



Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun Invitational

State 4-H Qualifier for the National 4-H Championships

Crossville Shooting Sports Park, Crossville, TN

August 1, 2026

**Pre-Registration Deadline via County Extension Office – July 17, 2026
(No Extensions)**

**Onsite check-in at 8:00 A.M. for all participants.
Participant and Coaches required meeting at 8:45 A.M.**

SPECIFIC SHOTGUN COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Please also read the General Rules

(Changes in Red)

- Age Classes:** There will be one age class: Senior – 9th-12th grade this fall and those who have already graduated this past May. **(8th–12th grade as of January 1, 2026)**
- Entry Limit:** Only those individuals who qualified during the Spring Jamboree will be eligible to participate.
- Scoring and Placing:** All scoring and placing will be individual. There will be a “Champions Division” for those that have already competed at the National 4-H Championships.
- Entry Fee:** There is a \$55.00 fee per entry.
- Range Personnel** – Each County must provide:
 - their own state 4-H certified instructor, who is required to be the “range safety officer” for their athletes while shooting,
 - a range scorer for each 3 athletes participating**
 - these individuals may not be able to watch their shooter due to time constraint.
 - scorer and puller should be from different counties**
 - scorer and signing squad captain must be from different counties**Scorers, pullers, and spectators are not allowed to coach while their team is shooting. The scorers will be assigned by the Discipline Superintendent on the day of the event.
- Squadding** – Because this is an individual competition, athletes will be squadded with individuals from other counties. No county teams or squads. Squads will be assigned by the Discipline Superintendent on the day of the event.
- Course of Fire:** 50 targets of Standard ATA (American) Trap (2 rounds of 25), 50 targets of American Skeet (2 rounds of 25), and 50 targets of Sporting Clays (5 to 8 stations) will be shot by all competitors.

- 8. Awards/Tie-breaking:** Overall individual scores will be determined by adding the individual raw scores in each of the 3 events. The highest combined raw score will be the winner. Tie breaks will be done to establish the placing of all individuals. Tie breaks will be determined by:
1. Sporting Clay score,
 2. Skeet Score,
 3. The first long run, counted from the first target in Trap,
 4. The back run, counted in reverse from the last target in Trap,
 5. In a format decided upon by the management.
- 9. Time Limit:** Athletes will fire in an expeditious manner, and avoid unnecessary delay, and should be prepared to take the field up to 30 minutes prior to listed start time.
- 10. Equipment:** Any shotgun 12 gauge or smaller firing a shot charge meeting the requirements of the NGB. No reloads permitted, only factory ammunition. Athletes must furnish their own ammunition. Proper eye and ear protection are required.
- 11. Qualifying:** This will be the qualifying match for the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in **June 2027** in Grand Island, Nebraska (not all competitors may be eligible for Nationals).
- 12. NGB Rules:** Amateur Trap Association, National Skeet Shooting Association, & National Sporting Clays Association.

5/25/26



Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational State 4-H Qualifier for the National 4-H Championships

GENERAL RULES

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

Participants are to register through their County Extension Office. Only those individuals who qualified during the Spring Jamboree will be eligible to participate. By entry in these events, the County Extension Office and the 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. Entry is limited to those individuals who are enrolled in 9th -12th grade this fall and those who have already graduated this past May. (8th–12th grade as of January 1, 2026)

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. **4-H Shooting Sports members are those 4-H youth who have been under the direction of a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor.** Contact your County UT Extension office for 4-H membership.
2. **Disciplines offered** – The disciplines offered for competition will be Air Rifle, Compound Archery, Recurve Archery, Shotgun, and Smallbore Rifle. Because some events are at the same time, competitors can only compete in 1 discipline per day this event.
3. **Age Classes** - There will be one age class: Senior – 9th-12th grade this fall and those who have already graduated this past May. (8th–12th grade as of January 1, 2026).
4. **Entry Limit** – Only those individuals who qualified during the Spring Jamborees will be eligible to participate.
5. **National 4-H Competition Eligibility** – The top four individual winners will become eligible to represent Tennessee 4-H at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska in June. Participants

must be 14 to 18 years of age on January 1st of 2027 to compete next summer. Individuals who have already graduated High School on or before December 31, 2026 are NOT eligible to participate next summer. Individuals may compete at the National 4-H Championships in a certain discipline only once.

