

BURNSVILLE BLAZE



TRAPSHOOTING TEAM

Team Handbook

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WELCOME TO THE BURNSVILLE BLAZE TRAP SHOOTING TEAM!

The Burnsville Blaze Trap shooting team was developed in 2010 and is a recognized activity club within the Burnsville Senior High School. The team is led by Head Coach Dan Blowers and supported by the Booster Club. All students in grades 6 - 12, who have successfully completed the Student Athlete Firearm Education (S.A.F.E.) Certification or a DNR Firearm Safety course and who live in or attend school in ISD191 are eligible for the team. We encourage boys and girls at all experience levels to participate on the team.

We compete as a team in the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League (MSHSCTL) and operate under their policies and procedures. We are involved with both the Spring and Fall seasons.

The Burnsville Blaze Trap shooting team is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors elected from parent and community volunteers and is a registered corporation with the State of Minnesota. We are also a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization which allows us to receive tax-deductible donations from individuals, corporations, and sponsors.

MISSION STATEMENT

The team believes in and follows the MSHSCTL's Mission Statement:

- Safe and responsible handling and storage of firearms and ammunition is the first priority.
- Everyone should have fun.
- Participation is a privilege and not a right.
- Sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence.
- Students should have an equal opportunity to participate.
- Ethical behavior, dignity and respect are expected.
- Participants will be chemical free.
- Collaborative relationships with schools and students create a positive experience.
- Academic priorities must come before participation.
- Adults must serve as a positive role model to students.
- The success of the team is more important than individual honors.
- Compliance with school, community, gun club and League rules are essential for all participants.
- Shooting sports strengthen connections within families and communities for life.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Any student is eligible to participate if he/she:

- Is in grades 6 – 12 within the ISD191 school district, and
- Has completed one of two league-approved firearm safety certification programs*, and
- Meets all school activity eligibility requirements, and
- Has transportation to and from the Gun Club, and
- If the team has the capacity to accommodate the athlete

On-line and Homeschooled athletes may participate on a team if they meet the above criteria and resides within the ISD191 school district.

*Student Athlete Firearm Education (S.A.F.E.) Certification or a state issued DNR Firearm Safety Certificate

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Each athlete is required to have the following equipment:

- A functioning pump action, semiautomatic, or break action shotgun
 - We prefer 12 gauge but 20 gauge is acceptable too. Talk with a coach before purchasing a gun for a new athlete.
 - If you have a semi-automatic gun, **your gun must be equipped with a shell catcher**. If you don't have one, you can purchase one from the team. You will not be able to participate in rounds until a shell catcher is installed.
- Ear Protection
- Eye Protection
- Shooting Vest or Shell Holder
- Appropriate clothing for the weather

AMMUNITION REQUIREMENTS

Ammunition is provided by the team as part of your participation fee. If you would like to purchase additional ammunition for practice, please follow these guidelines:

<u>GAUGE</u>	<u>SHELL LENGTH</u>	<u>DRAMS</u>	<u>SHOT</u>	<u>SHOT SIZE</u>
12	2-3/4"	2-3/4 to 3	1 to 1-1/8 oz.	#7.5 or #8
20	2-3/4"	2-3/4 to 3	7/8 oz. to 1 oz.	#7.5 or #8

EQUIPMENT HANDLING

The Burnsville Blaze Trapshooting Team, Booster Club Board of Directors, Coaches, Team Parents, Team Members, or any Team volunteers are in no way responsible for your gun or your equipment. **Your** equipment is **your** responsibility.

Upon arrival at the range, safely uncase your gun at the gun rack, not in the picnic shelter. Place your gun in the rack immediately.

Before leaving the field, make sure you have your gun, your equipment bag, and everything else you brought. **DO NOT ASK SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE YOUR GUN FOR YOU.**

We recommend that you add a name label to your gun for identification. Your gun case and equipment bag should be labeled also.

EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

Any team coach or RSO has the right to examine any item of the athlete's equipment including guns, ammunition, clothing and other equipment.

ATTENDANCE & COMMUNICATION

Although you are expected to attend all practices and competitions, we do understand that life happens and absences may occur. In the event that you will not be able to make a practice or a competition event, you need to communicate your absence to the Team Manager **as soon as possible**. There are administrative changes that take time an absence occurs. There may also be financial implications to the team when absences occur and are not communicated in time. Please make note of how important communication is. ****Failure to communicate absences may affect your eligibility to Letter in the Spring season.****

You have several avenues for communication:

CALL or TEXT: 651-336-3643 EMAIL: alisapeterson@yahoo.com or BHSTrapshooting@gmail.com

Athletes MUST be on time for all practices and competitions. Tardiness may affect participation on the team. If you arrive late to a practice or competition, you will be assigned to the last squad and will be able to complete your rounds only if there is time available.

