



## Information Letter 2021 – 2022 Season

This letter is intended to answer many of the commonly asked questions about our activities. The Rifle Team is broken down into Varsity and Junior Varsity. All members are selected via a tryout after a mandatory safety clinic. **We welcome new students with no prior experience.**

1. **Does it cost anything to join?** Yes. You must pay a facilities use fee to Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club. The fee is \$40.00/year and it must be submitted after your first practice session if you make one of the teams. (Students who cannot afford this fee are asked to speak confidentially to Mr. Carpenter.) The fee entitles you to use the range while you are engaging in activities as Grasso Tech shooter when accompanied by your Grasso Tech coach. You are not allowed to use the facilities otherwise.
2. **Do I need my own shooting equipment?** No. All equipment is provided free of charge. However, each shooter must bring their own sweatshirt and are encouraged to bring safety glasses and foam earplugs or ear muffs. The team does have some of these items, but it is better to have your own. The club will provide rifles, ammunition, targets, some match and tournament entry fees, and all other materials.
3. **Can I use my own rifle?** Rifles for target shooting are very specialized. Unless you have an adequate target rifle equipped with micrometer sights, heavy barrel, equipment rail, and approved by the coach, you must use club equipment. You are encouraged to purchase your own equipment, but please seek the advice of a coach before making any investment.
4. **What is shooting like?** During the regular season we fire on the indoor 50-foot range. Four different body positions are required, prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing. For your initial training you will use a Marlin 2000, Winchester 52, or Kimber M12 rifle. Our practices and competitions will utilize 22 caliber Long Rifle ammunition.
5. **When is practice?** Practice is held on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM.
6. **Where is practice?** Practice is held at the Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club on Oxoboxo Dam Rd. in Oakdale, CT. Directions are available and will be issued upon request.
7. **How do I get to practice?** The school generally offers an activity bus to take members to practice. Parents are responsible for picking up their students after practice. All members should be picked up at Quaker Hill R&G C by 6:00 PM at the latest. **Car-pooling is encouraged. Please call us if you can assist.**
8. **How long is the season?** Practice/safety training commences in late-October and the competitive season starts in December and ends in mid-March at the latest.

9. **Suppose I do not make the varsity team, can I still shoot? YES!** It takes time to develop the skills of a competitive shooter. Continue to practice and compete as a member of the junior varsity team. As openings develop on the varsity team, you might be picked up. Furthermore, the J.V. team may compete in a number of additional tournaments. If you do not make either the Varsity or JV teams, there is a Junior shooting program at the Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club that is open to new members. They operate on Friday evenings from October to April
10. **With whom does the team compete?** The team is a member of the Connecticut State High School Rifle League and fires in the Mohegan/Pequot Conference against teams from Montville High School, and Wilcox Tech. The school provides transportation for these events. The Tech School teams also are members of the Constitution State Conference and will compete in a three-team (Wilcox Tech & Vinal Tech) shoulder to shoulder tournament at the end of the season.
11. **How does one join the Rifle Team?** You are required to do four things.
- Step One:** Attend an informational meeting after school – Sept. 22, 2021 at 6:00p Virtual.
- Step Two:** Before the safety clinic (by Oct 18<sup>th</sup>) you must submit proof of a physical examination within the last year. (Physical forms are available at the School Nurse) The school no longer provides a physical for free, so you must go to your own doctor unless you participate in the school based health center. The State also has an Athletic participation form that must be submitted to the School Nurse.
- Step Three:** Attend Safety Clinic on October 19<sup>th</sup> and the Tryout Match on October 21<sup>st</sup>
- Step Four:** If you make either the Varsity or Junior Varsity teams it will be necessary for you to pay the facility use fee for Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club. Submit a check or money order for \$40.00 to Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club after your first practice. Cash is discouraged.

All members are expected to make a commitment to the team. You will be expected to attend all practices and if you don't believe that you can make such a commitment please consider your involvement carefully. Practice time and ammunition are expensive so only serious students should apply please.

A fundraiser will also take place for all of those who are selected for the teams. All team members are expected to participate in the fundraiser. The money will be used to off-set the cost of uniforms, needed equipment and targets.

Finally, remember that participation in the Grasso Tech Rifle Team is a privilege, which depends upon the maintenance of acceptable grades, good behavior, and satisfactory attendance. Violations of school codes of conduct or of local, state or federal law will prevent selection and will result in removal from the team. Also, the Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club can deny access to those with such violations. This determination is up to the coach and principal.

Thank you for your interest in our sport.

*Mr. Shawn Carpenter*, Head Coach

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