

Valencia County Shooting Sports Policies & Procedures

Section 1: Youth Guidelines

1. *County Eligibility*

- a. All youth wishing to participate in a 4-H Shooting Sports project or activity must be enrolled in a Valencia County 4-H Club by the Valencia County enrollment deadline each year.
- b. Youth must be enrolled in a shooting sports project in order to participate in any shooting sports competitions.
- c. Youth must meet all 4-H age requirements; 4-H member must have passed his/her 9th birthday or be 8 years old and in third grade but not have passed his/her 19th birthday prior to January 1 of the current 4-H program year. Cloverbuds are not allowed to participate in any Shooting Sports project or activity.

2. *Safety Requirements*

- a. All youth wishing to participate in a 4-H Shooting Sports Project or Activity must complete a 4-H Shooting Sports Safety course and exam administered by the designated County-wide Project Leader for the specific discipline or by the Valencia County Extension 4-H Agent.

3. *Shooting Contests & Activities*

- a. Senior 4-H'ers, who have met all eligibility requirements, may participate in any Shotgun, .22 Rifle, Air Rifle, Archery, Pistol, Muzzelloading and Hunting Contest offered at the County and State level.
- b. Junior 4-H'ers, who have met all eligibility requirements, may participate in any Shotgun, .22 Rifle, Air Rifle and Archery contests offered at the County and District level.
- c. Novice 4-H'ers, who have met all eligibility requirements, may participate in any .22 Rifle, Air Rifle and Archery.
- d. All youth wishing to participate in a 4-H Shooting Sports County Qualifying Competition must participate in a minimum of two county-wide practices (in addition to the required safety training) for their age division and discipline prior to the county qualifier.

4. *State & National Age Determination*

State and national contest age requirements may differ. For clarification of age requirements for a specific contest, refer to the national contest rules for that contest.

- a. **A State Team Member:** is an individual who has completed a 40-hour National 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop as well as State Certification. These individuals are approved by the State Shooting Sports Coordinator.
- b. **State Contest Responsibilities:** Proposed rule and event changes will be reviewed by the State Team and adopted during the State Team Meeting; any changes will be approved by the Director, 4-H Youth Development and/or his designee. The Director, 4-H Youth Development will appoint the state contest superintendent. The state contest superintendent will conduct the state contest in accordance with the current New Mexico State 4-H Requirements, utilizing assistance as needed from State Team members and volunteers.
- c. **Attendance at National Invitational:** Only senior 4-H members in good standing participating in the state qualifying match are eligible to attend the 4-H National Invitational Shoot. They also must have passed his/her 14th birthday, and may not have reached his/her 19th birthday, as of January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held. State team members for each discipline will be determined at the state competition. Each team will be made up of the 1st place county team which was determined during the state shooting event for the current year.

5. *National Contest Eligibility*

Counties that win a state contest are eligible to attend their respective national contest. If for some reason a team member cannot attend the national contest a replacement may be made by the County 4-H Agent. One team member may be replaced on a team. These team members must have gone through a county elimination and have participated in the state qualifying event. Under no circumstances may two members be replaced as that would not be considered the same team that won the state event. Each team member must be enrolled in the county they are representing in the national contest. National contest eligibility is determined by the rules of the specific contest. For example if a team member has participated in a national contest and the rules state that a member can only participate in the national contest once then the member will be ineligible to participate in that national contest again. If the national contest allows a team member to return to that national competition, the member must be a member of the state winning team.

Section 2: Equipment Guidelines

1. County Use

- a. All shooting equipment (guns, targets, trailers, mats, etc.) purchased with Valencia County 4-H/NMSU money or Valencia County 4-H/NMSU grants are property of the Valencia County 4-H Program. All final decisions regarding equipment are at the discretion of the Valencia County Extension 4-H Agent.
- b. All equipment is available for use by any enrolled 4-H Youth and/or Volunteer Leader at any club or county scheduled practices that have prior approval by the Valencia County Extension 4-H Agent.
- c. All shooting equipment, will be under the care of, and stored with, the designated County-wide Shooting Sports Project Leader(s) (as determined by the Valencia County Extension 4-H Agent). Those individuals must have successfully completed a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training session administered by and/or sanctioned through the State 4-H Office.
- d. All guns (.22 Rifles, Air Rifles, Muzzleloaders and Shotguns) and bows will not be checked out to any enrolled 4-H Youth or Adult Volunteer Leader for any long-term loan or on an individual basis.
- e. Enrolled Adult Volunteer Leaders are required to have an equipment check out form on file at the Extension Office, along with a \$100 deposit, in order to borrow any 4-H Shooting Sports equipment (excluding guns).

2. Special Event Use

- a. In the event of a National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition, all guns and bows will be checked out to one designated Volunteer Leader/Coach accompanying the team/individual to the competition two days prior to the first day of travel for the event, and must be returned no later than two days after arrival back home from the event.

Section 3: Instructor/Volunteer Guidelines

A County 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor is an individual who has completed a 15-hour, State 4-H Sanctioned Shooting Sports Training and Certification Workshop. County instructors are eligible to conduct county level 4H Shooting Sports programs in the discipline in which they have been trained.

The New Mexico 4-H Shooting Sports Program requires the use of trained and certified 4-H instructors at the county level to operate a live-fire range or to conduct any class in which firearms or archery equipment are handled. In order to be certified as a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor in any discipline (rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader/black powder, archery, and outdoor skills) the following requirements must be met:

1. Age Requirement

- a. **Instructor:** must be 21 years of age.
- b. **Assistant Instructor:** must be at least 18 years old, a 4-H member in a shooting sports discipline for a minimum of one year, and have attended a state training. They can only instruct youth under the direct supervision of a Certified Instructor and only if the instructor is present during the instruction.

- c. **Teen Leader:** Must be at least 14 years old, has leader approval, and has attended a State Instructor Training. Teen Leaders only function under the direct supervision of, and request of, a Certified Instructor who is present during instruction. A Teen Leader is not to be in charge of a live fire range.
- d. **Volunteer/Parents:** May be allowed to assist on the firing-line with individual approval from both the County Extension Agent and with approval and under the direct supervision of a Certified Instructor in charge of the firing line at the time of instruction. Must be signed up as a current adult 4-H leader in the county in which they are instructing.

2. *County Level 4-H Leader Screening and Training*

- a. Instructors and Assistant Instructors older than 4-H age must be screened, trained, and appointed as a current 4-H leader through the local County Extension Office before attending a State 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop.

3. *Certification at a State 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop:*

- a. Instructors must successfully complete a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training session administered and/or sanctioned through the State 4-H Office.
- b. Training will consist of a minimum of 15-hours of instruction in the use of National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum, discipline instruction (rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader/black powder, archery, outdoor skills, and coordinator), safety, risk management, teaching methods, and 4-H program management.

4. *State Team 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors*

- a. 4-H Shooting Sports instructors must be trained and certified in the discipline that they are teaching at the county level.
- b. State team members must be trained and certified at a National 4-H Shooting Sports workshop in the discipline they are teaching.

5. *Maintaining State 4-H Shooting Sports Certification*

- a. To maintain certification an instructor/leader must be active two out of three consecutive years. If inactive for two consecutive years, re-certification is required.