvertent misfire, there will be no ricochets. This is a NYSPHSAA rule and it applies to all rifle competitions in New York State. Bullets striking anywhere in the range, other than the impact area (backstop) produce a great danger to all participants and spectators in the range and must be avoided at all costs. Our safety record is excellent, and we need to keep it that way, especially in this current climate of antigun and political correctness.

FORMAT OF COMPETITION

In Section VIII, schools compete in .177 air rifle. Matches are usually scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday but may be moved to alternating between Monday, Wednesday and Fridays to help meet school calendars. The schedule is determined by the Section Coordinator as outlined in previous editions of the Rifle Guide and following Section VIII Athletic Guidelines.

AIR RIFLE: Air Rifle competition is contested using .177 caliber target-style air rifles. A competitor will fire ten record shots into two targets using only the standing position. The total match time is 29 minutes.

VARSITY: Varsity competition in .177 is shoulder to shoulder according to a schedule developed by the Section Coordinator as previously explained. A match will consist of up to six competitors with the top four scores, counting for a team score. All six scores will also count for individual scores.

Novice: Every school may have 4 Novice match dates on their schedule. Schools are to submit novice scores on the novice score sheet while they submit their varsity scores. This is the only way that novice scores will be accepted this season.

VARSITY STATUS: A competitor is a varsity shooter once they have competed in their third varsity match in either smallbore or air rifle. Unless designated prior to the match and agreed to by both coaches, all shooters on the line during an officially posted Section VIII match will be competing on the varsity level during that match. This is a long-standing policy dating back to 1974.

COACHING: Coaching is permitted in .177. A team may have one coach per two shooters or two coaches for three shooters on the line. All coaches shall be aware of the noise level and take care so as not to disturb shooters on the firing line.

CHOICE OF SIDES IN RANGE: During dual meet matches, the visiting team has the choice to choose which side of the range they wish to fire on. If a choice is made the teams will change sides at the end of the first relay (halftime).

LATE ARRIVALS AND “NO SHOWS”: In Section VIII athletics, it is expected that athletic buses will pick up the teams by 3:30 PM and proceed to the match site. The assumption is that the school visiting should arrive around 4:00 PM and the match will begin 20 minutes after arrival. If a team has a transportation problem, the visiting team is to

make every effort to get a message to the home school by calling the AD's office, Main Office or the coach's cell phone. The home school is expected to wait until 4:30 PM, unless they have received notification of transportation problems. The home school shall then fire the match under official match conditions and place the targets in a 12 x 15-inch envelope. These targets are not to be scored or handled by the competitors. The envelope shall be sealed, and the Section Coordinator shall be notified. In the event there is no satisfactory explanation as determined by Section VIII for the "no show" the targets will be scored by Mr. Bob Chaimers, who is our official referee. The "no show" will receive a forfeit. If it is determined that there is a satisfactory explanation, the match will be rescheduled according to the established policy on make-up matches. If the home team has already started to fire and the visiting team arrives the home school will stop firing, and the match will be reset from the beginning.

MATCH BULLETINS: The coach of each school is required to email a score sheet to the Section Coordinator within 48 hours of the scheduled match. The coordinator will record both the team and individual scores. All scores will be recorded on the rifle eboard so they will be visible to every competitor. The eboard will be updated every few days.

POSTPONEMENTS: It is the coaches' responsibility to inform the opposition school's Athletic Director and the Rifle Coordinator of any postponements. As per Section VIII policy, dating back to 1974, postponements shall be made by the Athletic Directors' office and must be rescheduled to the next available date following the initial postponement. The coach that is making the change must notify the opposing coach or AD that a change is being made immediately. The coaches will agree on a new date when contact is made. Once the coaches agree on a date, both coaches must give the change to their AD's

OUTSIDE COMPETITION RULES: It is the responsibility of the competitor and his or her coach to be fully aware of and to be following all NYSPHSAA and Section VIII rules governing outside competitions both in season and out of season. Because there is an extensive list of very precise regulations, it is recommended that before any student/athlete engages in any outside competition, they check with their Athletic Director to ensure compliance with all state and local rules. Penalties from the State and /or Section can be very severe.

