



## 4-H Shooting Sports Policy Statement

Revised 3/4/2017

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Only clubs, groups and competitive shoots recognized and approved by a county, area or state 4-H council (depending upon the scope of the club, event, or activity) can use the 4-H name and/or emblem. Any group using the 4-H name and/or emblem without proper approval should be reported to the State 4-H Office immediately. Compliance with 4-H certifications, teaching certifications, teaching methods, and overall 4-H objectives should be monitored by the agent responsible for the program.

All sanctioned 4-H shooting sports events are to follow the rules and regulations established by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee. Counties hosting a shooting sports event are required to send the 4-H Shooting Sport Education Event Host County Form to the state office and each county participating is required to include the 4-H Shooting Sport Education Event County Participant Form with their registration for that event. Forms are on the 4-H Shooting Sports website **under Policies and Rules**.

**Only Kentucky residents are permitted to participate in the 4-H Shooting Sports State Competition. Exception: Youth who live out of state but are enrolled in a Kentucky county shooting sports program are permitted to participate in any Kentucky event or activity as a member of that county's program. Out of state youth not enrolled in a Kentucky county program may participate in local county events if the county agrees and as long as preference is given to Kentucky residents.**

The State Office and State Shooting Committee have seen a problem with participants attending the state shoot that are not trained in the discipline they are shooting. State Office and State Committee insist that counties only bring participants to the state shoot that are thoroughly trained in the disciplines they are shooting. This is a major safety and liability issue.

All 4-H shooting sports activities require direct supervision by a Kentucky 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Adult Coach. If a local club or program divides the members into groups for concurrent classes or Range Work (i.e. Rifle and Trap), each group or division must be under the on-site supervision of a Kentucky 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Adult Coach, even if they are not certified in that discipline. Additional adult volunteers and/or instructors working with these groups and certified by other agencies, are to be under direct supervision of the Certified Adult 4-H Coach.

The scenario just described may occur only until the next scheduled State Shooting Sports Certification Workshop. At that time, someone from that local club **MUST** be certified in the discipline lacking a Certified Coach. Any youngster discovered to be participating in a local 4-H club that is not in compliance with this policy will be denied participation in any 4-H Shooting Sport Event and/or from any 4-H sponsored Shooting Competition. Any county violating this policy will be subject to Administrative Review and possible cancellation of the shooting program within their county until they are within compliance.

All 4-H Adult and Teen Coaches certified by the University of Kentucky 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program are required to complete no less than 12 hours of classroom and range work and successfully pass a written test following the training.

To avoid potential problems in the event of a liability claim, all county Extension offices involved with a 4-H Shooting Sports Program should maintain a list of all 4-H Certified Adult and Teen Coaches and all other adults authorized to work with the local 4-H Shooting Sports Club/Program. Any adult or teen

coach that is not active in the program for two years or more should be removed from the list of active volunteer coaches. Should that person wish to become active in the program again, he/she must complete the Kentucky Shooting Sports Certification Workshop for coaches before assuming any responsibilities.

Only volunteers who are in good standing with their home county and who have successfully completed the University of Kentucky, 4-H Client Protection Process are permitted to coach and supervise youth in overnight programs in the 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program.

Other volunteers may be permitted to be involved in the 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program on an “episodic” basis. This means that a volunteer may assume responsibilities at shooting events, district or state activities without having completed the client protection process. This volunteer may NOT supervise or coach youth or chaperone youth for any overnight events. Responsibilities for the episodic volunteer may include such activities as assisting with registration, assisting on a range during an event, serving on a committee to organize an event or activity, assisting with club activities, etc.

All volunteers, whether involved on the county, district or state level, should be in communication with the County Agent with Shooting Sports responsibilities regarding the volunteer’s involvement. These records are to be maintained for a period of one year.

ALL volunteers should be covered by “Volunteer Liability Insurance” and it is recommended that ALL 4-H Shooting Sports Members be covered by a “Health and Accident Policy”, through their county.

#### **Definitions:**

##### **Kentucky 4-H Certified Shooting Sports State Instructor**

An Adult who has successfully completed a course of training sponsored by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and conducted on a regional basis in the United States. Their primary role is to instruct other volunteers or agents at State 4-H Shooting Certification Training.

