



**Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports
State Shoot
April 11-12, 2008**

GENERAL RULES

All rules and guidelines are subject to change. The Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports State Shoot follows all guidelines for Tennessee 4-H events. 4-H is the youth program of the University of Tennessee Extension.

By entry in these events, the team coach or county 4-H Shooting Sports 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.

1. **4-H membership** - All bona fide, active, 4-H Shooting Sports members 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 Tennessee 4-H. Contact your County UT Extension office for 4-H membership.
2. **Disciplines offered (tentative)** – The disciplines offered for competition will be shotgun, air rifle (pellet), smallbore rifle (.22), and archery.
3. **Divisions** – There are 2 divisions of participants. 4-H'ers in 5th – 8th grade are in the junior level competition and 9th – 12th grade are in the senior level competition (grade as of January 1). Contestant must have already passed his/her 9th birthday, and may not have passed his/her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which the competitive event is held.
4. **National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Eligibility** – The winners in the senior divisions (9-12 grade) will become eligible to represent Tennessee 4-H at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational in Grand Island, Nebraska on June 23-26, 2008.
5. **Official Entry and Range Personnel**– Pre-registration is required to participate in this event. **Deadline for pre-registration is March 21, 2008.** Each team must provide their own state 4-H certified instructor, who is required to be the “range safety officer” for their team while shooting; and a “puller” (if required), who can be a volunteer. Neither of these 2 individuals are allowed to coach while their team is shooting. The range scorer will be a neutral person with no ties to any team. The scorers will be designated by the Discipline Superintendent.

6. **Team Composition** – Teams are composed of 3 or 4 individuals. The high three scores 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. Teams with less than 3 competitors are not eligible for team awards. Counties may send more than one team per discipline.
7. **Individual participation** – A county does not have to send a complete team to compete in the 4-H State Shoot. Individuals may come and participate and are eligible for individual recognition and awards. Individuals may compete in more than one discipline.
8. **Team representation** - No shooter may be a member of more than one team in the same discipline or represent more than one county at the State Shoot. All members or any team must meet the eligibility requirements, including enrollment in the 4-H Shooting Sports program as per sponsoring county.
9. **Medical Consent Form & Adult Supervision** - It is the responsibility of each team to have the appropriate health consent and release forms for each of their participants and adult supervisors (600A, 600B, or 600C, see link for forms www.utextension.utk.edu/4H/forms&materials/index.htm#6). An adult supervisor/coach/manager should be present at the event site, with immediate access to the forms, any time their youth are participating in any 4-H Shooting Sports event. The Tennessee 4-H Program is not responsible for medical authorization and health history of the participants.
10. **Awards** – Awards will be presented to the top 10 teams and top 10 individuals in each division.
11. **Safety** – Safety must be the number one priority of range personnel, participants, and spectators. Standard accepted safety rules will be followed at all times, special safety considerations will be announced at each venue. The Discipline Superintendent, 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 range staff.
12. **Eye and Ear Protection Requirement** –All shooters 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 (ear protection not required for air rifle). The equipment must protect both eyes.

13. **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.
14. **Coaching** - As a general rule, limited coaching is permitted. However coaching must never disturb other participants. Each team is limited to 1 “coach” per event. A coaching line will be established on each range - behind the shooters 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 shooter during prep time only. Once shooting for record begins, no coaching is permitted unless the shooter asks permission from the range officer. Any request for coach assistance must be initiated by the shooter, the coach may not initiate contact with the shooter. The shooter 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 pupil come back to talk, but is not to initiate contact with the shooter. 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.
15. **No Smoking** - No smoking is permitted on or near the firing lines or in any situation where the smoke constitutes an interference to shooters. Smoking by minors is prohibited by law and is not permitted on the grounds at any time.
16. **Alcohol Policy** - No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the grounds. Violation of this policy is grounds for ejection.
17. **Dress Code** - Participants are expected to dress appropriately. 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 shooters 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. Make it a positive image!
18. **Behavior and Sportsmanship** - All participants and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship, supporting the objectives and ideals promoted by 4-H. Shooters or coaches will render aid and/or testimony if asked to do so by any match official. All participants and observers are expected conform to the Code of Conduct as supplied, not only to the letter, but to the intent.

19. **Rules - Knowledge of procedures and rules** – This event also follows guidelines set forth by a National Governing Body (NGB). Where there is conflict regarding these rules and rules set forth by the NGB, these rules supercede. It is the shooters' and coach's responsibility to read the NGB and Event rulebooks and 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 ignorance. Ignorance of the rules does not obviate their existence. Shooters are responsible for knowing the rules and staying within them. Learning the rules of the event is part of the educational process for 4-H Shooting Sports participants.
20. **Physically Disabled Shooters** – A shooter 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, is privileged to petition to the *Discipline Superintendent* 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 person concerned to the Committee (discipline superintendent) 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 shooter 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.
- a. Each petition will be reviewed by the *Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Training Team*. The committee may require additional or supplementary statements or pictures. After review the *Discipline Superintendent* 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. Shooters 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 shooter, the range officials will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the shooter.
21. **Challenges** - Shooters only, may review their own targets and challenge the scoring. Once targets have been scored, they will be available for review by shooters 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 shooter. If the challenge is rejected, the fee will be deposited in the Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports funds. No fee is required to point out mathematical errors.

22. **Protests** - Competitors 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.

How to protest – Official protests may be filed in the following order to seek redress of alleged wrongs.

a. Range Scorer – The protest is made orally to the range scorer. If not satisfied with that immediate decision;

b. Range Jury – The protest may be stated orally to the jury of 2 or more officials present at the match (excluding team affiliations, parents, coaches, agents, etc.), indicating the decision of the range scorer. The jury should include a State Training Team Member as well as the range scorer. If not satisfied with this decision,

c. Discipline Superintendent/Jury – The protest must be submitted in writing to the Discipline Superintendent, accompanied by a \$25 cash protest fee, within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the occurrence. The match jury will consider the statement, may ask questions of the shooter and range officials and will render a decision in an expeditious manner. Coaches, parents, and other parties may not participate in the process. The decision rendered by the jury is final and no further appeal is possible. If the protest is ruled valid, the fee will be returned.

21. **No Golf Carts, ATV's, Club Cars or similar will be permitted.**

Revised 1/16/2008