TEAM OVERVIEW

- The Burnsville Blaze Trapshooting Team participates in both the Spring and Fall league.
- All experience levels are welcome on the team.
- All members are registered with the MN High School Clay Target League and scores are reported weekly.
- Athletes on this team should have a desire to compete.
- Athletes are required to attend **EVERY** weekly competition shoot. If a competition week is missed, the athlete is not eligible for post season awards including lettering.
- Athletes are encouraged to be continually improving their skills.
- Athletes are required to wear uniforms at all times when representing the team - practices, competitions, fundraising events, school events, etc...
- Athletes are expected to represent their team at fundraising or volunteer events.
- Athletes are expected to show pride in their team and a desire to see the program succeed.
- All athletes are encouraged to find practice time in addition to their scheduled shooting day.
- Athletes are encouraged to attend training session and clinics when offered.
- Extra or Advanced training is available for interested team members.
- Athletes are strongly encouraged to represent Burnsville at the Alexandria Championship Tournament and at the State tournament if invited.

FALL LEAGUE (Developmental)

The fall season is focused on developing the athlete's skills no matter what level of experience. The fall season is perfect for a new athlete just starting in the sport.

- All members are registered with the MN High School Clay Target League and scores are reported weekly.
- Coaches will focus on teaching/refreshing the fundamentals of shooting.
- Athletes are motivated about improving their skills
- Athletes are expected to practice weekly
- Athletes are encouraged to attend training seminars/clinics when offered
- Team Vests/Uniforms are not offered during this season
- There is no lettering opportunity during this season

COACHING OVERVIEW

THE 3 COACH APPROACH

- Assistant Coach
- Line Coach
- Coach in Training

The 3 Coaches will work together with an assigned squad(s).

The goal is to ensure consistency in training and so that progress of the athletes can be monitored

Coaches will have a pre-round discussion and a post-round discussion with the squad.

Athletes will be identified with the coaching style they chose - Red, Yellow, Green so coaches will know how best to communicate with them.

Notes on each athlete's performance will be kept in the athlete log book to ensure continual progress and consistency in training.

After the shooting day, coaches will recap and discuss the events of the day and put a plan together for the next week.

Coaches will have planned instructional exercises to be executed at the end of practice. During the practice, coaches will pick out the individuals they think could benefit from the instruction and ask them to stay.

Per league rules, a minimum of one coach per for every 10 team members is required.

TEAM SCORING PROCEDURE

To ensure accuracy and fair scoring for the team, we have implemented a triple check process.

1. The Gun Club's scorekeeper or team volunteer calculates the scores
2. The scoresheets are given to the team scorekeeper who verifies the scorekeeper's calculations and enters the scores into the league's website for all competitive team members.
3. The team manager enters each hit/loss into the Station Report and verifies the ending score matches what has been entered into the league's website.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Undoubtedly, there will be decisions and procedures that you may not agree with. Very little, if anything, can be resolved if you complain to other parents or teammates and cause a negative environment. If at anytime you feel a complaint needs to be made, please contact the team manager, one of the coaches, or someone on the Booster Club's Board of Directors. The school district does not get involved with complaints regarding this team as we are our own 501(c)3 organization with a governing body in place.

FEES AND REFUND POLICY

Fees to participate with the Burnsville Blaze Trap shooting team must be submitted during sign up. Fees must be paid before the athlete is allowed to shoot.

The fees required to participate are needed to secure trap field space, purchase uniforms, purchase ammunition, and pay for registration. These activities are all done prior to the start of the season. Therefore, we have a strong no refund policy of all team fees. **Any uniform, ammunition, or other items purchased from the team are also non-refundable.**

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS (Spring Season only)

- A competitive season average of 19 or higher. Average being determined by weekly- recorded scores during scheduled competition. Recorded scores must be obtained during competition. Recorded scores as a result of additional practice, outside club practice and events will not be considered towards lettering.
- A score of 24 or 25 at any schedule practice or competition where the team is officially registered as a competitive squad.
- Three or more years of participation in the club with no more than one unexcused absence in a season. Unexcused absence is defined as:

- Failure to notify the Head Coach or designated assistant of your absence due to illness or family/personal issues. (see Attendance & Communication and the Competition Team description for more details)
- Academic or disciplinary suspension as determined by the District 191 Activities/Athletic Director.
- Coaches discretion where they recognize an athlete based on his/her commitment to the team, displays the qualities of a good teammate and obeys all the rules of the team, Gun Club and Trap League even though they fall short of the objective criteria noted above.
- The Head Coach reserves the right to withhold letters from athletes who display conduct and attitude detrimental to the team, regardless of shooting score status during the season.

