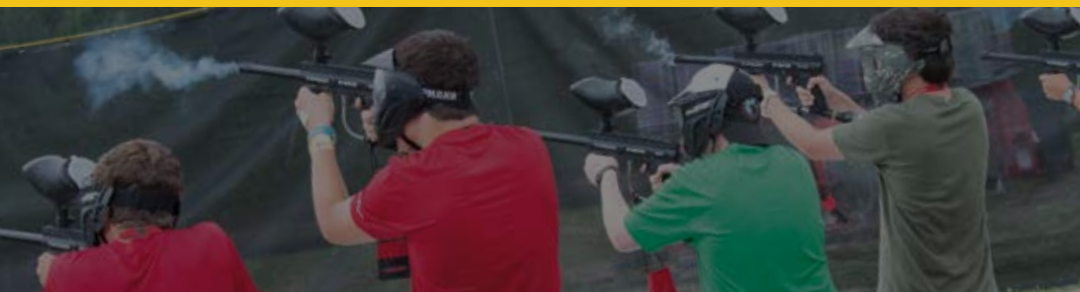


CHALK BALL PROGRAM GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



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510-317
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2016 Printing

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to provide councils and districts with an overview of the requirements for running the chalk ball program. This is not a unit-level activity and should not be conducted as one. In this publication, you will find youth requirements, training requirements for adults who are providing the program, and sample budgets for running this program in camp and weekend program venues. The appendix contains plans for building the facilities for the program area.

The chalk ball program is intended to provide a special and unique experience for Boy Scouts and Venturers who are attending summer camp or weekend programming. Scouts will have an opportunity to shoot chalk ball markers at various targets. Youth are given 100 chalk balls and move through a course with specific rules regarding safe handling of the markers and operational equipment. The goal of the program is to teach safe handling, responsibility, and marksmanship through a fun activity.

This program does not use the LaPorte throwing system and should not be confused with the flashball program that uses LaPorte equipment.



YOUTH REQUIREMENTS

This program is for youth in the Boy Scouting program. Youth in the Venturing program may also participate. Cub Scout-age youth are not allowed to participate.

ADULT SUPERVISION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

BSA Youth Protection policies for two-deep leadership must be maintained at all times. All course personnel involved in the chalk ball shooting program are required to have current certifications and ratings in the roles they will be performing on the course at that time.

An NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) is in charge of the entire field and will conduct the safety briefing and give range calls as required.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

APPLICABLE LAWS

BSA safety policies generally run parallel to or go beyond legal mandates. However, it is the camp or activity supervisor's responsibility to confirm and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations or statutes related to youth handling and using a paintball marking gun.

BSA GUIDELINES

This is a Level 2 shooting sports activity and must follow all guidelines in the *Boy Scouts of America National Shooting Sports Manual*, No. 430-938. Visit www.scouting.org/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Before beginning this program, a program hazard analysis should be conducted for the range and this program as outlined in National Camp Accreditation Program standard PD-111 (www.scouting.org/ncap). The enterprise risk management committee for the council should review the analysis as per standard PD-112. The program hazard analysis instructions and template can be found at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Forms.



Your range standard operating procedures should also be reviewed and updated to reflect the requirements for delivering this program. A template for range standard operating procedures is located in Appendix 3 of the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* if you do not already have them for your range.

RUNNING THE PROGRAM

The chalk ball course is made up of aluminum horizontal spinning targets, vertical spinning targets, and cowbells. The range has shooting positions with significant separation between each position. Two shooters shoot at separate and parallel targets at a time. (See the appendix for a recommended layout of a chalk ball course.)

The chalk ball course is a series of targets presented in differing distances and types of targets, allowing the shooter to test his or her skills at differing sight pictures.

The shooting course has shooting positions capable of handling two shooters at a time. The range has signage and barriers, allowing containment of shoots, and it bars unauthorized people from entering the shooting area.

