



Varsity Rifle Team

Bullseye Bears



Purpose

The Varsity Rifle Team is to be a Merit Academy competitive shooting sports program that will not only teach gun and range safety, but also life skills that builds responsible, accountable, future leaders and citizens. And for the purpose of winning individual, team awards and college scholarships

Goal

The Varsity Rifle Team will compete in Three Position Sporter Air Rifle (3PAR) - prone, kneeling and standing. The Rifle Team provides sporter air rifles and equipment. An athlete may choose to also compete in the Precision 3PAR which requires additional competition equipment and rifle which they will have to provide at their own cost.



This is a school 'letter' sport. Varsity Rifle Team members will have the opportunity to receive a Merit Academy varsity sports letter for each full school year that they are a named Rifle Team member, based on practice and competitions scores and meeting team requirements.



The Varsity Rifle Team will compete in shoulder-to-shoulder matches with JROTC 3PAR teams in Colorado Springs, OTC Junior Club competitions at the Olympic Training Center, virtual matches, postal matches and if qualified national championships by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and the American Legion Junior 3PAR programs. College scholarships are offered by both CMP and American Legion.



Team Structure

1. The Varsity Rifle Team will be a four-person competition team with two alternate team members competing as individuals (total of six Rifle Team athletes). All six Team members compete in all competitions.
2. There will be a Rifle Team head coach and an assistant coach. The first Rifle Team head coach will be Michael Theimer, a '76 Olympian and previous Youth Programs/Coach Academy Director for USA Shooting. The Assistant Rifle Team Coach is Beckie Schilling.
3. Coaches will be volunteer Club Coaches from the current coach cadre that have attended the Basic Club Coach training by Michael Theimer.
4. A Rifle Team Captain will be designated by the Head Coach to assist with Team administration and leadership duties to include: equipment checks, competition travel duties, Team communication and fundraising coordination.

Team Member Requirements

All varsity shooting team members must:

1. Be a high school student (9-12 grades). Merit Academy students are given first consideration.
2. Maintain Merit Academy academic and behavioral standards at all times.
3. The Varsity Rifle Team must be their primary athletic sport and attend all practices and competitions through the school year, assuming they are physically able. We understand life happens, illness, family schedules may conflict with practice sessions and competitions. Parents must notify the Head Coach of any schedule conflicts or missed practice sessions.
4. Athletes may participate in other sports, but the Varsity Rifle Team must be the priority over all other sport participation. If there is a scheduling conflict between the Varsity Rifle Team and another sport, the Rifle Team is the priority (practices and competitions).
5. Team membership is competitive. Team members must maintain competitive scores in practice and competitions. The Shooting Sports Club Coaches will be recommending future Rifle Team members to the Rifle Team Head Coach to replace Rifle Team members when there are open Rifle Team slots. The Shooting Sports Club will be the primary source for all future Varsity Rifle Team members.
6. If an athlete does not demonstrate that they are fully committed to the team, competitions or practice sessions and/or does not maintain competitive scores in practice or competitions the Head Coach has the authority to drop and replace an athlete from the Rifle Team.

The Rifle Team currently trains on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30pm to 5:30pm with competitions usually on occasional Saturdays, during the year. Shooting sports is a year around school sport which may require modified practice sessions between June and August, depending on winning invitations to regional and national competitions.

How to apply for the Varsity Rifle Team

You start by joining the Merit Academy Shooting Sports Club. [Click on this link to register for the Shooting Sports Club](#).

All new student athletes must attend the Gun and Range Safety training. This is a mandatory safety training session for any student wanting to join the Shooting Sports Club and tryout for the varsity Rifle Team. Contact [Jenn Peters](#) for the next scheduled Gun and Range Safety Training.

High school athletes who join the Shooting Sports Club will be coached by the Club Coaches on three positions (prone, kneeling and standing) over an appropriate period of time. The Club Coaches will document practice scores and any appropriate competition scores. They will forward their recommendations and scores to the Rifle Team Head Coach, assuming Rifle Team slots are open for new Team members or the Head Coach approves tryouts for new Team members.

Prone, kneeling and standing scores will be 70% of the selection process. 30% of the selection process will be Head Coach observation of proper position in prone, kneeling and standing, proper sling use in prone and kneeling. Last but not least, demonstrated range and gun handling safety. Safety violations may result in immediate disqualification.

For any questions, please contact [Michael Theimer](#), Merit Academy Rifle Team Head Coach.

Go Bullseye Bears



First Varsity Rifle Team 2024 - 2025



Coach Mike Theimer, Ashlyn Halcomb, Aci Henderson, Sarah Gottus, Coach Beckie Schilling
Jack Rohman, Cash Campbell, Kylan Smith