Details of these specifics may be obtained by calling NYSPHSAA Offices in Latham, NY.

OVERVIEW OF SECTION VIII RIFLE

SEEDINGS: Participating schools are ranked each year based on population for air rifle. The largest 4 will be placed in the Kaiser Division and the remaining 4 will be placed in the Sawyer Division. Each division will be seeded by returning averages. These averages are derived from the previous year's Final Match Bulletin as prepared by the Coordinator. Schools are then ranked in descending order starting with the highest score. In the event a school does not have four returning shooters, scores from JV shooters from the Coaches Match or the JV Match may be used. In the event there are not enough JV scores to make an average, then scores from the returning shooters will be averaged together to make up the missing score.

LEAGUES/DIVISIONS: In air rifle, we have two divisions that are determined by enrollment. The "Tom Kaiser" Division which contains the four teams with the largest enrollment, and they are seeded by returning averages and the "William (Doc) Sawyer" Division which is made up of the remaining schools and they are seeded by returning averages as well. As per conference agreement between the Rifle committee and Section VIII, in a league with an odd number of schools, the higher division will have the smaller number of schools.

POSTSEASON PLAY: Participation in postseason play is per Section VIII procedures. Postseason competitions are contested in air rifle and Section VIII Champions will be determined in air rifle as well.

ELIGIBILITY: In air rifle there are four high school teams and 24 individuals. Individuals from a qualifying high school team will fire once and the scores will count as both team and individual. The number of individuals is dependent upon range availability and capacity. The Section Coordinator may determine that less than 24 individuals may compete. In air rifle, each division winner, based on the seasonal overall won-loss record will

automatically qualify. The remaining teams will then be ranked by their overall season team average and the two schools with the highest averages will also qualify. According to the NYSPHSAA Handbook, for any individual to be eligible to compete in any post-season play, the individual must have competed in six matches.

ROSTERS:

A roster of every student/athlete participating in a school's program is required prior to the first match of the season. Students may be added to the roster after the initial date, but all relevant people must be notified of the additions. Any student not on the roster will be able to compete. Their scores will not count if they are submitted without being on the roster. As per Section VIII rules for all sports, the following must receive a copy of the rosters:

Executive Director for Athletics, BOCES

Section Sport Coordinator

All participating schools in the sport (rifle)

Each coach is also responsible for filling out all necessary information on the league database during the first week of the season. This database is very important because it is what will be used by the Section Coordinator to keep track of all scores for the season. This database will be sent out to all coaches at least once every 2 weeks. All coaches should check this for any errors. All errors should be reported so corrections can be made.

SCORING BOXES:

Each school is to have two scoring boxes to facilitate the scoring process. The reason for two scoring boxes is so that the visiting team need not transport the box on the bus (1991).

OFFICIAL SCORING:

If a team match is within five points, either coach can request all match targets of both teams be re-scored by our official scorer. Once a coach requests that the targets be sent in for re-scoring, no additional plugging shall be done, no other markings should be made on the targets. The coaches should make sure the competitors name and school is clearly marked on the back of the target and that the position is clearly indicated. The targets are to be placed in a 12 x 15 inch envelope and sealed. Both coaches should sign across the seal and the envelope should be addressed to:

Mr. Bob Chaimers

219 Elm Drive East.

Levittown, NY

11756

You must include a score sheet with the names filled in, but with the scores left blank. If you wish a copy of the scores, then you must include additional score sheets and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Each school should have the necessary envelopes on hand for such a mailing.

BREAKING OF TIES:

DUAL MEET TIES:

In Air, we use rule 15.7 of the PURPLE NRA Rule Book which refers to Rule 15.3 (a) which is the total score on four “B” targets, then “A” targets.

SECTION VIII CHAMPIONSHIP:

Team ties in air rifle are broken by using the overall number of center shots for the match. This was established in 1990 and is also used in the NYSPHSAA Regional Championships. If ties still exist proceed following Rule 15.3 (a) then 15.3 (b)

INDIVIDUAL TIES:

Ties during the Section VIII Individual Championships in .177 will be broken by using center shots. If the score is still tied follow the rules as outlined in above team championship.