RANGE EQUIPMENT LIST

- Four paintball markers
- 15 plastic chalk ball containers
- 35 pairs of eye protection
- 10 metal targets
- One radio
- Six cowbell targets
- Two carrying boxes for markers
- One first-aid kit
- Two 50-pound CO₂ cylinders
- Eight 20-ounce CO₂ canisters

BEFORE YOUTH ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM AREA

- All markers, ammunition, and targets are provisioned during nonprogram times by maintenance and support personnel in sufficient quantity to run the program for all shooters without interruption.
- Face masks should be cleaned between each shooter.
- Range staff will assist the RSO by putting up targets, preparing markers, staging chalk balls to the preparation table, and setting up shooting positions along the course.
- General staging areas for shooters and those waiting their turn are clearly marked and include a well-defined path along the course so shooters and range staff can easily travel, carrying the markers and maintaining safe gun-handling rules.

WHEN YOUTH ARE PRESENT IN THE PROGRAM AREA

- Welcome youth to the area and begin the chalk ball safety briefing found in Appendix 4 of this guide.
- Each shooter will be accompanied by range staff, who will be actively involved in every shot and all marker handling.
- Range staff members are responsible for the adherence to safety rules and commands provided by the range safety officer at ALL TIMES. They will oversee the shooting, sighting, and exception situations (such as cease-fires) on the course for the shooter.
- Range staff members carry the markers between each set of shooting positions. Markers are kept on safety and pointed downrange at all times. Between shooting stations, markers are carried in a box by the range staff.
- At the first shooting position, youth load the hoppers using a plastic container of chalk balls they were given during the safety briefing. Give instructions that this is enough “ammo” to have a number of shots at each target.

SAMPLE BUDGET

Sample startup/one-year budget for chalk ball program. Costs may vary by council depending on the range setup and the number of youth taking part in the program.

ONE-TIME STARTUP COSTS	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL COST
TIPPMANN 98 CUSTOM ULTRA PS PAINTBALL MARKER GUN, BLACK	\$119	4	\$476
3SKULL PAINTBALL CO ₂ OR COMPRESSED AIR, ALUMINUM TANK WITH PIN VALVE, LIME, 20 OUNCES	\$15	8	\$120
EMPIRE PE BASIC 48CI 3000PSI HPA NITRO N2 PAINTBALL TANK, BLACK	\$39	8	\$312
GXG PAINTBALL XVSN GOGGLE MASK, BLACK	\$14.95	16	\$239.20
EMPIRE X-RAY SINGLE-LENS PAINTBALL GOGGLES, BLACK	\$19.95	16	\$319.20
3SKULL PAINTBALL PREMIUM 200-ROUND HOPPER, BLACK (SKU 49427146)	\$4.95	8	\$39.60
METAL TARGETS			\$600
COWBELLS	\$12.50	6	\$75
		TOTAL	\$2,181
ONGOING YEARLY ESTIMATED COSTS (PER 100 SHOOTERS)			
CHALK BALLS (PER SHOOTER)		100	\$500
CANISTER FILLS (PER SHOOTER)		32	\$160
		TOTAL	\$660

If you have questions or would like additional information about this program, contact Curt Palmer, Outdoor Program, Curt.Palmer@scouting.org.



APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1

SAMPLE RANGE SAFETY RULES

The chalk ball range rules governing marker safety are listed below.

ALWAYS keep the marker pointed downrange.

ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

ALWAYS keep the marker unloaded until ready to use.

