



## HOW TO START A HIGH SCHOOL TEAM OR CLUB

Thank you for your interest in USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports (USAYESS).

USAYESS wants to help teams or clubs successfully start a program in their school or community, and start enjoying the safest, and fastest growing high school sport in the nation.

Following is a road-map explaining how to start a team. But before we get started we want to clearly state that teams do not need to be a non-profit 501 c (3), the Mission and Vision of USAYESS.

### Mission:

USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports exists to develop, grow and support state foundations and associations that use hands-on events, competitive shooting sports, and wildlife habitat and conservation programs to introduce and educate young people and their families about safe firearm handling, competitive shooting, and outdoor conservation activities.

### Vision:

USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports is dedicated to growing youth competitive shooting teams primarily through partnerships with Key Conservation Groups as well as local, state, regional, and national competitive youth shooting organizations.

Today's youth are the caretakers of the future. Therefore, it is important that young adults and their families be exposed to and develop an understanding of responsibility to the outdoors. USAYESS shall provide events that showcase safety of equipment, and outdoor activities in a fun filled atmosphere. USAYESS will ensure the transformation and educational potential of student athletes with opportunities to practice and compete on a level playing field, and we are committed that those athletic opportunities involve new skills, developing individual goals, planning, potential, and fostering an appreciation of collaboration and teamwork in the competitive arena of athletics. Our member athletes are students first, and foremost.

The well-being of our student athletes is first and foremost, and strives to develop programs and events that encourage boys and girls to develop camaraderie, practice habits of mind and body that encourage healthy living, and learn valuable life lessons. Every team will strive for excellence in all programs and events; however, we recognize that an excessive emphasis on winning can corrupt true learning and academic values. USAYESS believes that both victory and defeat teach valuable life lessons.

Athletes are students first and athletes second. We hope that athletic competition fosters respect for others, sportsmanship, competition, teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. The priority of our program is to develop educated young men and women of character who are transformed by their experience in athletic competition and then transfer lessons they learned on the athletic fields to lives of service to others.

1. Seek teammates who share the same interests.
2. Definition of a Team:
  - Must be a well-organized and reputable educational (training) organization for primarily grade school age youth (athletes).
  - The team must have a competent and responsible insured coach, instructor, or adult leader.
  - Must always have two or more active athletes.
  - There must be intent and effort towards sustainability. The team is expected to grow and/or remain active into the foreseeable future through a perpetual cycle of youth shooters.
3. Write down the team's goals and implement a plan. The plan should include who will be the team's president, secretary, treasurer, and historian (photographer/marketing/website).
4. Meet with the parents to seek their approval, and support.
5. Implement a marketing plan; social media, promote the website, 5. Find a head coach.
  - a. The coach must be an adult at least 21 years of age
  - b. The coach may be a parent, friend, gun club member, Hunter Ed instructor or school staff.
6. Seek a local gun club.
  - a. You can find gun clubs by going to; [www.claytargetsonline.com](http://www.claytargetsonline.com)
  - b. Meet with the gun club's board and ask if they would allow your team to:
    - i. Practice at their facility
    - ii. Host events
    - iii. What the cost will be per round. A round is 25 targets in Skeet Sporting Clays, 5- Stand and Trap.
7. Next, set up a meeting with the athletes, parents and your school's Athletic Director.
8. Let the school know that it will not cost the school anything and the clay target sports are amongst the safest in the country.
9. No school staff is required.
10. The team will have the nation's best youth sports insurance by registering with USAYESS and its own endowment account (funding) through the MidwayUSA Foundation.
11. Host an informational meeting with the new team.
  - a. Talk about the benefits of the program

- b. Explain costs – usually about \$250 for a ten week league (season). Shells are about \$6 and a round of skeet or trap is about \$6.
    - i. The cost includes joining USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports (USAYESS)
    - ii. By individually joining USAYESS each team member is insured. Each team member (Head Coach, Volunteer & Athlete) joins individually at a cost of \$25 each.
    - iii. All Adults go through a yearly Back Ground Check.
    - iv. USAYESS will also activate a Team Endowment Account at MidwayUSA Foundation. [www.midwayusafoundation.org](http://www.midwayusafoundation.org)
    - v. USAYESS partners with the Association of College Unions International (ACUI), which runs the nations collegiate clay target program. [www.acui.org/claytargets](http://www.acui.org/claytargets)
  - c. The clay target club will not interfere with other school sports/activities
  - d. Anyone can join the club; boy or girl regardless of skill level
  - e. There is no benching, everyone participates equally
    - i. To be a legal competitive squad a team must have at least five athletes in the same division. Five athletes from different divisions is considered a ‘Mixed Squad’, and does not qualify for Squad Awards.
    - ii. There is no limit to the number of athletes or squads a team may field.
    - iii. Athletes can compete as individuals, squads and team.
12. Next set up practice dates and an event schedule.
  13. Post practices, events and news on the website and any other social media.
  14. Okay assuming you are going to move forward with or without the school’s approval. You will need a team checking account.
    - The account must be in the team’s name and have an EIN number. The EIN number is free. The reason for this EIN number is so that the head coach or whomever sets up the account does not need to worry about personal taxes at this account. The only reason they ask for personal information is so that they verify legal citizen ship. So, go to: [http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-%26-Self-Employed/Apply-for-an-Employer-Identification-Number-\(EIN\)-Online](http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-%26-Self-Employed/Apply-for-an-Employer-Identification-Number-(EIN)-Online).
    - You may also need a set of Articles and By-Laws for the team. These can be downloaded off of the USAYESS website.

What if the school denies the program! Don’t worry, you can still form a team on your own following the above steps except the school items. For FFA and 4-H programs, it is highly recommended that teams implement a separate account, keeping in mind that the funds are only used for the team’s marksmanship program. No 501 c (3) nonprofit is needed to start a team or receive funding from MidwayUSA Foundation or USAYESS.

So, what do you think? Come on, take the first step to becoming a part of the fastest growing grade school sports in the country. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact USAYESS at any time.



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