

# DAISY'S INTERNATIONAL BB & AIRGUN CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

BY: ANDY FINK



I had never heard of an international BB gun Championship until visiting with Daisy at the 2008 Shot Show. There is one held every year in Bowling Green, Kentucky at the Basketball Annex at Western Kentucky University and it is put on by Daisy.

Was your first gun a BB gun? If it was, I'll bet you it was a Daisy. Do you remember the thrill of that first shot and hitting your target? If you aren't involved in shooting maybe it is time to start with a BB gun. Are you interested, or know someone who is interested in getting involved in shooting? Not only are BB guns and airguns a great way to get started; shooting them is a lot of fun. Just about anyone can shoot them and learn to do it well and learn safe gun handling at the same time. Knowledge of safe gun handling is a skill that everyone should have even if they don't compete in the competitive shooting sports.

Did you realize that starting out with your Daisy BB gun or an airgun could lead to a college scholarship or the Olympics? It certainly can. A number of colleges have shooting teams and offer scholarships. The Olympic Games has airgun, smallbore, and shotgun shooting sports as official medal sports. You could be an Olympian from the humble beginning of starting out shooting a BB gun and qualifying for a team at the Daisy International BB Championship!

2008 was the 43<sup>rd</sup> year for the BB Gun Championship while the Daisy Airgun Championship has been going on for a number of years as well. Daisy is not only the main sponsor but also the organizer, promoter, and director of the match with the support of the NRA, clubs, coaches, and other individuals contributing their time. It is always the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Practice is on Friday, you shoot on Saturday and Sunday with the awards on Sunday. Opening ceremonies for the BB Championship are on Friday where each team marches in just like in the



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Olympics. Wow, what a thrill for these kids! I was very impressed with not only their skill, but also their patience, good manners, behavior, and maturity.

This year there were 33 teams and sixteen states represented at the Daisy International BB Championship. Each member and team exhibited fairness, good sportsmanship, discipline, and a great attitude. It was evident that all of their parents and coaches have worked hard at instilling life skills as part of their progress in learning to shoot. These kids had a ball! Many of them had competed in the past at the Daisy event while others had siblings, or even parents, who had previously competed.

Naturally, the primary firearm was the Daisy Avanti 499 BB gun which retails for \$179.99. Daisy's President and CEO, Ray Hobbs, was at the championships opening night ceremony. He agreed to keep the price on the Daisy 499 at \$179.99 for 2009! This BB gun has an excellent adjustable peep sight and a hooded front sight with aperture inserts, and it is extremely accurate at 5 meters. Check it out at [www.daisy.com](http://www.daisy.com). They have all sorts of

information like how to select an airgun, firearm education, and safety.

Mr. Hobbs also did something else that will especially be appreciated by all of the coaches and teams. He pledged \$1,000 to each team that qualifies for, and attends, the International BB Championship match in 2009. That means they must have competed in a qualifying state match and placed first, second or third place for the right to attend the IBBGCM. All registrations must be in by May 22nd. The \$1,000 will be distributed to the coaches at the IBBGCM in Bowling Green and may be used at their discretion.

It is easy to learn how to use the Daisy 499 and in a competition format each BB is loaded one at a time through the muzzle of the barrel prior to cocking the lever. Remember, with the kind of precision and physical effort required in these matches, the competitor's breathing and heart rate increases, so after each shot is completed and the next one is fired, the competitor needs to relax their breathing and then focus on a single dot five meters





away. For all those adults out there who think they can shoot, well, let me tell you, this is a tough, tough sport. The skill that these youngsters show is amazing. I wish I was half as good. The learning experience they receive definitely prepares them to be championship shooters.

I told you about the Daisy competition BB gun that is used for the championship. What I didn't tell you was that some of the kids make sure these are some of the prettiest BB guns ever. They get very creative as to how the stocks are painted and carved and Daisy even has a competition for the best looking BB gun. Everyone has a lot of fun with it.