6. **Official Entry** – Pre-registration is required to participate in this event. An entry fee is also required. **Deadline for pre-registration and entry fees is July 17th for Compound Archery, Recurve Archery, Air Rifle, Shotgun, and Smallbore Rifle.** (Counties may impose earlier deadlines). **Participants are to register through their County Extension Office. County Extension Office must register through SUPER.**
7. **Fee Schedule** – A fee of \$20.00 will be assessed for every entry in Air Rifle, Archery, and Smallbore Rifle. A fee of \$55.00 will be assessed for every entry in Shotgun. Entry fees are due with registration. (Counties may impose earlier deadlines).
8. **Range Personnel** - The scorers and range safety officers will be designated/assigned by the Discipline Superintendent.
9. **Individual participation** – All competition will be individual.
10. **Medical Consent Form & Adult Supervision** - It is the responsibility of each County to have the appropriate health consent and release forms for each of their participants and adult supervisors (600A, 600B, or 600C, see link for Health / Code of Conduct forms at <https://4h.tennessee.edu/forms-and-materials/>). 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 State 4-H Program is not responsible for medical authorization and health history of the participants.
11. **Awards** – Awards will include only top individuals in each discipline. There will be a “Champions Division” in each discipline for those that have already competed at the National 4-H Championships. Awards will be presented in person at the conclusion of each event.
12. **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.
13. **Eye and Ear Protection Requirement** - Adequate eye protection (shooting glasses, safety glasses or safety goggles, or hardened prescription glasses) are required for all competitors in the rifle and shotgun discipline. Ear protection is also required for shotgun participants. **NO electronic hearing**

protection: NO Bluetooth or corded hearing protection that may be connected to any device. Coaches or spectators on or near firing lines are subject to the same requirements.

14. **Coaches** – Each County shall designate one coach per firing line, unless otherwise stated in the specific competition rules. This coach is the 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.
15. **Coaching** - As a general rule, limited coaching is permitted. (See individual discipline coaching guidelines.) However, coaching must never disturb other participants. Each County is limited to 1 coach per firing line, unless otherwise stated in the specific competition rules. A coaching line will be established on each range - behind the athlete'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 athlete during prep time only. **Once shooting for record begins, no coaching is permitted.** In the case of equipment issue, an athlete may request for coach assistance, but it must be initiated by the athlete, the coach may not initiate contact with the athlete. Coaches may ask the line officer to have their pupil come back to talk, but is not to initiate contact with the athlete, (for encouragement only, no coaching discussions, i.e. sights, lead, stance, anchor, etc.). The athlete will put down their equipment, make it safe, leave the line, and then go talk to their coach. 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.
16. **No Smoking** - No smoking is permitted on or near the firing lines or in any situation where the smoke constitutes an interference to athletes. Smoking by minors is prohibited by law and is not permitted on the grounds at any time.
17. **Alcohol Policy** - No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the grounds. Violation of this policy is grounds for ejection.
18. **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. **Participants and coaches are required to wear shoes that completely cover the foot on all ranges.** 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 athletes 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!
19. **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. Athletes or coaches will render aid and/or testimony if asked to do so by any match official.

20. **Rules - Knowledge of procedures and rules** – This event may also follow 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 supersede. It is the athlete's 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. Athletes 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.
21. **Physically Disabled Athletes** – An athlete 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 State Committee*. 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. Athletes 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 an athlete, the range officials will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the athlete.
22. **Challenges** - Athletes only, may review their own targets and challenge the scoring. Once targets have been scored, they will be available for review, if applicable, by athletes 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 athlete. 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.

23. **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 member of the Competition Management 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 athlete 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.
24. **Violation of Rules** - Match and/or range officials may dismiss or disqualify a participant if he/she believes a participant or coach violates any of the general or discipline specific rules.
25. **All rules and guidelines for the host venue will apply.**

Revised 5/25/26