

# *So You Want to Make a Team?*

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One of the questions we are frequently asked by shooters and parents alike is, “how does one go about making one of USA Shooting’s Shotgun Teams?” This is an important question, whether they are setting future goals, or are just curious as to what is available in USA Shooting’s clay target programs. You can find the most complete answer by reading through USA Shooting Policies and Procedures. It describes in detail the various Teams and their required eligibility. I will try to summarize those policies into a comprehensive form below.

## *What are the Teams that you can make?*

**United States Shooting Team - (USST).** This is the official U.S. Shooting Team for the elite male and female shooters who will represent the United States in international competition. It consists of the athletes who have earned their way onto the Teams by their performance during one or more qualifying matches. These matches are usually designated “tryouts” in advance of the international competition and are open to all shooters with U. S. citizenship. Juniors may also qualify for these Teams based on their performance during these designated matches. The USST teams will represent the United States in the following competitions

- ◆ **Olympic Team – (OT).** This team is chosen in the spring or early summer of the Olympic year and is based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection matches plus finals. The Quota spots available to our country for the Olympic Games determine the number of athletes included on this Team. These Quota spots must be won in the 2-3 years preceding the Olympic Games. Each individual athlete must also have shot a personal Minimum Qualifying Score (MQS) in the four years prior to the Games. The maximum number of athletes allowed on this Team is, two men and one woman for each of the trap, skeet, and double trap events. For the 2008 Olympic games the Women’s double trap event has been removed from the Olympic program. Athletes will remain on the U.S. National Team until the beginning of the next National Championship after the Olympics.
- ◆ **Pan American Games- (PAG).** The Pan American Games are held in the year prior to the Olympic year. This team is chosen as early as possible during that year and is based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection matches plus final. The number of male athletes carried on this Team is two men for each of the trap, skeet, and double trap events. And one female athlete for the women’s trap and skeet events. Athletes will remain as members of the U.S. National Team until the beginning of the next National Championship after the Pan American Games.

- ◆ **World Clay Target Championship Team and World Shooting Championships Team – (WCT).** During the four-year Olympic cycle, the World Clay Target (Shotgun) Championships are held in the first and third years following the Olympic year. During the second year following the Olympic games the World Shooting Championships are held which includes all of the shooting disciplines. Teams are chosen in the spring or early summer prior to the World Championships and are based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection matches plus final. Each individual athlete must have shot a Performance Standard Score, PSI (Performance Score Individual) or PSA (Performance Score Average) in the year prior to the World Championships to be allowed to travel to this competition. The number of athletes on this team is three men for each of the trap, skeet, and double trap events. And three women for each of the Trap and Skeet events. There are also events for juniors at the World Championships. However, USA Shooting will not fund juniors to the World clay Target Championships starting in 2005. Juniors may travel and compete at their own expense provided they are selected following the procedures stated above for senior athletes. Athletes will remain on the National Team (seniors) and National Development Team (juniors) until the beginning of the next National Championship after the World Championships.
  
- ◆ **Championship of the Americas – (CAT).** During the four-year Olympic cycle, the Championship of the Americas is held in the year after the Olympic year. This team is chosen in the spring or early summer prior to the CAT games and is based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection matches plus final. Each individual athlete must have shot a Performance Standard Score PSI (Performance Score Individual) or PSA (Performance Score Average) during the year prior to the CAT games. The number of athletes selected to this team is two men in the trap, skeet and double trap events, (six men total) and two women in each for the trap and skeet events (four women total). Athletes will remain on the National Team (seniors) and National Development Team (juniors) until the beginning of the next National Championship after the Championship of the Americas.

**National Team - (NT):** This is the National Training Team for the leading male and female shooters in the country. It consists of athletes who have qualified for the team by their performance at the National Championships, the Fall Selection Match, or as a member of the USST. In addition, the National Coach, with the approval of the Director of Operations, may select individuals based on their performance in the qualifying matches. Athletes will remain as members of the National Team until the beginning of the next National Championship.

