

U.S. Open Criteria

Note: These criteria are defined by the U.S. Open Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. They are reviewed annually at the US Open Committee meeting held during the World Shoot in October. The particular criteria definition applies as of the date the shoot is awarded by the Executive Committee.

The U.S. Open is an NSSA shoot which rotates location from year-to-year to allow shooters regionally an opportunity to participate. The normal rotation is East, and then West. If no qualified club within the respective region has submitted a bid for a particular year, the EC may award the shoot to a qualified club outside the normal rotational sequence. Awarding of the shoot will follow the normal east/west rotation year-to-year, even if a club is awarded the shoot "out" of rotation because of lack of bids from clubs in the prescribed schedule.

1. **Minimum requirements to host the shoot:**

The following are the minimum facilities required to host the U.S. Open:

- 10 regulation skeet fields with a minimum of 3 lighted fields. Lighting specifications can be furnished upon request to the NSSA headquarters.
- Adequate facilities (clubhouse, restrooms, etc.) to host the number of shooters attending a full shoot -include additional facilities/shelter to be temporarily situated on club grounds if permanent facilities are not adequate.
- Hotels and restaurants offering a range of prices and variety reasonably located.
- Adequate camper facilities. (Note: Specifics on camper facilities, i.e. power type, number of spaces and water dump station, etc. if available, must be included in program and on U.S. Open website.)
- Accessible by air with adequate rental car vendors. Proposal should indicate the time and distance from the closest airport.
- Handicap accessible.

2. **Recommended staffing requirements:**

The following issues must be addressed and included in club proposal in order for the shoot to be awarded:

- Trap mechanics, loaders, registration, scoreboard, field & maintenance/club personnel required based on the number of fields, type of equipment and host club's past experience with U.S. Open and similar tournaments; the U.S. Open Committee reserves the right to establish minimum staffing standards.

3. **Schedule:**

- The U.S. Open will be held on the first full weekend after Labor Day as determined by the U.S. Open committee and approved by the Executive Committee (EC). Any deviation from this date requires EC review and approval before the shoot will be awarded.
- The dates should be published at least 12 months prior to the shoot.
- The guns will be shot in the following order: 12, 20, 28 & 410. Host club will outline in their original proposal number of days, rotations, and if necessary, exception to shooting order, to be approved by Executive Committee.

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4. Awards:

Awards will be as follows: (Medals are listed on the last page of this document.)

- Olympic style gold, silver and bronze medallion for Event Champion, Runner-Up and Third and Lady Champion, Runner-Up and Third in Doubles, 12, 20, 28, 410 and HOA (400 targets).
- World Shoot quality medals procured by NSSA for Class 1st through 7th (AAA, AA, A, B, C, D in all events plus E in the 12 & HOA). The design of these medals may be varied for each shoot and estimated cost will be furnished to the club by NSSA. Club submits design to Headquarters for approval; NSSA will order medals and have them shipped to the host club.
- The cost of the champions medals and the class, concurrent and team medals will be split 50-50 between the NSSA and the host club. NSSA will bill the host club for their portion of the cost.
- Concurrent categories and places:
 - Sub-Junior, Senior Veteran, Active Military, Wheelchair, Referee, Parent & Child, Husband & Wife - Champion only.
 - Junior, Collegiate: Champion, Runner-Up, Third.
 - Triple-Sub, Sub-Sub Senior, Sub-Senior, Senior, Veteran, Retired Military and 2-Man Team: Champion, Runner-Up, Third, Group 1-1 and Group 2-1.
 - Ladies: Champion, Runner-Up, Third, Group 1-1 and Group 2-1
- The club will mail any medals or medallions not picked up at the shoot.
- The amount needed for participant pins should include workers and referees.

5. Payouts:

- *Minimum payouts in each of 5 guns: (NOTE: If a club is able to add to this by raising other added money, that is allowable.)*

Each Gun:		HOA:	
Event CH:	\$500	Event CH:	\$1000
Event RU:	\$350	Event RU:	\$750
Event Third:	\$250	Event Third:	\$500

- Class payouts: down to 7 places, graduated-depending on number of entries in class according to the following table:

1-10 entries	100%
11-20 entries	60/40%
21-30 entries	50/30/20%
31-40 entries	40/30/20/10%
41-50 entries	30/25/20/15/10%
51-60 entries	30/20/15/13/12/10%
61 + entries	27/20/15/13/12/8/5%

- Payouts must be mailed within 15 calendar days following the shoot.

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6. **Program:**

The NSSA will supply a "pro forma" for the shoot printed program to ensure consistency year to year. The host club must use this pro-forma. (Note: Club may add pages to include any local advertising, etc., they sell for sponsorships but the pro forma pages will be the core of the printed program.) This program must be *printed and mailed to all who have pre-registered 30 days before the shoot start date. Program may be e-mailed to shooters who request in lieu of mailing, and may be posted on appropriate websites for download. **Pro-forma attached.***

7. **Entry Fees:**

Entry fees will be kept to the minimum amount, which allows for a \$10 return to the shooters class and a reasonable profit for the club. Entry fee for concurrent events is \$5, nothing returned to shooters, medals only. The club may offer optional concurrent, optional team and optional class purses returned 100% to shooters.

