


From: Tricia Gensman tricia@uspsa.org 
Subject: USPSA Junior Program
Date: January 8, 2014 at 1:53 PM
To: Tricia Gensman tricia@uspsa.org



USPSA Junior Program

In Support of Our Future

Greetings!

As was recently announced in Front Sight Magazine, USPSA is reviving its Junior Program (UJP) and absorbing the previous Scholastic Steel Challenge program (SSC). This letter is intended to give you more details and fill you in on key changes. It is by no means inclusive. We've got a long way to go and a lot of work to do, but we're confident that with your help we will rise to the challenge.

Overview

The new USPSA Junior Program will replace the SSC program and will use the established rules of USPSA and SCSA. The difference will be in the broad approach to the new program. By absorbing the smaller, less populated Steel Youth program into the bigger, more established USPSA structure, we will be able to leverage our more than 22,000 members and 405+ clubs to help support and drive the momentum already gained by the Steel Youth program since its inception.

What's Changed?

Not a whole lot, actually. We will continue to offer our juniors an opportunity to compete against their peers for endowment funds, cash, prizes, experience and, most importantly, fun and camaraderie. The most fundamental change from the previous format is it will no longer be strictly limited to only Steel Challenge-type matches. This change allows both a greater range of competition options to our Juniors and makes it easier for more Juniors to participate. It won't require a separate scoring program as it is being integrated into PractiScore (USPSA's new "official" scoring software, soon to be announced so shhhh!) -- already being used to score both USPSA and Steel matches, as well as Multi-Gun. It also won't require a separate rule book as USPSA already has an established and well-respected set of rules. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to reach many more juniors who may be exploring some of these other disciplines. Rather than start them off with a special rulebook and limited opportunities for competition, we'd rather open the sport up to them completely and let them guide us on where they most want to play. They've shown they're capable and competent young men and women and we owe them the respect of a challenging program with many options available to compete and learn and grow. In addition to a new format, we will be adding many other services and opportunities. We have plans for a wider range of scholarships, a community service rewards program, essay contests, postal matches and a junior camp with training from some of the best shots in the country - who also happen to be USPSA members, anxious to help train the next generation. We've already got commitments from Max Michel, Blake Miguez, Rob Leatham and many more on this project and we couldn't be more thrilled with the feedback from some of our youth and their families.

We'll also be offering something no other junior camp does; we'll add in range safety officer training from our renowned NROI Instructor Corps. This will provide exciting opportunities to train from a competitive and a safety/rules standpoint. Many USPSA members claim taking the RO class has made

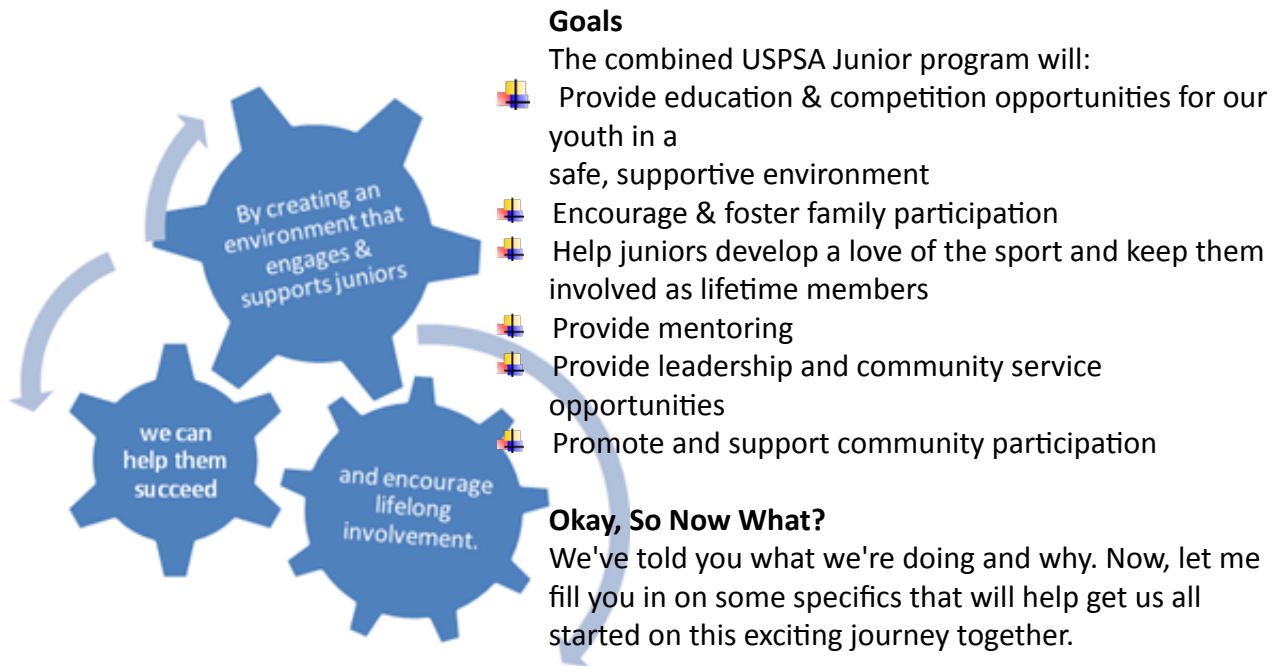
competitive *and* a safety/rules standpoint. Many USPSA members claim taking the RO class has made them better competitors and of course having competitors more familiar with the rulebook is a win/win for us all. USPSA is also currently in the process of negotiating with the NRA to piggy back their training onto ours, giving our juniors an opportunity to receive additional training and certification at camp.

