

ACUI **Clay Targets**

Collegiate Shotgun Bowl Series

IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



2026-27 ACUI & SCTP CLAY TARGETS OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

All ACUI & SCTP rules, along with current ATA, NSCA, NSSA, USAS rules, will govern all partnered ACUI & SCTP competitions, including the 2026-27 Shotgun Bowl Series, the 2027 ACUI & SCTP International National championships, and the 2027 ACUI & SCTP Collegiate Clay Targets Championships. It is the shooters' and coaches' responsibility to be familiar with these rules.

Eligibility

All ACUI & SCTP collegiate events are open to college athletes and teams. However, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

- All participants must meet eligibility criteria established by their school.
- All participants are limited to six years of eligibility. Students enrolled at two-year institutions are limited to three years of eligibility; if they transfer to a four-year school, six years total.
- All participants must be between 18 and 25 years old to compete in ACUI or SCTP collegiate clay targets events. If a participant turns 26 during a season, they may finish competing in that season's event. Student veterans between the ages of 26 and 29 years old will be eligible to receive a waiver to participate in ACUI or SCTP collegiate clay targets events. If a student veteran participant turns 30 during a season, they may finish competing in that season's event.
- All undergraduate and graduate student participants must be in good academic standing with their institution in the academic term in which they qualified for the program.

- All participants must be enrolled for the academic term in which they are competing in an event for at least nine credits (six credit hours for graduate students). Seniors who will be graduating at the end of the academic term may be considered eligible if they are taking hours needed to complete their degree. Students who do not meet the enrollment requirements during the semester in which an event takes place will not be eligible to compete in that event.
- Students who begin a season as an eligible student athlete, but graduate prior to the end of the season, will be allowed to maintain their eligibility status through the National Championships of that same season. Following the National Championships event, their eligibility will expire. Early graduates will still be held to all other listed rules, guidelines, and policy listed in the current season's match programs, rulebook, and forms. Students who compete following their graduation date are not eligible to receive monetary scholarship awards.
- All undergraduate and graduate student participants must be enrolled as a student in good conduct standing at the institution they represent, as determined by the institution in which they are currently enrolled.
- For participation in events, certification of eligibility must be made by an advisor or authorized staff member of the school. All participants in the Nationals competitions are required to provide certification of eligibility along with the registrar's seal and signature.

One signed Code of Conduct & Eligibility form per student athlete is required for participation in the ACUI & SCTP Bowl Series events. An additional signed eligibility & code of conduct form will also be required as part of the Collegiate National Championships in March. Regardless, by registering for the event, you acknowledge that you meet the requirements of both the code of conduct and eligibility rules above.

Community Code of Conduct

Negative posts, belittling accomplishments, bullying, posting of denigrating comments in public or on social media that create a hostile environment within our otherwise inclusive community are a violation of the ACUI & SCTP code of conduct in place for all student programs. This explicitly states that as a participant it is an obligation to abide by the code of conduct guidelines and violation of them may jeopardize status as a participant in the ACUI Clay Targets program & SCTP.

Refusal to turn in a scorecard, along with cheating, swearing, and verbal or physical abuse of an athlete, scorer, field judge, shoot official, or protest committee is activity deemed to be inappropriate and grounds for disqualification.

Alcohol, Marijuana, and Controlled Substances

Alcohol/illegal or unprescribed drugs and firearms do not mix. Consumption of alcohol and other illegal substances are strictly forbidden during any ACUI & SCTP events. Further, any participant who is found to be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or drugs while using, cleaning, maintaining, inspecting, or otherwise handling their shotgun or other firearm at any time will be immediately disqualified from the event and asked to leave without refund.

Hat Shooting

Hat shooting is strictly prohibited. Any competitor who participates in hat shooting will be immediately disqualified and asked to leave the competition without refund. We recognize this is a celebrated tradition but encourage you to do your hat shoot at your next team practice.

Target Protests

Hits and misses must be protested immediately after the results of the shot is announced. To appeal an individual hit or miss, the athlete must raise their hand and announce cease fire. The referee can poll the squad but is not required to do so. The appeal ruling by the referee is final and no further protest is allowed. Once the shooter calls for their next target or the next shooter calls for their target the result of the last target is final. The total results of any round must be protested immediately after the round is completed and announced. Once the next round starts the results of the completed round are considered final subject to addition/math corrections in registration. If the referee still does not call out the results loud enough, a line supervisor should be notified. Participants should sign the score sheet (next to the score total) before leaving the line. When the athlete signs the score sheet, they are verifying the individual hits and misses and totals. Calculations are subject to addition/math corrections in registration. If a participant does not sign the score sheet, they forfeit all rights of protest.

