

## 2009 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational GENERAL RULES

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational follows the guidelines for National 4-H Competitive Events as established by National 4-H Headquarters at the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). See: <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/comevent.pdf>

By entry in these events, the team coach or shooting sports program coordinator is verifying that the youth entered are knowledgeable and proficient in the safe use of the equipment and the fundamentals of the event. Match and/or range officials may dismiss or disqualify a participant if he/she believes the participant does not demonstrate the basic proficiency and knowledge required.

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational consists of 9 disciplines with 3 events in each:

Discipline	Event 1	Event 2	Event 3
Archery Compound	Field Round (1/2 Field Round)	FITA Round (1/2 FITA)	3-D Round
Archery Recurve	FITA Round (1/2 FITA)	Field Round (1/2 Field Round)	3-D Round
Air Pistol	Slow Fire - Bullseye	Air Pistol Silhouette	Timed Fire/Rapid Fire Combo
Air Rifle	National STD Three-position Sporter Air Rifle	Sporter Air Rifle Event (Standing)	NRA Sporter Air Rifle Silhouette
Hunting	Wildlife Identification and Management	Hunter Decision-Making	Hunting Skills
Muzzle-Loading	50 Yard Bullseye	25 Yard Novelty – Bottles and Haffner Critters Combo	Muzzleloading Rifle Silhouette
Shotgun	Sporting Clays	Skeet	Trap
Smallbore Pistol	Slow-Fire Bullseye – Single Stage	Smallbore Hunter Pistol Silhouette	Camp Perry Round (modified)
Smallbore Rifle	NRA Smallbore Silhouette Rifle	CMP Rimfire Sporter Rifle Match	NRA Three-Position

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## PARTICIPATION

**4-H Membership** – All 4-H Shooting Sports members in good standing are eligible to compete in 4-H shooting sports events, subject to limitations imposed by the specific event and the rules for active membership instituted by their state. Official 4-H enrollment is required.

**Age Requirement** – Participants must have past their 14th birthday by January 1 of the current year and may not have passed their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current year in which the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational is held.

**Official Entry**– Participants and teams must be approved as the official entry by the State 4-H Program Leader or his/her designee. The selection of participants is at the discretion of the State 4-H Program, or the Land Grant University, in which the 4-H Shooting Sports Program resides. A state event does not have to be held to select participants for the national event.

**Individual Participation** – Individual participants may compete in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational, and are eligible for individual recognition and awards.

**Team Composition** - Teams are composed of no less than 3 or no more than 4 individuals. Each land grant university, operating a state 4-H Shooting Sports Program is limited to one team per discipline, with a maximum of 36 participants overall.

**Team Representation** - No participant may be a member of more than one team or represent more than one 4-H Shooting Sports program. All members or any team in 4-H events must meet all eligibility requirements, per the sponsoring 4-H Shooting Sports program.

**Event Participation** – Each of the nine disciplines of competition consists of three different events. A team (or individual) is restricted to participation in only one discipline of competition. Participants are expected to compete in all three events within the discipline which they entered. Individual and team awards are offered in each event as well as an overall discipline award – which is a composite score of all 3 events.

**Repeat Participation** - An individual may enter the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational repeatedly, but may only compete in a specific discipline once. If the participant has competed in the events of one of the nine disciplines of the National Invitational, they cannot return to compete in the same discipline events – but may return and compete in a different discipline.

**Substitutions** - A team may send a substitute for a registered participant who is unable to attend the Invitational. Substitutes will be accepted until the state contact picks up the official registration materials at the Invitational. Substitutes must have the written approval of the state Shooting Sports Coordinator and meet all other eligibility requirements for participation in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational.

**Post-Secondary Restriction** – Participants may not engage in training for any post-secondary competition in the discipline which they are competing in at national 4-H competitive events. This would include either “club” sports or official collegiate athletics/sports. i.e. If a youth is practicing with others for the college rifle team, he/she may not compete in rifle at the national match.

## RANGE AND FACILITIES

- No privately owned golf carts, ATV's, club cars or similar vehicles will be permitted on the grounds at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational. Individuals can rent golf carts from the Heartland Public Shooting Park. Call (308) 390-1900 for details and reservations.
- Only factory loaded ammunition will be permitted. The Heartland Public Shooting Park does have ammunition for sale. Individuals are requested to pre-order by June 1<sup>st</sup> the needed amount of ammunition by contacting (308) 390-1900.
- No food or drink may be brought into the Heartland Events Center. Food vendors will be available at the Heartland Public Shooting Park and the Heartland Events Center.

## CHECK-IN AND FIREARMS

Firearms, bows, arrows, air rifles & pistols, and other equipment must be checked-in with range/event officials prior to beginning the official competition. Equipment must meet the requirements established by event rules. During official check-in, officials will provide a second chance for youth with equipment not in compliance. In addition, range/event officials may perform a spot check on equipment, accessories and ammunition anytime during official practices or competition. Non-compliant equipment, accessories or ammunition discovered during competition will result in disqualification.