SEASON ENDING LEAGUE / DIVISION TEAM TIES:

Team ties at the end of the regular season shall be broken as follows:

1. Head-to-head competition in won /loss
2. Total points, head-to-head
3. Total points in conference
4. Total points in the entire league competition

ALL CONFERENCE / ALL COUNTY AWARDS

To be eligible for All Conference, All County, or any other Section VIII awards, a shooter must have competed in at least 10 of their teams scheduled league competitions in air rifle.

AIR RIFLE: The top six final averages will comprise the First Team All-County. The next six averages will compose the Second Team All County. The next six in the Tom Kaiser division will compose the All Conference-Tom Kaiser, while the next six in the “Doc Sawyer” will be All Conference — “Doc” Sawyer. A competitor must have competed in 10 of the league air matches. . Only league matches will be used to determine averages.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT & GENERAL GUIDELINES

Section Eight uses various rulebooks as mentioned on page two. Section VIII and NYSPHSAA have the right to modify or change any of the rules

in the NRA rulebooks. Because NRA rule books are now revised or updated every two years and are not released until February it is not possible for us to get new books in time for our season's start. Consequently, Section VIII and NYSPHSAA will continue to use the rulebook in place at the start of the season. The new rulebook will take effect at the start of the following season.

If the NRA institutes a major change in equipment or supplies, the rifle committee will determine when such changes shall be adopted in Sec. VIII. For example, in 2003, the NRA changed the AR5/10 air rifle target. In July of that year all licensed suppliers of such targets destroyed the plates from which the old targets were printed. In the fall of 2003 schools ordering targets could only get the new targets. Some schools had significant supplies of the old targets on hand. We decided to conduct our matches on the old targets to use up some of the excess stock on hand. Schools with only the new targets used them for practice and made arrangements to swap targets so our entire season was conducted on the same targets. By 2005-06 these supplies had been used up to the point that we were able to use the new target.

EQUIPMENT: All equipment permitted under NRA rules for three position smallbore and conventional air rifle are permitted under Section VIII. In the NYSPHSAA air rifle championship match the ISU rules apply. This means that any jackets, gloves or slings are permitted in Sec. VIII, but only ISU style equipment are permitted in the NYSPHSAA air rifle match.

Jewelry Rule: NYSPHSAA prohibits the wearing of jewelry during competition. Soft flexible hair barrettes are permitted. Wristwatches are jewelry and are not to be worn. Timing devices are permitted as long as they are not worn. Religious and Medical Alert medallions are allowed only if they are taped to the body. The tape must completely cover the medal. Violation will result in disqualification and any scores by that competitor will be disallowed.

NOTE: It is permitted for a competitor to fire a second target of a more difficult position in lieu of a less difficult target. For example, a shooter may elect to shoot two standing targets instead of one kneeling and one standing. The targets cards must be designated Kneeling and Standing prior to the first shot of the match.

FIRST SCRIMMAGE & FIRST MATCH

A scrimmage is a practice match in which no formal score is kept. NYPHSAA rules state that the first scrimmage may not be held until after the team has had three practices and the individual has had two practices. The first contest may be held after the team has had five practices and the individual has had three practices. A competitor is limited to one contest per day and must have one night between contests. According to Section VIII rules, the maximum number of team and individual contests is limited to 16.

TARGET IDENTIFICATION

Air rifle matches, coaches' tournament and any other matches that require two targets in the same position must be identified as target "A" and target "B". All target identification, such as name, school, date, "A" / "B" must be indicated on the back of the target. The only thing which may appear on the front of the target is the position. It is recommended that all schools that participate in smallbore have ink stamps to stamp the words prone, kneeling, or offhand on the target. This will help to eliminate any favoritism during the scoring process.

