



## 2026 NSCA US OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP CRITERIA

1. The US Open will be awarded to a qualified club that can provide the necessary experience and, at a minimum, the following facilities needed to host the shoot:
  - a) At least a 200-target Main Event of three courses with a minimum of 12 stations each to be shot over 3 days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday).  
Example of target distribution each day is 66/66/68 (3 courses).  
OR  
300-target Main Event shot over three courses with a minimum of 13 stations each to be shot over 3 days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday).  
Examples of target distribution each day are 100/100/100/ (3 courses).  
OR  
300-target Main Event shot over four courses with a minimum of 10 stations each to be shot over 4 days (Thursday through Sunday).  
Examples of target distribution each day are 76/76/74/74 (4 courses).
  - b) 100-target Preliminary Event.
  - c) 100-bird FITASC – **Must be New Style**
  - d) 100-target NSCA Five-Stand event. (Minimum of two layouts with distinctly different menus and the event must be shot in 25 target increments with four different menus.)
  - e) 50-target Small Gauge events (20ga., 28ga., .410 bore) that must be shot on a course.
  - f) All events must follow the guidelines of paragraph VI-D-6 of the NSCA Rule Book regarding multiple events on a single course.
  - g) One practice course with a minimum of 10 stations. Practice 5-Stand is DESIRABLE but Not Required.
  - h) ALL Events will be squadded.
  - i) 2-3 shooting games are DESIRABLE but Not Required.
  - j) Super Sporting and/or American Field Sporting as optional side event(s).
  - k) Side x Side and/or Pump gun as optional side event(s).
  - l) Adequate facilities (i.e., clubhouse, restrooms, catering, space for vendors)
  - m) Acceptable hotels and restaurants nearby, camper facilities for at least 20 campers.
  - n) Adequate parking space on or very near venue and shuttle transport if required.
2. The dates of the shoot must be published at least 12 months prior to the shoot.
3. The club will provide practice fields prior to the first day of registered events and at least 30 minutes before event flight times.  
Example: Main Event starts at 8 am; Practice opens at 7:30 am.
4. All 100-bird 12-gauge events will include Pro Class and the awards and payouts must at a minimum match those for Master class. The individuals who comprise Pro Class are those who qualify for the Pro Squad at the time of the event.
5. The Main event will include the men and women's Pro Squad, randomly squadded together on the same rotation to finish on the last rotation Sunday. Headquarters will assist with this as needed. Random squadding may be determined in any manner the host club chooses.
6. Awards for the Main Event will be 2" NSCA Medallions designed and paid for by NSCA for event Champion, Runner-up and Third, and for Champion, Runner-up, and Third for Sub-Junior, Junior, Lady, Veteran, Super Veteran, Veteran Lady, Senior Super Veteran and Legacy. NSCA will also provide 2" NSCA Medallion awards for Class 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pro, Master, AA, A, B, C, and D. Side event awards are the responsibility of the host club. Prelim,

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FITASC, 5-Stand and Small Gauge awards must include at least Pro\*-D 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> and Concurrent 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>. (\*Pro class will be in 100-bird 12ga events only.)

7. Competitors may register in advance for the Main Event with a \$100 deposit. The deposit for FITASC events will be the entire event fee; non-refundable. All other deposits will be determined by the club. For all eligible refunds, there will be a standard \$35 clerical fee.
8. The shoot shall use certified FITASC Referees and experienced referees for at least the Main Event, Prelim, Super Sporting, and 5-Stand. Preferably at least 18 years of age, and ideally, experienced shooters not shooting in the Main Event.
9. Options for the US Open will be determined by the host club. All payouts and awards will be mailed out within 10 days of shoot completion. The NSCA Assistant Director and all participants will receive a mailer or email showing all winnings and payout information. Payouts may be posted in an approved electronic shoot program digitally, in lieu of mailer or email.
10. Shoot-offs shall be held the same day the event is completed. Shoot-offs for ALL events must be conducted near the clubhouse with traps used exclusively for shoot-offs. The shoot-off procedures will be determined by the host club. Adequate lighting is required to hold shoot-offs.
11. The host club is required to host a social function on Friday or Saturday night.
12. Only factory ammunition is allowed. (No Reloads)
13. All U.S. Open events will be REGISTERED and NSCA daily fees charged. State daily fees will also be collected if required by an approved state association at the time shoot is approved.
14. If any additional fees are to be added to the published entry fee, such as state sales taxes, the amounts must be disclosed in the application and all programs, shooter forms and advertisements if fees are quoted in those ads.
15. For the purposes of hosting the 2026 U.S. Open, any NSCA club in good standing will be eligible to submit a bid and be awarded the event with no geographical restrictions.
16. Ranges desiring to be considered for the U.S. Open will submit a bid form to the NSCA Assistant Director by August 8, 2024. Ranges meeting the selection criteria will be invited to make a 10-minute presentation to the Executive Council at the 2024 National Championship. After all presentations, a vote will take place at the Executive Council meeting at the National Championship and a winner will be announced. All bids will be subject to date approval to facilitate scheduling of the Championship Tour.
17. Host club must have a Contingency Plan on file with the NSCA Assistant Director in the case of a tragedy or natural disaster. The contingency plan must also be published on the event website and in the event program. The Contingency Plan will cover course layout, parking, facility management, scoring, how to determine US Open champions, and registration in the case of a natural disaster such as flooding, tornado, etc.
18. Any changes from the US Open shoot criteria or original bid from the host club must be submitted to the NSCA Assistant Director and NSCA Competition Committee for review. The NSCA Assistant Director and Competition Committee will then give their recommendation to the NSCA Executive Council for final discussion.
19. First-time host clubs are required, at their own expense, to assist the prior year US Open host club in all aspects of the event during the week of the US Open.

