

Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Official Guidelines

*This publication shall serve as the official guidelines for Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports
Please also visit the website at <https://4h.tennessee.edu/Pages/shootingsports.aspx>*

Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification

A **Level 1 Instructor (County 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor)** is an individual who has completed a 15-hour, State 4-H sanctioned shooting sports training and certification workshop. County instructors are eligible to conduct county level 4-H Shooting Sports programs in the discipline in which they have been trained.

The Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Program requires the use of trained and certified 4-H instructors at the county level to operate a live-fire range or to conduct any class in which firearms, airguns, or archery equipment are handled. A maximum ratio of 10 youth per trained adult must be maintained to operate a live-fire range or to conduct any class in which firearms, airguns, or archery equipment are handled. In order to be certified as a 4-H shooting sports instructor in any discipline (air pistol, rifle/BB, shotgun, muzzleloader / black- powder, archery, and hunting) the following requirements must be met:

1. Category Requirements

- a. **Level 1 Instructor:** must be at least 21 years old and have attended a state training (must be present at all live-fire events).
- b. **Assistant Instructor:** must be at least 18 years old and a 4-H member/volunteer in a shooting sports discipline for a minimum of one year. They can only instruct youth under the direct supervision of an instructor and only if the instructor is present during the instruction.
- c. **Teen Leader:** must be at least 14 years old and have leader approval. Teen leaders only function under direct supervision of, and request of, a certified instructor who is present during the instruction. A teen leader is not to be in charge of a live fire range.

- d. **Volunteers/Parents:** May be allowed to assist with approval from the county Extension agent and with approval of and under the direct supervision of a certified instructor in charge of the firing line at the time of instruction. Must be signed up as a current adult 4-H leader in the county in which they are instructing.

2. County Level 4-H Leader Certification

All instructors must be certified 4-H leaders through the local county Extension office before attending a State 4-H Shooting Sports workshop.

3. Certification at a State 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop:

- a. All Level 1 Instructors must successfully complete a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification session administered and/or sanctioned through the State 4-H office.
- b. Training will consist of a minimum of 15 hours of instruction using the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum, which includes discipline instruction (air pistol, rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader/blackpowder, archery, and hunting), safety, risk management, teaching methods, and 4-H youth program management.

4. Maintaining State 4-H Shooting Sports Certification

To maintain certification, a Level 1 Instructor must be active one out of three consecutive years. If inactive for three consecutive years, re-certification is required.

Level 2 Instructors

1. Level 2 Instructors are to become Nationally Certified, capable of conducting a state level instructor certification. To do so, Level 2 Instructors must apply and be approved by the State 4-H Office; and, must be trained and certified at a National 4-H Shooting Sports workshop in their respective discipline.
2. Level 2 Instructors are expected to be active for at least three years. Non-active Level 2 Instructors may be removed from the list.
3. Level 2 Instructors will be certified Level 1 4-H Shooting Sports instructors and are eligible to conduct 4-H Shooting Sports programs at the county level. Level 2 Instructors should have a minimum level of experience in the discipline to be determined by the State 4-H Office.

Equipment Guidelines

The University of Tennessee Extension governs guidelines with regards to the purchase of 4-H Shooting Sports equipment. Counties should contact their UT Extension Regional Office for the most current equipment guidelines.

State 4-H Competitions (Please refer to https://4h.tennessee.edu/Pages/shooting_sports.aspx for complete rules)

Proposed rule and event changes will be reviewed by the state advisory committee. Any changes will be approved by the Director, 4-H Youth Development, and/or his/her designee.

Individuals may compete and win at any state competition without limit (refer to specific discipline rules); with the exception being the State 4-H BB Jamboree. The Daisy National BB Gun Championship dictates rules governing the State 4-H BB Jamboree (refer to the State 4-H BB Jamboree rules).

State 4-H competitions will be conducted in accordance with the current Tennessee 4-H Requirements.

Attendance at Qualifying National Shoots

The Director, 4-H Youth Development, or designee must certify all state teams, individuals, or groups attending regional or national 4-H events.

1. National 4-H Invitational

Only senior 4-H members in good standing participating in the state qualifying match are eligible to attend the National 4-H Invitational Shoot. Members may only compete as a representative of Tennessee. Participants must have passed 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. National Invitational team members for each discipline will be determined at the state 4-H invitational; and will consist of the top placing individuals. State 4-H Guidelines will also be followed when determining participation in the National 4-H Invitational. ***An individual may participate only once at the National 4-H Invitational in any one venue.***

2. Daisy National BB Gun Championship

Only 4-H members in good standing participating in the state qualifying match are eligible to attend the Daisy National BB Gun Championship. Participation in the Daisy National BB Gun Championship will be dictated by the rules of the event. ***Currently, an individual may participate in the Daisy National BB Gun Championship every other year.*** State 4-H Guidelines will also be followed when determining participation in the Daisy National BB Gun Championship.

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