

Article I: Divisions

1.1. Divisions of NSL:

- Youth: 15 years and younger
- Adult: 16 years old and above
- The Adult division is further divided into Amateur and Professional categories

1.2. Class Declaration (Amateur or Professional):

- Adult competitors must declare whether they are competing as Amateur or Professional at the beginning of each NSL tournament.
- Once declared, the competitor must remain in that class for the entirety of that tournament.

1.2.1. Advancement from Amateur to Professional Class:

- Any Adult Amateur competitor who places in the top 3 overall at an NSL tournament must compete in the Professional class at their next NSL tournament.

1.3. Division and Class Transitions (with Consent):

- Youth competitors may move up to the Adult division with written consent from a parent or legal guardian.
- These competitors must remain in the Amateur class until they either:
 1. Reach the age of 16, or
 2. Place in the top 3 overall at an NSL tournament and submit additional written consent from a parent or legal guardian to enter the Professional class.

1.4. National Rankings Eligibility:

- Only competitors in the Professional division are eligible for National Rankings.
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Article II: General Rules

2.1. Equipment

2.1.1. Pellet:

- Must be a steel ball with a diameter between 1/4 inch and 3/8 inch.

2.1.2. Slingshot:

Size Limitations:

- Length: Maximum 12 inches
- Width: Maximum 10 inches

Elastic Material:

- Must be used as the kinetic energy source.
- May be fixed in any manner to the frame.

Prohibited Accessories:

- Wrist braces, except where reasonable accommodations are necessary for those unable to draw without a brace. The determination of reasonable and necessary is left to the tournament directors discretion.
- Laser aiming assistance devices
- Any type of magnified aiming optic
- Magnets in pouches
- Mechanical release devices

2.2. Competition Rules

2.2.1. Practice and Safety:

- Competitors must practice only in designated areas and comply with all safety regulations.

2.2.2. Adherence to Schedule:

- Competitors must follow the official schedule. Failure to appear at a designated time or when called upon to shoot results in a 0-point round.

2.2.3. Preparation Time:

- 1 minute allowed per round. When this time begins is at the discretion of the Tournament Director/officiating persons. Extensions may be granted. During this time Competitors must set up pellets as specified by Tournament rules.

2.2.4. Firing Line Rules:

- Stepping onto or across the line after a warning results in 0 points for that round.

2.2.5. Shooting Start:

- Shooting begins only after the referee's signal.

2.2.6. Shot Quantity:

- Exceeding the number of shots allowed in any given event results in a 0-point round.

2.2.7. Single Attempt Requirement:

- Only one attempt is allowed according to the structure of each event.
 - 5 shots per round of knockdowns = 1 attempt
 - 10 shots for the distance event = 1 attempt
 - Unlimited shots within one single 1 minute period for the speed event = 1 attempt
 - The number of shots per target on the woods event is determined by the Tournament Director. Whatever that number is = 1 attempt
 - An attempt in any event occurs within a single continuous period of time. For example, If a competitor starts their speed event and must stop shooting before the one minute time limit has finished they may not reshoot the remaining time later. In the knockdown event, if a competitor is unable to release all 5 shots within the allotted time for that round, no additional round will be allowed to finish the remaining shots.

2.3. Liability and Withdrawal

2.3.1. Liability Disclaimer:

- NSL assumes no liability for injury or illness. Competitors participate at their own risk.

2.3.2. Withdrawal Due to Unforeseen Circumstances:

- Withdrawal due to injury, illness, or emergency results in forfeiture of scores until return. Scores will be reinstated upon return to the tournament as long as scores are turned in by the designated time. If an emergency prevents someone from completing an event that was already started no additional attempt will be allowed.

2.4. Equipment Malfunction Protocol

If a malfunction occurs with the targets, timing system, or any part of the event's official setup that interferes with a competitor's ability to complete their round:

- The competitor must stop shooting immediately and notify the referee.
- The competitor's round will be paused and they must wait until all other competitors in that round have finished.
- Once the malfunction is resolved and verified by the referee, the competitor may resume shooting.