8. **Registration:**

Advance registration requires a \$100 deposit for four (4) guns and \$50 additional deposit for Doubles. Deposits will be returned for cancellations received on or before two weeks prior to the start of the shoot. Squadding will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis for entries postmarked on or after June 1. For entries bearing the same postmarked date, squadding shall be by draw. To allow for mailing time, squadding will not commence before June 15. In the event a date exception has been granted by the Executive Committee, first-day entries must be postmarked no earlier than 90 days before the beginning of the month in which the shoot is scheduled. For example, an April shoot date dictates a "not prior to January 1" postmark, and squadding will not commence before January 15th.

9. **Referees:**

NSSA licensed referees with certification received in the current shoot year, must be used during this shoot.

10. **Optional purses:**

- Optional class purse, Optional Concurrent Purse and Team Purses to be paid back by High Gun system - ties divide (See paragraph II-B-7 of the Rule Book for an explanation of the High Gun system.), as follows:
 - 1-20 entries 60 / 40 %
 - 21+ entries 50 / 30 / 20 %
- Oklahoma options (50's) to be paid back by High Gun – ties divide as follows:
 - 60/40% in class

11. **Special Event:**

A special event may be held at the option of the host club.

12. **Social Events:**

The host club is encouraged to host social events on two evenings, preferably at no cost to the shooter.

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13. U.S. Open Shoot Proposal:

- Clubs wishing to host a U.S. Open must submit a written proposal, including proposed shoot date, to the Executive Committee prior to December 31, two years ahead of the requested shoot date for decision at the next Winter Meeting. For example, apply by December 31, 2015 for the September 2017 shoot date.
- Once awarded the shoot, the host club must attend and present a preliminary shoot program at the U.S. Open Committee meeting held during the World Shoot prior to the awarded shoot date.
- A final shoot program, including ad slicks for Clay Target Nation and medal design/logo, must be presented to the Executive Committee prior to December 31st for final approval at the next Winter Meeting.
- Failure to meet these deadlines can result in the Executive Committee awarding the shoot to another club.

14. Waiting List:

It is recommended that shooters on the waiting list who must make advanced travel arrangements be given priority over local shooters.

15. CTN Advertising:

The U.S. Open will receive two (2) full pages of free ads in the April and May issues of the CTN; if a date exception to September has been approved, these two months of free ads will be six (6) months and five (5) months prior to the shoot. For example, if the shoot is scheduled for April, the ads will be printed in the November and December issues of the CTN.

16. Score Board:

Should be posted within 30 minutes after the end of each scheduled flight.

17. U.S. Open Website:

It is strongly recommended that the host club have a U.S. Open or club web site featuring the U.S. Open, linked to NSSA's website. For additional help, contact NSSA headquarters.

18. Shoot-offs:

- Shoot-offs will be conducted in accordance with the NSSA Rule Book.
- HOA Champion, only, will be shot off using one regular round of singles with the 410, miss and out by target, followed by doubles at stations 3, 4 and 5, miss and out by station.
- Shoot-offs will be held the day an event is completed.
- Shoot-offs should start within 30 minutes (note-if the scoreboard isn't posted, shoot-offs cannot be called) after the completion of each clay's shooting.
- Shoot-offs should be spread out over a number of fields to expedite the shoot off process.
- Shoot-offs will be conducted as follows:
- Open CH, RU, 3rd, Concurrent CH, RU, 3rd and all class places.
- All orange targets must be used whenever lights are on, effective with the 2017 US Open and beyond.

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19. Medals List: Medallions, medals and participation pins are to be ordered by NSSA and the cost split 50-50 between the NSSA and the host club.

- Medallions
 - Event Champion, Runner-Up and Third
 - HOA Champion, Runner-Up and Third
 - Lady Event Champion, Runner-Up and Third
 - Lady HOA Champion, Runner-Up and Third

- Medals
 - AAA-1 through AAA-7
 - AA-1 through AA-7
 - A-1 through A-7
 - B-1 through B-7
 - C-1 through C-7
 - D-1 through D-7
 - E-1 through E-7 (12 gauge event only and HOA)

- Concurrent Medals as Follows:

Concurrent	CH	RU	3rd	Group 1	Group 2
Ladies				X	X
Sub-Junior	X				
Junior	X	X	X		
Collegiate	X	X	X		
Triple-Sub	X	X	X	X	X
Sub-Sub-Senior	X	X	X	X	X
Sub-Senior	X	X	X	X	X
Senior	X	X	X	X	X
Veteran	X	X	X	X	X
Senior-Veteran	X				
Military	X				
Retired Military	X	X	X	X	X
Military Veteran	X	X	X	X	X
Referee	X				
Wheelchair	X				
Parent & Child	X				
Husband & Wife	X				