MATCH TIMES

Section VIII match times are as follows:

Dual meet times:

Air rifle —

3 minutes Prep time (same as above)

1 minute fouling time (same as above)

29 minutes total running match time

10 minutes changeover (same as above)

Coaches Tournament and Novice Match

3 minutes Prep time (same as above)

1 minute fouling time (same as above)

29 minutes total running match time

TARGETS

The official targets used in Section VIII competition:

air rifle --- AR 5/10 target, 2003 edition

Kruger Targets should be used for all matches. Targets shall be hung with the #10 bull in the lower right-hand corner. The competitor may shoot the bulls in any order that he or she would like, but for tie breaking purposes the actual numbered bulls will be used regardless of the order in which they were shot.

Targets may be raised or lowered to accommodate individual shooters as long the position does not create a safety hazard or interfere with another competitor.

SIGHTS

Metallic sights only are permitted. Adjustable apertures, front and rear may be used. Diopters may be used. A spotting scope, not attached to the rifle, may be used by the competitor to locate the shot. The scope must be positioned so as it does not interfere with another competitor.

NUMBER OF RELAYS

The number of relays for all matches, both dual meet and post-season competition will be determined by the construction of the range. All individual firing points should be used, if possible, to complete the match in the fewest possible number of relays.

SCORING

Coaches and student scorers are responsible for knowing the correct procedures for scoring Section VIII and NYSPHSAA matches. Sometimes our procedures differ from the NRA Rule Books. It is mandatory that a coach and at least one student scorer attend the November Scoring Clinic.

AIR RIFLE - THE OUTWARD SCORING GAUGE IS USED TO SCORE EVERY SHOT EXCEPT TO SEE IF THE SHOT IS A MINUS 9 OR A MINUS 10. To score a minus 9 or minus 10 use the inner scoring gauge.

Coaches should be aware that the .22 inner gauge and the air rifle outer gauge look very similar. It is recommended that each type be marked with touch of paint on the top, to identify each gauge. If you are not sure if you are using the correct gauge, contact the Section Coordinator and he will measure the gauge with a set of calipers.

You may use a magnifier loupe or magnifier glass and a flashlight to see the rings. You may also look at an angle. See Appendix J for drawings.

At the conclusion of a relay the competitor should not handle the targets fired. The targets should be collected and held by the home school coach until scoring begins. Scoring should not begin until both teams have completed the relay and the competitors have had time to put away all their equipment. The only people around the scoring table should be the scorers of both teams. Scorers may use a magnifier loupe or magnifier glass and a flashlight, along with the scoring box to better see the rings. Scorers may also use an angle to determine if the shot is in or out. If there is any question as to the value of the shot, the target should be placed aside until the end of the match and both 14 coaches should then be consulted. If doubt continues, then the targets could be sent in for official scoring as outlined earlier in the guide.

A good rule to follow in scoring is “if, in your examination of the shot hole, it would be overturned on appeal, then give it to the shooter”.

It is mandatory that each school be represented at the Scoring Clinic.

EQUIPMENT / POSITION CHALLENGES

The home coach shall act as the range officer for the dual meet matches in Section VIII. If a piece of equipment, position, or procedure is deemed to be outside of the NRA rules, as modified by Section VIII and the NYSPHSAA, the home coach / range officer will inform the opposition coach of the issue in question. Upon deciding on a course of action, the coach of the competitor in question should inform the competitor and correct the problem. If the shooter fails to make the appropriate changes and fires an additional shot, the additional shots shall be disallowed. If the coach of the competitor in question feels the position of the other coach is incorrect, the shooter may continue to fire and complete the match. All targets will be placed in an envelope, sealed and forwarded to the Section Coordinator. The coaches may then avail themselves of the Section VIII protest process. Obtain this

information from your Athletic Director. After the protest has been resolved the Section Coordinator will return the targets to the respective schools.

NYSPHSAA POST SEASON COMPETITION:

The determination for participation in both team and individual contests of all NYSPHSAA competitions is the responsibility of the Section Coordinator. Currently, in NYSPHSAA Regional competition, we send the Section VIII high school team winner in both smallbore and air rifle. The section #1 All Star will be the person that scored the highest score at the county championship for each discipline not from the winning team. The Section #2 All Star and the Section Alternate will be determined from the season average, and they cannot be from the championship team. In both disciplines, four competitors from the Section VIII champion team will represent their high school in the state high school team competition. The next two highest averages will combine their scores with the four high school team scores to produce a six-person team score. This six-person score represents Section VIII in sectional competition. The third sectional average person, along with the number five person from the high school are designated section and team alternates. They will shoot in an Alternate Match if the State Coordinator determines if the range space availability can accommodate the alternates.