- For NSL Knockdowns and Distance events, the competitor will be given 30 seconds of shooting time per remaining pellet not yet fired.
- For Speed Shooting events, the time will pause and the competitor will be given an additional 5 seconds at restart.
- No pauses or additional time allotment will be allowed for failure of personal equipment. Personal equipment is the sole responsibility of the competitor. Examples of personal equipment are items such as frames, bands, pouches, etc. This is not an exhaustive list.

2.5. Intentional Rules Violations

To uphold fairness, safety, and integrity across all NSL-sanctioned events, intentional violations of the rules are taken seriously and may result in immediate disciplinary action.

2.5.1. Definition of Intentional Violation

An intentional rules violation includes, but is not limited to:

- Knowingly disregarding safety procedures
- Manipulating scorecards, targets, or any official scoring system, falsifying scores, or bearing false witness
- Attempting to influence or distract other competitors during active rounds
- Deliberately exceeding shot limits or time constraints
- Coaching or signaling from sidelines during an active round
- Repeated minor violations after receiving official warnings

2.5.2. Penalties

Depending on the severity and nature of the infraction:

- First Offense: 0 points for that round; formal warning issued
- Second Offense: Disqualification from the event and possible suspension from future competition
- Severe or egregious violations: Immediate disqualification and a permanent ban from all future NSL events and tournaments

2.5.3. Prizes and Recognition

If a competitor is disqualified due to an intentional rules violation:

- All awards, medals, prizes, or rankings must be forfeited
- These shall be reallocated to the rightful competitor(s) based on adjusted standings

- NSL reserves the right to correct public results, rankings, or records

2.5.4. Reporting and Review

Any competitor, referee, or official may report a suspected violation. Reports must be submitted to the head referee or tournament director as soon as possible once the violation is noticed.

The tournament director will:

- Review the situation and evidence
- Interview relevant parties
- Issue a formal ruling with documentation

2.5.5. Appeals

Disqualified competitors may submit a formal appeal in writing within 24 hours of a ruling. Appeals must be directed to the NSL Commissioner. The decision issued by the Commissioner shall be final.

2.6 Investigation Protocols

When a suspected rules violation is reported, the Tournament Director or Head Referee is responsible for conducting a fair, thorough, and timely investigation using the following protocol:

2.6.1 Immediate Action

- The investigating official (Director or Referee) should secure the competition area and halt the affected round if the violation may impact ongoing play.
- If the other official (Director or Referee) is available, they should be informed and may assist in the process.

2.6.2 Evidence Collection

- Interview the reporting party and the accused competitor separately.
- Identify and document witness names and statements.
- Collect any physical or digital evidence relevant to the case (e.g., scorecards, video, damaged targets).
- Review the relevant NSL rules involved.

2.6.3 Confidentiality and Neutrality

- All parties must be treated with fairness and impartiality.
- The official must avoid bias and base decisions solely on evidence gathered.

2.6.4 Determination and Ruling

If a violation is confirmed, the official must issue a written ruling including:

- Name of the competitor
- Description of the violation
- Summary of evidence
- Penalty applied per NSL Rule 2.5.2

2.6.5 Notification and Documentation

- The decision must be communicated directly to the competitor.
- The ruling and all supporting documentation must be added to the official event report.
- A copy must be submitted to the NSL Commissioner within 24 hours.

2.6.6 Escalation

If the Director and Referee disagree, or if the severity of the violation is unclear, the issue must be escalated immediately to the NSL Commissioner for final judgment.

Article III: NSL Woods Course

3.1. Ammunition:

- No restrictions on ammunition size
- Ammunition must be steel
- Ammunition must be spherical in shape
- All other equipment rules still apply

3.2. Rules of Play and Woods Course:

- Course structure and number of shots per target determined by the Tournament Director.
- To count toward national rankings:
 - Equipment rules must be followed
 - Scorecards must be signed by a witness who is not participating in the event at the same time as the competitor being scored
 - Only NSL Pro division competitors are eligible for ranking

Article IV: NSL Knockdowns

4.1. Participants:

- Open to all Adult division competitors
- Only NSL Pro division competitors are eligible for ranking

4.2. Competition Target System

4.2.1. Background:

- Must be black.

