



Dear Level II Candidate:

As you probably know by now, whether you know me personally or whether you are simply aware of my role as Chief Instructor, I have a deep and abiding passion for training instructors and particularly for advancing the skill of experienced coaches in our sport. I am committed to furthering the skill and expertise of all instructors for the benefit of the NSCA, its instructor program and our exciting sport.

It is with two thoughts in mind that I write this open letter to prospective Level II candidates:

- 1) I understand well the sacrifice of time, money and resources that it takes to further one's education and training as a coach. The last thing I wanted, as a prospective Level II candidate, was to waste time and money attending the class if I was either going to flunk the course or not learn anything worth my expenditure of time and money.
- 2) As the current caretaker of the NSCA's Instructor Program and the Certifying Instructor for the upcoming Level II Class, I want you to be fully aware of what will be required and expected of you to win your Level II Certification.

You should know that, neither the Instructor Program, nor I, have a statistical pass rate "goal" for the class other than our goal is 100% pass. I have conducted Level II classes in which 50% passed. I have had other classes in which 100% have passed. In short, what we are looking for in a Level II Graduate is an "advanced diagnostician" who can fairly quickly diagnose the REASON or REASONS for a shooter's miss, deliver a well-practiced and concise verbal correction and put the shooter on target. This holds true whether you are instructing beginning/novice shooters or advanced shooters and whether the shooter is attempting shorter range targets (<30 yards) and longer-range targets (35-55 yards).

I am attaching below the Level II Competency Checklist for your information. The NSCA Level II Competency Checklist is the criteria upon which you will be evaluated. Each competency is, for the most part, a mirror image of the sections under the same names in the Level I Instructor Manual except we expect a higher standard for Level IIs. These higher standards are reflected in each section of the attached Level II Competency Checklist on the line entitled "Standard".

Although the purpose of the NSCA Instructor Courses is to train instructors how to effectively teach shotgunning, we believe that possessing a higher level of shotgun-shooting competency will positively affect the impact of the instructor's lessons. In order to be able to teach advanced competitors, and considering that instructors should not be instructing shooters above their ability level, we expect that the Level II Instructor will be a shooter of advanced shooting skill (at or above a competitive "NSCA A Class" shooter).



The standard is as follows:

- Shooting Proficiency Requirement - Candidate must EITHER, 1) have earned their way to A Class or equivalent at some point prior to attending the course and shot a minimum of 6,000 lifetime-registered targets, OR, 2) pass a Shooting Proficiency Test (SPT) during the course.
- Shooting Proficiency Test – Since the purpose of the Level II Instructor Course is to evaluate and train instructors in how to effectively teach students up to and including intermediate level competitors in sporting clays and FITASC, the Level II candidate should have attained a minimum shotgun shooting competency level. The NSCA Level II proficiency requirement is defined as the ability to break 75% or more of a broad assortment of targets that is of a level of difficulty that surpasses the Level I Shooting Proficiency Test and is of a level that is challenging to a shooter that has earned a rating of A Class or above.

Lastly, what you can expect as a candidate at a Level II Course is that you will gain knowledge from the course that will enhance your ability as a coach and, perhaps, your ability as a shooter.

The two biggest challenges we have with Level II courses is filling them to a minimum of 6 candidates. About half of our Level II Courses are cancelled for this reason. We also have potential candidates that are disappointed to find out that there is no room for them in a given course because we often “cap” a class at about 8 or 9 candidates. This upsets some who wait until the last minute to sign up. So, if you haven’t yet signed up for a Level II Course, I encourage you to sign up early. If you are waiting for a Level II course to be held at your local club, DON’T. You should expect to travel for a Level II Course unless you are in a well-populated area or in one with a high density of Level I instructors. We only hold about one to two Level II Courses a year so I encourage you to sign up now. The tuition is fully refundable if we cancel the class or if you have to cancel with adequate notice.