Any protest should be conducted in a healthy, constructive form of conflict resolution. Reports of poor behavior demonstrated by the student athlete or coach can result in target penalties.

Shooting under the lights is not a protestable event.

Scorecard

Each competitor is solely responsible for their scorecards. Take care when reviewing your scorecard before signing and/or handing off to match officials and address any concerns with the tournament director as soon as possible. Falsification or manipulation of scorecards will result in disqualification from the event and a suspension or ban from the ACUI Clay Targets program & SCTP.

Late Penalty

The penalty for being late for a squadded event is a three-target penalty and may be assessed in American Skeet, American Trap, Doubles American Trap, Doubles American Skeet, International Skeet, and Bunker Trap. Sporting Clays and Super Sporting will be worked in as best as possible if there is a conflict, but please be diligent about making these times as well. Once the first shot is fired, the squad is set and you have missed your time. Late participants should join the squad at the beginning of the next round. The missed round will be made up later in the day provided there are openings. The three-target penalty will be assessed on the rescheduled round's score sheet.

Enforcement, Questions & Complaints

Athletes may contact ACUI Clay Targets Program & SCTP staff with any concerns about the program at any time throughout the year. Misconduct, abuse of any rule, or other concerns – most importantly safety – may be reported by anyone, by any means to the ACUI & SCTP staff.

Informal reports should be followed by a formal written report including incident date, time, location, witnesses, and detailed description. It's likely that the ACUI & SCTP staff will consult a committee. The concern will be processed once, information will be gathered, deliberation will be had, and a ruling will be made. Penalties will be determined by the severity of the infraction up to, and including, disqualification from the event and all future ACUI & SCTP events. This ruling will be final. Any concern should be conducted in a healthy, constructive form of conflict resolution.

Registration

All participants must be registered and fully paid before competing. If payment may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, please notify ACUI & SCTP staff immediately. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and will be done electronically through the SCTP SHOT System. All registrants are required to agree to the assumption of risk, code of ethics, media release, and cancellation policy.

Membership

The SHOT system coach and athlete membership fees (the fees of \$45 per coach and \$35 per student) will be covered through the ACUI and SCTP partnership for all participating coaches and athletes. If students and coaches are marked as paid but do not participate in an event that season, teams may be responsible for covering the cost of the above-listed fees.

Teams are not required to be members of ACUI to compete in any ACUI & SCTP event. Membership with ACUI will provide registration discounts but is not required.

To learn more, please email acuiclays@acui.org.

Ammunition

Conference Championship events: The competitor is responsible for paying for and obtaining practice and competition ammo. 24-gram ammunition is required for international events (1oz ammunition is not allowed). For American events, please check the appropriate National Governing Body rules (ATA, NISSA, NSCA) rules for allowable loads.

International Nationals: Please refer to the international nationals match program for any further ammunition specifications.

Nationals: Please refer to the nationals match program for any further ammunition specifications.

Guns

All guns must be fired while mounted on the shoulder. Any gun that cannot be shoulder mounted will not be allowable during competition. The barrel of a gun may not be rested on toes at competitions.

School Teams

Each participating institution may only have one team representing them in the ACUI & SCTP collegiate program. Satellite campuses will be considered separate institutions and may have their own team representing their campus. Fully online institutions must have an established athletic department or allow athletic club activities to be considered eligible to have a team compete in the ACUI & SCTP collegiate program.

ACUI & SCTP utilize the IPEDS database, an official database of the United States government, to confirm if a program has the required higher education credentials in their state to compete.

All athletes on a team must attend or have been an early graduate from the institution they're representing. Athletes may not compete on a school team if they do not attend that school.

Independent Athletes

Individual students attending a school with an established team may "pay their way" and compete only if the coach and/or team leader approves of their participation. At conference championship events, the individual can compete without other team members present if the coach/team leader will not be bringing the rest of the team but is okay with their participation. If the student does not receive approval to participate by the coach and/or team leader, the individual will not be able to participate.

An individual from a school that does not already have a team established may start one, so long as approval to represent their institution is given by a school advisor/representative. Once a team has been set up in the registration system, the individual athlete will be welcome to compete and represent their institution, assuming they meet all other eligibility requirements.

All athletes must be affiliated with the institution that signs off on their eligibility form. Students are only allowed to represent one institution. Students representing more than one institution are not permitted to compete as a team.

Classification & Divisions Systems

Two classifications will be used in the 2026-27 ACUI & SCTP Bowl Series events – Men's class and Women's class. Two team divisions will be used in the 2026-27 ACUI & SCTP Bowl Series events – HOA and CAA.

