

## 2020 North Dakota Junior Olympic Shooting Championship Results

Each year North Dakota junior competitive shooters are offered the opportunity to earn an invitation to compete in the USA Shooting Junior Olympic National Championships. The North Dakota Junior Olympic rifle selection matches were held this past weekend at the Minot Rifle and Pistol Club range, and young shooters from across the state competed with air rifles and smallbore (.22 rimfire) rifles in their effort to earn invitations to compete in the Junior Olympic National Championships which are held annually in the Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

These National Championship matches will be held from April 6<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> this year. There are few things that mean more to youth across America who participate in the shooting sports than the opportunity to compete in the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships (NJOSC). So, these are very important and tough matches for these young people, as they offer the only route to earn an opportunity to compete in the Junior Olympic Nationals. They either shoot a qualifying score during these matches or they simply cannot compete at the Nationals.

Jacob Vaagen, Hannah Vaagen, Lauren Stiven, Nate Steinhaus and Casia Steinhaus, all of whom are junior members of the Lake Region Shooting Sports Association, traveled to Minot to fire the matches. When the firing was complete, Jacob, 17, had earned two gold medals. Jacob's Gold in both the Men's Air Rifle and Men's Smallbore matches automatically earned him an invitation to fire these events in the 2020 JO Nationals. Hannah, 15, finished with a bronze medal for her performance in Women's Smallbore Rifle.

The competition is very tough among these top North Dakota junior shooters, and we are proud to announce that this is the second year in a row that a young man from Devils Lake has won Gold in both the air rifle and smallbore events. Brandon Alexander won them last year, and he is currently a sophomore at NDSU. Brandon is a valuable member of the NDSU Marksmanship Club. Go Bison!

Casia Steinhaus, age 13, in her second experience with this annual qualification match, competed in both air rifle and smallbore rifle. She fired a very competitive score of 558 out of a possible 600, with her air rifle. This is only 2 points below the 560 that USA Shooting has set as the score required for an automatic invitation for someone in her J3 age group. Hannah's air rifle score of 562 and her 550 in smallbore are both strong scores in her J2 age group. After USA Shooting reviews all of the scores fired by juniors across the United States, Casia and Hannah still may receive direct invitations to compete depending on how their scores compare to the others in their age groups across the nation. We will know who, besides Jacob, will be invited sometime before the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

These young people have been training for years in order to earn this invitation to compete at the Olympic Training Center with the best junior air rifle and smallbore rifle shooters in the nation. We wish them all the best. The complete match scores are available on the Orion Results at:

<http://www.orionresults.com/lrssand>