All firearms and air guns are required to utilize the appropriate safety indicator [Clear Barrel Indicators (CBI), Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI)] with the action open during check-in (in the case and during inspection).

## PRACTICE ROUNDS

Fees associated with practice rounds at the Heartland Public Shooting Park are as follows:

- Practice rounds for trap and skeet - \$3.50/25 targets
- Practice rounds for sporting clays - \$7.00/50 targets
- Practice rounds on Wednesday, June 24 for rifle, pistol and muzzleloading - \$7.50

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Medical Consent Form & Adult Supervision** - It is the responsibility of each team to have the appropriate state health consent and release forms for each participant. An adult supervisor or coach should be present at the event site, with immediate access to the forms anytime their youth are participating in an event. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program and host institution are not responsible for medical authorizations or health histories of the participants.

**Safety** – Safety is the highest priority for range staff, participants, coaches, and spectators. Standard accepted safety rules will be followed at all times, special safety considerations will be announced at each venue. The Match Director, Range officers, or other event staff may dismiss anyone from the range for unsafe behavior. The score may be forfeited, participant disqualified, or spectators barred at the discretion of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational staff.

**Cell Phones** – The use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices is not permitted during competition by participants or coaches and must be turned off and unavailable.

**Eye and Ear Protection Requirement** – For all firearm events, eye and ear protection is required. All participants and other persons on or in the immediate vicinity of the firing line, including coaches, range officials and any spectators must wear adequate eye protection (glasses or goggles) and ear protection. The equipment must protect both eyes. For air events, only eye protection is required; and eye protection is strongly recommended but not required for archery events.

## **REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS**

**Participants with Physical Disabilities** – A participant who because of physical disability cannot fire from one or more of the prescribed shooting positions outlined in these rules, or who must use special equipment when firing, may petition for permission to assume a special position or to use modified equipment or both. This petition will be in the form of a written request from the individual participant to the Committee (match director) outlining in detail the reasons why the special position must be assumed or the special equipment must be used. The petition will be accompanied by pictures of the participant in the position desiring approval and, if special equipment is required; the picture will show how this equipment is used. The petition and all pictures must be furnished in exact duplicate. The petition must be accompanied by a medical doctor's statement if the physical disability is not completely evident in the pictures submitted. Only a qualified individual with a disability is eligible for reasonable accommodation. An individual with a disability, for purposes of reasonable accommodation, is defined as a person who has a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.

### **Filing a Petition for Accommodations:**

(a) Each petition will be reviewed by the 4-H National Invitational Committee. The Committee may require additional or supplementary statements or pictures. After review the Match Director will be instructed by the committee to issue special authorization to individuals who submit petitions and pictures which have been approved. Such certificates will have necessary pictures attached.

(b) Participants who have received special authorization will be required to carry them when competing and to present the certificate when requested by officials of the match. In the case of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by such a participant, the range officials will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the participant. Holders of current NRA authorizations will be honored as valid authorizations but the Match Director must be informed at earliest date possible and not later than at the time of entry.

## SCORING PROCEDURES & AWARDS

**Awards** - Awards will be presented to the top 5 teams and top 10 individuals for each daily competitive event. Awards will also be presented to the "overall" top 5 teams and top 10 individuals in each of the 9 discipline categories.

Medals - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place team members/individuals

Ribbons - 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> place team members; 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> place individuals

**Scoring** - Raw score is used in determining placements in the daily competitive events. (highest score wins). Overall awards are determined by placement points (points assigned for each "place") in all 3 events...not by a compilation of daily raw scores.

Purpose of placement points: To equalize the value of each daily event; i.e. so that the Silhouette event (40 shots/points) has the same value as the 3P event (60shots/600 pts); AND to equalize the value of each discipline when determining the Tom Davidson award. To accomplish this, each event must have the same point value for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.

Each individual and each team will be assigned a placement point value after daily scores are recorded, tie breaks are made, and final ranking for the day is determined. Placement points from each daily event are totaled for each team and individual to determine the overall awards/ranking.

Actual point value of each placement at the National Invitational is determined by the discipline/event with the most registrations. Example: if Air Rifle discipline has the most number of individuals (68) and teams (21), placing points for individuals in all events will be 1<sup>st</sup>- 68; 2<sup>nd</sup>- 67; 3<sup>rd</sup>- 66; 4<sup>th</sup>- 65; etc. Placing points for teams would begin with 21 for first, 20 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 19 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.

**Team Scoring**-The high three scores from team participants for the day will count toward the daily team score. If there are 4 members to a team, the low score for the day will be dropped. States with less than 3 competitors are not eligible for team awards.

**State Sweepstakes Award** - The Tom Davidson Trophy (traveling trophy) will be awarded to the state with the most team placing points. States finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the sweepstakes will be recognized publically during the Awards Ceremony. In order for all events to contribute equally to the state sweepstakes award, the overall team awards are based upon placing points.

