



Shooting sports events are a functional part of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. They are not the objective. Kids and youth development are the primary objectives of the program. We are seeking to educate young people and introduce them to activities that are enjoyable, socially acceptable, mentally and physically challenging and useful in building character. Rules are part of every formal game. While we have tried to keep rules to a minimum, the nature of these sports results in abundant rules, some of them very specific. Fun and safety are primary products of the program. They are deeply intertwined with these rules, formalizing courtesy and maintaining order.

This is a synopsis of archery rules. The 4-H Shooting Sports Program uses the NFAA Indoor Archery rules, with some modifications to meet the objectives of the program or to increase the success rates of young people participating in the program. In 4-H events, 4-H rules and regulations supersede all other rules where differences exist. Coaches are encouraged to become familiar with these rules and those of related archery governing bodies. This document is intended to give shooters and coaches a basic familiarity with the rules used in 4-H archery events. Events sponsored by other organizations may involve other rules and requirements.

1. Competition

1.1 Authorization – Matches and tournaments (series of matches) must be authorized by the state 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

2. Eligibility

2.1 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 their state.

a. Age – Must be 8 by January 1 of the current year and not have passed 19th Birthday by same date. They may not have reached the age of nineteen (19) by January 1 of current year, but may complete an event

that was started while they were eligible to participate.

2.2 Team representation – No shooter may represent more than one county 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. Teams may have 3 or 4 members. For all teams, only the top three scores will be counted toward the team score. Teams may not have mixed disciplines or mixed age divisions. BEG shooters may not shoot on JR or SR teams.

2.3 Age classifications – 4-H Shooting Sports events:
a. 4-H Age is determined by the age of the youth on January 1

Age	Classification	Distance shot
8 – 10	Beginner	10 yards
11-13	Junior	15 yards
14 and up	Senior (SR)	20 yards

3 Equipment

3.1 Equipment Classifications – 4-H Shooting Sports provides the following equipment classifications: Bows are to be set up as the classification calls for when the shooter reports to the line. Without sight, means NO sights on the bow for the practice round.

In classifications where sights are allowed, lighted fiber optic sight pins are allowed. Laser sights are not permitted, nor anything projected, marked or placed on the floor, target stand or the target face is allowed.

a. Longbow or recurve without sights **RWOS**

- One straight stabilizer, coupling device included if used, which does not exceed 12 inches at any time when measured from the back of the bow. (See bow diagram)
- No release aids
- No sights or reference points (peeps, kissers, button, and/or extra nocking points) or blemishes or marks on bow or string
- Any part of the arrow rest that extends for more than ¼ inch above the arrow is not allowed. (For example, whisker biscuits are not allowed in this

class).

- No marking of floor, target, or target stand (this will be considered a sight reference).

b. Longbow or recurve with sights **RWS**

- One straight stabilizer, coupling device included if used, which does not exceed 12 inches at any time when measured from the back of the bow. (See bow diagram)
- No release aids
- No peeps allowed
- No magnified scopes allowed
- Kisser button allowed
- Adjustments to the bow or its equipment is allowed during the sight in period only. No adjustments may be made during the scoring round unless equipment failure is recognized.

c. Compound without sights **CWOS**

- One straight stabilizer, coupling device included if used, which does not exceed 12 inches at any time when measured from the back of the bow, (See bow diagram)
- No release aids.
- No sights or reference points (peeps, kisser button, and/or extra nocking points) or blemishes or marks on bow or string
- Any part of the arrow rest that extends more than ¼ inch above the arrow is not allowed. (For example, whisker biscuits are not allowed in this class).
- No marking of floor, target, or target stand (this will be considered a sight reference)

d. Compound with sights **CWS**

- One straight stabilizer, coupling device included if used, which does not exceed 12 inches at any time when measured from the back of the bow. Any length V-bar, counterbalance and string dampeners may be used as long as it does not touch any part of the body or interfere with others on the line. (See bow diagram)
- No release aids
- No magnified scopes allowed
- Peep and kisser button allowed
- Adjustments to the bow or its equipment is allowed during the sight in period only. No adjustments may be made during the scoring round unless equipment failure is recognized.

e. Compound with sights shot with release **CWS-R**

- One straight stabilizer, coupling device included if used, which does not exceed 12 inches at any time when measured from the back of the bow. Any length V-bar, counterbalance and string dampeners may be used as long as it does not touch any part of the body or interfere with others on the line. (See bow diagram)
- Release aids allowed
- No magnified scopes allowed
- Peep and kisser button allowed
- Adjustments to the bow or its equipment is allowed during the sight in period only. No adjustments may be made during the scoring round unless equipment failure is recognized.