Information about ACUI & SCTP's classification and team divisions systems for the 2027 Collegiate Clay Targets Championships can be found in the event's match program (which will be made available on ACUI's website as soon as possible).

Student Transfers

ACUI & SCTP do not govern relationships between students and teams. Recruiting conversations college-to-college from anyone to an enrolled athlete should never occur while at an ACUI & SCTP competition.

We recommend team leaders and coaches consider written agreements with their athletes that address their team commitment and transfer process. Sample language can be found [here](#).

Professional Athletes

Students will not be considered a professional athlete in any shooting sport until such time the sport is able to sustain a participant with a standard living wage net of entry fees and related competition expenses.

Dress Code

Participants are representing their institutions and the ACUI & SCTP associations. All participants should adhere to the dress code for their respective events. The dress code is designed to provide safety, be professional, as well as respect individuality, be conducive to learning, and preserve the dignity of each student who participates. For reference, the ACUI Clay Targets dress code encompasses most of those items spelled out for the U.S. Olympic shooting sports athletes with leniencies as deemed appropriate for our level of competition. The ACUI & SCTP dress code states;

- All persons, spectators, athletes, field judges, and range personnel must wear eye and ear protection on the course. All ear equipment should be disconnected from electronic devices on the firing line to ensure all safety commands can be heard. Ear protection must meet hearing protection standards, not just be a noise-cancelling device.
- An athlete may choose competitive gear of their choice with the manufacturer's marks. For International Skeet, an ISSF strip or tape placed by a match official is required on your vest if you are shooting in the international events.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to wear college/university identification for both the competition and the awards ceremonies.
- Appropriate footwear must always be worn at all events; flip-flops or similar sandals are not appropriate. Footwear must have closed toes and heel straps or closed heels.
- Appropriate attire displays no pictures or graphics of a sexual or offensive nature and no words or phrases that include offensive language or political statements.
- No sleeveless shirts are permitted.
- The clothing on the leg should be an appropriate length. Likewise, top clothing should completely cover the abdomen at all times.

Weather Policy

If there is rain, shoots will still move forward as scheduled. If there is lightning within 5 miles of the range, there will be a 20-minute delay following the last strike. Cease fires and resume shooting announcements will be made when needed, and over the range's PA system (if available). If there are substantial delays that will alter a team's ability to shoot a discipline the same day they are scheduled to, communications will be sent out to the leaders of affected teams.

Remember, it is the responsibility of the athlete to know when and where they are shooting, even if there are weather delays. Please pay attention to PA system/announcements and be aware of your field's status.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The world health community, including various government agencies, closely monitors the emergence, spread, and management of pandemic and other communicable diseases. To maintain a safe environment by adopting practices that are designed to protect the health of athletes, volunteers and others who attend our events, ACUI Clay Targets and SCTP have adopted this Communicable Disease Policy for Athletes and Volunteers.

We also want to ensure the continuity of business operations to the extent possible during a pandemic disease. The policies described below are intended to achieve these objectives. As always, our efforts will be guided by and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and the guidance issued by public health agencies and governmental entities. We will continue to monitor information and advice on this important issue and modify or supplement these policies as necessary. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your head coach or an ACUI and SCTP staff member.

Preventing the Spread of Disease at Events

We ask all athletes and volunteers to cooperate in taking steps to reduce the transmission of disease when they are attending and participating in ACUI & SCTP-sponsored meetings and events. The following steps are strongly encouraged:

- Stay home if you are ill or experiencing any symptoms.
- Follow respiratory etiquette, by covering your mouth if you sneeze or cough, and discarding tissues used when sneezing.
- Practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from other people to the extent practicable.
- Wear a face covering whenever social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Engage in frequent hand washing with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers that are provided to you at events.
- Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces and equipment at meetings and events.
- Report any health or safety concerns to your head coach and event director (if at an event).

Reporting Procedure

Athletes and volunteers who demonstrate signs or symptoms of a communicable disease that poses a credible threat of transmission at events are asked to report that potential infection or disease immediately to your head coach and event staff (if at an event).

Staying Home When Ill

During flu season and/or a pandemic disease, it is critical that athletes and volunteers do not attend or participate in events while they are ill and/or experiencing the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees F or 37.8 degrees C) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. Contact your personal physician or check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's

website at <https://www.cdc.gov/> for recommendations about returning to normal activities following any sort of influenza-like illness.

If ACUI or SCTP determines that an athlete's or volunteer's continued presence at events poses a risk to the health or safety of the volunteers, athletes and/or others in attendance, the individual must submit a statement from his or her attending health care provider that his or her continued presence poses no such risk.