



## Participation Requirements

1. Enroll all kids in 4-H ... enroll as many as possible by January 25.
  - a. 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.
  - b. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H before starting practice.
  - c. Youth must be enrolled in 4HOnline by the end of Match 2 (March 15) to compete at State Shoot in the spring.
  - d. Youth must be enrolled in 4HOnline by July 15 to compete in fall shoot.
2. Tests scores must be submitted for all discipline areas (Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Muzzleloading, Shotgun).
  - a. 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)
  - b. Youth must have a passing score submitted before they may schedule a time for the state shoot. If scores are not submitted, youth will be unregistered until their scores have been submitted to the state office.
  - c. 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.
3. 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.

## Volunteer Coach Requirements

1. Must become a registered 4-H volunteer – Cost \$10
  - a. [extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-4-h/volunteers-alumni](https://extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-4-h/volunteers-alumni)
  - b. Become familiar with the process and guides on the above page.
  - c. Must complete and pass a background check, through the South Dakota Board of Regents selected company.
  - d. Must be enrolled in 4HOnline and do so yearly!
2. Must complete the training house videos (there is a Shooting Sports volunteer specific set vs the entire set)
  - a. Work with your local Youth Program Advisor to get through this process.
3. Must go through shooting sports youth development training – Cost \$50
  - a. Could be up to 4 hours.
  - b. At this point only required once with no recertification, as of this point.
4. Go through a discipline training - \$50
  - a. Can only pick up one discipline and YD at any training event
  - b. Discipline areas
    - i. Rifle – (BB Gun, Air Rifle, .22 – CMP and 3-P)
    - ii. Pistol – (Air and .22)
    - iii. Archery – (Recurve and Compound)
    - iv. Shotgun
    - v. Muzzleloading
    - vi. Hunting
    - vii. Coordinator
    - viii. Western Heritage
  - c. Must teach at least once every three years to maintain certification.

5. Go through recertification training every 7 years - \$40
  - a. This is for each discipline you choose to be trained in and wish to maintain that certification.
  - b. To do this you will need to
    - i. Attend a refresher offered at Annual Meeting
    - ii. Attend another full certification in the discipline area
6. Follow and adhere to county-specific policies and procedures (these are specific to any given county)
  - a. This may include local dues.
  - b. May include other event duties.
4. **Individual Participation** – All individuals participating as team members are competing concomitantly as individuals.

### **County Office Responsibilities:**

1. Ensure that youth participating in Shooting Sports 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 as a check it out night opportunity, this is not intended to be used to get around 4-H enrollment. Contact John Keimig for a waiver.
2. Ensure youth are enrolled in the Shooting Sports Disciplines they intend to qualify in (archery, BB Gun, Rifle, etc.) in 4HOnline.
3. **Emergency Plans** – Due to State Coordinator (John Keimig) yearly before practice starts
  - a. Fall/Winter Plans for Archery, Rifle and Pistol, Western Heritage
  - b. Summer Plan for Muzzleloading, Western Heritage, and Shotgun
4. A list of people who have passed a safety evaluation for each discipline they compete in by the end of Match 2, must be submitted to the state office (John).
5. Verify that your active coaches are paid volunteers.

### **Changes from 2023/24:**

#### **Fee Increase**

- 2024 -Match Fees - \$10/score submitted, \$10/ Team Submitted
- 2024 – State Shoot Fees - \$20/Entry (if in the system on April 16 (Spring), September 2 (Fall) will be billed), \$10/Team Submitted (if team members do not show and make the team short, will still be billed for the submission).

#### **Late Fees**

After the due dates listed in the important dates (July 31 Spring Bills, October 31 Fall Bills) there will be a late fee assessed for all unpaid bills. This late fee will be 10% of the bill. Bills unpaid after January 1 will result in no scores being accepted for Matches until the bills are settled.

#### **Hanging Targets in All Events**

Targets in all events will be hung showing the full face according to manufacturer specifications, squarely on the backstop.

