



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 15) to compete at State Shoot in the spring.
 - iv. Youth must be enrolled in 4HOnline by July 15 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 scores are not submitted, youth will be unregistered until their scores have been submitted to the state office.
 - 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.
 - 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. extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-4-h/volunteers-alumni
 - ii. Become familiar with the process and guides on the above page.
 - iii. Must complete and pass a background check, through the South Dakota Board of Regents selected company.
 - iv. Must be enrolled in 4HOnline and do so yearly!
 - b. Must complete the training house videos (there is a Shooting Sports volunteer-specific set vs the entire set)
 - i. Work with your local Youth Program Advisor to get through this process.
 - 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 Youth Development 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
 - h. Western Heritage
- 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
- 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.
- 4. **Individual Participation** – All individuals participating as team members are competing concomitantly as individuals.
- 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. Teams' selection criteria is at the discretion of the county program
- 6. **Post-Secondary Restriction** – Participants shall not have participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive collegiate shooting sports event at any level. A competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or its students) in which scores are kept and awards are offered to any or all participants.

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. Team uniforms or shirts are encouraged, but not required. Both young people and adults should wear attire appropriate for the weather while remaining modest. It is important to recognize and respect individual's choices which can at times bring unwanted attention either to an individual or to the group as a whole. All participants, coaches, parents, and family members must remember that they may be photographed or interviewed for use by local, regional, or national media. Let's do all we can to make sure that is a positive image for 4-H!

4. **Footwear Policy** - Participants in any shooting event or activity, while on the shooting line, are required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet, including soles. Examples of footwear that are not acceptable include, but are not limited to: sandals, clogs, flip-flops, slippers, house shoes, and bare feet.
5. **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 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.
2. 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.
3. All firearms will remain cased (with the muzzle end of the case indicated) 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.
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.
6. Targets in all events will be hung showing the full face according to manufacturer specifications, squarely on the backstop. THIS APPLIES TO ALL EVENTS (Archery and Gun)!

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. **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.

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, Western Heritage
 - b. Summer Plan for Muzzleloading, Western Heritage, 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: \$10/ score submitted.
 - b. Team Fee: \$10/ team submitted.

IX. State Match

1. Registration opens on March 16 (day after the end of Match 2)
2. Fees:
 - a. Individual Fee: \$20/ entry submitted.
 - b. Team Fee: \$10/ team submitted.
3. Entries made after the closing date, either by the county office or requested through the state office, are subject to the use of the missed deadline form and associated fees. If match scores have not been submitted for individuals with registrations made for state events, there will need to be a missed deadline form submitted and fee paid for a verified match score to be submitted. In addition, those late match scores are not eligible for awards.
4. Teams submitted after the deadlines identified in the event synopsis document for each shoot will be subject to the missed deadline form and associated fees. And the fee will apply for each person on the team (Ex. 3 members = 3 fees, 4 members = 4 fees).
5. Youth who are not enrolled when the State Match entry opens but has been competing and has turned in Match scores will be subject to the missed deadline form and will be subject to the fee for their missed enrollment deadline, but also for each match score submitted.
6. Bills are sent out after the state match for the matches associated with that event (Spring – Match 1, 2, and 3 + Fall – Match 4, 5 and 6). 35 days are given to pay these bills; late fees may be applied after the first notification period has lapsed and additional bills are sent. Bills must be settled before the next event or all entries from the delinquent county will be rejected.

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