In addition to those rules, there is a set of guidelines necessary for the safe operation of the course:

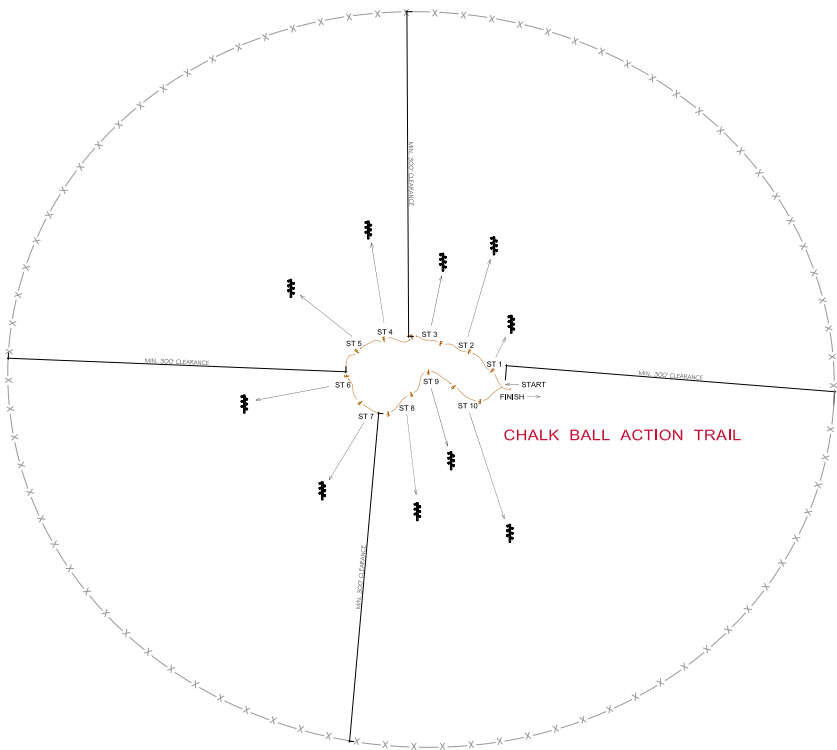
- The course should NEVER be opened without a working radio on the premises.
- A first-aid kit that is well-stocked and in good repair will be available in a public location for everyone to see and use.
- Storage of markers and chalk balls will be in separate lockable cabinets. The keys and combinations for those cabinets will be under the control of the course operations range staff.
- The course must be walked one time per day to establish that the perimeter is safe and that the safety signs are still in place.
- All markers and chalk balls will be secured before personnel leave the course for any reason.
- The filling of canisters is to be performed only by a competent adult familiar with the process. Heavy gloves and eye protection are to be worn at all times while filling canisters.
- Range staff members are the only personnel allowed on the firing line of the course with the shooters, unless the range safety officer gives specific permission.
- All shooters must wear eye protection at all times while on the course.
- During any CEASE-FIRE, all firing positions will stop shooting, put their marker on safety, keep the muzzle pointed downrange, and wait for additional instructions.
- At no time should the muzzle of any marker be pointed above the berm.
- Targets are of various types (spinning and stationary) and are intended to give varying "sight pictures" to our Scouts.
- Any ammunition dropped on the ground or found on the ground should be left there.
- When the marker runs out of chalk balls, the shooter is done, no matter how far along the course he or she may be.
- No food or drink is allowed on the course.
- The use of tobacco and alcohol products is forbidden on the course.
- In the event of a health or safety emergency, the Range Safety Officer is responsible for managing the event. If he or she is not able to do so, the lead range staff member will be responsible.

- In the event of a health issue, contact reservation headquarters personnel via radio, and they will direct your actions from that point until resolution.
- Unruly behavior and unsafe actions will result in a warning from the range staff. In the event of repeated misbehavior, the range staff may at their discretion remove the shooter from the course for the day. No refunds of fees are necessary in the event of a removal from the course.
- In the event of a Scout being shot with a chalk ball, the shooter and the "hitee" are banned from the course for the remainder of the program.
- At any time that thunder is heard or lightning is seen, the course must be shut down and no shooting will occur until 30 minutes after such observation is made.
- Only shooters and course personnel are allowed on the firing line during a firing sequence without specific permission from the range staff.