**National Development Team - (NDT):** This is the National Development Training Team for the leading male and female (normally juniors) shooters in the country. It consists of athletes who have qualified for the Team by their performance during one or more matches. These matches include the National Championship and the Junior Olympic Shotgun National Championships or as a member of the USST. Collegians may qualify for this team by their performance in the International portion of the ACU-I

Championship. In addition, the National Coach, with the approval of the Director of Operations, may select individuals based on their performance in the qualifying matches. Athletes will remain as members of the National Development Team until the beginning of the next National Championship.

**World Cup Teams:** The National Coach selects athletes for World Cup teams with the approval of the Director of Operations from the current NT and/or NDT based on the athlete's scores and Performance Standards achieved for overseas travel. Availability of funds plays a role in how many athletes are taken to each event. World Cup Teams usually include three athletes entered in each event who compete for medals and can obtain a personal MQS, and possibly an Olympic Quota place. Additional two athletes may be entered in each event to obtain personal MQS scores and experience. There are four World Cups for men each year, and two for women. There are no junior events at World Cups. Olympic quota spots are available to the winners of the World Cups held in the two years prior to the Olympic Games.

**Junior Olympic Shotgun Shooting Team - (JOST):** Every year this Team is selected from those applications submitted to the National Coach after the Fall Selection match, normally in November/December. To be eligible they must *NOT* have reached the year of their twenty-first birthday, or can be currently in college and under the age of 24. Applicants are selected by the National Coach and his staff based on the applicant's past shooting performance, future potential, school grades, and citizenship. The Team usually consists of junior men and junior women for each of the trap, skeet, and double trap events. Athletes will remain as members of the Junior Olympic Shotgun Shooting Team until the beginning of the next Junior Olympic Shotgun Championship.

### *What matches are used to select those Teams?*

**National Championships:** Each year in the June/July time frame the National Championships for Shotgun are held at the Olympic range on Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. The course of fire is 300 targets plus a final of 25 targets, shot 100 targets per day, for trap and skeet, and 300 targets plus a final of 50 targets for double trap, shot 150 targets per day. The top three male and female open shooters in each discipline are selected to the National Team (NT). The top two male and female junior shooters in each event are selected to the National Development Team (NDT).

**Spring and Fall Selection Matches:** These two matches currently alternate between Colorado Springs and Ft. Benning, GA. They are usually designated as specific USST selection matches. The course of fire for each match is 250 targets for trap and skeet shot (100-100-50 targets per day), and 300 targets for double trap shooting 150 targets per day. The scores from the first match (without final) are added to those of the second match, with the top six athletes shooting a final for Team placement. In addition at the Fall match, the highest scoring male and female athlete in each event, who is not already on the NT, will be added to the Team.

**National Junior Olympic Shotgun Championships:** The Junior Olympic Shooting Championship is held each year in mid-August in Colorado Springs. Its focus is the development of new and promising junior shooters in the Shotgun sports. Participants will compete in the championship to determine the top winners in the junior shotgun events. The two top male and female athletes in each event will be selected to the NDT. The course of fire for the match is 125 targets for trap and skeet shot with 75-50 targets per day plus a 25 target final, and 150 targets for double trap plus a 50 shot final shot in one day.

**ACUI Intercollegiate Clay Target Championships:** This match is held in the April time frame each year and recently has been held at the National Gun Club in San Antonio, Texas. The match is run by the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) with the help of USA Shooting. It consists of 100 targets each for International Skeet, International Trap, American Skeet, American Trap, and 50 Five-Stand targets for total of 450 targets. The high over all male and female collegiate in the two International events will earn a spot on the National Development Team.

***What Teams can I make?***

Use the table below to determine which team you are eligible for based upon your age and sex.

	TEAMS						
	OT	PAG	WCT	CAT	NT	NDT	JO
<b>Senior Men (21and Older )</b>	X	X	X	***	X	X	
<b>Senior Women (21 and older)</b>	X	X	X	***	X	X	
<b>Junior Men (under 21)</b>	*	*	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Junior Women (under 21)</b>	*	*	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Collegiate Men.</b>	*	*	*	*	*	X	**
<b>Collegiate Women.</b>	*	*	*	*	*	X	**

**\* = Must Compete in Senior Class.**

**\*\* = Must be 23 yrs Old or Less and currently a college student.**

**\*\*\* = Must be on the National Team (NT) for the first time.**