

2018
MISSOURI 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS
STATE MATCH RULES
5 DAYS

(rev Feb 7, 2018)

PLEASE READ! There are changes every year. It is the shooter's responsibility to know and understand the rules.

DATES:

August 18	Skeet Shoot new date this year
August 25	Trap Shoot (may enter 2 events: Singles & Doubles) but <u>cannot</u> shoot Trap & Archery on same day.
August 25-26	Archery (NFAA 300) choice of day (trap shooters must shoot Sunday)
September 15	State Shoot (all other events) – may enter 2 events – 3 max, if 1 is Hunting Skills)
September 16	3D archery; Sporting Clays; Muzzleloading (2 events - if 1 is Muzzleloader)

NOTE: Registration must be done by 4-H Online. The goal this year is to have one registration for all dates and all events. The Trap Shoot and the 300 Archery event (maybe others) will be self-scheduling – meaning the member will also select their scheduled shooting time. However, plans don't always work out – so stay informed on the 2018 registration process by reading your county newsletter and/or frequently visiting the Missouri 4-H Shooting Sports website.

SPECIAL Note:

Shotgun: NO Shotgun events will take place at Prairie Grove Shotgun Club. We realize this will be inconvenient, but is beyond our control. TRAP will be at Linn Creek as previous years; SPORTING CLAYS at River Hills Sporting Clays (Boonville); and SKEET is scheduled at Gateway Gun Club, Bridgeton, MO (near St. Louis).

Archery 300 – All age divisions will shoot the basic/standard 300 round (JR @ 10 yds; INT @ 15 yds; SR @ 20) on August 25 or 26. Only the more advanced archery events, American 600 and 3D are held in September.

Number of Events: see above. Limit to 2 per day with the following exception: Three (3) events are possible on Saturday of the September shoot...if 1 event is Hunting Skills. **Cannot shoot both Archery and Trap on same day; and nor Sporting Clays and 3D Archery** on Sunday. Two events are possible if Muzzleloading is one of them.

Ammo: No ammunition is provided for any event. Air Rifle, Air Pistol, BB Gun, Shotgun, Smallbore Rifle and Smallbore Pistol shooters must provide their own ammo for the State Shoot.

Sharing Equipment: Equipment may be shared by 4-H members, but because of scheduling difficulties and conflicts, **NO MORE THAN 2 4-Hers may share the same piece of equipment on the same day.**

DRESS CODE has been revised & updated. Please read.

Remember:

- **ALL Rifle Events** – Air rifle, Smallbore Rifle, BB gun will shoot 3 positions only. No more 4-position. 30 rounds for score– 10 rounds per target (except 50 yard 3P). Juniors shoot prone only.
- **Muzzleloading** –has been moved to Sunday.
- **Archery NFAA 300** round is now a stand-alone event with own weekend – is not part of the September shoot
- **Archery 600 event** – is a relatively new event. Read and understand the rules. State policy mandates that a member must shoot the event at a practice or other event before doing so at the State Shoot!
- **Awards** – will not be presented at conclusion of the events – but will be mailed to the county Extension office. Exception: State Trap Shoot will have awards presented at conclusion of the shoot-off.

- **Teams: All teams** (except Trap) **will be composed of the top 3** (not 4) **scores from a county.** A county may also have a 2nd or 3rd team compete for awards, if they have the numbers. Trap teams still consist of top 5 shooters (do not have to be on same squad for high team).

GENERAL RULES

1. **Entry Requirements** - 4-H members will be considered eligible to participate in the Missouri 4-H State Shooting Sports State Match if they, and the county program, meet these requirements.

a. Contestants must have completed the project that he or she is competing in as of August 31 of current 4-H year and must be enrolled in the discipline entered. **Each youth must qualify for state competition for each individual event by participating in a contest with the same rules as the State Contest (see (b) below).**

b. **Qualifying Requirement:** Participation in an actual or simulated/mock contest under the instruction of an adult leader that is 4-H certified (certification current) is required for members to enter the state contest. The member must shoot the same course of fire, in the same event in the simulated contest as he/she will enter in the state contest. This may be an "official" county shoot, another county's shoot, or simply a mock contest under the supervision of the certified leader. The same target, same distance, same rules, same range setup, same safety requirements, etc. as the state contest must be followed.