##### **Kentucky 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Adult Coach**

Adults who have successfully completed a certified course of training sponsored by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee (**State Level I training**) and conducted on an in-state regional basis. **Before becoming an adult coach, the volunteer must have “aged out” of 4-H as a participant.** Their primary role is to serve as local club leaders/coaches and assist with various regional/state events. **The Kentucky Adult Coach corresponds to National 4-H Shooting Sports definition of a State Level 1 Instructor.**  
1/17/2018

##### **Kentucky 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Teen Coach**

Teen Leaders **between 14 and 18 by 4-H age** who have successfully completed a certified course of training sponsored by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and conducted on an in-state regional basis. Their primary role is to assist under the direction of a Certified Adult Coach in local clubs or events when working with other club members. Certified teens must be under the DIRECT supervision of a 4-H Adult Certified Coach at all times. 1/17/2018

##### **Why can’t I simply use any existing Hunter Education Instructors or instructors certified by other agencies/organizations to conduct a local 4-H Shooting Sports Club?**

Existing Hunter Education Instructors, NRA Certified Instructors or Coaches, Certified Archery Instructors or similar individuals are excellent resources for starting the program. Within 6 months or less these volunteers should enroll in one of the 4-H sponsored certification workshops. For them, the prime reason for attending a 4-H sponsored certification is orientation to the scope, intent, and methods of working with the 4-H youth program. Without this 4-H background, the programs that emerge are often renamed repetitions of the existing programs available through those other organizations. The distinctive orientation, approach and methods of our program make it uniquely 4-H. Without those elements and guidelines for program management and support, the program risks its integrity and effectiveness, as well as value as a

4-H youth development tool. Workshop content is designed to help leaders deliver an effective high-quality and self-sustaining youth development program using shooting as a vehicle. The workshops seek to assure quality control and program consistency that is uniquely 4-H and not some other organizations philosophy and teaching methods.

### **Objectives of 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program**

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program strives to enable young people, their parents and adult volunteers to become responsible, self-directed and productive members of society. Agents, leaders, instructors and coaches must understand the goals and objectives of the 4-H program.

In accordance with the University of Kentucky and Cooperative Extension Service, the 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program serves all people regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The program will make all reasonable efforts within the Kentucky Competitive State 4-H Shooting Sports Education Rules to accommodate all youth 9 to **18** years of age regardless of any disability.

The specific goals and objectives of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program include, but are not limited to the following:

1. To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision making, self-discipline and concentration.
2. To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
3. To encourage participation in natural resources and related natural science programs by exposing participants to the content through shooting, hunting and related activities.
4. To enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting activity.
5. To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to shooting sports.
6. To strengthen families through participation in life-long recreational activities.
7. To compliment and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting and hunter education programs using experiential educational methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

### **Program Content and Depth**

The value of the 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program as a youth development tool is primarily due to the dedication of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee. The committee works to develop curriculum, arrange donor support and conduct regional training

The program is designed to be educational, out of school and under the direction of a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer/**Coach**. A series of club meetings and range work is designed to teach firearm safety, skill development in gun care and handling, target shooting skills and the development of a positive shooting ethic.

### **Late Roster/Registration Policy**

No state shooting sports competition registration will be accepted after the August deadline date of the current year of the contest for any reason. **No Exceptions!** No changes or substitutions of the state 4-H Shooting Sports competition registrations can be made after the September deadline date of the current year. **No Exceptions!**

Names of individuals who have been inadvertently left off a county roster can be admitted to the county registration up to the date of the registration deadline if it can be proven that the individual was enrolled and actively participating in the 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program by the following:

- Attended the previous year's state competition or

- Attended other official 4-H Shooting Sports contests hosted by a county/district other than where he/she is enrolled. This must be between the previous year's state competition and the current year's registration deadline.

To ensure that these records are available, the state 4-H office will require that a copy of each event registration be submitted by the hosting body that will include the name and county of enrollment of everyone who participated in the event. An official event is one that is sponsored by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee or an event hosted by a county, area or district shooting sports program which has filed the required host and participation forms with the state 4-H office.

**For a first year participant in a shooting sports club that has been inadvertently left off the roster (and one who has not had the opportunity to participate in events outside of their club activities), proof of attendance at practices and safety meetings prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> must be provided to the 4-H Shooting Sports State Specialist.**

#### **Cloverbud Policy (5 to 8 year olds)**

In compliance with the Cloverbud Policy of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee, Shooting Sports Cloverbud Clubs are not permitted in Kentucky. It has been determined by the National Committee that "Cloverbud age youth are not allowed to participate in any shooting sports activity that includes the handling or live-fire of any air guns, firearms or archery equipment". 1/17/2018

#### **Reactive Targets**

Targets which make use of or are composed of (1) live ammunition, (2) explosives, chemicals or flammable substances, or (3) pressurized containers are never to be used at any 4-H event or activity. 1/17/2018

#### **Ammunition**

Only factory ammunition is used at a 4-H shooting sports competitive event or activity. 4/21/2018