DISTRICT 191 WEAPONS POLICY

No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in this policy. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy.

HARASSMENT POLICY

The team is committed to maintaining an environment that is free from harassment. The team prohibits sexual harassment of students by other students, volunteers, or other persons. The team also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against persons who complain, testify, assist or otherwise participate in the complaint process established pursuant to this policy and the administrative regulation. Any student who feels that he or she has been the object of sexual harassment should contact the team manager, a coach, or a member of the Booster Club's Board of Directors immediately.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

All volunteers will be subject to a fee-waived background check. The Burnsville Blaze Trapshooting Team Booster Club is committed to the protection of all persons who are associated with the team including athletes, volunteers, and guests.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We respect your privacy however; our main form of team communication is via email and therefore, your phone number and/or email address may be shared with coaches, volunteers, student advisory members and team committee members to be used for team business only. Your contact information will never be copied, distributed, sold, shared, or made available in any matter outside of our team volunteers.

SOCIAL MEDIA / PHOTOGRAPHS

Facebook, Twitter, and other social media accounts are for the purpose of promoting the athletes and the team to local and national communities. Photographs and video recordings will be taken during all practices, competitions, and events. No special compensation will be provided for use of images.

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:

TEAM WEBSITE - www.BHSTrap.com

TEAM EMAIL - BHSTrapshooting@gmail.com

FACEBOOK- Burnsville Trap shooting Team

TWITTER - @BHSTrap

INSTAGRAM - BHSTrap shooting

WEATHER SAFETY

Trap is an outdoor sport - dress accordingly! It WILL BE colder and windier at the club than it is at your home. We will shoot in the wind, rain, or snow. We will stop for low visibility, thunder/lightening, or hail.

If an event is cancelled due to weather, the Head Coach will decide if the event will be rescheduled later in the week or if the reserve scores will be used.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students fortunate to be members of the Burnsville Blaze Trap Team understand being a good trap athlete and reliable teammate demands tremendous commitment and dedication to shooting and their team. Likewise, parents make great commitments and sacrifices for their students to shoot with the team.

Shooting for the Blaze is a privilege, not a right. As a Burnsville High School Trap Team athletes and parents, we understand and agree to follow these policies:

PERSONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Shoot to win. Practice to break every target.
2. Respect opponents, teammates, coaches, parents, and spectators.
3. Accept subpar shooting with dignity. Accept high scores with modesty and give credit to yourself, coaches, parents, and teammates.
4. Always promote the best interest of the Burnsville Trap Team and the Burnsville School District.
5. Play fair.
6. Reject corruption, drugs, racism, bullying, and violence.

TEAMMATE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All athletes should treat all coaches, parents, officials, and opponents with dignity and respect.
2. All athletes, regardless of ability, are equal members of the team. Each and every athlete should treat all teammates with acceptance, respect, and friendship.
3. All athletes should provide maximum effort in meetings and practices.
4. Athletes are expected to directly seek understanding and resolution when questions or problems arise with coaches, teammates, and/or parents. Speak to an adult when problems surface.
5. Athletes should conduct their personal lives in a manner that brings honor to themselves and the team. This includes school academic and social performances, self-respect, healthy behaviors, and social responsibility.
6. Athletes **MUST** maintain passing grades in ALL classes throughout the season.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Parents should treat athletes, coaches, opponents, and other parents with respect and dignity.
2. All comments by parents and their guests from the sidelines should be encouraging and/or complimentary. Parents and guests should refrain from making comments about players' mistakes or misses during practices.
3. Parents should refrain from making derogatory comments to coaches and athletes at any time.
4. Coaching trap is to be done only by coaches at practices. Parents agree to refrain from coaching or directing their athlete or other athletes during all meetings and practices.
5. Parents should discuss athlete and/or team concerns directly with the head coach or assistant coaches.
6. Parents should make sure their athlete attends all meetings and practices and will be on time.

7. Parents should support all coaches and encourage their athlete to do the same.
8. Parents should participate in the fundraising of monies needed to sustain the needs of the team.
9. Parents should act as a community and report all problems to a coach or administrator.

COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The coaching staff's main goal is to get each athlete to shoot better while also acquiring necessary life skills. It's not all about breaking targets.
2. Coaches should balance individual growth, social development, and the acquisition of shooting skills in working with individual athletes and the team as a whole.
3. Coaches should train athletes to participate with good sportsmanship and to abide by the rules of trap shooting.
4. Coaches should promote a positive atmosphere during all meeting and practices.
5. Coaches should devote the time and skill necessary for the good of the team.
6. Coaches should push and challenge each athlete in the program to be the best they can be.
7. Coaches should treat all athletes, parents, officials, and opponents with respect.
8. Coaches are required to abide by the rules of conduct embodied in the spirit of this document.

PENALTIES

Any violation of the MNHSCTL policies and procedures or the Burnsville Blaze Trapshooting team policies and procedures laid out in this handbook will result in the following Two Strike Penalty Rule:

THE TWO STRIKE PENALTY RULE:

Strike 1 – Upon a first violation, the student will be sent home immediately and the athlete's parent will be contacted by the Head Coach to address the concerns before the athlete can return to the team.

Strike 2 – If a second violation occurs, the student will be removed from the team with no refund and will not be able to return for the remainder of the season.

TEAM SAFETY RULES

- NO CELL PHONE usage is allowed on the firing line.
- You are not to bring your gun or ammunition to school. You are to transport your firearm directly from home and back to home after competition.
- Drive to the range with respect for others. Don't speed and don't rush.
- Once in the range parking lot, drive slowly and watch carefully
- Range parking lots are generally gravel or dirt. Don't spin out or throw gravel. Stay off grass areas with your vehicle during wet conditions, typically in the spring.
- Respect the vehicles and other personal equipment. Immediately report any damage.
- Keep a positive attitude when arriving and leaving from practices or competition events.
- Range shooting hours are posted and must be followed to the minute. Area homeowners and ranges have an agreement on time. Be aware of the time, you may not be allowed to finish your round if range hours expire.

GUN SAFETY RULES

- Maintain proper muzzle control. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction, which will be down range at our gun clubs. It is your responsibility to know and follow the rules of each gun club.
 - With a pump or semi-auto, the preferred gun control is muzzle positioned straight up and chamber open. DO NOT carry over the shoulder or cradled in your arm.

- With an over/under or single barrel the preferred gun control is barrel open and muzzle positioned down in front of you.
- Always keep the action open. Pump and semi-auto must be open when placed in the rack. Break action guns must be carried open and then closed to place in the rack. When at the shooting line, the action must be open until it is your turn to shoot.
- Always keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
- Always wear authorized eye protection
- Always wear authorized ear protection
- Use a vest or shell bag to manage your ammunition
- Respect Range Safety Officers. Immediately respond to cease fire or other commands.
- Each person is responsible for personal equipment and items. All of your equipment should be within reach or visible when you are on the range. Keep unused items in your locked vehicle.
- No resting the barrel of your firearm on your foot or on any other solid surface.
- Mechanical Safety must be on when not at the line.
- Never load ammunition in your gun until you are on the shooting line.
- Firearm must remain unloaded until it's your turn to shoot.

MINNEAPOLIS GUN CLUB RULES

The rules of the Minneapolis Gun Club must be followed.

- NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION WILL BE ALLOWED BEFORE OR DURING SHOOTING ON THE CLUB GROUNDS. If Employees, Management and/or any Director become aware of this action, you will be asked to leave the premises
- EYE and EAR PROTECTION are required while on the shooting field
- Shotguns must have full stocks, and no barrels shorter than 21" are allowed to be used
- 7 1/2, 8, and 9 shot are the only size allowed on the range or patterning board. MAXIMUM POWDER DRAM ALLOWED IS 3 1/4
- Keep muzzle of the shotgun pointed toward the ground at all times when not firing. Never sling gun over shoulder pointing behind you.
- Only two shells allowed in the shotgun at any time.
- Action on guns must stay open at all times. You may put a shell into the shotgun and close action ONLY when you are on the proper station and it's your turn to shoot.
- NEVER walk from station to station with action on shotgun closed or with a shell in your shotgun.
- When shooting Trap, everyone on the squad must have a shotgun, no sharing allowed.
- No one is allowed to pick up empty hulls on the ground during normal business hours. Once hulls hit the ground they become property of the club.
- Management reserves the right to refuse shooting to any person deemed irresponsible or uncontrollable.

ADULT & STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Each family will be expected to submit a \$75.00 volunteer fee at the time of registration. This fee is not cashed until the end of the season for those who do not complete the required hours of volunteer time. Each family is expected to complete, at minimum, the designated number of volunteer hours per season. The designated number of hours will be announced at the team meeting prior to the season starting. Families who volunteer time coaching or actively serving on a Booster Club committee are waived from the fee payment.

