-Fact Sheet–

Black Hills High School Rifle Team

Updated 9/2026

1. The BHHS Rifle Team competes in the Northwest Evergreen High School Rifle League, which includes Black Hills, Tumwater, Centralia, and W.F. West (Chehalis) High Schools.

2. Training usually begins in mid-October. Matches start in December and run through February. "Home" and "away" matches are held on Mondays at 4 pm.

3. We train on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:45-5 p.m. at Capitol City Rifle & Pistol Club's indoor range. To maximize training time, it's best to arrive directly after school.

4. CCRPC is located 1.5 miles south of Littlerock at 14318 Littlerock Rd SW, Rochester, WA 98579. Driving time from BHHS is about 15 minutes. More information about CCRPC, including driving directions, can be found at www.ccrpclub.org

5. The indoor range can accommodate 21 shooters and has an adjacent meeting room. CCRPC has provided range facilities at no cost for Tumwater and Black Hills High schools shooting teams for several years, along with the State League team, the Capitol City Juniors.

6. Students use Anschutz .22 caliber bolt action rifles. The rifles are single-shot, meaning only one bullet can be loaded and fired at a time. They are the standard for High School, College, and Olympic competitions and are considered the safest type of firearm.

7. Safety is paramount. All participants must pass a written safety exam. Each student will receive safety training and equipment familiarization and must demonstrate proper firearm and range safety knowledge before firing.

8. Safety is non-negotiable. We're very patient with novices who want to improve their skills. However, shooters who violate safety rules will be retrained and/or benched. Subsequent violations may result in the student being dropped from the team. We won't risk team safety for someone who can't or won't participate in our safety program.

9. Competitive shooting requires focus, self-discipline, and hours of practice. Listening to the coaches is mandatory, as is dedicated participation not only in matches but also in practice and attendance. While it doesn't require the size and strength of football players, the rifles weigh 8-12 lbs. Shooters are urged to develop strength and flexible training regimes.

10. We are considered an off-campus club by the school district. We receive great support from the leadership and facility at Black Hills High School.

—Questions and Answers—

Q: Is shooting a man's sport?
A: Definitely not. More and more women are getting into the shooting sports. Some of this state's best shooters are female. In previous years, we have had up to 50% female shooters and female co-captains for consecutive years.

Q: Isn't it expensive?
A: You'll be asked to sell $300 worth of raffle tickets (30 tickets) to cover ammunition and other supplies and must purchase a BHHS ASB membership (currently $40) each year. We provide competition-grade rifles and other non-consumable equipment. Eventually, you may want your own equipment, but for now, use team equipment to learn what works best for you. (Fees may be adjusted each season)

Q: How do I get to practice?
A The school does not provide bus transportation to shooting practice or matches. You'll have to carpool, have your parents drive or ask other team members' parents to drive. All students must have a driver release form from the School District to either drive themselves or ride with another adult (students may not transport other students per School District insurance policies).

Q: I like "individual" sports, so shooting should really work for me.
A Yes, it's one person per rifle and you're the one firing the shot. But remember the earlier parts about safety and getting to the range? This is a team sport, and we need members who benefit the entire team. The Varsity and JV teams are made up of five athletes each and scores are combined to determine the winner of the match.

Members and volunteer parents are also needed for scoring targets, maintaining equipment, making sure the firing line is safe, helping to coach the younger athletes, and cleaning up the range when we're finished. That would be you. We need team members who are willing to help.

Q: With 21 spaces at the range, it sounds like we'll have a lot of shooters.
A: Currently, we have four adult coaches who alternate. One coach can safely train and supervise five shooters. Raising the shooters-to-supervisors ratio reduces safety, and we can't do that. Without help from parents or community volunteers, we may need to reduce team size.

Q: As a parent, what can I do to help?
A: We need parent volunteers to help with scoring targets (scanned and scored through a computer program), transportation, becoming range safety officers and/or certified coaches, and fundraising efforts. Any help from anyone will be greatly appreciated.

Q: Where do I and my parents get more information?
A: Within the first few weeks of the school year, a Club Day will be on campus. We will have information about the Rifle Team and scheduled parents and students meeting within a couple weeks of Club Day. Parents can also contact:

Coach Shawn McKernan	shawn@mclmlandscape.com	cell (360) 970-5721
Coach John Fulton	johndfulton@hotmail.com	cell (360)878-0636

Activities Director Dale Reeves dale.reeves@tumwater.k12.wa.us