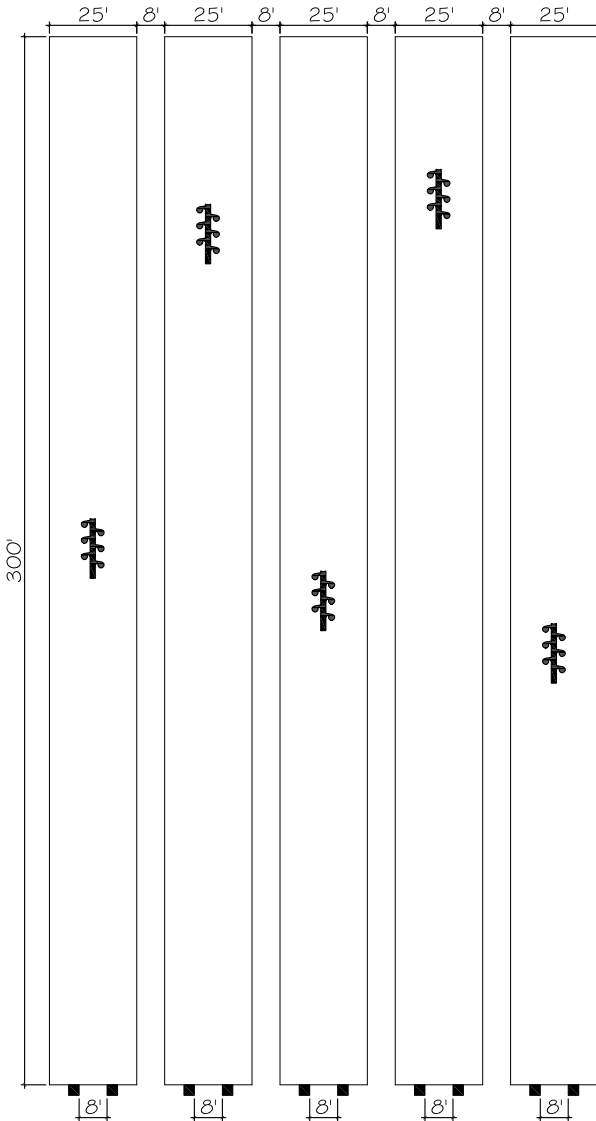


APPENDIX 2

CHALK BALL VENUES



APPENDIX 2



CHALK BALL RANGE

APPENDIX 3

SAMPLE CHALK BALL COURSE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspected by _____ Date _____

√ = Yes

- Controlled access/fencing/gates closed
- Flags or signs displayed
- Left and right range limits displayed
- Backstop/impact area inspected
- Lumber boards painted and visible
- Target frames/mounts in good repair
- Ready line/area marked
- Spectator area designated
- Scoring area established
- Supplies available
- Range staff control area centralized
- System/bullhorn working
- First-aid kit filled/accessible
- Course rules posted
- Bulletin board hung
- Marker racks available
- Empty trash receptacles available
- Storage lockable

APPENDIX 4

CHALK BALL COURSE SAFETY BRIEFING

GENERAL

- Explain that the shooting device is a paintball “marker,” not a paintball “gun.”
- Go over the basic components of the marker: hopper, CO₂ canister, and sights.
- Explain that chalk balls are loaded into the hopper.
- Describe the chalk balls. They have a hard, waxy exterior with powder inside and dimpling on the outside. They hold up better in heat and humidity than regular paintballs. State that any chalk balls on the ground must be left there because they may have already been shot and weakened.
- Point out that CO₂ is the propellant, the tank may get cold while shooting, and the tanks may need to be switched out during shooting.
- Explain that the sight is a basic iron sight. Adjust aiming based on the last shot because the sight is not adjustable.
- Clearly state that the mechanical safety must be on at all times unless the marker is aimed downrange and ready to shoot. Black means the safety is engaged; red means that the safety is off. Do not rely solely on the safety. Keep the barrel pointed at the ground or downrange at all times. Do not point the marker at anything not downrange or at anyone. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

- Pass out eye protection, which should be worn at all times on the course, even when not shooting.
- Take any questions.

