



RIFLE

UPDATED JULY 1, 2026

***2026-27 RULES
MODIFICATIONS***

IF YOU THINK YOU OR YOUR TEAMMATE HAS HAD A
CONCUSSION

DON'T HIDE IT. • REPORT IT. • TAKE TIME TO RECOVER.



IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GET CHECKED OUT.

For more information and resources, visit www.CDC.gov/headsup.

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NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee

The chart below lists the members of the committee that voted on and approved the rules included in this edition of the book. This information is being included for historical purposes.

Name	Institution	Term Expiration
Soren Butler	Georgia Southern University	9-1-29
Leighton Dempster	U.S. Military Academy	9-1-27
Paul Downey, chair	University of Kentucky	9-1-28
Jonathan Hammond	West Virginia University	9-1-28
Shondell Reed	U.S. Air Force Academy	9-1-26
Tua Reilly	University of Memphis	9-1-27

For a complete and current listing of the NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee roster is available online at www.ncaa.org/playing-rules.

Those seeking interpretations of rules may contact:

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Rules Process

The following modifications have been approved by the NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee. **All NCAA Smallbore Rifle and Air Rifle competitions shall be governed by USA Shooting rules and regulations unless modified by this document.** Rules changes are identified by *a shaded background*.

USA Shooting Rules – **Effective date September 1, 2026**, shall be used for the entire NCAA rifle season, including the championships.

Note 1: Any reference in the USA Shooting Rules to 50 m rifle shall be applied to 50 foot rifle for NCAA purposes.

Note 2: "Counter" or "Counted" shall refer to student-athletes whose performance is designated to count towards the calculation of their teams score for a match (maximum of five counters).

Note 3: "Non-Counter" or "Non-Counted" shall refer to student-athlete(s) who compete at a match but are not designated to have their performance count towards the calculation of their team score for a match.

Note 4: "Squadded" shall refer to the assignment or placement of a student-athlete at/in a particular firing point, target, relay, etc.



Modifications

1. NCAA SMALLBORE RIFLE AND AIR RIFLE

- a. NCAA intercollegiate competition shall be conducted on 50 foot and 10 meter indoor ranges.
- b. Roster Submission and Score Reporting:
 - (1) **Friday, Sept. 18** – Roster and season schedule must be submitted to the NCAA rifle score reporting system.
 - (2) **Monday's – Starting Sept. 21**, scores from all matches shot the previous week must be entered into the NCAA rifle score reporting system the Monday after each match.
 - (3) Center shots are required to be entered for all student-athletes, for all matches.

Note: The designated host institution will be responsible for entering scores for all participating institutions and individuals that competed at that match.

2. CONTESTS

As prescribed by Bylaws 17.02.3 and 17.02.4, a countable contest for a member institution or an individual student-athlete representing a member institution is any contest by that institution against an outside team in that sport, unless otherwise exempted in Bylaw 17. A team countable rifle contest ("match") consists of a minimum four "counter" (i.e., one of the countable scores for team competition) team members in shoulder-to-shoulder competition between two intercollegiate institutions.

During the regular season "non-counter" (i.e., not one of the countable scores for team competition) team members are exempt from the shoulder-to-shoulder requirement. For matches shot during the NCAA Qualifier weekend all scores entered into the score reporting system will be used for selection to the NCAA Championships and must be shot shoulder-to-shoulder. See section 3.b below.

3. STANDARD MATCH FORMAT

The standard match format shall consist of the USA Shooting 60-shot 3x20 smallbore and 60-shot air rifle scored in integer with no more than one hour between disciplines. If possible, the order of each relay shall be smallbore first, followed by air rifle.

The intent of this rule modification is for teams to compete in true, shoulder-to-shoulder matches. Exceptions are permissible to accommodate range space, but match organizers will strive to maintain the integrity of shoulder-to-shoulder competition, ensuring equal representation/participation from both or multiple teams at all phases of the match.

- a. **Regular Season Matches.** Every attempt should be made to comply with the standard match format and the following guidelines:
 - (1) "Counter" student-athletes should be squadded equally among all teams participating on each relay.
 - (a) 3 teams can be (abc / abc) or (ab / ac)
 - (b) 4 teams (abcd / abcd or ab / cd)

- (2) "Non-counter" student-athletes can shoot any time on any point available, provided "counter" student-athletes are sufficiently represented on each relay.
- (3) Disciplines (SB/AR) may be shot in any order and individuals can shoot SB/AR in any order, counter or non-counter. See section 3.a.(7) below.
- (4) Multi-day matches may follow the NCAA Championships format of SB on Day 1, AR on Day 2.
- (5) Ranges under ten points total, or permanently split ranges under ten points for each gun, are exempt from the Standard Match Format rules for regular season matches.
- (6) "Counter" student-athlete(s) may not be squadded without an opposing "counter" student-athlete(s) on the firing line.
- (7) Any deviation from the Standard Match Format shall be agreed upon in writing by the head coaches of each institution participating at least one week prior to the scheduled start of the match. If head coaches cannot agree on a deviation, they must follow the Standard Match Format as written.

b. NCAA Qualifier Matches. All designated NCAA Qualifier matches shall use the Standard Match Format. Additionally, the following protocols will be required for all NCAA Qualifier matches:

The range facility and the number of firing points used for the NCAA qualifier shall be divided equally for the institutions that are participating. If two teams are competing, the number of firing points shall be divided equally 50%-50% (i.e. Range has a total of 12 firing points, each institution shall be designated six points per team). If more than two teams are participating, then each team would have an equal number of firing points per relay (i.e. Range has a total of 12 firing points and three teams competing, each team would have 4 points per team).