4.2.2. Target Specifications:

- 5 circular white targets at 55 inches from the ground to the bottom of the target.
- Spaced 4 inches apart from center of each target

Scoring:

- 80 mm diameter target: 2 points
- 70 mm diameter target: 4 points
- 60 mm diameter target: 6 points
- 50 mm diameter target: 8 points
- 40 mm diameter target: 10 points
- Miss = 0 points

4.3. Format:

- The event takes place over 4 rounds
- During each round the competitor will take 5 shots
- The distance between the targets and competitor is 10 meters
- Targets may be shot in any order
- Maximum potential score: 120 points

4.4. Time and Scoring Rules

4.4.1. Time limit per round:

- Each round consists of 5 shots within 2 minutes, 30 seconds

4.4.2. Validity of Score:

- Target must be fully knocked down and confirmed by the referee

4.4.3 Scoring:

- 80 mm diameter target: 2 points
- 70 mm diameter target: 4 points
- 60 mm diameter target: 6 points
- 50 mm diameter target: 8 points
- 40 mm diameter target: 10 points
- Miss = 0 points

Article V: NSL Distance Event

5.1. Target:

- Only NSL Pro division competitors are eligible for ranking.
- Single 8-inch diameter circular target.
- The height of the 8-inch diameter metal circular disc must be 55 inches measured from the button from the disc to the ground.

5.2. Shooting Distance:

- Professionals: 25 yards from target to competitor
- Amateurs: 15 yards yards from target to competitor

5.3. Score:

- Score value is be set by Tournament Director
- Each shot must be of equal value

5.4. Shooting Details:

- 10 shots total per event
- 5-minute time limit per event
- Only NSL Pro division competitors are eligible for ranking

Article VI: NSL Speed Shooting

6.1. Targets:

- 20 total targets
- 2.5 x 4.5-inch vertical rectangles or
- 12 oz cans in one horizontal row

6.2. Target Placement:

- Bottom of each target = 55 inches above ground

6.3. Scoring:

- Maximum score set by Tournament Director

6.4. Distance:

- 10 meters

6.5. Shooting Details:

- Unlimited number of shots
 - 1-minute time limit
 - Time starts at the release of the first shot
 - 1 pellet per shot
 - Only NSL Pro division competitors are eligible for ranking
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Article VII: NSL National Rankings

7.1. Compilation:

- Rankings compiled from all NSL tournament events during the competition season

7.2. Eligibility:

- Active NSL Membership is required for ranking eligibility
- Only Professional division competitors are eligible

7.3. Ranked Events:

- NSL Knockdowns
- NSL Woods Course
- NSL Speed Shooting
- NSL Distance

7.4. Ranking Determination

Ranking rules

-An Event is defined as a single competition within a tournament. (e.g., the speed shoot event at ECST)

- A tournament is defined as a competition held at a single location, over a set period, with multiple events.

-To receive ranking points, a participant must be a member of the National Slingshot League(NSL).

-Anyone may compete in the tournaments and even win them or individual events, but only NSL members are eligible for national ranking points.

-All NSL members who compete in the Professional Division will be ranked, regardless of placement.

-Each event score is weighted equally by calculating it as a percentage of potential total points possible and then multiplying that number by 100.

-Mathematically this is expressed as (points scored/total points available) x 100.

For example: A competitor scores 75 points throughout the Knock Down event (four rounds) at a tournament. The total potential points that could have been scored is 120. The ranking score for this event for this tournament is calculated as 62.50.

$$75/120=0.625$$

$$0.625 \times 100 = 62.5 \text{ event rank score (62.5\% of total points possible)}$$

- If a participant places in multiple events within a single tournament, or places in the same event across multiple tournaments, their score for the events placed in is multiplied by 1.1

-The final rankings for a season are the cumulative average of event rank scores across all tournaments within a tournament season.

For example, if a member scores a ranking value 50 in the speed event at a tournament and 100 in the speed event at another tournament, their rank is $(50+100)/2$ which is 75. If they then score 100 in the speed event at their third tournament, their rank is $(50+100+100)/3$ or 83.33.

-The overall placements for the season will be determined by averaging the ranking score for each event ranked during the season.

For example, if a competitor competes in three tournaments and receives a Knock Down ranked score of 75 throughout the season, a speed ranked score of 82, a distance ranked score of 90, and Woods Course ranked score of 78 their overall score for the tournament season will be 81.25.

$$75+82+90+78=325$$

$$325/4=81.25$$

7.6. Purpose:

- For informational and entertainment purposes only