NOTE: Shotgun participants will need to actually visit and shoot at least 1 round on a Skeet field, Trap field, or Sporting Clays course before participating in these events at the State Shoot.

c. By entry to this shooting event, the participant, parent, and certified leader is verifying that the youth has completed 10 hours of instruction, demonstrated basic safety, and possesses the basic knowledge and skills required. Any participant which, in the opinion of the range official, does not exhibit this basic knowledge and skills will be excused from the competition.

d. As we move to 100% online registration, each contestant must follow the procedures as directed. It is the responsibility of each individual to be informed and stay current on registration procedures. Read all correspondence from the state or county 4-H office and frequently check the 4-H Shooting Sports website: <http://4h.missouri.edu/go/projects/shootingsports/contests.htm>

Paper or online, the certified project leader should approve entries verifying that the 4-H member has successfully participated in & completed the project.

e. Each contestant must also meet any and all other requirements set by the State Shooting Sports Advisory Committee, any other requirements set forth by their County for eligibility to compete in state contests/events, and any requirements of the State 4-H program for participation in state events. To participate, the member must be recognized by their county as a member in good standing.

f. **Youth staff (YPA or YS) must approve each registration.** Local requirements for a member in good standing must be met, as well as all state requirements before approval is granted. Payment must be received via credit card or by check at the county extension office prior to approval.

2. **SAFETY IS ALWAYS THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION.** Any violations of accepted safety rules are grounds for immediate disqualification. NO WARNING REQUIRED! Each contestant, parent, or coach on the firing line will wear appropriate eye and/or ear protection for all shooting events

a. **Eye Protection:** Shooting glasses or equivalent prescription glasses are required for all events involving air or powder driven projectiles. They are strongly recommended (but not required) for archery events as well. ISU or UIT glasses may be worn only if both eyes are adequately protected. All persons on or near the firing line are required to have eye protection, including coaches, range personnel, and shooters.