## COACHING

**Coaches** – Each team shall be officially represented by only one coach. This coach is the only adult permitted to discuss procedures, ask questions, or advocate for his/her team with range officials. This coach should be designated on the entry form and approved by the appropriate State 4-H Program Leader and State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

**Event Coaching** - As a general rule, limited coaching at the event site is permitted. However, coaching must never disturb other participants. Each state is limited to 1 "coach" per event. A coaching line will be established on each range - behind the participant's area and firing line and separate from the spectator area. Except during preparation time, coaches are to stay

behind the firing line and in the coaching area. Coaches may assist the participant during prep time only. Once shooting for record begins, no coaching is permitted unless the participant asks permission from the range officer. Any request for coach assistance must be initiated by the participant; the coach may not initiate contact with the participant. The participant will put down their equipment, make it safe, leave the line, and then go talk to their coach. Coaches may ask the line officer to have their youth member come back to talk, but may not initiate contact with the participant. Coaches may not handle firearms or equipment after the match begins nor advance to the firing line unless authorized by the range officer. A coach may set up his/her own spotting equipment. Please note that specific coaching instructions may be issued at the range for each event.

**Spotters/Scorers in silhouette matches** - State Teams will be split into different shooting relays and teammates will spot for one another (2 per relay). Quiet conversation between the spotter and the participant is permissible. An official scorer, not from the same team, will be assigned to each participant to record hits and misses.

## CONDUCT

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational is a youth event, as such the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages, during an event or on the grounds of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational is not permitted. Violation of this policy by a participant is grounds for dismissal from the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational.

**Dress Code** - Participants are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they will participate. Team uniforms or shirts are encouraged, but not required. Both young people and adults should wear attire appropriate for the weather while remaining modest and socially acceptable. Clothing with sexually suggestive wording or graphics; and alcohol or tobacco advertisement is not appropriate. Range officials have the final word concerning the dress code and may announce or address specific cases. All participants and coaches should remember that they may be having photographs taken or be asked to interview for the media. Remember that you represent all of 4-H Shooting Sports. Make it a positive image!

**Footwear Policy** - Any participant while on the shooting line or shooting in any outdoor shooting event is required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet. Examples of footwear that are not acceptable include, but not limited to: sandals, clogs, crocks, flip-flops, and bare feet.

**Behavior and Sportsmanship** - All participants, coaches, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship, supporting the objectives and ideals promoted by the 4-H program in general and the 4-H Shooting Sports Program in particular. Participants or coaches will render aid and/or testimony if asked to do so by any match official. All participants, coaches, and observers are expected to conform to appropriate state 4-H Code of Conduct expectations or volunteer agreements, and the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program Code of Conduct, not only to the letter, but to the intent.

**Knowledge of Rules and Procedures** – Where possible, each of the national events have been associated with a National Governing Body (NGB). An exception to any NGB rule is noted in the "Synopsis". It is the responsibility of each participant and coach to read the NGB

rulebook, understand the procedures used in each event, and comply with the rules and standards of the events. Questions are encouraged to clarify any areas of misunderstanding or lack of knowledge. Ignorance of the rules in any event does not obviate their existence. Participants are responsible for knowing the rules of their event and staying within them. Learning the rules of the events is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants.

## **CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS**

**Challenges** - Only participants may review their own targets and challenge the scoring. Once targets have been scored, they will be available for review by participants for a period of 30 minutes unless otherwise posted. Upon completion of that time period the scores may no longer be challenged. Challenges must be accompanied by a fee of \$1 per hole being challenged. A jury (not including the original scorer) will review the challenge and pronounce their findings to the challenger. If the challenge is upheld, the \$1 will be returned to the participant. If the challenge is rejected, the fee will be deposited in the 4-H National Match funds. No fee is required to point out mathematical errors. Each range may announce its own procedures and time allowances for challenge.

**Protests** - Youth participants only (no adults), may protest; a) an injustice they feel has been done them individually; b) the conditions under which another competitor was permitted to fire; or c) the equipment another competitor was permitted to use.

### **Steps to Filing an Official Protest:**

- a. Range Officer – The protest is made orally to the chief range officer or other National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational official present on the range.
- b. Range Jury – The protest may be stated orally to the jury of 3 or more officials present at the match, indicating the decision of the range officer. The jury should include a national discipline representative as well as local match officials.
- c. Match Director or /Jury – The protest must be submitted in writing to the Match Director or the Chief Range Officer, accompanied by a \$25 cash protest fee, within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the event. If the Protest is given to the Chief Range Officer, they will notify the Match Director immediately via radio or phone. The match jury will consider the statement, may ask questions of the participant and range officials and will render a decision in an expeditious manner. The decision of the match jury will be final and no further appeal is possible. Coaches, parents, and other parties may not participate in the process. If the protest is ruled valid, the fee will be returned.