#### **Range Protocol Reminder (Important)**

Firearms brought to the line and check-ins must be brought in cases. Those cases must have a muzzle end marked on the case. If using a two-gun case the case must indicate muzzle end as the guns are laid in it. If magazines are also carried in the case, they are to be empty. There is time before the live fire starts to load those. This policy also applies to archery competitions. Bows are to be brought into the building in a case. Failure to follow this procedure may result in class dismissal.

### **Scholarships**

Scholarships – Increase total annual amount from \$3,500 to \$4,000 – 1 x \$1000, 2 x \$750, and 3 x \$500. Eliminate a \$250 scholarship.

### **National Team Cost/Deposits**

National Team Members – No longer have a deposit due – With the increase in fees, those who commit to a National Team will have their National Registration fee, State Shirt, and coaches' expenses covered. Individuals will still be responsible for their own travel, lodging, and food.

### **Shotgun – Clarification**

Starting position for sporting clays requires a shotgun butt to be in contact with the body.

### **Muzzleloading – Clarification**

Scoring clarifications only – Scoring to follow the edge of the ball. Targets will be hung with Critters on top, Bottles Below Critters, and the practice target hung at the bottom. Targets are to be hung according to manufacture specifications, squarely on the backstop.

### **Air Pistol**

1. The firing line is defined as the edge of the table closest to the shooter. The table is considered a safety zone.
2. Sitting eliminated for Junior age. Must stand, may shoot one or two-handed.
3. Beginner-age participants may have their feet cross the firing line while in the seated position.

### **Small Bore Pistol**

May move to the Oahe Downriver Range (same location as .22 Rifle 3P & Silhouettes) pending availability.

1. Move to a 60 Shot Camp Perry Match for State.
  - a. (2) 10-shot strings slow fire – 5 minutes each
  - b. (4) 5-Shot strings Timed Fire – 20 seconds each
  - c. (4) 5-Shot strings Rapid Fire – 10 seconds each.
2. A half-match would still be shot for qualifying at the local as in previous years.
3. Range commands will change to follow Camp Perry – These will be sent out timely so counties may practice with the commands that will be used at State Shoot
4. No Optics or Red Dots – Iron Sights Only for all small bore events including silhouettes.
5. Scoring will be done on the range – Pass your scorecard to the right, competitor scores the person to your left. Review scoring, resolve discrepancies on site with the help of the Range Officer if needed, and sign the scorecard, before pulling or touching the target. Once the target is removed from the backer, no scoring adjustments may be made. Scoring aids will be available on the line. The Range Office has the final say.
6. Follow the Rule Books – If something isn't specifically addressed in the rule book, it is not allowed.
7. No muzzle devices except a fret protector are allowed – Nothing that screws into the barrel is allowed.
8. No recoil reduction devices, barrel weights, etc.
9. Alibi's – Juniors may have unlimited alibis; Seniors – One alibi per string of 10 shots, per target. No alibis allowed on slow fire.
10. For Check-In – Guns must remain cased. The check-in officer will remove the gun from the case and handle it through the entirety of the check-in process.

## **Rifle**

If a small bore pistol moves to the Oahe Downstream range, the .22 Rifle CMP event will make use of both sides of the Police Range for each relay. Sean Kruger is working on the possibility of shooting steel silhouettes instead of paper at the Oahe Downstream range. Not decided as of yet. Ribbon placings will be given for .22 Rifle Silhouettes, but this also means that it will be a charged event. The new \$20 registration fee will apply to this as well. Any event you register for a time slot and are given a ribbon placing for will be an event that is charged the \$20 registration fee.

## **BB Gun**

1. To mitigate the tripping hazard from the lighting, there will be outside and middle lanes used to approach the target backers.
2. Targets will be collected at the target backer – Parents must take a picture if they wish to show a competitor. No shot targets will return to the firing line.
3. The lighting will also have an on/off switch to allow the range officer to turn the lights off during the target collection time.
4. There will be a defined line in which spectators must remain behind.
5. 1:15 Time Slots to allow for switch-over time between relays. Participants are expected to remain quietly behind the firing line and not begin packing up equipment until all participants have completed firing.

## **Air Rifle**

1. Switching shooting order to match the international standard of KPS – Kneeling, Prone, Standing.
2. No coaching allowed on the line unless specifically requested in advance for safety reasons/reasonable accommodation. These participants will be separated from the main line who will be following CMP Rules regarding coaching on the line.

## **Hunting Skills**

National Team Selection Formula updated as follows:

- 65% Written Test
- 5% Rifle scores from the past two years
- 5% Archery
- 5% Shotgun
- 10% Reference Letter
- 5% Past National Team Experience
- 5% Other Discipline Participation

## **2024 Match Score Submission**

2024 match scores will be submitted via an Excel document. The Excel sheets (Team and Individual) will be due to John Keimig via email ([john.keimig@sdstate.edu](mailto:john.keimig@sdstate.edu)) by 9:30 am (CST) on the day after the ending date of the match (due Feb. 16, March 16, April 16, July 16, and Sept 1). If scores are not submitted on time (Team and Individual) they will not be accepted. There will be two Excel documents sent out—one for teams, and one for individuals—that have the format for the score submissions. Each discipline (CWS, CWSR, BB Gun, Air Rifle, etc.) will have its own sheet on that document. The county office or a local Shooting Sports Coordinator can submit the document. Please only submit one document (i.e., don't have three people send it to make sure I get it).

## **Enrollment Verification and Safety test completion**

This process will need to become a cooperative effort of the Shooting Sports leaders and the county office. Shooting Sports Coaches will need to make sure that they are communicating with the county office. Coaches should be communicating the following:

- Names of participants (this should be done regularly, not only after the first night)
- Each participant's safety evaluation status (pass/fail, %, etc.) for each discipline

The county offices should verify the enrollment status of youth participants and communicate this back to the coaches. Together, coaches and the county office will ensure all youth are enrolled for the current year in 4HOnline before scores are submitted.

### **State Shoot Registration**

State Shoot Registration will continue to be done through Fairentry. State match registration will be open at 12:01 a.m. on March 18 and will close on April 16.

State Match teams will need to be submitted to John by 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2024. You can use the team match submission spreadsheet to do this. Please indicate on the spreadsheet that these are your state teams.

### **Final Thoughts:**

There are no rules about what parents do with their cloverbuds at home, but they cannot be on the line during regular 4-H practice. It is NOT possible to make individual decisions about this. It is an insurance issue. If you allow cloverbuds on the firing line during 4-H practice or any 4-H event you are NOT insured if there is an accident and your status as a volunteer will be in jeopardy.

Matches serve multiple purposes. They are to set a minimum qualification level for participation at state shoots and as an in-season opportunity to compete against peers involved in the Shooting Sports program throughout the state. It is acceptable to compete in every match or to only choose to compete once. For counties that work up budgets for their programs and include match and state fees in your registration cost, I encourage you to give the families the option to compete in multiple matches but to make them aware that there is a cost associated with that competition. Matches allow for team and individual competition and those competitions are awarded.

I would also encourage your programs to look at expanding their opportunities. 4-H Shooting Sports does a great job of introducing youth to shooting and teaching them valuable safety lessons. However, there is more available. Within each discipline, there is some opportunity to progress through different types of tools and to learn to master different competitive opportunities. For example, in the rifle discipline, we start youth with BB Guns and that is where many of our programs stop. However, there is the option of moving on to Air Rifles and beyond that .22 rifles. Even once you get to .22 rifles the student can compete in CMP or 3-P position. We struggle to keep older youth involved when they have so many things pulling at their time. Expanding their competitive opportunities may keep them interested.

If you have questions about expanding your county program into other areas, I encourage you to reach out. If I can't help you, I can find people to put you in contact with who may be able to tell you about other opportunities for our youth. These may include through Junior Olympic competition, American Legion, Delta Waterfowl, and NFAA. We have people and programs with youth competing on all levels, and I know they would be happy to tell you how to get involved. Shooting is a lifelong activity and 4-H is a great way to get youth introduced and to help them find that spark that will keep a flame burning for a lifetime!