

## 2021 Rules - FAQ for Non-traditional education students

As you may know, NASP® was developed to introduce students in grades 4 – 12 to the sport of archery. Very early in the development of NASP® the decision was made to require NASP® to be implemented as an in-school program as a portion of a physical education curriculum. Initially, public schools were the focus of the program. As the popularity and competitive aspects of NASP® grew, more and more types of schools became interested.

While the “required in-school lessons, followed with after school teams” model worked for most schools, some types of schools simply did not meet this model the same way other schools did.

In order to balance the requirements of NASP® and the desire to allow as many groups as possible to participate, NASP® has developed the following school model.

NASP® has designated (2) different types of schools. A *Traditional* school is a “brick and mortar” type of school, with administrators, supervisors, and teachers, recognized as a SCHOOL by the Department of Education. Students gather in classrooms to receive instruction in a face to face manner from teachers/instructors. This includes most public schools, private schools, and charter schools.

*Non-traditional* schools are all other forms of education.

When NASP® initially permitted non-traditional student groups to participate, the stipulation was that the groups must gather first and foremost for educational purposes and only then could they form teams. After researching how the educational component was implemented, we discovered that our requirement was not reasonable. This is because most non-traditional groups did not gather to receive the majority of their education, in fact, most received all if not most of their education from their home via electronic means or other delivery methods. In addition, many students were associated with multiple groups/co-ops to receive additional components of their education.

With this in mind, NASP® realized that a better system was needed to organize and group non-traditional schools and students. After discussing many different options, NASP® has opted to use the geographic boundary of a county, parish, or borough to define a non-traditional school. Not only does this system define the specific “school” that the student can represent, it also matches the NASP® “small school” model. This also builds and defines a “school” for where these non-traditional students must receive the required in-school lessons.

**Special Note:** With the current COVID-19 special operating guidelines and procedures to get kids back to school (if sports activities are taking place), the school of enrollment will remain their NASP® school. In other words, if traditional schools are requiring students to participate in distance learning through on-line education to maintain their progress and grades. Those students are still members of the traditional school they are enrolled in and remain under those associated NASP® rules.

**FAQ:**

**Q: Why is there a need to restrict the size of a non-traditional school?**

A: If non-traditional schools are permitted to recruit from a boundary larger than any traditional school or district, it creates a competitive advantage over traditional schools.

The county, parish, and borough boundary also provides a reasonable area to implement the in-school lessons and to determine the enrollment numbers for “shooting-up” requests.

**Q: Can there be more than one non-traditional school per county, parish, or borough?**

A: Yes. A recognized school can make a request to the state/provincial NASP® coordinator for the establishment of a geographical sub-boundary within the county, parish, or borough. This boundary must be a sub-boundary of the initial boundary and all students of this team must reside within any established boundary. An approval would allow more than one school within a county, parish, or borough.

Traditional school students do not have an option for choosing the school to represent. They are limited by school district established boundaries. Limiting non-traditional schools by geographic boundary provides reasonable equity.

**Q: Can a non-traditional school have multiple teams?**

A: Yes. Non-traditional students will be grouped under a single school name by their state and county or geographical area. Within that single school, they could have:

High school team 1,2,3...

Middle school team 1,2,3...

Elementary school team 1,2,3...

**Q: What does this mean if you are already a part of a homeschool team?**

A: Coaches of existing homeschool teams can continue to coach a team. If archers are all from the same county, parish, or borough; it can continue, under a different name. Schools will be named by state abbreviation, then county – Example: (Ky, Franklin School); Then by the division within that school. All teams will be from a single county, parish, borough or Sub-division of one of those areas. All team members are required to reside in the area the school team represents. The coach/BAI can work with their respective state/provincial coordinator to have the school name changed to the new format in the NASP® software System. The maximum area any one school may represent is a county, parish, or borough.

If a county does not have enough students to create a team, students in that region will shoot as individuals under the non-traditional school name for their county of residence.

**Q: My current non-traditional team has archers from multiple counties. Does that mean that they can no longer participate?**

A: No, not at all. The only difference will be the name of the “school” that the archer will represent. Each county will have their own school and each archer will shoot for their county, parish, or borough. There are many public schools where the same individual coaches more than one school and often those schools practice together. The non-traditional schools can work the same or each county team can have a different coach. If a county no longer has enough archers to form a team, it may be possible to recruit more archers when offering/teaching the required “in-school” lessons to all other non-traditional students in that county.

**Q: Why do I have to provide a verifiable number of non-traditional students by grade in my county if I want to allow younger archers to join a higher division (shoot up)?**

A: NASP® only permits traditional schools with an enrollment of less than 150 students in a division to shoot up. Many of these schools have enrollment numbers of 1000 students or more but may not be able to recruit enough archers to form a team. NASP® must hold non-traditional schools to the same standard. If a verifiable number of non-traditional students cannot be obtained, shooting up will not be permitted (just like for traditional schools).

**Q: What if my county, parish, or borough currently has more than one non-traditional school team?**

A: In this case student archers will need to be combined into a single school using the required naming convention mentioned above. While not required, the current non-traditional teams should consider combining into a single team if possible. This will allow better in-school and after-school program management as well as a more cohesive environment for students. If combining into a single team under one school is not an option, a non-traditional school may make a request to the state/provincial coordinator to establish a geographical sub-region, to allow for more than one school within a county, parish, or borough. This request will need to include justification for the new region and total student numbers for the new region. All archers for this school must reside within the region the team represents. Each school can have more than one team per division and be managed/coached by different BAIs (like traditional schools). When advancing to the next level of competition, these multiple teams may combine to form a single team if desired (like traditional schools).

**Q: If a traditional school and the non-traditional school (in the same Region) each have less than 150 students in a division, can the traditional school and non-traditional school, in the same county, combine students to create a team?**

A: Yes, under the small school rule, if both schools submit their request and student numbers, and receive approval from the state NASP® coordinator.

**Q: If some traditional schools have students from multiple counties enrolled, why can't non-traditional schools do the same?**

A: A traditional (brick and mortar style) school has a defined student population simply based on the students that are enrolled in (and attend) that physical school on a daily basis. In some cases, these students come from multiple counties but are part of the school's defined student population because that is where they receive all of their classroom instruction. Non-traditional schools simply do not have the same method of defining their school population since those students do not "come together" to receive all of their education in the same physical location on a daily basis. So, we were tasked with defining a reasonable "student population" for non-traditional schools. To make it manageable for all, the decision was made to use county as the basis for defining the student population. Not only is this easy to define and explain, it also should make it more likely that total student population numbers could be attained if a non-traditional school would like to shoot up.