

“New Shooter Program”

for Highpower Competition at Wildcat Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

Purpose: Highpower Competition can be an expensive sport, especially for someone trying to enter for the first time. This program is designed to provide a more economical way for a new shooter to enter the sport of NRA Highpower at Wildcat Valley R&P Club. Typically, a new shooter would need to purchase a competition capable rifle, such as a Bushmaster “DCM” AR-15, competition grade ammunition, and some level of basic shooting equipment. This initial investment can be a barrier to entrance if you are not sure you will like the sport. In an effort to limit the initial outlay of cash for a new shooter, the Highpower Program at Wildcat Valley has put together a system to allow a person to shoot their first 5 matches in a much more economical fashion.

Program Basics: In order to shoot a Highpower match, a shooter needs a rifle, ammunition, and a few basic pieces of equipment such as eye and hearing protection, ground mat, spotting scope, basic shooting jacket, and glove or mitt.

Rifle: This New Shooter Program entails borrowing the Club’s Bushmaster “DCM” AR-15 rifle for use in matches. If you are a Wildcat Valley Club member, you may check out the rifle for practice. If you are not a Club member, you may only use the rifle at sanctioned Wildcat Highpower matches. The rifle comes with a competition sling, and magazines. Availability is determined by the number of people in this program.

Basic Shooting Gear: The most basic level of equipment needed to effectively participate in a Highpower match, besides rifle and ammunition, is a spotting scope and stand, a ground mat, a basic shooting jacket, and a glove or mitt. Wildcat Valley has also invested in this equipment, which may be borrowed along with the rifle for matches. It should be noted that if more than one person is interested in participating in this program, shooters may have to share the equipment, or even alternate matches. The new shooter will need to provide their own eye and hearing protection.

Ammunition: Economics of reloading convince most Highpower shooters to reload their own ammunition instead of purchasing factory ammo. Factory ammunition can run anywhere from \$0.75 to \$2.00 per round. However, for someone who does not already reload, the investment in reloading equipment can be sizable; particularly if they are not sure they will like the sport. The Highpower Program at Wildcat has put together a basic reloading setup, and purchased bulk components, with the help of a grant from the Friends of NRA here in Indiana. A new shooter willing to make the commitment to enter this program and shoot 5 matches, will have the ability to purchase components and borrow the reloading equipment to load 500 rounds of 223 ammunition. The cost to the new shooter will be \$155 for 500 rounds, a real bargain price for custom, competition grade ammunition. The new shooter will be purchasing powder, bullets and primers, and “renting” the cases. The brass cases must be returned to the program or an additional charge will apply. He must also prepay the 5 match fees of \$100.

Application for Participation: Any new shooter (defined as brand new to the sport of NRA Highpower competition) can apply for participation in this program by contacting one of the Wildcat Highpower Program Officials listed below. Participation may be limited (due to the limited amount of equipment) and requires a sponsoring “old” shooter who will help with questions, coaching, and rifle cleaning.

- Dave Schnelle, Highpower Chairman, 765-538-3043
- Steve Pahs, Highpower Co-Chairman, 765-497-4612
- Randy Vonderheide, Highpower Co-Chairman, 765-448-1886

Conditions: A new shooter will be asked to commit to shoot 5 matches at Wildcat Valley, prepay the match fees for the 5 matches, and to purchase enough ammunition for 5 matches (500 rounds). If a new shooter is unsure if they will like the sport enough to participate in 5 matches (highly unlikely ☺), then it is suggested they come out and watch a match, then purchase factory ammunition as recommended by a Program Official and shoot one match. Once they have a taste of what Highpower Competition is all about, they can decide if they want to participate in the New Shooter Program.