



Clay Target State Championship Presenting Partner Strategic Brief



Overview:

Since its inception in 2015, the North Dakota State High School Clay Target League (League) has shared similar founding values, operations, policies and procedures of state high school athletic associations including the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) while still maintaining its own governing body as an organization that provides clay target shooting sports as an extracurricular activity to high schools. For more information about the League, visit: [North Dakota State High School Clay Target League](#)

Request:

The League is requesting the NDHSAA to collaborate in a presenting partnership alliance to host a NDHSAA Clay Target State Championship for the highest team and individual trap shooting achievers from NDHSAAA-member schools that participate in the North Dakota State High School Clay Target League. The NDHSAA would be a "presenting partner" offering marketing support, awards, sponsorships, and recognition similar to other NDHSAA-sponsored Championships. The League would manage all other aspects of hosting the Championship.

This event would be a different than the current Trap Shooting State Tournament hosted by the League in June because it would only feature top performers. The invitational Trap Shooting State Tournament allows all teams and their athletes to participate in season-average classification competitions.

If achieved, the NDHSAA would become the second state high school athletic association in the country to recognize and support a trap shooting state championship.

Based on our outstanding performance as a presenting partner with the Minnesota State High School League we strongly believe that we would meet or exceed the requirements as defined by [NDHSAA's Presenting Partner Agreement](#).

Organization Summary:

The North Dakota State High School Clay Target League operates under the USA High School Clay Target League – a division of the USA Clay Target League – a non-profit corporation. The League is the independent provider of clay target shooting sports as an extracurricular co-ed and adaptive activity for high schools and students in grades six through 12. The League's priority are safety, fun, and marksmanship – in that order. For more information about the USA Clay Target League, visit: [USA Clay Target League](#)

The League's founding beliefs complement are based on four core values:

- 1) Sportsmanship:
 - Everyone should have fun.
 - Sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence.
 - Ethical behavior, dignity and respect are expected.
- 2) Scholarship:
 - Participation is a privilege and not a right.
 - Academic priorities must come before participation.
 - Compliance with school, community, shooting range and League rules are essential for all participants.
 - The success of the team is more important than individual honors.
- 3) Safety:
 - Safe and responsible handling and storage of firearms and ammunition is the first priority.
 - Participants will be chemically free.
- 4) Scope:
 - Students should have an equal opportunity to participate.
 - Collaborative relationships with schools and students create a positive experience.
 - Adults must serve as a positive role model to students.
 - Shooting ranges are critical to the success of the League and are positive business leaders in their community.
 - Shooting sports strengthens connections within families and communities for life.
 - Everything the League does will always be in the best interest of the students.



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With more than 55,000 student athletes, 11,000 coaches, and 1,800 school-sponsored clay target teams, the USA Clay Target League is the largest youth clay target shooting sport organization in the world. And with more than 200,000 student athletes shooting at more than 300 million clay targets since the League's inception in 2008, there has been no reported injuries - ever.

2025 Spring Season - North Dakota Trap Shooting Participation:

- 2,004 student athletes.
- 75 teams.
- 3 Classes, 11 Conferences.
- 1,278 student athlete (70 teams) state tournament participants.

2025 Spring Season - North Dakota State High School Clay Target League Trap Shooting Teams:

Barnes County North High School	Hazen High School	Rolette High School
Beach High School	Horace High School	Rolla High School
Berthold High School	Jamestown High School	Rugby High School
Beulah High School	Kidder County High School	Sargent Central High School
Bishop Ryan Catholic High School	Killdeer High School	Sawyer Public School
Bismarck High School	Kindred High School	Scranton High School
Bottineau High School	Lakota High School	Shanley High School
Central Cass High School	Langdon Area Edmore Munich H.S.	Sheyenne High School
Central High School	Larimore High School	Shiloh Christian School
Central McLean High School	Leeds High School	South Heart High School
Century High School	Legacy High School	South Prairie High School
Dakota Prairie High School	Lisbon High School	St. John School
Davies High School	Mandan High School	St. Marys Central High School
Des Lacs Burlington High School	Minnewaukan High School	Stanley High School
Devils Lake High School	Minot High School	Surrey High School
Dickinson High School	Minto High School	Thompson High School
Drake-Anamoose High School	Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood H.S.	Tioga High School
Drayton High School	Mott-Regent High School	Trinity High School
Enderlin High School	Napoleon High School	Valley City High School
Fairmount High School	Nedrose High School	Velva High School
Fargo North High School	Oak Grove Lutheran High School	Wahpeton High School
Fargo South High School	Oakes High School	Watford City High School
Garrison High School	Red River High School	West Fargo High School
Grafton High School	Richardton-Taylor High School	Williston High School
Hankinson High School	Richland High School	Wilton High School

