



Best Practices – recommendations for Shooting Sports Clubs

- Encourage Club Members to obtain their Hunters Education Card within their first year of membership.
- To compete, must attend 60% of the practices (or whatever works best for the county club); attendance is taken at each meeting/practice.
- Have a sign in sheet at each meeting and/or range. This will help see who is attending the meeting, who is working at what range, and the interests of the child.
- Youth and parents are required to attend at least two of three safety meetings before they can participate. New members beginning after the start of the season must attend a safety briefing before they are allowed to participate.
- A member can be removed for disregard of safe firearm handling procedures. NO horseplay or unsafe behavior of any kind will be tolerated. No toy guns or other toys which resemble a firearm may be brought onto the shooting grounds. A member can be immediately removed from the meeting area for personal conduct that is physically, mentally and/or emotionally threatening harm or injury to another person.
- Only coaches should dialogue with a member participating at the firing line...Except for a cease fire command which anyone can call at any time. Coaches and/or club coordinator must enforce ALL 4-H safety rules.
- Safety rules demand cell phones be silenced at all meetings. Cell phone use is prohibited on the firing line.
- All equipment is to be brought to the site of practice unloaded, (firearms with a clear barrel indicator and arrows in quiver) and enclosed in some type of safety casing. All equipment is to remain unloaded, in cases, and placed in a designated area until members are instructed otherwise by their corresponding Discipline Coach.
- All equipment and ammunition must be approved by the corresponding Discipline Coach.
- All members must provide their own safety equipment and must utilize it at all times when on the firing line. Hearing, eye protection and CBI's are required. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- A short safety briefing will be given prior to every practice
- Members must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult during club meetings, range practice and respective contests. Members and their responsible adult will read, sign, and follow the County 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Conduct and rules of their discipline.
- Involve your parents as much as possible. Give them small tasks to perform-delegate duties.
- Members and their parents are expected to convey positive attitudes and comments toward the shooting sports club, its members and its instructors.
- Members are required to adhere to the State 4-H Shooting Sports Education Dress Code.
- To be eligible to compete in the State Competition, a member should participate in at least five practices, at least one competitive shoot, and at least one fundraiser.
- A member must demonstrate proper safety and knowledge of range procedures of registered disciplines, possess the knowledge of how to shoot and number of shots for

that discipline to coaches before participating in State Tournament. State Shoot Competition readiness of member will be determined by corresponding Discipline Coach.

- Be creative with club meetings; be open to new ideas for meetings to keep them fun and to keep the members attending on a regular basis. Attempt to keep the business portion of a meeting to a short amount of time.
- Keep educational/safety meetings fun and hands on; younger club members have a short attention span! Involve the kids, especially teens in safety demonstrations, leading the pledges, giving reports, designate a couple kids to take pictures to be in the newspaper/newsletter or posted in a scrapbook or Facebook Page.
- Be present at the meetings, be organized, and be prompt with start time. Listen to your club members; talk to them; watch them; compliment them; smile at them; tell them to be sure to come back to the next meeting. Make sure the parents and members know when the next meeting is and location.
- Have updated contact info for parents, coaches and members, in case of changes or cancellations. Communicate with them on a regular basis via email, Facebook, etc.
- Any county hosting or participating in a 4-H sponsored event MUST follow the current shooting sports rules. It is the host County's responsibility to see that this happens.
- Be aware of the Shooting Sports Website. <http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/shooting-sports> Tons of information is there to give to parents and kids: meeting dates, 4H Shooting Sports Camp, deadlines, State Shoot information, county competitions, rules, etc.
- Utilize Shooting Sports Teen Ambassadors to help promote the different avenues in Shooting Sports. Reach out to other counties that have established Shooting Sports Clubs to get tips and hints from them.
- Recruit coaches to be trained in other places besides parents. Grandparents, interested colleagues, aunts and uncles, local shooting range personnel.
- Encourage Coordinator, Coaches and Youth Development Agent to work together and stay on same page with goals and plans.

Created 11/24/2015