QUALIFICATIONS

When markers are used during the briefing, the Range Safety Officer must follow the NRA gun safety rules.

1. PURPOSE OF THE SHOOTING EVENT

- Tell participants that they will engage in chalk ball shooting on the course.
- Explain that each marker will be loaded with 100 chalk balls.
- Demonstrate the safe loading and unloading of each marker they will use.
- Each participant will shoot a total of 100 chalk balls. Instruct them to shoot short bursts at each target and conserve the chalk balls so they can hit each target.
- Range staff will be at each shooting station to provide guidance and instruction. The role of range staff and the RSO is to provide a safe environment for the shoot.

2. COURSE LAYOUT AND LIMITS

- Point out and describe the course layout and explain what stations will be used and which markers will be shot at each station.
- Describe the firing line for each target and explain what the purpose is. Explain when shooters are expected to be at each line.
- Spectators are not allowed on the course and should remain in the staging area until the Scouts return from shooting.

3. COURSE SAFETY RULES

Three fundamental NRA rules for safe marker handling:

Ask: What is the first rule of safe marker handling?

—Always keep the marker pointed in a safe direction.

Ask: What does a “safe direction” mean?

—The marker is pointed so that even if it were to go off, it would not cause injury.

Ask: What is the second rule of safe marker handling?

—Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Ask: Unless shooting, where should the shooter’s finger(s) rest?

—The finger(s) should rest alongside the marker, i.e., on the frame, receiver, or trigger guard.

Ask: What is the third rule of safe marker handling?

—Always keep the marker unloaded until ready to use.

Emphasize that safeties can fail. Safe marker handling rules should be followed all the time!

Rules for safe use

Know your target and what is beyond.

Ask: What is meant by “know your target and what is beyond”?

—The shooter must be sure that projectiles will safely hit the backstop.

Be sure the marker is safe to operate.

Know how to use the marker safely.

Ask: What is meant by “know how to use the marker safely”?

—Shooters need to know how the marker operates, its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action, and how to remove ammunition.

Use only the correct ammunition for your marker.

Ask: What is meant by “use only the correct ammunition”?

—Only ammunition designed for a particular marker can be safely fired in that marker.

—Shooters should ensure that the chalk ball matches the chalk ball box and marker size.

Wear eye protection as appropriate.

Ask: Why should course users wear eye protection?

—Markers can also emit debris, gas, and broken chalk balls that could cause eye injuries.

Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.

Ask: What type of substance is implied by “never use alcohol or drugs”?

—It refers to any substance that may impair normal mental or physical bodily functions.

General course safety rules

Ask course users to read rules as you (range staff) point to course posters or refer to handouts.

- Know and obey all course commands.
- Know where others are at all times.
- Shoot only at authorized targets.
- Do not handle a marker while others are downrange.
- Stop shooting immediately upon the command of “cease firing.”

Ask: Why is it important to shoot only at authorized targets?

- Shooting at different targets, e.g., steel targets, at different distances or angles may result in hazardous conditions.

Ask: What actions should shooters perform during a cease-fire?

- Stop shooting immediately.
- Await further instructions from the range staff.

NRA hygiene guidelines

- Wash your hands and face with cold water after leaving the course or cleaning area before eating or drinking.

Ask: Why are shooters required to leave dropped ammunition on the ground?

- This policy prevents shooters from unintentionally pointing the marker at other users while retrieving dropped ammunition, or inadvertently moving in front of the firing line.

4. FIRING LINE COMMANDS

State and explain standard course commands that will be used for chalk ball:

- “Commence firing!” signals shooters to begin shooting.
- “Cease firing!” notifies shooters to stop firing immediately and wait for further instructions.

Ask: Who can call a cease-fire?

- Anyone on the range who sees something unsafe.
- “Course is clear” means all markers are benched.

5. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Take charge of the situation. (Determine the seriousness of an injury and assign duties.)
- Render aid. A first-aid kit should be centrally located.
- Call for help via radio.
- Direct help to your location.



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