Minnesota State High School League's (MSHSL) Clay Target State Tournament Presenting Partnership:

Since 2014, the MSHSL has annually recognized qualifying top trap shooting individuals and teams champions from the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League. Currently, Minnesota is the only state high school athletic association in the country to recognize clay target with a sponsored tournament. For complete details visit: [Minnesota State High School League State Tournament](#)

In addition to hosting the State Tournament, the MSHSL includes clay target as an activity on the association's website with links to participating schools and tournament information. For complete details visit: [Minnesota State High School League Clay Target](#)

Next Steps:

Upon NDHSAA's request, the League can provide detailed recommendations and proof of performance for a NDHSAA Clay Target State Championship consideration.



Clay Target State Championship Presenting Partner Strategic Brief



USA Clay Target League:

John Nelson
President – USA Clay Target League
jnelson@usaclaytarget.com
612-490-1388

USA Clay Target League
990 Lone Oak Road
Suite 120
Eagan, MN 55121


Minnesota State High School League References:

Erich Martens
Executive Director
emartens@mshsl.org
763-392-5556

Tim Leighton
Communications Coordinator/Clay Target Director
tleighton@mshsl.org
763-569-0485

Thank You:

On behalf of all North Dakota student athletes, their families, team staff, and education communities, we greatly appreciate the opportunity with the NDHSAA to consider this exciting opportunity. We will do everything we can to ensure our alliance is a successful one.

From: Wayne Stanley Wayne.Stanley@k12.nd.us 
Subject: FW: NDHSAA Sanctioning Trap
Date: December 19, 2025 at 2:28 PM
To: Matt Fetsch matt.fetsch@ndhsaa.org



Here is what I had sent to the schools. I am also including the letters sent back to me.
Wayne

From: Wayne Stanley <Wayne.Stanley@k12.nd.us>
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 9:45 AM

Subject: NDHSAA Sanctioning Trap

Trap Coaches-

I have been working with John Nelson, President of USA ClayTarget League on getting the North Dakota High School Activities Association to sanction Trap shooting.

John and I have discussed how Minnesota does it and look forward to North Dakota taking on a similar tournament. In Minnesota, the High School Activities Tournament is the week end after the Claytarget Tournament.

My thoughts on qualifying for the NDHSAA State Tournament would be to :

- **Team Qualifier** – Take the top 6 teams from each day of the ND Clay Target League State Tournament in June.
 - NDHSAA State consists of 5 shooter per qualified team with 2 Alternates listed on roster
- **Individual Qualifier** – Take top 35 Male and top 15 Female scores each day and all ties from the ND Clay Target League State Tournament in June
 - NDHSAA State consists of a minimum of 105 Male and 45 Female participants.
- **Tournament Format:**
 - Team Finals start at 10:00 and finish with awards at Noon
 - Individual Finals start at 1:00 with awards to conclude by 4:00

The question of where it will be and what club is large enough to host would be settled by the NDHSAA after hearing from those that are interested in hosting the tournament. Minimally it would take a club with 8 houses, preferably 12 to allow for the individual finals to be shot in 3-4

houses, preferably 12 to allow for the individual finals to be shot in 6-7 flights.

If you are in support of taking Tarp Shooting to the NDHSAA for consideration please have your school Superintendent or School Board send me a letter of support for the NDHSAA Board to consider. The NDHSAA Board requires that we have 12 schools send letters of support. I will collect all and submit them as 1 to Matt Fetch, NDHSAA Executive Director. My goal is to have these sent to him by the 15th of November so that the NDHSAA Board can act on it as early as December and possibly have a tournament June 27, 2026.

I am attaching Information that John Nelson has regarding ND Clay Target League and its history here in ND. Additionally I am attaching an example of the letter I will be submitting. The NDHSAA asks that all letters be on the School Letter Head when submitting.

If you have question please feel free to contact me via email or cell 701-340-5091. I Look forward to getting the letters of support and having Trap Shooting as a recognized sport by the NDHSAA.

Sincerely,
Wayne Stanley
Trap Coach-Superintendent
South Prairie School

NDHSAA Clay Target State
Championship Strategic Brief...



