

The National Sporting Clays Association annually honors a select group of shooters who have exhibited all the superlative and admirable qualities we associate with striving to become the best. Out of the 17,000 plus registered NSCA shooters they usually select

and a pin. Beginning in 2002, a special award certificate and letter of recognition was sent to every Junior and Sub-Junior team member's school – many school administrators acknowledged their student's outstanding achievement with announcements or award

SELECTION CRITERIA

Rule VII – A in the NSCA rule book lays out the basic criteria. The first threshold for eligibility is holding US citizenship. Next you must shoot a minimum number of registered targets. For Open team selection you have to shoot a minimum of 1,200 registered targets during a target year. Minimum qualification for Lady, Veteran, and Super Veteran Teams is 1,000 registered targets. Juniors

WANNA BE AN ALL-AMERICAN?

KNOW THE RIGHT STUFF SAYS TONY MONZINGO, NSCA DIRECTOR



ALL-AMERICAN. THERE IS NO MORE COVETED TITLE IN THE SPORTS WORLD. THE VERY TERM CONJURES UP SUPERLATIVE IMAGES OF A COMPETITOR'S DRIVE, COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, SACRIFICE, AND A "WINNER-NEVER-QUITS" APPROACH TO LIFE. ALL-AMERICANS, REGARDLESS OF SPORT, REPRESENT THE BEST-OF-THE-BEST. THEY ARE SURVIVORS OF THE CRUCIBLE OF COMPETITION.

fewer than 100 All-Americans in six categories. This number represents approximately one-half of one percent of all registered competitors. Talk about an elite group - surely it can be said of NSCA All-Americans that many are called but few are chosen.

The six All-American Team categories include Open (any class), Ladies, Veteran, Super-Veteran, Junior, and Sub-Junior. A first team, second team, and third team may be selected in each category. Upon being named to the All-American Team each shooter receives an All-American patch, a certificate,

presentations at special student-body assemblies.

Most of us can only dream of achieving the status of All-American but there are always up-and-coming shooters who make the commitment and dedicate themselves physically, mentally and financially to winning a place on an All-American squad. Like any other kingpins of sport, there are always new challengers who hope to topple the Kings and Queens of Sporting Clays and take their place among the elite. So how does one go about being selected as an NSCA All-American?

and Sub-Juniors must show 800 registered targets in their shoot history.

The third step in becoming eligible for All-American consideration is attending the National Sporting Clays Championship and competing in the main event. Since the National Championship is held each September in San Antonio at the National Shooting Complex, that means at least one annual trip to Texas.

The process of awarding All-American points begins at NSCA headquarters with a list of all registered shoots in which

there were 50 to 99 registered shooters. Each shoot is given an All-American difficulty factor by looking at the number of Master class shooters and the number of Concurrent shooters competing in each category. The computer program then identifies the top 4 scores (and all ties) in each of the six All-American categories. The top score and all ties is awarded 4 points times the number of Master class shooters in the event. The second highest score is awarded 3

points, the second highest score receives 4, the third highest receives 3, the fourth highest receives 2 points and the fifth through tenth highest scores receive 1 point.

FOR EXAMPLE

Let's look at a hypothetical shoot. Let's say that 125 registered shooters take part in our 'Big Whiz-Bang' shoot. Of the 125 shooters there were 28 Master class, 16 Ladies, 5 Sub-Juniors, 8 Juniors, 22 Veterans, and 12 Super Veterans. The top score in the shoot went to a Master class shooter. He earned 5 times 28 or 140 All-American points. The top Lady earned 5 times 16 for a total of 80 All-American points. The top Sub-Junior received 5 times 5 or 25 All-American points, the top Junior received 40 (5 x's 8), the top Veteran 110, and the top Super Veteran 60 All-American points.

All this number crunching results in a massive printout of eligible shooters, their All-American points, their rank in class or Concurrent in each event, and total number of targets shot. All of this data is then provided to the NSCA All-American committee made up of members of the Advisory Council. Remember, some of the top Juniors and Veterans may also be near the top of the Open class. If named to the Open team, another Junior or Veteran may be named to the appropriate Concurrent team. In cases of ties, the committee looks at awards earned such as overall shoot Champion or Runner-up. Resolving ties may also require a look at head-to-head competition in major shoots.

This is essentially how a shooter qualifies and is named to an All-American team. As you can see, there is no real secret here. It pays to compete and do well in

points, the third highest two points and the fourth highest score receives 1 point. For the Concurrent categories the process is repeated, except the points are multiplied times the number of entries in the Concurrent event.

The process is repeated for all registered shoots in which there were more than 100 registered shooters. The computer now pulls the top 10 scores and all ties in all six All-American categories and again multiplies the shooter's ranking in category by the difficulty factor. For events with more than 100 shooters the top score (and all ties) receives 5



EVERY ALL-AMERICAN HAS EARNED AND WILL CONTINUE TO EARN HIS OR HER SPOT ON EVERY SQUAD. WHEN YOU GO TO THE NEXT SHOOT AND SEE A FELLOW SHOOTER PROUDLY DISPLAYING AN ALL-AMERICAN PATCH ON THEIR SHOOTING VEST, TAKE TIME TO CONGRATULATE THEM.

shoots with more than 50 registered shooters. It pays special dividends to do well in the 'big blasts' including the US Open and the National Championship.

While we at NSCA are proud of our All-Americans and our selection process we will always look for ways to create even more excitement and competition for top honors. In virtually every other significant sport, fans can, and do, look forward to seeing published rankings of their favorite teams and players. As sports fans we are always looking at the top ten in football and basketball or the top individual rankings in golf and tennis. In the not-too-distant future the NSCA will be looking at new ways to track and post All-American standings on the www.mynsca.com website.

Implementing such an open and exciting process will require the near-instant electronic reporting of large event results. We will also look at rankings, based on shooters who earn the most All-American points per target shot – just as other individual sports look at various criteria of competition (such as golf that

looks at putts per round, greens reached in regulation, and scores in relation to par). We believe it will be particularly exciting for NSCA members to look up current All-American standings and begin the water-cooler discussions about what kind of performance at the next shoot it will take for a Bobby Fowler to catch or pass a Doug Fuller or Jon Kruger. This will also mean that All-American standings can be reviewed and the teams named soon after the end of each shooting year.

Every NSCA member can rely on this: every All-American has earned and will continue to earn his or her spot on every squad. When you go to the next shoot and see a fellow shooter proudly displaying an All-American patch on their shooting vest, take time to congratulate them. You can tell them you know how much of those enduring American qualities – including commitment, dedication, sacrifice, and a 'winner-never-quits' approach to life – they have shown to earn that patch. They represent our best and those qualities that make our country great.