

# 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/shooting-sports/>*

## Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Guidelines

A **Level 1 Instructor (County 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor)** is an individual who has completed a 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. Certified 4-H shooting sports instructors can be certified in one discipline at a time (air pistol, rifle/BB, shotgun, muzzleloader / black- powder, archery, and hunting).

1. **The National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum** is the established adult teaching curriculum for training adults to teach youth the shooting sports within the 4-H program.

### 2. **Category Requirements**

a. **Level 1 Instructor:** must be at least 21 years old and have completed a state level 4-H shooting sports workshop in the specific discipline they will be teaching (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.

### 3. **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.

### 4. **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 instruction using the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum, which includes discipline instruction in one discipline at a time (air pistol, rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader/blackpowder, archery, and hunting), safety, risk management, teaching methods, and 4-H youth program management.

### 5. **Maintaining 4-H Shooting Sports**

**Certification** - To maintain certification, a Level 1 Instructor must teach or assist in instruction within the discipline certified at least once every three (3) years. If inactive for three consecutive years, re-certification is required.

6. 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.

7. **Code of Ethics** - All instructors should accept and abide by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Ethics (see appendix).
8. Only factory ammunition is used at 4-H Shooting Sports practices, events, and competitions.
9. **Regarding simulated combat sports including but not limited to, paintball guns, air-soft, laser guns, archery tag.** Pointing any type of gun including paint ball guns, air-soft guns, laser guns, laser paint-ball, archery tag bows & arrows or sighting devices at any person or any humanoid shaped target is inappropriate in any 4-H Shooting Sports program activity.
10. **Reactive Targets** - Targets which make use of or are composed of (1) live ammunition, (2) explosives, chemicals or flammable substances, or (3) pressurized containers are never to be used at any 4-H event or activity.
11. All youth who qualify under the Tennessee 4-H Program guidelines are eligible to participate as club members in Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports. Youth, age 7 and under, are not allowed to participate in ANY shooting sports activity that includes the handling or live-fire of any air-guns, firearms, or archery equipment.

## 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/shooting-sports/> 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 Championships

Only senior 4-H members in good standing participating in the state qualifying match are eligible to attend the National 4-H Championships. 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 Championships is held. National 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 Championships. ***An individual may participate only once at the National 4-H Invitational in any one discipline.***

## **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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