



## **2012 NJ 4-H State Shooting Sports** **GENERAL RULES FOR ALL NJ 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS EVENTS**

The NJ State 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational follows the guidelines for 4-H Competitive Events as established by CSREES. See:

<http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/compevent.pdf>

By entry in these events, the team coach or shooting sports club leader 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. **Registration Deadline for NJ 4-H Shooting Sports are firm, please refer to the individual event deadline dates.**

**1. 4-H membership** - All bona fide, active, 4-H Shooting Sports members are eligible to compete in State 4-H shooting sports events, subject to limitations imposed by the specific event and the rules for active membership instituted by their state. **4-H enrollment is required. Members must be a member of 4-H by January 1, 2012 in order to be eligible to participate.**

**4-H member must be a member in good standing and follow all member in good standing guidelines set by Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Department.**

Member must attend at least 70% of all club meetings.

Member must have given at least a club level presentation prior to the event.

Member must have an up to date record book.

**2. Age Requirement:** Participants in NJ 4-H Shooting Sports must be in grade 4-13 to join any registered 4-H club. Members may compete in competition in grade 4-13 following the grade breakdown of Junior and Senior level.

**A member may compete in NJ State 4-H Shooting Sports Competition and compete in a qualifying match for National competition if they meet the following criteria:**

- 1. A member must be 14 years of age by January 1 of the competition year. If the member has not yet completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and they choose to compete for a National Competition, than that member must compete as a senior member in all other events throughout the current year. (ex: Postal Matches, May Invitational).**
- 2. If a member is 19 prior to January 1 of the competition year, and they are a registered 4-H member who has not yet completed grade 13, than he or she would be eligible to compete in NJ State Matches and events, but will not be able to qualify for National Competition.**

**3. Team Restrictions –**

- Clubs may enter an unlimited number of teams (4 individuals per team consisting of 2 Senior members grades 9-13 and 2 junior members grades 4-8) per discipline or category
- A team (or individual) can participate in one or more discipline/category of competition.

**4. Team Composition** – Teams are limited to 2 Senior members per team. Teams are composed of 4 individuals. Scoring will be determined per event. Clubs with a 3 man team will be accepted, but should realize this could be a disadvantage. Clubs with less than 3 competitors will be encouraged to compete in a mixed county team.

**5. Official Entry**– Contestants or teams of contestants must be certified/approved as the official county entry by the county club 4-H Leader or his/her representative. The individuals or teams may be selected by any procedure the Club Leader believes appropriate. **All participants must fill out the event participation form locate at <http://www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=4H104>**

**6. Team representation** - No shooter may be a member of more than one team or represent more than one club shooting sports program in any given event. All members or any team in 4-H events must meet the eligibility requirements, including enrollment in the shooting sports program as per state rules.

**7. Post-secondary restriction** – The contestant may not have participated in training for any post-secondary competition in the subject area in which they are competing in a 4-H competitive event. This would include both “club” sports and official collegiate athletics/sports. i.e. If a youth is practicing with other for the college rifle team, he/she may not compete in rifle at the match.

**8. Event participation** – Each category of competition consists of 3 different events. Teams can participate in one, two or all three events. There will be two Individual competitions (Rifle and Archery), participants are encouraged to compete in these events.

**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. 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 the invitational event. 4-H is not responsible for the medical authorization and health history of the participants. The participation form contains all permissions and health information, and can be downloaded from <http://www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=4H104>

**10. Awards** – Each participant will receive a certificate of participation.

Trophies will be awarded to the top placing team in each of the three team events. The events this year will be Field Archery, Air Rifle, and 3-D Archery. Medals will be awarded to the top three teams in each event.

Medals will be awarded to the top three placing individuals in Senior Division and top three placing individuals in the Junior Division for the individual Rifle and Archery events.

**11. State Sportsmanship Award** – A trophy will be given to team or club that best illustrates the spirit of sportsmanship at the event. Each team member will receive a medal of sportsmanship.

**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 Match Director, 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** – Eye and ear protection is required for all firearm events. 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. The equipment must protect both eyes. Eye protection only required for air events; and is strongly recommended but not required for archery events.

**14. Coaches** – Each team shall be officially represented by only one coach. This coach is the only adult that 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. However coaching must never disturb other participants. Each club 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. Specific coaching instructions may be issued at the range for each event.

**16. 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.

**17. Alcohol Policy** - No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the grounds of the Invitation during this event. Violation of this policy is grounds for ejection from the grounds

**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. 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 Shooting Sports. 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 the 4-H program in general and the 4-H Shooting Sports Program in particular. 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.

**20. Rules - Knowledge of procedures and rules** – Where possible, each of the events have been associated with a National Governing Body (NGB). Exceptions to any NGB rule is noted in the “Synopsis”. It is the shooters and coach’s responsibility to read the NGB rulebook 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 in any event does not obviate their existence. Shooters are responsible for knowing the rules of their event and staying within them. Learning the rules of the events is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants.

**21. 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 *4-H Match Director* 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 (match director) 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.

**22. 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 4-H National Match funds. No fee is required to point out mathematical errors. Each range may announce it’s own procedures and time allowances for challenge.

**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 Officer – The protest is made orally to the chief range officer or other official present on the range. If not satisfied with that immediate decision;
- b. Range Jury – The protest may be started orally to the jury of 3 or more officials present at the match, indicating the decision of the range officer. The jury should include a State certified discipline representative as well as local match officials. If not satisfied with this decision,
- c. Match Director/Jury – The protest must be submitted in writing to the Match Director, accompanied by a \$25 cash protest fee, within one hour of the conclusion of the event. 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.