- (1) The priority for squadding will be to "counter" student-athletes before "non-counter" student-athletes. "Counter" student-athletes will be squadded equally across the minimum number of relays possible.
- (2) If more than one relay is required to complete the team portion of the contest, each relay shall have an equal number of "counter" student-athletes from each institution competing shoulder-to-shoulder in each of those relays. If all "counter" student-athletes are squadded consistent with this rule, and space is available, "non-counter" athletes may be squadded in the available firing points. "Non-counter" student-athletes do not need to be squadded equally across the remaining relays. The host institution retains the discretion to allocate extra firing points to the visiting institution to meet travel and/or lodging concerns.
- (3) All teams must submit the squadding plan and relay times to the rules interpreter and the NCAA championship manager by February 1 for NCAA qualifier weekend. Failure to submit by the deadline will result in a \$400 fine.
- (4) Failure to follow the standard match format for the NCAA qualifier match will result in disqualification of all team and individual scores for the match (all scores will be recorded as zero).

4. TEAMS

- a. For regular season contests, including the NCAA Qualifier, teams may be composed of a minimum of four but not more than five shooters per discipline.
- b. For the NCAA championships, teams shall be composed of a minimum of four but not more than five shooters who shall shoot both smallbore and air rifle.
- c. Team members shall be designated before any team member starts firing in that discipline.

5. NCAA APPROVED ELECTRONIC TARGETS

For Air Rifle (10 meter) and Smallbore (50 feet), all NCAA competitions using electronic scoring targets shall comply with USA Shooting Rule 6.3.2 and shall at a minimum be ISSF Phase I approved.

6. EQUIPMENT.

ISSF rules 7.5.4.10 (Jacket Stiffness) and 7.5.5.6 (Shooting Trouser Stiffness) will be delayed in implementation. The Rifle Committee will re-evaluate these rules before the 2027-2028 season. For the 2026-2027 season, the following modifications will continue to be in effect.

- a. **Jacket Stiffness.** The allowable time to achieve the current deflection of 3mm anywhere on the jacket will be 60 seconds.
- b. **Shooting Trousers Stiffness.** The allowable time to achieve the current deflection of 3mm anywhere on the jacket will be 60 seconds.
- c. All other equipment will be in compliance with USA Shooting Rules.

7. INJURY.

In case of an injury to a competitor during a competition, a medical evaluation shall be conducted by a designated medical professional (i.e., doctor or athletic-trainer) and he/she shall make a decision of continued participation or medical disqualification. If, in the opinion of the medical professional, continued participation by the injured student-athlete may expose the student-athlete or others to a significantly enhanced risk of harm, the medical professional has the final decision regarding participation by the student-athlete. If an injured or ill student-athlete receives a medical disqualification, he/she shall not be allowed to compete for the rest of the contest. If the injured/ill student-athlete was one of the five “counter” student-athletes (for scoring purposes) the scores for the four remaining “counter” student-athletes from the team members will be added to establish the team score.

8. TIES

- a. For individual ties, see USA Shooting Rules 6.15.
- b. For discipline team events (i.e., smallbore or air rifle), ties shall be decided by the center count of the four “counter” student-athletes making up the counting score. If a tie remains, the score of the fifth “counter” student-athlete score shall break the tie. If the tie is still not broken, the center count of the fifth “counter” student-athletes shall break the tie. If tie still remains the tie shall be broken by counting back the combined score in each ten shot series from your four counting scores beginning with the last series.
- c. For aggregate team scores, ties shall be first decided by the center count of the eight counting team scores. If a tie remains, the score of the fifth “counter” student-athletes

from both disciplines shall break the tie. If the tie is still not broken, the center count of the fifth “counter” student-athletes from both disciplines shall break the tie. If tie still remains the tie shall be broken by counting back the combined score in each 10 shot series from your eight counting scores beginning with the last series.

9. APPAREL

All student-athletes and coaches are permitted to wear institutionally issued warm-up apparel, khaki pants, slides, blue jeans or service academy-issued military uniforms in the designated field of play.

As authorized by the institution or conference, a commemorative or memorial patch (e.g., names, mascots, nicknames, logos, and marks intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events or other causes) to be worn by a team is allowed as long as no safety hazard is created. The patch shall be contained within a four-sided geometrical space (i.e. rectangle) with an area that does not exceed four square inches and must be placed on the front or sleeve of the uniform and may not interfere with any required markings. While not all team members are required to wear the patch, the patch must be identical for those who choose to wear the patch.