LEWIS & CLARK SCHOOL DISTRICT #161

Lewis & Clark--Berthold
Evan Meiers, Principal
Berthold Elem. and High School
P.O. Box 185
Berthold, ND 58718
453-3484

Berthold, North Shore Plaza Schools
Marc Ritteman, Superintendent
401 4th Avenue NE
Berthold, ND 58718

Lewis & Clark--North Shore Plaza
Janis Gerding, Principal
NSP Elem. And High School
P.O. Box 38
Plaza, ND 58771
497-3734

Re: Letter of Support for Sanctioning Trap Shooting

Dear Members of the NDHSAA Board,

LEWIS & CLARK SCHOOL DISTRICT #161

Lewis & Clark—Berthold
Evan Meiers, Principal
Berthold Elem. and High School
P.O. Box 185
Berthold, ND 58718
453-3484

Berthold, North Shore Plaza Schools
Marc Ritteman, Superintendent
401 4th Avenue NE
Berthold, ND 58718

Lewis & Clark—North Shore Plaza
Janis Gerding, Principal
NSP Elem. And High School
P.O. Box 38
Plaza, ND 58771
497-3734

Re: Letter of Support for Sanctioning Trap Shooting

Dear Members of the NDHSAA Board,

On behalf of Lewis and Clark School District I am writing to express our support for the sanctioning of high school trap shooting by the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

Trap shooting has become a well-established and highly successful activity for student-athletes across North Dakota.

Sanctioning trap shooting would:

- Provide official recognition to a rapidly growing high school activity
- Offer expanded opportunities for student participation and achievement
- Promote lifelong skills such as discipline, responsibility, and focus
- Ensure consistent rules, governance, and competitive equity statewide

Our district supports the proposal to move forward with NDHSAA consideration and the potential establishment of a State Trap Shooting Tournament.

We appreciate the NDHSAA Board's consideration of this proposal and encourage approval to recognize trap shooting as an official NDHSAA-sanctioned activity.

Thank you for your continued commitment to expanding opportunities for North Dakota students.

Sincerely,



Marc Ritteman, Supt.
Lewis and Clark School District
701-540-7431

OFFICERS

Mark W. Schmidt, Pres.
Jim McGinnity, Vice Pres.
Ronda M. Rudnik, Bus. Mgr.

DIRECTORS

Jeffrey A. Moberg
Jeremy Wallin
Pete Peterson

Tioga Public Schools

303 N. Linda Street
PO Box 279
Tioga, North Dakota 58852-0279
701-664-2333
Fax: 701-664-3356

CAROLYN G. EIDE
Superintendent

BRODIE R. ODEGAARD
High School Principal

TIMOTHY J. SCHAFFER
Elementary Principal

November 14, 2025

North Dakota High School Activities Association Board
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58702

RE: Letter of support for the ND Clay Target League Sanctioning

Dear NDHSAA Board Members,

On behalf of our school district, I am writing to express our support for the North Dakota Clay Target League and to encourage the NDHSAA to recognize trap shooting as an officially sanctioned activity.

The ND Clay Target League has created meaningful opportunities for students across the state, demonstrating steady growth while maintaining a strong commitment to safety, sportsmanship, and inclusiveness. Its continued expansion reflects significant student interest and the value of providing this activity within an education-based framework.

Here at Tioga, our program continues to grow each year, reaching an all-time high of 38 participants last year, with an anticipated 48 for this spring's season. Our program engages students who do not participate in traditional athletics or other organizations, offering them a chance to represent their school, build confidence, and develop responsibility and teamwork.

We believe NDHSAA sanctioning would validate the dedication of these student-athletes and coaches statewide, helping to ensure ongoing support, growth, and consistency for a program that aligns with the values of school-sponsored activities. Additionally, sanctioning Trap would showcase the state's commitment to diverse extracurricular opportunities and student interests.

In closing, we strongly support the NDHSAA sanctioning of trap shooting and believe doing so will strengthen a program that already reflects the best of education-based activities in North Dakota. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Paul Olson
Superintendent
Tioga Public School



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL

4200 - 32nd Street W.
Williston, ND 58801

ROBERT CONLEY

Athletic & Activities Director
robert.conley@willistonschools.org
Phone 701-572-0967
Fax 701-572-5449

November 18, 2025

North Dakota High School Activities Association Board
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58072

NDHSAA Board Members,

This letter is written to express support for the North Dakota Clay Target League and the NDHSAA to collaborate in a presenting partnership alliance to host a NDHSAA Clay Target State Championship for the highest team and individual trap shooting achievers from NDHSAA-member schools that participate in the North Dakota State High School Clay Target League.

