



Team Handbook

2025-2026

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Season

We hope you had a fun summer and are ready to bust some clays! We had a great season last year and saw so much growth from our shooters. We're excited to build upon those successes and work towards an even more successful season. We look forward to helping everyone grow in their skill and love of this great sport! Let's make this season a great one Ravens!

MISSION STATEMENT

The SST Ravens is a competitive youth shotgun team based out of the Seattle Skeet and Trap Club in Ravensdale, WA. Our team is committed to providing a safe, fun, supportive environment for youth to grow their skill and confidence in shotgun shooting sports. We provide training and competition opportunities in Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays. As a team focused program, we strive to maintain a positive environment built around integrity, respect, and good sportsmanship. SST Ravens is a member of USAYESS (USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports) www.usayess.org.

SST Address

26520 292nd Ave SE, Ravensdale 98051

COACHING STAFF

Taegen Markus
Steve Lockhart
Tyler Markegard
Grayson Helms
Bob Murata
Chris Hodges
Tim Lade
Masen Lade
Mike Compton

PRACTICE

The Ravens have official team practice twice monthly starting in September and ending when competitions start at the end of February. Practices are listed in TeamSnap. Shooters are **REQUIRED** to update their status with either "Going" or "No" a **minimum of ONE full week before** practice. Please do not select "Maybe" as it will be considered "No." This is important to ensure that we provide enough coaching staff and ammunition for practice. Shooters will sign an attendance sheet at the start of each practice.

Official team practices prepare shooters for team competitions. As such, shooters must participate in 3 required team competitions (listed below) for official team practices to be at no additional cost for the shooter. If the shooter does not participate in the 3 required team competitions, the attendance sheets will be reviewed, and the shooter will be charged \$25 per practice attended.

Shooters are REQUIRED to attend a minimum of 5 Team practices in order to be eligible for Team Competitions. The 5 practices are to take place at the team's home shooting range.

Weekly optional practices on Wednesdays are listed in Team Snap. Ammunition and targets will be at the expense of the shooter. Attendance will not be recorded for these optional practice sessions.

Shooters are expected to arrive **20** mins prior to practice start time to prepare themselves and equipment, receive practice instructions, and start on time. Shooters that arrive more than 15 mins after the start of practice may not be able to participate.

Shooters under 18 that drive themselves to practice, must complete the parent agreement form. See the Coaching Staff for proper documentation.

Parents of shooters under the age of 12 need to be present during the entire practice. Parents are expected to be at the club *prior* to the end of practice.

All team members are required to help with cleanup and loading houses at the end of practice.

In addition to the organized team practices, Ravens are encouraged to practice on their own as much as possible. Putting in time, properly mounting your gun and increasing repetitions will facilitate improvement.

SST Club provides 2 free rounds (trap/skeet) to youth shooters on Sundays. The club is open on Thursday- Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

TEAM SAFETY VIDEO

All shooters and at least 1 parent of their shooter(s) will be responsible for watching the Safety Video prior to engaging in their first team practice. Safe gun handling practices are our number one priority and should any shooter display or engage in unsafe practices they may be asked to sit out a competition and/or practice or be removed from the team.

HUNTERS SAFETY

All SST Ravens are required to complete Hunter's Safety and field courses prior to the start of the season. Hunter safety portion may be completed online. Certificates must be turned in to the coaching staff.

COMPETITION

The Ravens compete on a Local, Regional, and National level. During the competition season we regularly compete throughout Washington and Oregon along with providing the option to

attend Regionals in Las Vegas and Nationals in Texas. The final competition schedule for the season is determined by the WAYESS Board and is usually released in the fall.

All Ravens are required to attend the following 3 Team Competitions:

- ★ SST Shotgun Challenge (Ravensdale)
- ★ Lower Columbia Challenge (Gervais, OR)
- ★ WAYESS State Shoot (Ravensdale)

*Shooters must attend these 3 Required Shoots to be considered for the WA All-Star Team.

The Ravens compete for both individual awards and team awards. The number of team participants at competitive events dictates the awards our team will be eligible to receive.

SST RAVENS & PARENT VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

The success of our SST Ravens Hosted events lies solely in the hands of the SST club and parent volunteers. Parents will be asked to volunteer at these events. Scoring, pulling targets, loading machines, cooking, selling raffle tickets, trash collection are some of the duties we will need to fulfill.

It is expected that Ravens and parents will be available to volunteer for SST hosted event(s). The SST board has requested the help of the Ravens Shooters and/or families. Mandatory 4 Shooter Volunteer Hours will be required to be completed throughout the season. Dates and times of opportunities will be communicated through Team Snap.

RAVENS TEAM FEE - \$350.00 per shooter

The SST Ravens Team Fee helps offset the costs of clay targets, ammunition, registration fees and the competition uniform. The fee for the 25-26 season is \$350.00 per shooter. This fee is to be paid prior to the second team practice. Ravens team members receive the following benefits:

Practice: 12 and 20 ga Ammunition and clay targets for all SST Ravens team practices

Competition: Full registration fees and ammunition (12 and 20 ga) for WAYESS SST Ravens Team competitions.

Exceptions:

One day WAYESS Shoots - Ammunition and registration are the responsibility of each participant.