If a female competitor has qualified for this Championship, then it is the responsibility of her school to provide an adult female chaperone, if the trip requires an overnight stay (Guide-1994-95). Section VIII regulations now require that this chaperone be a certified teacher, coach or teacher aide or the school has to sign a release that a non-certified person is acceptable to the school.

The coach of each student / athlete is required to accompany that athlete to the NYSPHSAA Regional Championship. The nature of this sport requires that the coach most familiar with the athlete be in attendance (Guide 1994-95).

Section VIII provides transportation to the NYSPHSAA Championships via coach bus. This bus will pick up all athletes and coaches at the school of the Section VIII air rifle team champions schools. Section All Stars and Alternates will be picked up at which ever site Section VIII has designated as the departure site. All competitors MUST travel to and from the event on the Section bus. They may not travel to or from the Championship in any private vehicle. If an emergency or unusual situation requires transport on other than the team bus, the athlete must contact, in advance, the Executive Directors Office at Section VIII (BOCES) for the necessary permission forms. The Section Coordinator, or the student athlete coach CANNOT grant this permission.

The forms must be submitted to the Building Principal in advance and upon approval the forms must be forwarded to Section VIII for final approval (see appendix “i” for the appropriate forms)

NYSPPHSAA Code of Conduct Forms: One copy of the Code of Conduct forms must be completed prior to the departure for NYSPPHSAA Regional Championship. One copy must go to the Section VIII Coordinator. (see appendix “k” for the Code of Conduct forms).

Each participating school is also responsible for completion of district, sectional or state forms to participate. Check with your Athletic Director about your schools requirements.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NYSPHSAA STATE COORDINATOR:

1. The NYSPHSAA Coordinator will provide leadership in his sport at the statewide interscholastic level.
2. The Coordinator will assist the NYSPHSAA staff and represent the Executive Committee by maintaining the adopted programs and established standards.
3. The NYSPHSAA considers the State Coordinator its official interpreter of any and all game rules of the Coordinator's sport.
4. The State Coordinator will ensure that all Section Coordinators are informed of any changes in the rules or procedures for their particular sport.
5. The State Coordinator is responsible for the operation and conduct of the NYSPHSAA Regional Championship Tournament and is to ensure that all match procedures, safety procedures, and adopted rules are carried out. The Coordinator is also responsible for assessing any penalties for rules violations.
6. The State Coordinator is responsible for determination of eligibility for all competitors in any State Level event.

SECTION VIII COORDINATOR:

1. The Section VIII Coordinator will provide leadership in his sport at the Section level.
2. The Section Coordinator will ensure that all coaches within the Section are informed of any rule or procedure changes as directed by NYSPHSAA or the Section VIII Executive Director.
3. The Section Coordinator will be responsible for the establishment of a Rifle Match Schedule each year.
4. The Section VIII Coordinator is not responsible for securing range space or time for schools to compete. It is the responsibility of every team to schedule time for their team to practice and compete.
5. The Section Coordinator will be responsible for the organization and conduct of the Section VIII post-season Championship Match in air rifle. He will be responsible for securing all officials and range personnel for post-season competition.
6. The Section Coordinator will be responsible for the interpretation of all rules, including match and safety procedures, as modified by the NYSPHSAA and Section VIII.

The Section Coordinator, as directed by Section VIII Rules, (November 1989), shall supervise the Sec. VIII Team and Individual Championships and is responsible for determining the members to compete on the State Championship Team, which attend the NYSPHSAA State Regional Championships. He is also responsible to ensure all required forms are complete.

7. The Section Coordinator should participate in the coordinators phone conference call. He must also attend the Coordinators meeting held on the morning of the NYSPHSAA Regional State Championship Match.
8. The Section Coordinator shall organize and chair all coaches meetings and conduct a scoring clinic as outlined earlier in this guide.

