



Junior Shooting Sports

Official Match Program

2025 - 2026



The American Legion presents its 35th Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament which provides competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation.

A. **The Individual Tournament** has two phases of competition:

1. First round - State Championships
2. Second round – Qualification for National Championship

B. **The Team Tournament** has two phases of competition:

1. First round - State championships

C. Second round – For recognition of top teams in the nation

- » All team members must be entered on the same team per class. To determine rankings, the team score will be compromised of the top four scores fired in each class. Teams will be broken down into multiple teams of four shooters. This will continue until there are less than four shooters remaining per team.

D. The first round and second round of the Individual Tournament are postal matches, whereas the National Championship is an individual event that is a shoulder-to-shoulder competition.

E. The first round and the second-round phases of the Team Tournament are postal matches.

- » A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then returned for scoring and ranking for awards.
- » The Individual and Team Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with this Official Match Program (OMP) and the 2024 - 2026 National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Book 15th Edition.

1. Who May Compete

A. **Sponsorship**

- » Entry into the Individual and Team Tournaments is limited to competitors who are active members of a Junior Shooting Club affiliated with an American Legion post. Affiliation form will need to be downloaded in the registration process.
- » Affiliation Forms must be filled out and signed no earlier than 1 September of the current Match Season and submitted during the registration process.

B. **Age Limits**

- » Competitors who have reached their 18th birthday or are a member of the high school class of 2026 and those younger are eligible.

C. **Teams**

- » A team is comprised of four competitors who represent the same Junior Shooting club.
- » More than one team may represent a club; however, only one competitor may represent a club/team.
- » The first round of the Team Tournament is a postal match and will be comprised of the top four competitor's individual tournament scores.

D. **Other Limitations**

- » Each competitor may fire on only one set of "official match targets" during the state championship phase of either tournament.
- » **A SPORTER COMPETITOR IS INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN CONSECUTIVE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS UNLESS HE/SHE IS MOVING FROM THE SPORTER CATEGORY TO THE PRECISION CATEGORY. THIS SPORTER SHOOTER COMPETITOR MUST WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE RETURNING TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AS A SPORTER COMPETITOR**

- » A PRECISION COMPETITOR IS INEGLIBLE TO COMPETE IN CONSECUTIVE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WHETHER THAT IS IN PRECISION CATEGORY OR SEEKING TO RETURN AS A SPORTER COMPETITOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THIS PRECISION COMPETITOR MUST WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE RETURNING TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE PRECISION CATEGORY.

2. National Championship Timeline at a Glance:

2025 - 2026 American Legion Junior Three Position Air Rifle National Championships	
September 1, 2025	First round postal match competition target sales and registration opens.
December 15, 2025	First round postal match competition target set sales and registration closes.
February 2, 2026	Targets due to the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) - must be postmarked on or before February 2, 2026 to be eligible for scoring.
February 16, 2026	Second round postal match competition targets mailed out by the CMP.
April 1, 2026	Second round postal match competition ends. Targets due to the CMP - must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2026 to be eligible for scoring.
July 21 - 25, 2026	American Legion National Championship (Individual Tournament).

3. Phases of the Tournament:

A. First round - state championships (Individual and Team Tournament) — Ends February 2, 2026

- The first round is a postal match to determine the Individual and Team State champions (one per category) in each state.
- To order and purchase targets visit:
- <https://www.legion.org/jssp-club-registration>
- Target sets must be purchased no later than December 15, 2025.
- The American Legion will authorize mailing of target sets by CMP following verification of American Legion Post affiliation and payment by credit card. ALL returned fired postal target sets must be received by the CMP and/or postmarked no later than February 2, 2026.
- First round postal targets must be fired under the observation of an “Official Match Witness” who will be an officer in the local American Legion post that has affiliated with the Junior Shooting club.
 - » Responsibilities are explained in the “Official Match Witness” document that will be sent along with the targets to the club.
 - ♦ Measure the firing line (with a tape provided by the school/club) to determine that the distance is 10 meters to the face of the targets.
 - ♦ Monitor the time of each relay (times are indicated in the Match Firing Checklist).
 - ♦ Observe range procedures.
 - ♦ Complete and return the Match Firing Report to CMP (return envelope is provided).
 - ♦ Sign where it is indicated on each athlete’s Match Entry Form upon completion of the firing and return to CMP.
 - ♦ Observe the placement of the fired target sets into the return envelope and sign across the back seal of the envelope

B. Second Round - Qualifications (Individual Tournament) — Ends April 1, 2026

- The second round for individuals is a postal match to determine the order of precedence for inviting competitors to the National Championship.
 - » Targets are sent to all marksman based on first round score of 530 for Sporter and 575 for Precision as well as their eligibility to compete in the National Championship.
- These targets will be mailed by the CMP to the club's adult leader of record by February 16, 2026. Returned fired postal target sets must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2026.
- Second round postal targets must be fired under the observation of an "Official Match Witness" who will be an officer in the local American Legion post that has affiliated with the Junior Shooting club. Responsibilities are listed in the First Round.
- **STATE CHAMPIONS DO NOT RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO THE SECOND ROUND BASED UPON THEIR ELIGIBILITY TO QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**

C. Second Round - National Championship (Team Tournament) — Ends April 1, 2026

- The second round for the Team Tournament is a postal match to determine the National Championship team in each category.
 - » Targets will be sent to the top 10 teams as determined by first round scores.
- These targets will be mailed by the CMP to the club's adult leader of record by February 16, 2026.
- All returned fired postal target sets must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2026.
- Second round postal targets must be fired under the observation of an "Official Match Witness" who will be an officer in the local American Legion post that has affiliated with the Junior Shooting Club. Responsibilities are listed in the First Round.
- NOTE: Substitutions to the original team that fired in the Preliminary Round are permitted; however please remember that a team member may only fire with one team/club.