This would provide student-athletes the opportunity to be formally acknowledged and celebrated for their commitment, growth, and achievements through our state association. This recognition aligns with our mission as educators and administrators to expand opportunities, promote student engagement, and support programs that build character, responsibility, and teamwork.

The Clay Target League in Williston has experienced substantial growth in recent years and has been an incredibly positive outlet for students of all backgrounds. It has helped build a sense of belonging, strengthened connections within our community, and contributed to a growing sense of pride among students, families, and supporters. The program also provides a safe, structured environment for students to develop lifelong skills.

For these reasons, I support the presenting partnership alliance between the NDHSAA and the North Dakota Clay Target League.

Sincerely,

Robert Conley
Activities/Athletic Director
Williston Basin School District #7



MINNEWAUKAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr. Kent Dennis, Superintendent
Mrs. Jordan Lunde, High School Principal
Ms. MacKenzie Moen, Elementary School Principal
Mrs. Tracie Volk, Business Manager

October 21, 2025

North Dakota High School Activities Association Board
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58072

RE: Letter of Support for ND Clay Target League Sanctioning

Dear NDHSAA Board Members,

As Superintendent of Minnewaukan Public School, I am writing to express our strong support for the North Dakota Clay Target League and to formally request that trap shooting be recognized and sanctioned as an official NDHSAA activity.

The ND Clay Target League has provided tremendous opportunities for students across North Dakota over the past eleven years. The program has demonstrated remarkable growth, expanding from only 55 student participants in its first season to more than 2,400 today. This steady and sustainable increase reflects both the student interest and the League's commitment to safety, sportsmanship, and inclusivity.

At Minnewaukan, our own program began in 2019 with just a handful of students and has grown to over 10% of our high school. The sport has engaged students who might not otherwise participate in traditional athletic programs, offering them a sense of teamwork, responsibility, and pride in representing their school and community.

Recognition and sanctioning by the NDHSAA would not only validate the hard work and dedication of the thousands of student-athletes and coaches involved but also ensure continued growth, support, and oversight of a program that aligns closely with the values of education-based athletics.

We respectfully urge the NDHSAA Board to consider sanctioning trap shooting as an official NDHSAA activity and to acknowledge the ND Clay Target League's long-standing contribution to youth development and school-based athletics in our state.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of student opportunities across North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Kent Dennis
Superintendent
Minnewaukan School District #5



South Prairie Public School

100-177th Ave SW, Minot ND 58701
Phone: (701) 722-3537
Fax: (701) 722-3280
www.south-prairie.k12.nd.us

Administration
Wayne Stanley, Superintendent
Darwin Routledge, HS Principal
Gabe Rauschenberger, JR HS Principal
Tanna Neshem, Elem Principal

December 16, 2025

North Dakota High School Activities Association Board
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58072

RE: Letter of Support for ND Clay Target League Sanctioning

Dear NDHSAA Board Members,

As Superintendent of South Prairie School District, I am writing to express our strong support for the North Dakota Clay Target League and to formally request that trap shooting be recognized and sanctioned as an official NDHSAA activity.

The ND Clay Target League has provided tremendous opportunities for students across North Dakota over the past eleven years. The program has demonstrated remarkable growth, expanding from only 55 student participants in its first season to more than 2,400 today. This steady and sustainable increase reflects both the student interest and the League's commitment to safety, sportsmanship, and inclusivity.

At South Prairie, our own program began with just 18 students and has grown to as many as 83 participants over the past decade. The sport has engaged students who might not otherwise participate in traditional athletic programs, offering them a sense of teamwork, responsibility, and pride in representing their school and community.

Recognition and sanctioning by the NDHSAA would not only validate the hard work and dedication of the thousands of student-athletes and coaches involved but also ensure continued growth, support, and oversight of a program that aligns closely with the values of education-based athletics.

We respectfully urge the NDHSAA Board to consider sanctioning trap shooting as an official NDHSAA activity and to acknowledge the ND Clay Target League's long-standing contribution to youth development and school-based athletics in our state.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of student opportunities across North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Stanley".

Wayne Stanley
Superintendent
South Prairie School District #70

South Prairie Board of Education
Randy Korslien, Pres., Sheila Lindbo V. Pres.
Steve Eberle, Director, Chad Mosser, Director, Curt Olson, Director