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- b. **Ear Protection:** In any event where noise is a recognized hazard to future hearing (i.e. if it goes "bang") then hearing protection is required of all persons on or near the ranges. Ear plugs or head style ear muffs may be worn at the discretion of the shooter, range officer or coach; but proper hearing protection is required. Audio headphones or ear buds –even if not plugged in – are not acceptable hearing protection. Such equipment may be used in air or archery events if the shooter desires, but BB, Pellet, and Archery do not require hearing protection.
 - c. **Finger tabs, shooting gloves or releases required:** Shooting glove must be designed for archery gloves designed for other sports not allowed.
 - d. **Cased Requirement:** All firearms, air guns, and bows, must be in a case at all times except when on the range and ready to participate in the event.
 - e. **Open and Empty:** All firearms will remain open and empty until the shooter is on the range and the command to load or fire, is given.
 - f. **Safe Indicators:** Safety Procedure for Air Pistol, Air Rifle, BB Gun, Smallbore Rifle, Smallbore Pistol – while in the case and when brought to the firing line. Air rifles and air pistols shall have a weed eater string (of bright color) in the barrel and protruding a minimum of six inches out of the muzzle and out of the action (Clear barrel indicator-CBI). Smallbore rifles and pistols should use some type of Open Bolt Indicators (OBI). BB guns should use the weed eater string, if possible – however, for the Daisy 499 and other muzzle loading BB guns that may not be possible.
 - g. **Muzzle Control:** Shooters must maintain control of their muzzles at all times. Firearms must be carried in the muzzle up position whenever uncased on the range unless the action is hinged and broken open. Regardless of condition, muzzles may not be pointed toward or rested upon any part of the body of the shooter or another person. This includes the use of toe pads in the shotgun games. Violation of this rule may result in a warning, disqualification from a round, or disqualification from a match.
 - h. **NO Practice shots:** There shall be no shooting of bows or firearms anywhere on the event grounds (parking lots, empty lot, etc.) – except during actual competition on the official firing lines. This is strictly prohibited and could result in disqualification.
 - i. **Audio headphones or ear pieces/ear buds and cell phones** are not permitted on the firing line or the field. Once an individual or team is called to compete, ear pieces or headphones must be removed and remain off during the competition. **Spectators should also be sensitive to the shooters and turn off ringtones when near the competition.**
 - j. **Range check:** Officials have the right to check all firearms and archery equipment prior to OR during its use in competition to determine that it meets qualifications and/or that it is safe. Equipment determined to be unsafe will not be allowed on the range.
3. Contestants are responsible for providing their own shooting equipment and accessories, including safety glasses, ear protection, finger tabs and quivers. Official targets and score cards (if required) are provided.
 4. Three competition age classes or divisions are recognized. Participants must compete within their own age group per specified age range. Age is as of January 1 of the year of the event.
 - a. **JUNIOR:** Ages 8-10 (NO junior division in shotgun events, smallbore pistol, or muzzle loading)
 - b. **INTERMEDIATE:** Ages 11-13 – (NO smallbore pistol)
 - c. **SENIOR:** Ages 14 and older- Senior (No BB gun events)
 5. There is no on-site central registration on day of contest.
 6. **Event Scheduling:**
 - a. Nearly every event is pre-scheduled...either done by the individual during online registration/scheduling or by the State Coordinator following registration completion. Schedules and shoot day instructions will

be communicated – some written and mailed, but most communication will be digital. So, check those emails and check the web site frequently.

- b. Scheduled time indicates the approximate Shooting time...NOT CHECK-IN time. Contestants should be present at least 20 minutes prior to scheduled shooting time. If not present when called – that event will commence without you. The event management has no obligation to reschedule a late participant. It is entirely at the discretion of the Range Officer in charge.

7. **Coaches/spotters** – Use of an adult coach or spotter on the firing line is allowed BUT within guidelines. Check the rules of each event for the current information about use of spotters or coaches. Older youth (senior age division) may be used as a spotter/coach...where applicable.

For Smallbore Rifle, Air Rifle, BB gun, Air Pistol: One coach or spotter must accompany the Junior-age shooter to the firing line. A coach/spotter may accompany an Intermediate-age shooter to the firing line. Senior shooters may not have a coach/spotter on the firing line with them. The primary responsibility of the coach/spotter will be to assure that safety rules are always observed. The spotter or coach may assist the shooter within the guidelines listed below:

- a. **JUNIOR** - May verbally and physically assist the shooters between relays and during the sight-in period, including load and/or cock of the gun (must always keep muzzle pointing downrange).
- b. **INTERMEDIATE** – Spotting shots and verbal assistance only...unless shooter asks & receives permission from the range officer for coach's assistance.
- c. **SENIOR** – No assistance –even verbal- of any kind unless shooter asks & receives permission from the range officer for coach's assistance.
- d. **50 Yard NRA 3 Position** - No coach or spotter may be on the line with the shooter and may not provide any assistance. Only if the shooter requests and is granted permission from the range officer – then the coach may provide assistance as allowed by the range officer.
- e. Any variance of these guidelines will be announced on the firingline.