It's our ultimate intention to offer these camps regionally. However, we are starting with one flagship camp in 2014 to work out all the kinks. These camps will be supported by USPSA and its membership and we will offer scholarships and tuition payment programs for families in need.

That's just the tip of the iceberg, but these are the sorts of things USPSA will be able to bring to the table as it absorbs the former SSC. We are developing the needed structure and will strive to keep you all posted via some new communication tools - our new junior website (almost done!), email, Front Sight, a dedicated Facebook UJP Page and a special monthly newsletter, to be produced by and for our junior members and their families.

Already Available Assets

Our members have often expressed a desire to mentor and support our youth shooters. The new USPSA Junior program will give those tens of thousands of members an opportunity to do that -- thus providing a member benefit while also supporting our youth in the ways they most need. This is the core of the new USPSA Junior Program. Whether it's advice on equipment, training, financial sponsorship or just a shoulder, our members are willing to pitch in, if we provide them an opportunity to do so.



Engagement

USPSA is currently updating and redesigning our membership database. This is excellent timing as it allows us the ability to better organize the information we collect in such a way to benefit the program. We'll have an online registration form for the program at the new UJP website. Once live, we will send out a notice for juniors to visit the site and register for the program.

Teams

Teams will consist of juniors and their coach(es). One coach and 4 juniors is all it takes to form a team.

There is no limit to the number of members on a team. Teams must be affiliated with a USPSA club. If you're interested in forming a UJP team, but don't have a local club, let me know. We'll work something out to allow all interested USPSA members to participate. There is no fee to form a team, either to the team or to the club.

Teams will compete in eligible matches for endowment funds through the Midway Foundation. Teams are responsible for all match fees and transportation costs, but we are developing support funds to assist with this burden in future. More details about this aspect of the program will be available in a separate document. **The Midway Foundation funds are subject to the grant approval.*

Team registration will be available on the new UJP website, which is nearing completion now. Additional benefits of the website will appear around April when we will release updates that will allow coaches to manage their teams completely online. We'll have a portal available for coaches to communicate with their teams electronically, register teams and team members, submit grant fund requests, etc.

Once registered you will receive a new team packet and be eligible for grants and supporting matches, just as you were in the past. A separate document outlining all the details of teams, eligible matches, endowment accounts, etc. will be available soon.

Junior Camps

Registration for the junior camp is still under development, but will follow the same sort of process as signing up for a major match online. We're hard at work on all the details involved in the camp such as location, lodging, curriculum, etc. and will keep you all posted as they develop.

How You Can Help

With an increased participation and involvement across both of our organizations we will be looking for your help. We'll need volunteers, coaches, mentors and sponsors. Support can come in many ways; whether you're interested in actually attending and helping out at camps or able to help the juniors organize and produce the newsletter, there's somewhere we can use you. Your support will help us continue to build on the foundation of a stellar program for our youth so please reach out today if you're interested in pitching in.

Thank you for taking the time to be involved with the USPSA Junior Program. Your involvement means more than you can know both to the USPSA and the many juniors whose lives you touch. We are working hard to ensure good communication and support - If you have any questions, feedback, ideas or input, please feel free to email me. We're all in this together and I'm very much looking forward to working with you all!

Warmest Regards,

Tricia Gensman
UJP Coordinator
tricia@uspsa.org
360.855.2245 Voice
360.855.0380 Fax