D. National Championship (Individual Tournament), July 21-25, 2026.

- Fifteen (15) competitors in each category will be invited based on their scores in the qualification round.
- This is an Individual Championship and participants must abide by The American Legion guidelines for participation to include:
 - » Competitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or a family member over the age of 21. Signed parent or guardian permission must be provided if parent or guardian is not accompanying the competitor.
 - » The preference of The American Legion for those over 18 is to be accompanied by a parent.
- The competition will be conducted in accordance with a separate Official Match Program.

4. How to Order Official Targets:

A. To order targets

- <https://www.legion.org/jssp-club-registration>
- Target sets must be purchased no later than December 15, 2025.
- The American Legion will authorize mailing of target sets by CMP following verification of American Legion Post affiliation and payment by credit card. ALL returned fired postal target sets must be received by the CMP and/or postmarked no later than February 1, 2026.
- There is a match entry fee of \$18.00 per target set (6 targets).

- B. Clubs/teams must be affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.
 - There is no cost to affiliate. Affiliation form in the registration process will be the only form accepted for this tournament.
- C. Target sets will be distributed and scored by the CMP.
- D. 2024 - 2026, 15th Edition National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Book governs this competition.
- E. Any scoring inquiries/disputes should be directed to the CMP.

5. Return of Targets OR Self-Scoring on Orion:

- A. All “official target sets” (both fired and unfired) must be returned to the CMP, in accordance with the instructions and schedule provided by the CMP and included in target sets.
- B. Damaged or questionable fired target sets may result in re-firing and/or disqualification. This decision will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- C. Only competitor targets provided by CMP will be accepted.

6. Tournament Results Bulletins:

- A. Tournament results can be monitored at http://www.legion.org/shooting/postal_match.
- B. Results will be updated daily.
- C. A final results bulletin will be posted on The American Legion website, www.legion.org/shooting at the conclusion of the first and second rounds (Individual and Team Tournament).
- D. A final tournament results bulletin will be posted after completion of the National Championship (Individual Tournament shoulder-to-shoulder match).

7. Categories of Air Rifle:

- A. Competitors may enter one of two categories in the tournament based on the type of air rifle they wish to use.
- B. Precision Air Rifle Category: as described in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.4.
- C. Sporter Air Rifle Category: as described in National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.2 with the following limitations:
- D. Sights: As described in National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.2.8 (Sporter) and 4.5 (Precision): The sight must be factory issue for the Sporter air rifle being used. Telescopic sights are not permitted.
- E. A Precision air rifle CANNOT be modified in any way for it to comply as a Sporter air rifle.
- F. A competitor may compete in only one category.

8. Course of Fire:

- A. The First Round - State Championship level (Individual and Team Tournament) of this air rifle match will consist of 60 rounds for record (3 x 20), fired at ten (10) meters.
 - Twenty shots from the prone position.
 - Twenty shots from the standing position.
 - Twenty shots from the kneeling position.
- B. The Second Round - qualifications (Individual) and the Second Round - National Championship (Team Tournament) of competition will also consist of 20 rounds in each of the three positions.
- C. The 10-meter Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Three Position Air Rifle Target AR 5/10 (designed for use with the Visual Image Scoring technology) will be used at all stages of the tournament.

9. Clothing:

- A. Precision Air Rifle: As specified in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.6.

- B. Sporter Air Rifle: As specified in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule 4.3. All shooting clothing must be made of soft, flexible, pliable material, which does not give artificial support to the competitor. No special shooting jackets or pants are allowed.

10. Recognition and Awards:

A. First Round - State Championships (Individual and Team Tournament):

1. The Individual State Champion in each category (Precision Air Rifle and Sporter Air Rifle) will each receive distinctive awards.
2. The Team State Champion in each category (Precision and Sporter) will each receive a team award for the members on the team listed.
3. Based on the first-round scores, the overall top ten (10) teams and overall top twenty-five (25) individuals (to include tie scores) in each category, will receive a distinctive Shooting Sports embroidered sew-on patches from The American Legion

B. Second Round - Qualifications (Individual Tournament):

1. No recognition awards are presented for the Second Round
2. Based on second round scores, fifteen (15) competitors in each category will be invited to the National Championships based on their scores.

C. Second Round – Team Tournament

1. Distinctive team plaques will be presented to the top three (3) overall teams in the Precision and Sporter category.

D. National Championship (Individual):

1. Awards will be presented in each of the three position matches comprising the National Championship.
2. The overall Three Position Championship awards, determined by the aggregate score of the tournament matches plus a 10-round shoot-off from the standing position by the top eight competitors in each category, will recognize the top competitors in the National Championship

E. Scholarships:

1. The Champion in both the Precision and Sporter category will receive a \$5,000.00 college scholarship, provided by The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion. The overall second place finisher in each category will each receive a \$1,000.00 college scholarship, provided by the American Legion Auxiliary.

11. Match Conduct:

- A. All phases of the Individual and Team Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with this Official Match Program and the 2024 - 2026 National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Book, 15th Edition.
- B. A separate match program will be published for the National Championship Individual shoulder-to-shoulder match.

12. Integrity:

- A. Postal tournaments are conducted with the expectation that each competitor will have the integrity to fire the match according to the rules.
- B. Within each state, The American Legion's department Shooting Sports chairman, or in his/her absence, the individual so designated by the respective state commander, is responsible for investigating suspected cheating.
- C. Any individual or team discovered taking advantage of tournament rules shall be disqualified.



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