If you have any questions regarding your candidacy after reading the above and the information on our web site, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Don Currie
Chief Instructor, NSCA



National Sporting Clays Association

Level II Competency Checklist



Candidate's Name: _____

NSCA Member # : _____

Certifying Instructor (CI) Use Only	
NUMERICAL SCORE (1-10, 10 IS HIGHEST)	
<input type="text"/>	PASS: <input type="checkbox"/> FAIL: <input type="checkbox"/>
CI Last Name: _____	
CI Signature: _____	

PASS / MEETS REQUIREMENT
FAIL

PREREQUISITES:

1) Meets shooting Proficiency Requirement (shooter must either meet the class/target requirement OR pass SPT)

CHECK ONE Minimum A Class and 6,000 lifetime target **OR** SPT (Shooting Proficiency Test)

2) Taken a minimum of eight (8) hours of lessons prior to the course, two (2) of those with a Certified Level II or Level III Instructor.

Competencies / Tasks:

Competency #1 - Safety and Positive Control

- Task 1-1 Individual Safety & Responsibility
- Standard Uses and insures student complies with primary safety rules.
- Standard Uses and insures student properly uses eye and ear protection at all times.
- Standard Uses proper etiquette. Recognizes and deals with hazards.
- Task 1-2 Safety & Positive Control
- Standard Delivers safety briefing for all lessons.
- Standard Demonstrates safe operations of firearms.
- Standard Controls ammunition and is always in a position to control the student's shotgun.
- Standard Discusses safety throughout the lesson.
- Standard Their student is 100% compliant with safety rules during session.

Competency #2 - Assessing Eye Dominance

Task 2-1 Determine a Shooter's Eye Dominance Status

Standard Correctly identifies student as one of the following to certifier:
1) Solidly left eye, 2) solidly right eye, 3) center vision/center ocular,
4) more left with center ocular shift or 5) more right with center ocular shift.

Task 2-2 Readily identifies if/when a student has an eye dominance issue.

Task 2-3 Correctly employs the appropriate corrective action if/when appropriate.

Standard Properly occludes the eye if, and only if, required.

Competency #3 - Assessing Gun Fit

- Task 3-1 Recognize proper and improper gun fit
- Standard Verifies that the student's gun is empty
- Standard Coaches student into a good stance/ready position



Standard Coaches student to mount on a distant object
 Standard Inspects student from in front and to the side of the gun

Competency #4 - Teaching the Fundamentals

Task 4-1 Teaching the Ready Position

Standard Coaches student into a good stance/ready position

Task 4-2 Teaching the Fundamentals

Standard Candidate only addresses most significant opportunities for improvement

Standard Candidate successfully coaches the student on the fundamentals:
 1) apply sharp focus, 2) head still, 3) front hand moves first, 4) Move at a comfortable pace, 5) executing the shot when target is properly acquired.

Competency #5 - Lead and Lead Types

Task 5-1 Demonstrates ability to identify and teach five primary lead types.

Standard When asked by CI, Candidate accurately identifies the lead type used.

Competency #6 - Diagnostic and Problem Solving

Task 6-1 Identify Placement of a Miss

Standard Candidate consistently and accurately identifies the placement of a miss

Task 6-2 Identify the cause or reason for a miss

Standard Candidate accurately diagnoses misses to one or more causes

Task 6-3 Effectively communicates and resolves student's challenges

Standard Leads student to break missed targets

Standard Demonstrates effective problem solving skills

Standard Communicates effectively

Competency #7 - Observation, Motivation & Communication

Task 7-1 Effectively observes the student in order to recognize the causes of misses

Standard Positions him/herself in order to control the gun

Standard Displays sufficient observation skills to recognize flaws in students shooting

Task 7-2 Effectively communicates with the student to affect positive change

Standard Uses clear, concise language to convey ideas and concepts

Task 7-3 Encourages student throughout lesson

Standard Reassures the student/displays sense of caring about the student

Standard Provides positive reinforcement

4) PEER RATING (Pass if <80% rank candidate in last position)

5) FINAL EXAM (Scored min of 80%)

Score: _____

6) STUDENT EVALUATIONS

Comments:
