



Participation

1. **4-H Membership** – All 4-H Shooting Sports members in good standing and meeting the criteria below 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. Official 4-H enrollment is required.
2. **Participation Requirements:**
 - a. Enroll all kids in 4-H ... enroll as many as possible by January 25.
 - i. Several reasons why, the first being that the waiver is necessary, and is included in the 4-H enrollment paperwork. For several years we have had a separate waiver, but as of 2014-15, that wording has been incorporated into the 4-H waiver, so enrolling in 4-H takes care of the waiver, insurance, code of conduct and photo release.
 - ii. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H before starting practice.
 - iii. Youth must be enrolled in 4Honline by the end of Match 2 (March 15th) to compete at State Shoot in the spring.
 - iv. Youth must be enrolled in 4Honline by July 15th to compete in fall shoot.
 - b. Tests scores must be submitted for all discipline areas (Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Muzzleloading, Shotgun).
 - i. A listing of youth and pass/fail status will be due by March 15 (end of Match 2) for spring, July 15 for fall (70% on a written test is passing)
 - ii. Youth must have a passing score submitted before they may schedule a time for the state shoot. (If they don't and I find them, I will unregister them until I have their score!)
 - iii. If you miss the deadline, you will need to send a copy of all your kids' tests to me before they can register for the state shoot. (this is definitely NOT fun)
 - c. A youth must submit a Match Score to compete in that discipline at state. The only exception to this is CMP/22 3-P. Submission of a score in either qualifies a participant for both. However, youth are encouraged to participate in a match for both.
3. **Volunteer Coach Requirements**
 - a. Must become a registered 4-H volunteer
 - i. <https://extension.sdstate.edu/volunteer-policies-forms>
 - ii. Become familiar with the process and guides on above page
 - iii. I believe there is now an interview process at the county office involved with this
 - iv. Must complete and pass a background check, through the SD Board of Regents selected company
 - v. Must be enrolled in 4Honline and do so yearly!
 - b. Must complete the training house videos (there is a SS volunteer specific set vs the entire set)
 - i. Work with your local YPA to get through this process
 - ii. If you take a training after Dec 1, 2022, this is included in the YD training. There will be no additional requirement after completing training.
 - c. Must go through shooting sports youth development training
 - i. Could be up to 4 hours
 - ii. At this point only required once with no recertification, as of this point
 - d. Go through a discipline training
 - i. Can only pick up one discipline and YD at any training event
 - ii. Discipline areas
 - a. Rifle – (BB Gun, Air Rifle, 22 – CMP and 3-P)

- b. Pistol – (Air and 22)
 - c. Archery – (Recurve and Compound)
 - d. Shotgun
 - e. Muzzleloading
 - f. Hunting
 - g. Coordinator
 - iii. Must teach at least once every three years to maintain certification
 - e. Go through recertification training every 7 years
 - i. This is for each discipline you choose to be trained in and wish to maintain that certification
 - ii. To do this you will need to
 - a. Attend a refresher offered at Annual Meeting
 - b. Attend another full certification in the discipline area
 - c. Recertification Schedule
 - 1. Training Year 17 – Recertify by Jan. 2023
 - 2. Training Year 18 – Recertify by Jan. 2024
 - 3. Training Year 19 – Recertify by Jan. 2025
 - 4. Training Year 20 – Recertify by Jan. 2026
 - 5. Training Year 21 – Recertify by Jan. 2027
 - 6. Training Year 22 – Recertify by Jan. 2028
 - 7. Training Year 23 – Recertify by Jan. 2029
 - f. Follow and adhere to county specific policies and procedures (these are specific to any given county)
 - i. This may include local dues
 - ii. May include other event duties
 - g. Youth Ages 14-21 may attend a SS coaches certification and be recognized as a coach.
 - i. They cannot be alone at a practice
 - ii. They cannot be solely responsible for a line.
 - iii. Must become a registered volunteer and follow established volunteer process, once they have graduated from 4-H.
 - iv. They follow the same expectations of other coaches when working with youth and are subject to established policy.
4. **Individual Participation** – All individuals participating as team members are competing as individuals at the same time.
5. **Team Composition** - Teams are composed of no less than 3 and no more than 4 individuals.
- A. Teams must be of the same age. Members cannot compete up in age on teams (Beg – Jr, Jr- SR).
 - B. Teams must be in the same discipline (CWSR, RWS, etc.) not mixed (2CWS+2CWSR)
 - C. Unlimited teams may be entered in a discipline
 - i. Youth can only be on one team/division/match
 - D. Team selection criteria is at the discretion of the county program
6. **Post-Secondary Restriction** – Participants may not represent their county in any discipline in which they have engaged in training or competition at the post-secondary level. Thus, members of club or NCAA competitive teams disqualifies otherwise eligible 4-H members from participation in that discipline in the 4-H Shooting Sports. For example, training as a member of a rifle, shotgun, or archery team, either as a club sport or as a NCAA sport, and representing that college or university disqualifies the member from competing in related events.

II. Conduct

1. **4-H Image and Honor** - 4-H Shooting Sports is a youth event showcasing a major component of the 4-H program in the individual states and nationally. Its nature demands that all of us involved in the event from the match

directors and state coordinators to the young people, parents and coaches participating must put forward the best image of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program and the 4-H program generally. To protect that public image, use of alcoholic beverages and any use of tobacco products by minors is not permitted. Violation of this policy is grounds for disqualification and dismissal from the 4-H.

2. **Knowledge of Rules and Procedures** – Where possible, each event in this program has been associated with the appropriate National Governing Body (NGB) for that event. Exceptions to NGB rules are noted in the “Synopsis”. Participants and coaches are responsible for reading the rules, understanding procedures used in each event, and complying with the rules and standards involved. Questions are encouraged to clarify areas of confusion or misunderstanding. Ignorance of the rules does not obviate their existence. Participants are responsible for knowing the rules of their events and complying with them. Learning the rules is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants.
3. **Dress Code** - Participants and coaches are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they participate. This dress code should be followed at all times during the event – from check-in to closing ceremonies including practice time. 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 to the individual or 4-H program.

South Dakota 4-H event specifics:

- Bottoms—pants are to be worn in all events, regardless of weather. Denim and khaki pant types preferred.
- Tops—must have collars and sleeves. Collars on shirts are to be maintained as constructed. Sleeves are to be worn at constructed length; t-shirt sleeves cannot be rolled under the shoulder seam. 4-H t-shirt or team uniform are preferred.
- Footwear—must wear shoes that completely cover the foot (toes and heel) at all practices and events. If the specific rules of a discipline do not allow boots (Air Rifle, BB Gun, Air Pistol) shoes must be worn. Participants are not allowed to compete in stocking feet.
- Messaging—if clothing is unable to have only 4-H messaging, any messaging should be neutral so that participants can still be featured in local media.

National 4-H event specifics:

- Currently have different specifications for pants and footwear. Check with state staff prior to participation to ensure compliance.

Consequences:

- Participants—Failure to meet the dress code will result in a) verbal warning and opportunity to fix violation quickly without interrupting the normal speed of the event, or then b) participant removal from the class they are competing in for which they will receive a score of zero in that event. The participant can correct the issue between classes and continue to compete in remaining registered classes. If unable or unwilling to do so, the youth will be considered withdrawn from the event.
- Coaches—Failure to meet the dress code is considered a violation of the volunteer code of conduct. Coaches will receive one warning and the opportunity to quickly adhere to the dress code. If unable or unwilling to do so, the coach will be removed from the event and additional sanctions may be levied.

4. **Behavior and Sportsmanship** - All participants, coaches, and spectators will demonstrate the highest levels of sportsmanship, supporting the objectives and ideals promoted by the 4-H program in general and the 4-H Shooting Sports Program in particular. Participants or coaches will render aid and/or testimony if asked to do so by any match official. All participants, coaches, and observers are expected to conform to appropriate state 4-H Code of Conduct, expectations, or volunteer agreements, as well as to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program Code of Conduct, not only to the letter, but in its intent.

III. Range Protocols

Note: In this section, “firearm” is broadly defined to include all rifles, pistols, shotguns, and muzzle loading arms regardless of type or action, including air guns. Range safety protocols will be strictly and vigorously enforced.

1. Firearms will be the last piece of equipment brought to the range by the competitors and the first piece of equipment to be removed from the range at the end of each event. When moving among positions, e.g., to different firing points in silhouette, the action must be open, ECI or CBI in place, and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. In shotgun events, a visibly open action is sufficient.
2. All firearms will remain cased until the competitor prepares to take the range for their relay and the range officer has declared the range ready. ECIs or CBIs will be in place until the shooter is on the firing line and will be replaced in the action prior to leaving the firing line. This does not apply to shotguns where the open actions permit visual observation by range staff.
3. BB Gun is a division, which is not addressed in the 4-H Rifle curriculum, as 4-H Rifle is meant to be taught starting with Air Rifle. In South Dakota we use the BB Gun as our starting level gun. This is primarily a safety decision and allows for a deeper understanding of the four positions. It is also beneficial that they tend to be easier for beginner participants to control as they are a bit lighter than most air rifles. These guns don't allow for a ECI or CBI to be installed without potential damage to the barrel. Due to this concern, the following will be the process followed to provide for the safest firing line for BB Gun.

10.1.1 Cocking of BB Guns - No BB gun may be cocked until the competitor is called to the firing line and the preparation period has begun. BB guns may be cocked and dry-fired during the preparation period but no shots may be fired.

10.1.4 Cease Firing - Upon the command CEASE FIRE, all BB guns will be grounded and the coach (or Range Official) will check the BB gun to see that it is not cocked. If the gun is loaded or cocked when the command CEASE FIRE is given, the competitor must inform the Range Officer who will then direct the competitor to fire it into the safety backstop. (Note: On lever-action guns, the gun can be checked to see that it has not been cocked by drawing the cocking lever forward to check spring pressure, and then leaving the gun in the quarter cocked position to indicate it has been checked.)

10.1.5 Not Ready - It is the duty of competitors to properly notify the Range Officer if not ready to fire at the time the command IS THE LINE READY? is given. The Chief Range Officer will then decide whether to delay until the competitor is ready, to resquad the competitor or to commence firing immediately.

4. No competitor shall rest the muzzle(s) of a shotgun or any other firearm on a shoe, toe pad or similar device such that the muzzle points at any part of an individual's body.
5. Deliberate shooting or attempting to shoot any living animal while on competitive ranges is grounds for ejection from the event or from the match.

IV. Health and Safety

1. Safety

Safety is the first priority for range staff, participants, coaches, and spectators. Standard and accepted range and shooting safety rules will be followed at all times. Any site-specific safety considerations will be announced at the appropriate venues. Match Directors, Range officers, or other event staff may caution, warn, or eject any person on any range for unsafe behavior. Such ejection may result in forfeited scores, disqualification, or ejection from the grounds. Any spectator contributing to unsafe behavior or rules violations may be barred from the ranges by staff or event management at any level.

2. **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

- A. Except in emergency situations, cell phones, radios, or other electronic communication devices may not be used on or in the immediate vicinity of competitive ranges during active competition.
- B. Essential communication may take place off the ranges where the process will not interfere with participants in any venue or compromise safe operation of the range.

3. **Eye and Ear Protection Requirement**

- A. **Eye Protection:** Adequate eye protection (shooting glasses, safety glasses or safety goggles, or hardened prescription glasses are required for all competitors in muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, and shotgun events. This includes hunting live fire events for rifle and shotgun. Coaches or spectators on or near firing lines are subject to the same requirements.
- B. **Ear Protection:** In hunting live fire, muzzleloading, shotgun, smallbore pistol, and smallbore rifle, all competitors and those on firing lines must have adequate hearing protection. Where electronic hearing protection is used, it may not include radio or similar broadcasts as background noise, since that could interfere with range commands. This protection is strongly advised for spectators who are close to such ranges.

V. Reasonable Accommodation

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in the 4-H Shooting Sports, the individual or county coordinator **MUST** contact the state coordinator, John Keimig, before completing the registration process and prior to the registration deadline. Those instances require a written petition supported by a physician's written statement detailing the accommodation, the issues preventing the use of standard position or positions, or modifications in equipment required to permit participation in the event.

VI. Coaching

- 1. **Coaches** – The designated coach is the only adult permitted to discuss procedures, ask questions, or advocate for his or her team with range officials.
- 2. **Coaching** – As a general rule, limited coaching is permitted as described in this section; but some events and some Chief Range Officers may have different guidelines for coaches. It is each coach's responsibility to know what is allowed in the discipline/event they are coaching. Coaches may not create a disturbance, upset either their competitors or others, create unnecessary delays, or otherwise interfere with the safe and efficient operation of the range and execution of the matches. Coaches may assist participants during prep time, setting up equipment, spotting sighter shots, and offering positive advice and support. Unless called to the line by range officials, coaches will remain in the coaches' area. The coach's area will be set up behind the competitor ready line. Coaches will remain behind that line once preparation time ends, unless called to a firing point by the referee. Once record shooting begins, no coaching is permitted unless initiated by the shooter through the range officer and with his or her permission. Coaches may NOT initiate contact with their shooters. Coaches may not handle firearms or equipment once the match has begun, nor may they advance to the firing line unless authorized by the range officer. Coaches may use spotting scopes to observe shot placement. Specific coaching instructions may be issued on the ranges for each event. **PLEASE NOTE:** Non-verbal coaching is permitted in air rifle (Rule 5.2.2), provided it does not disturb other competitors. Except for coaching permitted in Rules 5.2.1, other forms of coaching or communication such as talking or the use of electronic communications between a competitor and coach while the competitor is on the firing line are prohibited.
 - a. Muzzleloading
 - i. Coaches' clear misfires with a range officer to observe
 - 1. Process to clear misfire: Shooter alerts the range officers that there is an issue. Then they will Re Cap with range office observing and if it fails again then the Range officer will call over the coach and then the coach will work on the Misfire in a designated area with a range officer observing the repairs.
 - ii. Juniors can have a coach with Verbal coaching but NO one other than the participant or other shooters may touch the equipment after the command Load and commence fire is said.

1. Seniors No Coaching they can have other participants spotting for them, the coaches may talk to the spotter but not to the participant. No one touches the equipment other than the participant and other participants after the load and commence fire is said.
- iii. If the participant does not have a spotter, they can have spotting scopes at the loading area.
- iv. Juniors and seniors will be separated at on the line.
- v. Scoring will be at edge of ball
- vi. During Target check time No Cell phones allowed in the tent there will be calculators available. Juniors will be first with Coaches allowed and then the seniors will come in without coaches.

VII. County Office Responsibilities:

1. Ensure that youth participating in SS are enrolled in 4-H and are on 4Honline! There is a form attached that can be used as a waiver for one time participation and can be used a check it out night opportunity, this is not intended to be used to get around 4-H enrollment.
2. **Emergency Plans** – Due to State Coordinator (John Keimig) yearly before practice starts
 - A. Fall/Winter Plans for Archery, Rifle and Pistol
 - B. Summer Plan for Muzzleloading and Shotgun
3. Equipment Inventory – Due to State Coordinator by February 1.
4. Verify that your active coaches are paid volunteers.

VIII. Qualification Matches

1. Youth must compete in and achieve a qualifying score in a given discipline in at least one match to qualify to compete in that discipline at state shoot.
 - A. Youth may compete in every match
 - B. Each match is awarded (placing awards are given in team and individual events in each match)
2. Match scores must be turned in on/by the match closing date. Late scores will be rolled to the next match.
3. Fees
 - A. Individual Fee: \$5/score submitted
 - B. Team Fee: \$5/team submitted

IX. State Match

1. Registration opens on March 16 (day after the end of Match 2)
2. Fees:
 - A. Individual Fee: \$10/entry
 - B. Team Fee: \$5/team