Saturday night is Barter Bar. All of the kids and coaches come and put items they have brought from their state or city to trade. Shooting pins are one of the top items featured and I saw quite a few Olympic pins. This was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed it.

Okay, okay! You still want to know what a BB gun competition is and especially how to get in an event such as the Daisy championships. BB gun competitions are held across the country and are organized sports under NRA rules for BB gun competition. They are open to any youngster 15 years old or younger. They must be an NRA member and belong to an NRA affiliated junior club or association. Even non-U.S. Citizens who are also non-residents that are members in good standing of their own national association may compete. Seven person teams made up of boys and girls compete, with five primary members for whom the score counts and two alternates. There are local club teams composed of members residing in the same state and open club teams composed of various club members who do not reside in the same state. Competitions are very organized and safety always comes first.

Official NRA Bulls eye five meter BB gun match targets are used where the eight, nine, and 10 rings are black. The rings are extremely small with the thickness of the 10-ring being 0.125 inches, nine-ring 0.425, eight-ring 0.725, seven-ring 1.025 inches, increasing 0.300 inches per ring. Each target sheet has 12 targets, with the two in the middle, being for sighting shots. The targets are shot from four different positions: prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing. Ten shots are fired from each of the four positions resulting in 40 record shots for the match plus sighting shots. The finals consist of the top eight competitors with 10 shots fired from the standing position.

One of the other interesting things Daisy does for this contest is hold a 50 question true or false test which covers firearms, safety, and shooting areas. It is a great idea and the kids seem to not only enjoy it, but strive to be the best. It is a part of the overall contest with trophies awarded for high team, and the most improved team.

The overall winner for the Daisy International BB Championship with the highest aggregate score was Laura Riegel with a score of 386 out of a possible 400. The highest aggregate alternate member was Blake Vanleer who had a score of 380 out of 400. The team with the highest score was the South Dakota Pierre Jr. Shooters and the most improved team was the Patrick County 4H Shooters.

If you want to know detailed results, how to enter, and the teams that competed, check out [www.ibbgcm.com](http://www.ibbgcm.com) which has just about all the information you need. For more photos taken at the event go to [www.juniorshooters.net](http://www.juniorshooters.net). See if your photo is there. Individual articles written by competitors will also be posted at [www.juniorshooters.net](http://www.juniorshooters.net) in the near future. See what your friends have to say.

Though from time to time there have been international teams competing, the competition is called international as the event goes by international rules. The NRA has the NRA BB Gun Rule



book which defines the rules and shooting positions and can be acquired, along with official targets, directly from the NRA at [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org) or call (800) 336-7402.

The Daisy USJCC Junior Open Air Gun Championship continues after the BB championship and has its own match the following two days (Monday and Tuesday). You shoot both days and the awards are on Tuesday. Many of the shooters compete in both the BB and airgun competition as the airguns use pellets and there are two classes, sporter and precision. The airgun championship is governed by the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule book. This rule book is available from the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council at Camp Perry and the events are run under the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). You can them at [competitions@odcmp.com](mailto:competitions@odcmp.com) or call (419) 635-2141.

The airgun championship is made up of four person teams. Awards are given for each position prone, kneeling, sitting, and standing. There are two types of classes which define what type of airgun you can compete with, sporter or precision. The precision class uses very fine adjustable sights and the shooter usually wears a shooting jacket, shooting pants, and even special shoes to limit any movement as the trigger is pulled.

The amount of concentration I saw by the youngsters shooting in both the sporter and precision class was awesome. These juniors were focused! They took time between each shot and they knew what they were doing. I am hoping I saw a few future Olympians at the event. Additional photos are available at [www.juniorshooters.net](http://www.juniorshooters.net). Check it out.

Congratulations to all of the juniors who competed and please go out and talk to your peers in school and friends about joining the shooting sports.

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[www.ibbgcm.com](http://www.ibbgcm.com)

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National Rifle Association NRA BB Gun Rules:  
[www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org)

Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP):  
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Junior shooters events and photos:  
[www.juniorsshooters.net](http://www.juniorsshooters.net)