The success of this team depends completely on the enthusiasm, effort, and expertise of our volunteers. We are an organization run solely by volunteers, and every volunteer matters.

FUNDRAISING: We try hard to keep your participation fee minimal. Therefore, fundraising is a vital part of supporting the team. Fundraising allows us to provide training and shooting opportunities beyond the league's standard season. Because of the importance to the team, Fundraising is not an option – **ALL** families are required to participate. Fundraising allows us to purchase shooting vests, awards, hold social activities, hold fun shoots, instructional shoots, etc.... All money earned through fundraising is towards improving the athlete's experience and talents.

BURNSVILLE BLAZE TRAP SHOOTING TEAM BOOSTER CLUB

Membership is open to adult parents or legal guardians of a Burnsville Blaze Trap shooting Team athlete, program coaching staff or adult program volunteers. The cost to become a member is \$25.00 per person.

By becoming a member, you will be part of a group that is striving to help grow our team and ensure the longevity of the Trap shooting Team within the Burnsville High School.

The goal of the Booster Club is to effectively organize events and opportunities for our athletes and their families, to help with fundraising activities designed to support the team financially, to deal with paperwork associated with the club and fundraising, and to give back to the community that so generously supports the team.

Other benefits of membership include:

- Having a voice in important matters that affect every child on the team
- Voting rights
- Eligibility to be voted into a position on the board

COMMITTEES

Our team has several committees that anyone is able to be a part of.

- Fundraising
- Spirit Merchandise
- Party/Social
- Awards
- Photography
- Public Relations
- Website/Social Media
- Volunteer Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

HEAD COACH

Dan Blowers
507-401-1048
danblowers44@gmail.com

TEAM MANAGER

Alisa Peterson
651-336-3643
alisapeterson@yahoo.com

WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

In consideration for receiving permission to participate in the activities of the Burnsville Blaze Trap shooting Team (the "Team"), I hereby release, waive, discharge, and indemnify the Team, its participants, officers, directors, coaches, agents, sponsors, governing bodies, volunteers and attorneys ("Releasees") from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action of any kind or nature whatsoever, known or unknown, foreseeable or unforeseeable, including those arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or death that may be sustained by me or my minor child while participating in activities, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise.

I am fully aware of the risks involved and hazards connected with the activities, including the risk of injury or death. I (or my minor child) elect to voluntarily assume the risk of loss, property damage, personal injury, and/or death that may be sustained by me or my heirs and assigns as a result of my (or my minor child) engaging in such activities, whether caused by the negligence or Releasees or otherwise.

I further hereby agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Releasees from any loss, liability, damage, or costs, including court costs and attorney fees, that they may incur due to my (or my minor child) participating in the activities, whether caused by the negligence of Releasees or otherwise.

I understand that the Team does not maintain insurance policy covering liability arising from my (or my minor child's) participating in the activities. I am aware that I should review my own personal insurance coverage as no such losses or liability will be covered by any insurance maintained by the Team.

I understand that this waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement binds the members of my family, spouse, heirs, assigns, and anyone who may claim rights on or through my behalf, and shall be deemed as a full release, waiver, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Releasees and as an agreement to indemnify, defend, and hold the Releasees harmless against any and all claims of any kind of nature, known or unknown, foreseeable or unforeseeable.

In signing this release, I acknowledge and represent that I have read the foregoing Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, understand it, and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements, or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreement, have been made. I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent; and I execute this release for full, adequate and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by it.

This Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall remain in effect into perpetuity and shall be construed and governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota. It is necessary to submit this form only one time unless the form is amended.

As a parent or legal guardian of the Student Athlete, a minor child, or I am the Student Athlete of 18 years of age or older, I affirm that I have the authority to act on behalf of the athlete and, as such, do hereby give my consent for the Athlete to participate in the Burnsville Blaze Trap shooting Team. I declare that I have read and fully understand this entire agreement, and that by submitting this form I agree that all the provisions of the form are equally binding upon me, my representatives, heirs, assigns and next of kin, as they are upon the Athlete.

I/We acknowledge that the signature confirms that I/We have read and reviewed the information contained in this agreement, I/We acknowledge that an electronic signature on this agreement has the same legal effect, validity, and enforceability as a signature on a non-electronic form.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

1/1/2017

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I am fully aware of the risks involved and hazards connected with the activities, including the risk of injury or death. I (or my minor child) elect to voluntarily assume the risk of loss, property damage, personal injury, and/or death that may be sustained by me or my heirs and assigns as a result of my (or my minor child) engaging in such activities, whether caused by the negligence or Releasees or otherwise.

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Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

1/1/2017