

Boulder Rifle Club Junior Small Bore Rifle League

The Boulder Rifle Club enthusiastically supports a Youth Marksmanship Program. A large part of that support goes to the BRC Junior Small Bore League. The Junior Small Bore League has been expressly designed to introduce junior shooters to the precision rifle shooting sports. We accept children ages 8 to 18, and have a mix of male and female shooters. This program has been in existence for over 40 years, and several of our current shooters are children of adults who participated in the program as youth shooters themselves. The program focuses on **safety and sportsmanship**. Coaches concentrate on fundamentals of four-position small-bore (.22 caliber) rifle, heavily leaning towards safe firearm handling, and developing correct positions (prone, sitting, kneeling, and offhand) for rifle competition.

The junior shooters participate in two to three, 1 ½ hour safety briefings a year. Safety concepts are reinforced through frequent short (3-5 minute) briefings, which also include varying topics of precision rifle competition ranging from proper diet, exercise and stretching, to correcting positional faults, and healthy competitive mental attitudes. These briefings are participatory, not lectures, and Q&A sessions/discussions include the shooters' parents as well. The shooters have ample practice time, usually about 50 minutes of shooting time broken into two courses of fire of 20-25 rounds, roughly 20 minutes each. The shooters are responsible for range set-up (excluding hanging targets), arranging their gear, shooting safely and responsibly, gear breakdown, and range clean-up.

The BRC Junior Small Bore League meets every Tuesday evening, with a Fall/Winter League, October-April, and a shorter Summer Junior Small Bore League, June-August. Winter league is comprised of two rifle lines, starting at 6:00 and 7:00 pm. Summer league consists of a 6:00 pm rifle line with priority for enrollment going to new rifle shooters. The summer 7:00 pm line is dedicated to training shooters in the fundamentals of precision pistol (NRA Bull's-eye type) shooting, using .22 caliber target pistols. This line is open to advanced junior rifle league members (Sharpshooter Bar 2 or higher qualification). League practice is held in BRC's 50-ft indoor range. There are 22 shooter positions available in the league: 11 on a 6pm line, and 11 on a 7pm line. A responsible adult must accompany each shooter to each practice session. The adult participates as score-keeper and target hanger/retriever, and may assist as range safety officers when needed.

The only competition is for each shooter to better their score from the week before. The participants shoot from four positions (prone, kneeling, sitting, and off-hand) and earn NRA qualifications from Pro-Marksman, Marksman, Marksman First Class, Sharpshooter, to Expert and Distinguished Expert. Most continuing shooters earn an Expert ranking after about 3-4 years of steady practice, learning, and participation. The club provides single-shot, bolt action, .22 caliber target rifles, ammunition, targets, and associated shooting gear. The shooters are encouraged to have their own eye and ear protection, although we have loaners. As shooters progress, and show continuing interest in the sport, we encourage that they acquire their own rifle and associated equipment for the best fit.

Participation in the winter league costs: \$25 for annual junior membership in the BRC; \$15 for annual junior membership in the NRA; and \$35 league activity fee (for a total first-time cost of \$75, with annual renewals). Summer league fee is \$35, with current junior membership in BRC and NRA.

Typically, there are three coaches on the firing line for 10 shooters. All coaches are qualified and experienced volunteers, and have undergone background checks. League Director, Dennis Rodgers,

holds a **Level 1 Coach** certification (beginner to intermediate) for small-bore rifle and pistol target shooting from the **NRA** and **USA Shooting**, and **NRA** certification as **Range Safety Officer** and **Basic Pistol Instructor**.

To inquire about openings in the league, or for further information, email: weatherdad@msn.com with contact information including mailing address, phone number, name, and birth date of the applicant. Since we are limited to 22 league members, the league often fills to maximum well before the beginning of the season. In that case, we start a waiting list. Frequent absences by any member may result in the loss of their place on the line, and the acceptance of next on the waiting list.

Coach Dennis M. Rodgers, NRA Coach Cert. #2686792, expires 10/31/2015

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