



Information Letter 2026 – 2027 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 to try out.**

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 \$45.00/season and must be submitted at 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 or Mrs. Jameson.) The fee entitles you to use the range while you are engaging in activities as a Grasso Tech shooter when accompanied by your Grasso Tech coach(s). 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 earmuffs. The team does have some of these items, but it is better to have your own. The school/club will provide rifles, ammunition, targets, some match and tournament entry fees, and all other materials.
3. **Can I use my own rifle?** **Maybe.** Rifles for target shooting are very specialized and can be expensive. 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. Students that make the team will generally get issued an upgraded rifle based on skill level and as they become available.
5. **When is practice?** Practice is held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM.
6. **Where is practice?** Practice is held at the Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club, 261 Oxoboxo Dam Rd, 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 at Quaker Hill R&G C by 6:00 PM at the latest. **Car-pooling is encouraged. Please let us know if you can assist.**
8. **How long is the season?** Safety Clinic & Practice commences in late-October and the competitive season starts in December and ends in early-March at the latest.
9. **Suppose I don't 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 JV team may compete in 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. Generally, students that do not make the team are welcome to tryout the following year. We have had many students try out again the next year and have done very well.

10. **With whom does the team compete?** The team is a member of the Connecticut State High School Rifle League and fires in the Pequot Conference against teams from Vinal Tech, Parish Hill HS, and Wilcox Tech. The school provides transportation for these events. The Tech School teams are also members of the Connecticut Technical Conference and will compete in a three-team (Wilcox Tech & Vinal Tech) shoulder to shoulder tournament at the end of the season. In addition, the team will take part in at least two other statewide/national tournaments.

11. **How does one join the Rifle Team?** You are required to do four things.

Step One: Complete the Sign-up form on the via ParentSquare and your physical needs to be approved by the nurse before the safety clinic (Oct 9th)

Step Two: Attend the virtual informational meeting – Sept. 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Step Three: Attend Safety Clinic on October 13th and the Tryout Match on October 15th or 20th. *(The second tryout date may be necessary depending on interest)*

Grasso Tech Shooting Program Waiver form will need to be handed in before you can attend the clinic. Should be handed in no later than Oct 2nd for returnees and Oct 9th for students trying out.

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 \$45.00 to Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club at the first practice. Check or Money Order is preferred. Cash is discouraged. First Practice is scheduled for October 27, 2026. (subject to change)

All invited members are expected to make a commitment to the team. You will be expected to attend all practices and matches you qualify for. If you don't believe that you can make such a commitment, please consider your involvement carefully. You may be holding up a spot for someone else that is willing to make that commitment. Practice time and ammunition are also expensive so only serious students should apply. **Please Note: You will not be able to compete in another Winter Sport (Basketball & Indoor Track) while participating in Rifle as it is a Winter Sport.**

A fundraiser will also be held 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 offset the cost of uniforms, needed equipment and targets. Donations will be accepted via the PFO.

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. This determination is up to the coach and principal. Also, the Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club can deny access to those with such violations.

Thank you for your interest in our sport. We look forward to working with you.

Mr. Shawn Carpenter, Head Coach & *Mrs. Sandi Jameson*, Assistant Coach