Appendix A

Concussions

REVISED MAY 2025

Sport-related concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct blow to the head, neck or body resulting in an impulsive force being transmitted to the brain that occurs in sports and exercise-related activities. Signs and symptoms may present immediately or evolve over minutes or hours.

Game officials are often in the best position to observe student-athletes after they have had a blow to the head or body, and may be the first to notice the behaviors that indicate a concussion may be present. An official may observe the following behaviors by a student-athlete with a suspected concussion:

- Appears dazed or stunned.
- Appears confused or incoherent.
- Shakes head.
- Stumbles; has to be physically supported by teammates.
- Moves clumsily or awkwardly.
- Shows behavior or personality changes.

Student-athletes with a suspected concussion must be removed from competition so that a medical examination can be conducted by the primary athletics healthcare provider (i.e., athletic trainer or team physician).

Importantly, a game official is not expected to evaluate a student-athlete. Instead, if an official notices any behavior that suggests a concussion, the official should stop play immediately and call an injury timeout so that an appropriate medical examination can be conducted. A simple guide to the official's role is: "When in doubt, call an injury timeout."

A student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, must be removed from practice or competition and may not return to sport activity on that day. The athlete must undergo medical evaluation and follow a return-to-learn/return-to-sport protocol under the supervision of the team physician, and may not return to sport until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. Sports have injury timeouts and player substitutions so that student-athletes can receive appropriate medical evaluation.

IF A CONCUSSION IS SUSPECTED:

1. **Remove the student-athlete from play.** Look for the signs and symptoms of concussion if the student-athlete has experienced a blow to the head. Do not allow the student-athlete to just "shake it off." Each student-athlete will respond to concussions differently.
2. **Ensure that the student-athlete is evaluated immediately by an appropriate health care professional.** Do not try to judge the severity of the injury. Call an injury timeout to

ensure that the student-athlete is evaluated by one of the primary athletics healthcare providers.

3. **Allow the student-athlete to return to play only if the primary athletics healthcare provider has determined that the student-athlete did not suffer a concussion.** Allow athletics medical staff to rely on their clinical skills and protocols in evaluating the student-athlete to establish the appropriate management.

Additional information and details regarding concussions can be found at ncaa.org/sports/health-safety.

Appendix B

Accommodations for Student-Athletes with Disabilities

The NCAA encourages participation by student-athletes with disabilities (physical or mental) in intercollegiate athletics and physical activities to the full extent of their interests and abilities. An NCAA member institution will have the right to seek, on behalf of any student-athlete with a disability participating on the member's team, a reasonable modification or accommodation of a playing rule, provided that the modification or accommodation would not:

1. Compromise the safety of, or increase the risk of injury to, the student-athlete with a disability or any other student-athlete;
2. Change an essential element that would fundamentally alter the nature of the game; or
3. Provide the student-athlete an unfair advantage over the other competitors.

To request any such modification or accommodation, the member's director of athletics, or their designee, must submit a rule waiver request, in writing, to the secretary-rules editor. Such written request should describe:

- a. The playing rule from which relief is sought;
- b. The proposed modification or accommodation;
- c. The anticipated duration of the requested modification or accommodation;
- d. Any modification or accommodation the student-athlete has received from the university or college and/or any sports governing body;
- e. Current, signed documentation of diagnosis/condition (including relevant test data and recommended treatment) from the treating professional (e.g., medical doctor, clinical psychologist, or another qualified individual);
- f. The original date of diagnosis of condition/disability;
- g. Modification or accommodation being recommended and rationale for this recommendation;
- h. Clarification if this is a temporary issue/injury or a permanent condition/disability; and
- i. A written statement from the school's healthcare provider (e.g., team physician) indicating that the student-athlete has been cleared to participate in competition. Please specify the date of this medical clearance.

Upon receipt of a complete waiver request, the NCAA staff liaison will consult with other NCAA staff, sport governing bodies, and/or external subject matter experts, to conduct an individual inquiry as to whether the requested modification or accommodation can be made. In making this assessment, the NCAA may request additional information from the member institution. The information will then be forwarded to the applicable sports committee, who will make a final decision. A member of the NCAA staff will communicate the decision in writing (which may be via email) to the requesting member institution. If the request is granted, the member school should be prepared to provide the written decision to the head official and tournament director (if applicable) for each competition in which the student-athlete will participate. NCAA members are

directed to consult Guideline 1L of the NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook for further considerations regarding participation by student-athletes with disabilities.

Please allow a minimum of two weeks following submission for this process to be completed.

Appendix C

Prohibited Use of Tobacco During Competition

The use of tobacco by student-athletes, or team or game personnel (e.g., coaches, athletic trainers, managers and game officials), is prohibited during competition. Any student-athlete, or team or game personnel, who uses tobacco during competition shall be disqualified for the remainder of that competition.



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