

INTRODUCTION TO SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

The reason for this program is to get America shooting again. Some 50 years ago when most youth shooting sports programs were started, most kids (boys & girls) shot or had tried shooting. These youth programs were developed to give young shooters a place to develop their shooting skills and compete. These programs haven't changed much over time. For most kids today shooting paper targets is boring when compared to X-Box 360, Wii, video games, etc... no instant gratification, instant feedback, or interaction. A new shooter today trying shooting for the first time, takes a shot, doesn't know what happened can't see anything, walks down range only to discover that they missed (no one likes to fail) and goes home to play their video games. So, with this program it is important that we have success early and often, making target shooting fun to watch, and more fun to do, with lots of trigger time.

To have a successful program you need two things, number one you need something that is fun (if it is too easy or too hard, it is not fun). This system is fun for all skill levels! Second, you need to have instructors and or volunteers. Most people aren't qualified to teach Olympic or competitive shooting, however this is not Olympic or competitive shooting, it is fun shooting. It is more like the archery classes they have in most schools. It is an introductory class and most adult people are qualified to supervise an activity like this. Getting volunteers is fairly easy.

For this program we suggest a repeating air gun, of low to medium power. The Hammerli 850 is highly recommended. It is a CO2, bolt action that is easy and fun to operate with no recoil. It has an 8 shot magazine to load, a working bolt action much like a real gun so safety classes are easily transferable to the real thing. The 850 is very accurate and has an auto safety each time you work the action. It has proven very durable and should last for years.

The target that we would like to suggest is a target from Real Time Targets LLC called the Huckleberry. (see: realtimetargets.com) Like the video games, it has multi levels in which to develop shooters. You start out with a large bulls eye and as the shooter improves, move to the smaller bulls eye. Then use the clock for, shoot or don't shoot, safety drills, and then into timed events. The target is interactive giving shooter instant result on every shot and auto resetting allowing for more trigger time per shooting session. Here again it is very durable and should last for years.

Every session should start with gun safety. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction, treat every gun as if it were loaded, safety glasses etc...

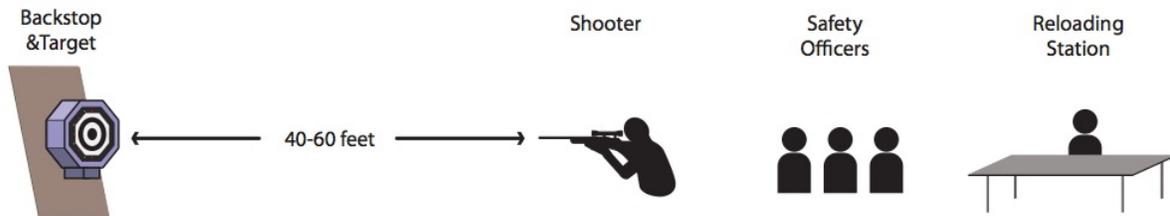
Shooters should start at an easy or lower level, bench shooting w/scope and large bulls eye. If it is too hard they will quit but also if it's too easy. Instructors should always keep challenging shooters by setting targets to match shooters skill level (big bulls eye, small bulls eye, shoot don't shoot, clock no clock, bench shooting, prone, sitting, kneeling, off hand, scope, iron sights, etc...) The 850 comes w/scope and iron sights, in later sessions, shooters can take scope off, shoot with iron sights and then be helped, putting scope back on and sighting in. All of this is designed to make shooters feel comfortable and confident handling fire arms.

Shooting sessions can be done indoors or outside. An inexpensive back stop can be made by screwing a 4x8x1/2 sheet of sound board onto a 4x8x5/8 sheet of OSB (Home Depot) and placing it against a wall or fence. An area of about 50ft in length and 5-6ft in width (per lane) is all that is needed.

A min. of 2 targets and 2 guns is desirable. One easy target and one harder target, 2 lines of 2-5 shooters, one line for each target and gun. Shooters learn very fast with this system, so you need to be ready to change shooting challenges quickly. With this set up you can rotate stations with shooters, 1 shooting, 1 reloading (after shooter is done shooting they remove magazine from gun and go to another station to reload). After reloading they pass loaded magazine to the next shooter in line (the 850 comes with 2 magazines) so by this time someone is all ready shooting. After passing loaded magazine forward they rotate to a safety officer line of 2-3 people, their job is to watch for safety infractions (this is also a fun station because unlike shooting paper targets they can see what is going on). Some, in fun, trash

talking, should be allowed, and new challenges can/will be made while rotating through this station. A lot of learning happens while watching others doing it right and wrong.

Setting up in this way, for a class of 20 shooters, you should have 4 to 5 targets and guns.



Station rotation will take approx. 2 minutes. Going from shooter; - to reloading; - to safety officer 3; - to safety officer 2; - to safety officer 1; -back to shooting, roughly every 10 minutes w/5 to a line. Or roughly 8 shots every 10 minutes.

One instructor can easily supervise 2 shooting stations and depending on instructor and shooters, up to, 4-5 shooting stations or a class of 20-25 with one or two supervisors.

Reload station should have a damp towel to wipe off hands with after reloading lead pellets. Ideally all shooters should wear safety glasses but is a must for the shooting station. Indoor, down range clean up should be done with a damp towel draped over a push broom.

Shooting is one of the few sports that you don't have to be a great athlete to be a very good player. This system can help build self confidence and respect for firearms. In a short amount of time, they should be ready to enroll in one of the many competitive programs already in place. But even if they choose not to shoot competitively they have learned a skill that can be enjoyed and shared with family and friends for the rest of their life.

Developing a shooting sports program with Air Guns is the only way to go for a number of reasons:

- : Safer**
- : Cheaper**
- : Quieter**
- : Less recoil**
- : Not intimidating**
- : Can be shot in more places**
- : No air born lead contamination**