f. Compound without sights shot with release **CWOS-R**

- 12" stabilizer – measured from the back of the bow
- One straight stabilizer, coupling device included if used, which does not exceed 12 inches at any time when measured from the back of the bow. (See bow diagram)
- Release aids allowed
- No sights or reference points (kisser button, and/or extra nocking points) or blemishes or marks on bow or string
- Any part of the arrow rest that extends for than ¼ inch above the arrow is not allowed. (for example, whisker biscuits are not allowed in this class).
- No marking of floor, target, or target stand (this will be considered a sight reference)

g. Open Recurve **Open Recurve**

- Any length stabilizer may be used
- Any length V-bar, counterbalance and string dampeners may be used as long as it does not touch any part of the body or interfere with others on the line. (See bow diagram)
- Any length sight bar is allowed
- No release aid allowed
- No lenses of any type allowed in sight
- Kisser button allowed
- May adjust sight anytime throughout shoot

h. Open Compound **Open Compound**

- Any length stabilizer may be used
- Any length V-bar, counterbalance and string dampeners may be used as long as it does not touch any part of the body or interfere with others

on the line. (See bow diagram)

- Any length sight bar is allowed
- Magnified scopes are allowed
- Release aid allowed
- Peep and kiss button allowed
- May adjust sight anytime throughout shoot

3.2 Inspection – The Range official or a designated official inspects each archer’s equipment for conformity with the rules and safety prior to and as needed during the tournament.

3.3 Ear protection – Any equipment that impairs the hearing of the competitor will not be allowed on the shooting line. This is a safety issue and will be enforced.

3.4 Bows – Any bow that does not violate the conventional meaning of the term in target archery may be used in 4-H archery events. Separate classes will be designated for recurve and compound events.

a. Recurve bows – Longbows or recurve bows of conventional design only may be used in any recurve division of archery events.

b. Compound bows – Compound bows of any conventional design may be used in compound bow divisions of archery events.

c. Maximum draw weight – BEG and JR are limited to 45 pounds, and SR to 60 pounds. Bows may be subject to verification at the discretion of the event management.

4. Range Control

4.1 Range Commands – Control over the range will be through, whistle commands as described below.

a. Shooters to the line – Two whistle blasts calls shooters to the firing line.

b. Commence firing – A single whistle blast indicates the archers may load an arrow onto the bow and begin shooting.

c. The line is clear – Three blasts of the whistle or horn indicates the completion of an end. All archers should make their bows safe in preparation to score targets and retrieve their arrows.

d. Cease fire – The verbal command to cease fire, multiple whistle blasts (4 or more) or a red light

requires all shooters to stop immediately and remove any arrow from the string. The command indicates the presence of an unsafe condition or the end of the time period for that end.

5. Targets

5.1 Indoor Round – Targets used in the Indoor Round will be dark blue and white NFAA standard indoor targets with 5 equal and concentric scoring rings.

The innermost white area is scored a “five” and the outermost blue area is scored a “one.” (X,5,4,3,2,1) Shooters may use a five-spot indoor target if they wish (X,5,4).

6. Scoring

6.1 Target Events – Groups of 3-4 shooters will score and record scores for their group in the Indoor Rounds. Scoring will be:

a. Scoring lines – The lines between scoring areas of the target are part of the higher value scoring area. A shaft touching a scoring line receives the higher value score. From the center of the target outward, the scoring areas are X, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Shots outside the scoring area are scored as misses. The X counts as a 5 and is recorded for Tie breakers. Scorer should start with the Highest score and work down to the lowest. Sample X,4,4,2,1,=16.01 or 5,5,4,4,3,= 21.00. The .01 means one (1) X was shot in that End of the Round.

b. Shaft location – Point values will be determined by the location of the shaft as it rests in the target. Arrows aren’t to be touched or removed before scores are recorded.

c. Scoring Time Allotment – Scoring is not timed, but a good goal for a group of four shooters, would be to have the scores recorded in 3 minutes. Addition should be completed.

After the completion of the entire round.

7. Indoor Round

7.1 Arrows and ends – Competitors will shoot 6 ends of 5 arrows each.

7.2 Time limits for Indoor Round – Shooters have four minutes to shoot each end of five arrows. If an arrow is shot after the whistle blows the highest scoring arrow will not count.

7.3 Dropped or Misfired arrows – Arrows beyond the ten foot arrow line in front of the shooting line will be considered as a shot arrow and will be scored as a zero.

7.4 Bounce out – All witnessed scoring bounce outs will be re-shot at the end of the scoring round.

7.5 Pass through – Any pass through will be re shot at the end of the scoring round.

7.6 Excessive number of arrows – If more than 5 arrows are shot, only the lowest 5 arrows will be scored. Additionally, a penalty of one point will be assessed for each arrow shot over the prescribed 5 arrows. Missed arrows are counted as shot arrows.