TIMELINE FOR 2026 US OPEN APPLICATIONS: Ranges applying to present at the 2024 National Championship for the 2026 shoot must:

- A. Apply for the shoot by August 8, 2024, 5 p.m. CST.
- B. The presentation process will be updated by the NSCA Executive Committee and provided to the bidding clubs shortly after the close of the bid application deadline.

20. To be qualified, the shoot management must:

1. Be in good standing with the NSCA at the time of the application and must retain that standing through the year the US Open is held.
  2. Have managed a State, Regional, or Major Shoot (200+ NSCA registered shooters in the Main Event) in at least one of the three years preceding the invitation.
21. All applying clubs that have never held a US Open shall host an NSCA pre-bid committee prior to submitting their bid. The US Open bid deadline is August 8, 2024, 5 p.m. CST. The pre-bid committee shall consist of a representative from the NSCA and representatives from two former US Open clubs or individuals assigned by the Executive Council. The pre-bid committee shall meet with the applying club's ownership and management to view the host club's current facilities and, if applicable, plans for expansion. The pre-bid committee shall also provide assistance to the applicant club in preparing their final bid and presentation to the Executive Council. The intent of this requirement is to assist clubs in assessing their readiness and likely success in applying for a US Open. The pre-bid committee shall provide current, knowledgeable, first-hand information to the Executive Council on the potential host club's site and facilities. The applying club will pay the actual travel and per diem expenses of the pre-bid committee.
22. The host club will be required to publish publicly and digitally a schedule of events, rules and regulations, protest committee, payouts, options, and awards in each event, as well as a club map with all venues clearly marked. Payouts may be posted in an approved electronic shoot program digitally, in lieu of email or mailer.
22. The host club will sign a formal contract with timelines clearly defined to host the shoot.
23. The host club will host a visit by the NSCA Director or an appointee from the NSCA competition committee for a grounds inspection and pre-shoot readiness assessment. (a checklist will be provided by the NSCA Director regarding all aspects prior to the event date).
24. The host club must be willing to offer some form of USA Sporting Clays Team Fundraiser to be **no less than \$5,000**. This can include, but not limited to, option dedicated solely to the support of the team, a separate event to raise funds for the team, or a game for the team.
25. If the NSCA USASCT Championship Tour Trailer is available for running digital scoreboards and the club would like the events scores displayed, the club is required to have their registration staff available to set up and assist with the event scores on the trailer TV's during the duration of the event.
26. If no qualified applicants submit an adequate application by the deadline, a new deadline will be announced to get the process completed prior to the NSCA Executive Council meeting at the National Championship.
27. The NSCA Executive Council will be involved in decisions as well as assist at registration, scoreboard, shoot-offs and awards presentation. The council members will work with the range owner to ensure proper execution of the event, including but not limited to following their bid.
28. Voting Procedure:
- A. Only members of the Executive Council that are in attendance during the presentation are eligible to cast a vote.
  - B. Official voting procedure will be updated by the NSCA Executive Council in advance of the 2024 National Delegate Meeting and will be provided to all bidding clubs.

**Please return to Headquarters by August 8, 2024, 5p.m. CST:**

National Sporting Clays Association  
c/o Nichole Bowers  
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San Antonio, Texas 78253  
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If you have any questions, contact Nichole Bowers at 210-688-3371 ext: 255 or nbowers@nssa-nasca.com.