ASSISTANT TO THE SECTION COORDINATOR:

The Section Coordinator may choose an Assistant to aid in carrying out Coordinator duties. This person may relay information from the Section Coordinator to coaches, assist in running the Section VIII Tournaments, chair meetings in the absence of the Section Coordinator.

RIFLE LEAGUE SECRETARY: Zachary Babolcsay, the coach of the Sewanhaka District team is the current league secretary.

The Rifle League Secretary shall:

1. Receive team and coach's rosters
2. Receive results of all matches within 24 hours of the match
3. Record and keep all official records of both team and individual scores for all Section VIII rifle competitions.
4. Formulate and distribute a member directory
5. Produce and distribute periodic Rifle Bulletin of match results during the season.
6. Assist the Section Coordinator in the production of the Official Final Bulletin at the end of the season.

REFEREE / OFFICIAL CHIEF SCORER:

The Section VIII Coordinator is responsible (Guide 1994-95) for the selection of a qualified person to act as an Official Scorer for tied or close matches during the dual meet season as outlined earlier in this guide. This person will also serve as the Official Referee and Chief Range Officer, as defined by NYSPHSAA, during the Section VIII Post-Season Championship Matches. His duties are found in the NRA Rule Books and are modified by both NYSPHSAA and Section VIII. He is also charged with the responsibility to ensure that all NYSPHSAA safety procedures are carried out. He will also be the final authority on any challenges of score. As a referee, he is also the final authority on questions dealing with legal / illegal positions, equipment, procedures or scoring. This is stated in the Rifle Guides of 1993-94 and 1994-95 is also stated in Minutes of 1980. Bob Chamiers has served in this position since 2011.

According to NYSPHSAA and Section VIII established policies on scoring, if a three-person jury is used to score and all shots are plugged at the time of scoring, there will be no challenges of the shot value. Corrections of obvious mismarking's and math errors are permitted.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT:

The President shall run all meetings that the rifle association has. The president of our rifle association is Kathy Dubuke, current rifle team coach of Garden City High School.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION SECRETARY:

The secretary will be responsible for keeping and compiling minutes of all meetings. He will send them to the coordinator, who will distribute them to the required people. Zachary Babolcsay, the coach of the Sewanhaka District team is the current league secretary.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION TREASURER:

The Treasurer shall be in charge of all monies collected or disbursed in Section VIII Rifle. He shall receive Coaches Association dues, check the Bankbook, collect entry fees from the Coaches Tournament and JV Match, and receive all monies associated with the Awards Dinner. He shall make all disbursements related to the distribution and engraving of annuals awards and for the annual Awards Dinner. The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the Section Coordinator. The Treasurer is Phil Schratwieser, rifle team coach of Bellmore/Merrick School District.

HIGH SCHOOL SECTION VIII ASSOCIATION LIAISON:

This person is a school administrator, usually an Athletic Director, to act as a liaison between the Rifle Coordinator and the High School Association of Section VIII. Eduardo Ramirez is the AD for Garden City and he is our Liaison.

JURY:

In the absence of an Official Referee, at Section VIII Tournaments the Section Coordinator shall appoint a three-person jury to act in scoring challenges. This jury may not consist of any members of the regular scoring jury. The established policy as mentioned above will still apply. In the event there are not enough competent individuals to make up a challenge jury, the Section Coordinator shall postpone all decisions until the Official Referee may be consulted. The jury will also be consulted on rules interpretations, but the final authority on all decisions of rules interpretations rest with the Section Coordinator or the NYSPHSAA Coordinator.

TROPHY COORDINATOR:

The Trophy Coordinator is responsible for the collection, maintenance, and storage of all Section VIII rotating trophies. All trophies are to be returned by the first coaches meeting. The Trophy Coordinator will inspect all trophies and report to the Section Coordinator any trophies that need repair. Because many trophy winners are away in college, it is recommended that the coach of the recipient's team collect the trophies at the end of the current school year. Because of the importance of prompt return of the rotating trophies the Trophy Coordinator or the Section Coordinator will notify all 19 Athletic Directors of noncompliance and enlist their aid in the return of trophies. Kathy Dubuke is the trophy coordinator.