The 3 Primary events (Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays) will be covered at USAYESS Regionals, WAYESS State, and USAYESS Nationals. Any additional disciplines will be the responsibility of the shooter.

*Shooters are responsible for providing their own ammunition for practice rounds and additional games at competitions.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

SST Ravens are required to be members of the following:

- SST Ravens Team
- The Seattle Skeet and Trap Club
- USAYESS

SST CLUB MEMBERSHIP - \$200/annual family fee for 1st year - \$150/annual renewal fee

Seattle Skeet and Trap memberships run Jan-Dec. If you have an existing membership you will need to renew in January 2026. If you are not currently a member, you will need to buy a membership at a prorated amount for 2025 and renew the membership in January 2026. Please discuss details with the front office.

USAYESS ATHLETE MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00/year

SST Ravens is a member of USAYESS (USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports). All Ravens must register yearly for a USAYESS Athlete membership. This fee is to be paid prior to the second practice in order to ensure your roster spot.

Register at <https://www.usayess.org/athlete> and select "Seattle Trap and Skeet Youth/Seattle Trap and Skeet Collegiate 2025-2026".

Print the Shooter Safety Pledge and Medical Release form, sign and turn in to Team Manager.

ATHLETE EQUIPMENT (Athletes should have all Equipment by 2nd Practice)

Shotgun

Chokes

Eye Protection

Ear Protection

Shooting Bag

Gun Case

COMMUNICATION THROUGH TEAMSNAPE

TeamSnap is the primary communication tool for the SST Ravens; it allows coaches to send communication to team families through email and use the Team Chat function to communicate. TeamSnap is Required to be downloaded for all shooters and checked regularly to ensure you receive all communication.

TeamSnap is used to report a shooter's status for (Going/No) practice and competition. Practices and competitions will be posted on the Schedule; scheduled events will also prompt an email. Ravens families can update their status directly through this email (Going/No). You can also update a status directly in the TeamSnap app by selecting "Schedule" and scrolling to the appropriate event. Upcoming events often appear on the Home Page.

All shooters must update their status on TeamSnap at least 1 Week prior to a practice or by the stated deadline listed for competitions. This status allows us to accurately plan for the number of coaches needed at a specific event, determines squadding for competition, and ensures we bring the correct amount of ammunition. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you plan to attend a competition and do not update your status as "Going" in TeamSnap by the required deadline there is the possibility that we will not have a spot available for you for the competition. If your status is

listed as “Going” and you no-show a competition our team is charged for your registration fee.

Shooters will be responsible for reimbursing the registration fee to the team if you no-show a competition. Please help us mitigate issues by keeping your status in TeamSnap updated on time and communicating with coaches any changes; we understand sickness is unavoidable, so please communicate to avoid any unforeseen costs.

TEAM UNIFORM

As part of your membership fee, all Ravens will receive a team hat, shooting vest, and team shirt. Ordering information for the uniform will be sent through TeamSnap and a team fitting will be held at practice to determine sizing. Unless a new size is needed or there is significant wear, vests are replaced on a 2-year cycle.

Full team uniform is required to be worn for all competitions (Team hat/visor, shooting vest and shirt). Sponsors play a large role in keeping costs down for shooters and in return we are asked to wear the team uniform and post to our SST Social Media accounts. Ravens are encouraged (but not required) to wear their uniform at other non-team competitions.

SPIRIT WEAR

In addition to the official uniform, a team store with Team Spirit Wear items for the whole family will be announced through TeamSnap in the coming weeks.

TEAM EXPECTATIONS RECAP

- ★ Athletes are Required to wear the Provided Team Uniform to Shoots
- ★ Athletes are Expected to Arrive at Practice 20 mins prior to Start Time with Equipment ready
- ★ Athletes are Required to Arrive at least **1 hour** Prior to their Squad Start Time at Team Competitions
 - Report Times will be posted as soon as shoot times are available to Coaching Staff
 - Report Time is Subject to Change per Shoot OR per day
 - Athletes will refer to TeamSnap for Report Time information
- ★ Athletes are Required to complete Hunter’s Safety Online and Field Course
- ★ Athletes are Required to Participate in the **3** Required Team Shoots
- ★ Athletes will be asked to participate in at least 4 hours of volunteer work at SST
 - Volunteer Opportunities will be communicated through TeamSnap
- ★ Athletes are Required to stay for the Duration of the Event

- Event Includes ALL shooting disciplines AND Award Ceremony
- Athletes will be responsible for taking award photos with Sponsorship Banner
- ★ Athletes are Required to Communicate through TeamSnap Regularly
- ★ Athletes are expected to dress accordingly and prepare for *LONG* Days at the shooting range for Shoots and Practices
- ★ Ravens will conduct themselves in a respectful and honorable manner that has a positive reflection of the SST Ravens. No swearing, no alcohol, no drugs. WAYESS has a zero tolerance policy.
- ★ Ravens will maintain a clean and safe firearm and safety equipment. Athletes should always clean their firearm after every practice.
- ★ Ravens will read and understand USAYESS guidebook. Safety pledge and medical release will be signed and turned in to the coaching staff at the beginning of the season.

** The SST Ravens Shooting Roster Size is at the sole discretion of the Coaching Staff. Should Athletes not meet the Team Commitments and Expectations, Athletes may be removed from the Active Competition Roster.