

Wakefield Air Rifle Program

Information Sheet

Wakefield Air Rifle Club:

The Wakefield Air Rifle Club is an organization dedicated to teaching the basics of rifle marksmanship and safety to interested students who have little or no prior exposure to firearms. The Club holds weekly practices from October through February. All equipment, including rifles, ammunition, and shooting accessories, is provided. The rifles used are single-shot, .177 caliber pellet air rifles. Dues are \$40 a year, and will be prorated to \$15 if the member starts in January or later.

All students who have not previously taken part in the rifle programs at Wakefield are expected to start in the Club. Everyone receives instruction on fundamental safety rules and range procedures, and then marksmanship fundamentals, before being allowed to shoot. Basic safety and marksmanship proficiency must be demonstrated for participation. Club members will participate in qualification award programs in which awards are given based on their practice scores, and also may participate in a club championship at the end of the season. The Club serves as the primary source for new Team members, so members are required to have physicals and are expected to take part in introductory-level interscholastic matches.

Hearing and eye protection are both required for participants. It is recommended that members purchase their own eye protection so that they will be comfortable with the glasses while shooting. Suitable eye protection is typically available for under \$15 at sporting goods stores. Members who wear prescription glasses while shooting do not need additional eye protection.

Wakefield Varsity Air Rifle Team:

The Wakefield Air Rifle Team is a varsity sport at Wakefield High School during the winter athletic season. The Team competes in the Potomac High School Rifle League, which is composed of high school teams in the Washington, D.C. area, as well as one combined team for high school students lacking teams at their own schools. Students compete in three-position rifle matches using single-shot, .177 caliber pellet rifles. The three-position rifle event is similar to the same event that takes place in the Olympic Games. Students shoot from the prone, standing, and kneeling positions. The standard Olympic course of fire is 40 shots per position; at the high school level, only ten shots per position are fired, with a total time limit of 55 minutes. The league names individual and team champions for the season, and also sponsors a championship match for top individuals and teams in the league.

Students who have demonstrated persistence and skill in Club practice, and who fulfill academic and athletic eligibility requirements, may join the V team based on the coaches' evaluation of their progress. Team members have two practice per week during the winter season. Matches may be held during the week or on the weekends, and students should allow at least two hours in their schedules for home matches, and approximately four to five hours for away matches. Parents are welcome to visit during practices and matches. Hearing and eye protection is required for everyone present on the range while firing is in progress.

Coaches:

We have several tenured Coaches:

Coach McGwier is the Varsity Wakefield Coach and Club Co-Coach.

Coach Yates is the Washington Lee Varsity Coach and Head Club coach. Coach Yates and his wife Traci (Yorktown Alum and Coach for over 15 years) have spearheaded this program for over 20 years along with many dedicated parents along the way.

Coach Tinter is the Varsity Yorktown coach and Club Co-Coach.