COACHES TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR:

The Coaches Tournament Coordinator will be responsible for ascertaining the number of participants in both the Coaches Tournament and the JV Match from each member school. He will also be responsible for the preparation, distribution, collection, and scoring of official targets for these matches. The Tournament Coordinator will prepare the results and report such to the League Secretary and the Section VIII Coordinator. The designated Tournament Coordinator is Tom DeCarlo, the coach of Glen Cove High School. Information concerning details of both Tournaments will be sent to all coaches during November. The Tournaments will be fired using Section VIII official targets. A sample copy of the flyer is in the appendix of this guide.

AWARDS DINNER COORDINATOR:

The Awards Dinner Coordinator is responsible for determining the number of attendees and preparing a seating chart for the dinner. He will also help coordinate the menu for the dinner. The Dinner Coordinator will also work with the Association Treasure to ensure that all attendees have made the proper payment for the dinner. Most catering halls require one check for everyone from an entire school. If your school pays for the team using purchase orders, please make these arrangements well in advance, to have the check prior to or on the night of the dinner. Catering halls generally do not accept purchase orders. They need either a check or cash. The Awards Dinner Coordinator is Kathy Dubuke of Garden City High School

ANNUAL AWARDS - SECTION VII RIFLE

THE GEORGE HATHAWAY COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD:

This award is presented to the outstanding Coach of the Year as outline by the rubric that will be provided to all members of the Nassau County Rifle Coaches Association at the start of the season. This is the same rubric that has been used for the past 2 years. It was established in 1991 and in 2006 it was named in honor of George Hathaway, coach of the Sewanhaka District and New Hyde Park HS teams from 1977 to 2007. He coached 30 years in high school and six years in college and amassed 350 wins. He also has served as NYSPHSAA State Coordinator since 2000.

THE CHARLIE TACKE TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:

This award is presented to the coach of the school rifle team, as voted for by the Coaches Association, as having best exemplified the concepts of Sportsmanship throughout the season. It was established in 2005. It is named in honor of Charlie Tacke, coach of East Meadow High School, 1976-1980, Berner High School, 1981-1987, and Massapequa High School 1988-2005. Charlie also coached on the college level for 2 years and has amassed a total of over 250 wins. He served as Section 8 Coordinator since 1978.

THE DAN PEMPEL AWARD:

This award is presented to the Varsity shooter who compiles the highest average in air rifle for the season. It is named for Dan Pemple, former coach of the Valley Stream District rifle team from 1994 to 2003 and the Valley Stream PBC from 1980-2003. It was established in 2005.

THE JOE CULLUM AWARD:

This award is presented to the winner of the Section VIII Individual Air Rifle Championship Match. It is named in honor of Joe Cullum, coach of East Meadow High School 1982 to 1986 and Rifle League Secretary from 1990 to 1996. It was first established in 1997.

THE TOM FLANAGAN AWARD:

The Rifle Coaches Association presents this award for the Highest Average in Air Rifle for a First Year Varsity Shooter. It is named in honor of Tom Flanagan, a longtime rifle coach at Seaford High School and the League Treasurer for over 20 years. It was established in 2006.

THE ALEX BALDWIN AWARD:

This award is presented by the Coaches Association to the coach of the Most Improved Team in Section VIII Rifle as determined taken the average of the first 2 matches and subtracting it from the average of the remaining matches. The person with the most improvement is named in Memory of Alex Baldwin, former Rifle Coach of Massapeque High School. This award was established in 1986.

BULLETIN ALL-STAR AWARDS:

Former League Secretary, Clark Burdman, first established this award in the mid-1980s. It was his way of recognizing the outstanding achievement of Coaches in full filling their obligations regarding promptness in filing all the paperwork required of a coach to the Section Coordinator. It is an award solely chosen by the coordinator and he or she may use any criteria they wish in the selection of the recipients. The Bulletin All Star Coach was usually the Coach who was most consistent and reliable in submitting the dual meet match scores each week, but this may not be the only measure of what the coordinator uses in determining the recipient. Today, this award is now given to the first year shooter who has shown the greatest improvement in their overall season air rifle average compared to the average of their first 2 air rifle matches.