7.7 Target face – Archers have a choice of shooting either a single sport or 5 spot target. When using the NFAA Indoor Five Spot Target: An archer may shoot any of the 5 spots in any order and shoot as many arrows into any one spot as the archer desires, not to exceed the prescribed number of arrows per end.

8. Shooter and Coach Responsibilities

8.1 Behavior and Sportsmanship – The spirit of 4-H sportsmanship and appropriate behavior is expected of all participants in the 4-H shooting sports program.

8.2 Knowledge of procedures and rules – Shooters and coaches will make an effort to understand the procedures used in each event and comply with the rules and standards of the events.

a. Questions – Questions are encouraged to clarify any areas of misunderstanding or interpretations.

b. Ignorance of the rules – Ignorance of the rules in any event does not obviate their existence.

c. Shooter responsibility – 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; the intent is to aid shooters rather than entrap them.

8.3 Reporting – Shooters are responsible for knowing the proper time to report to each event and for reporting at least 30 minutes prior to their shooting time or at the posted orientation time and location.

8.4 Behavior of participants – Safe, circumspect and respectful behavior is expected of shooters, coaches

and spectators at all 4-H shooting events at all times. Disorderly or unsafe conduct has no place on the shooting range and will not be permitted.

a. Staff discretion – All authorized range staff carry the discretionary responsibility to enforce behavioral guidelines.

b. Warning – Any shooter or coach displaying disorderly, destructive or abusive conduct will be warned a maximum of one time.

c. Penalties – Further instances of such conduct will result in the shooter being penalized by having an appropriate reduction in their score or disqualified.

d. Review – Disqualifications will be reviewed by the shooting sports coordinator and a jury assembled for the purpose of determining additional sanctions, if any is to be applied.

e. Purpose – The purpose of this section is to enforce the quality of 4-H shooting sports activities.

**** NOTE:** Where these rules are silent, the current rules of the National Field Archery Association shall govern. <https://www.nfaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2017-2018-CONSTITUTION-.pdf>

9. Dress Code for Shooting

9.1 Dress Code – Participants and coaches are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they participate. Team uniforms or shirts are encouraged, but not required. Both young people and adults should wear attire appropriate for the weather while remaining modest. While these codes can leave a lot to interpretation, it is important to recognize that individual choices can at times, bring unwanted attention either to an individual or to the group as a whole. Shorts and skirts should not be more than 4 inches above the knee while standing, so that modesty is maintained in all shooting positions. Tank tops with spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, bare midriffs, low necklines, or otherwise revealing clothing will not be allowed. Clothing with sexually suggestive wording or graphics; and alcohol or tobacco advertisement is not appropriate.

Range officials, and shoot organizers will enforce dress codes, if required. All participants, coaches, parents, and family members must remember that they may be photographed or interviewed for use by local,

regional media. Let's do all we can to make sure that is a positive image for 4-H!

10. Tournament Official's Guidelines

10.1 Dress Code:

- Appropriate clothing that meets the 4-H guidelines. (See 9.1 in Archery Rules)
- Appropriate footwear (clean tennis shoes ok)
- Official's shirt or vest
- Whistle and magnifier (let us know if you don't have them)

10.2 Shooting Line:

- At 45 seconds left on the clock, stand and start clearing the shooting line as archers finish. Raise your hand when you are sure that all archers have finished shooting.
- When clearing the targets, start at the target butts and all officials walk back together.
- Sit in the predetermined location at all times while the line is shooting.

Note: After the line starts, it will not be stopped unless there is an emergency. If an archer has an arrow shot into the scoring area from another archer of their target while the line is shooting, they may choose to make up arrow or arrows after the round is over.

10.3 Procedures for calling arrows:

- Ask if all arrows have been recorded
- Ask for archers to point to disputed arrow(s)
- Have group step back from target
- Critique arrow from 3 sides ... straight on and each side
- Project the diameter of the arrow using your magnifier
- The arrow must touch the line from any one of these views for the higher value
- Be fair and consistent with any and all calls regardless of the archer or the conversations between the scorekeepers. They called you to make the judgment. Call the value of the arrow then step away from the target. Allow them to complete scoring quickly.

10.4 Procedures for equipment failures:

- Always be attentive while the line is shooting
- Acknowledge equipment failures immediately
- Record time of failure on notepad provided
- After the line is finished go with group to target
- Have scorekeeper's record shot arrows
- Record end of repair or replacement on notepad
- Have scorekeepers continue scoring on current end. The make-up arrows will be
- recorded in the ends that he or she missed during the failure
- If the archer chooses to waive practice end, the official must be notified in
- advance
- Make up arrows will be shot on a predetermined butt directly following round
- Inform scorekeepers to accompany archer until all make-up arrows have been recorded.

BE COURTEOUS TO ALL OF THE ARCHERS!

APPENDIX 1

How To Measure Your Stabilizer Bar

