Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Policies and Procedures

This publication shall serve as the official source of policies and procedures for Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports

Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification

A County 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor is an individual who has completed a 12-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 (rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader/blackpowder, archery, and hunting) the following requirements must be met:

1. Category Requirements
   a. Instructor: must be at least 21 years old (19 years old for Archery) 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 instructors must successfully complete a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training session administered and/or sanctioned through the State 4-H office.
   b. Training will consist of a minimum of 12 hours of instruction using the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum, which includes discipline instruction (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 an instructor/leader must be active one out of three consecutive years. If inactive for three consecutive years, re-certification is required.
State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee

1. State Committee members must apply and be approved by the State 4-H Office before becoming a member of the State Committee.

2. State Committee members are expected to be members for at least three years. Non-active members may be removed from the list.

3. State Committee members will be certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors and are eligible to conduct 4-H Shooting Sports programs at the county level. State Committee members should have a minimum level of experience in the discipline to be determined by discipline committee.

4. State Committee members may become Nationally Certified Instructors, capable of conducting a state level instructor certification. To do so, State Committee members must apply and be approved by the State 4-H Office; and, must be trained and certified at a 40-hour National 4-H Shooting Sports workshop in their respective discipline.

5. State Committee members will be expected to be an integral part of the planning and conducting of the 4-H State Shoot and 4-H Target Smart Camp.

State 4-H Shoot

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

Individuals may compete and win on a team that qualifies for the National 4-H Invitational in a certain discipline only once and the Daisy National BB Gun Championship every other year; however, individuals may compete as individuals at the state shoot every year. The state shoot 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. Youth must also be enrolled in 4-H and in the discipline they are competing in the prior 4-H year, as well as the year they participate at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational. A youth must be enrolled in 4-H, reside in Tennessee, and, if registering for the National Invitational, must register as a team member or individual of Tennessee. Members may only compete as a representative of Tennessee. They also must not have reached their 19th birthday before January 1 of the year the national event is held. National Invitational team members for each discipline will be determined at the state competition; and will consist of the top placing State Shoot team. 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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