8. **Dress Code:** Participants are expected to dress appropriately. Team uniforms or shirts with the use of the 4-H logo are encouraged, but not required. Both young people and adults should wear attire appropriate for the weather while remaining modest and socially acceptable. It is important that modesty be maintained in all shooting positions, therefore shorts must be of modest length: when standing straight, shoulders relaxed, arms down and side, fingers extended; the hem line of shorts must fall below tip of middle finger. If wearing shooting vests, shorts must extend 2 inches below the bottom of the vest. Tank tops with spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, bare midriffs, low necklines, or otherwise revealing clothing will not be allowed. Clothing with sexually suggestive wording or graphics; and alcohol or tobacco advertisement is not appropriate for youth or coaches.

All shooters and coaches should remember that photographs may be taken or an individual be asked to interview for the media. Remember that you represent all of 4-H Shooting Sports - Make it a positive image.

Footwear required: No bare feet. No open toed shoes are permitted on the firing line. The footwear must completely cover the foot. Crocs, flip flops, sandals, etc. are not permitted.

9. **Disabilities/Special Needs** - In the event that any participant is physically incapable of complying with the general rules or specified discipline rules, the event staff will make every reasonable effort to accommodate that individual, allowing them to compete.

Any accommodation made must not jeopardize range safety. **Specific arrangements must be made and approved IN ADVANCE, prior to pre-registration, with the State Coordinator.** The Chief Range Officer must also be notified prior to relay on the day of the state shoot.

10. **County Teams:** Counties may have as many individuals as they desire within the discipline category age groups. In the event a county has more competitors in a discipline category than required to fill a team then the county may have more than one team. Teams are not pre-designated; team ranking and awards will be based on the top 3 scores of all county shooters within that age group; 2nd team the next 3 high scores, etc. **Exceptions:** Trap teams based on the top 5 scores. All competitors are eligible for individual awards.

11. **Scoring** for all air and smallbore events will be done by individuals recruited and selected by the Range Officers. Individual scores will be tabulated at the completion of each event. When possible, scores will be posted as targets are scored and tabulated. Please leave scoring personnel alone so scores can be posted as soon as possible. After targets are scored, youth shooters may review under supervision of the scorer.
12. **Appeals/challenges**

Scoring - Competitors only (not adults) may challenge their score in an event. Score keepers will not listen to an adult, only the shooter. The first challenge must be done **within 30 minutes of the announcement or final posting of scores**. If not satisfied after the ruling on the challenge, the shooter must immediately ask to appeal. That appeal will be handled by the Chief Range Officer and/or Chief Scorer. No scoring challenges are allowed after targets leave the official scoring area unless at the specified request of the range official or judge.

Other grievances should first be addressed to the line officer or range officer – by the shooter NOT by an adult. The Chief Range officer will make a determination on the grievance. A final appeal of a decision or ruling by a Chief Range Officer must be directed to the match director within 30 minutes of the ruling and must be accompanied by a \$50 fee. If the appeal is upheld and the decision reversed, the \$50 will be returned. If not, the \$50 stays with Missouri 4-H Shooting Sports.
13. **Spectator Interference:** Disruption or interference by parents, coaches or other individuals will not be permitted; this includes parents hovering over the scorers. Sanctions ranging from a warning to ejection from the grounds or disqualification of an entire team will be imposed for interference with the operation of the match or disruption of the events on a firing line or field. The “Little League Syndrome” will not be tolerated in 4-H Shooting Sports. Every effort will be made to keep these events fair, child-centered and positive.
14. **Coach Removal:** 4-H reserves the right to remove any coach from the range or firing line in the event that his or her behavior is deemed detrimental or distracting to their own shooter or others. Coaches should remain positive and supportive being careful not to disrupt other shooters. In the event that a coach is removed from the firing line, another coach may substitute for him/her at the discretion of the range officer.
15. **Alcohol Policy:** No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the grounds during this event. Violation of this policy is ground for ejection from the premises.
16. **Language:** 4-H events are family events; language used by spectators, parents, coaches, or youth should always be appropriate for the family and youth setting. Foul language, cursing, rude/crude remarks are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Range officials have full authority to disqualify, dismiss or bar from the competition and from the grounds anyone – adults or youth – using such offensive language.

