

2011 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational General Rules

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational follows the guidelines for National 4-H Competitive Events as established by National 4-H Headquarters at the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

See: <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/compevent.pdf>

By entry in these events, the team coach or shooting sports program coordinator verifies that those youth entered are *bona fide* members of the 4-H program in their respective states, knowledgeable and proficient in the safe use of the equipment, and knowledgeable of the general rules of the events. Match and/or range officials may dismiss or disqualify any participant if he/she believes the participant does not demonstrate the basic proficiency and knowledge required.

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational consists of 9 disciplines with 3 events in each:

Discipline	Event 1	Event 2	Event 3
Archery Compound	Field Round (½ course)	FITA Round (1/2 FITA)	3-D Round
Archery Recurve	FITA Round (1/2 FITA)	Field Round (½ course)	3-D Round
Air Pistol	Slow Fire - Bullseye	Air Pistol Silhouette	Timed Fire/Rapid Fire
Air Rifle	National Standard Three-position Sporter Air Rifle	Sporter Air Rifle- Standing	NRA Sporter Air Rifle Silhouette
Hunting	Wildlife Identification and Management	Hunter Decision-Making	Hunting Skills
Muzzle-Loading	50 Yard Bullseye	25 Yard Bottles and Haffner Combination	Muzzleloading Rifle Silhouette
Shotgun	Sporting Clays	Trap	Skeet
Smallbore Pistol	Slow-Fire Bullseye – Single Stage	Smallbore Hunter Pistol Silhouette	Camp Perry Round (modified)
Smallbore Rifle	NRA Smallbore Silhouette Rifle	CMP Rimfire Sporter Rifle Match	NRA Three-Position

The above listing is not a firing order. Firing orders will be provided upon check-in prior to the actual start of the matches. Every effort will be made to provide practice or warm-up time on the day prior to each event. .

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Synopsis of General Rules

I. 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. **Age Requirements** – Participants must have passed their 14th birthday by January 1 of the current year and may not have passed their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current year in which the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational is held.
3. **Official Entry**– Participants and teams must be approved as the official entry by the State 4-H Program Leader or his/her designee. The selection of participants is at the discretion of the State 4-H Program, or the Land Grant University, in which the 4-H Shooting Sports Program resides. A state event is not required to select participants for the national event.
4. **4. Individual Participation** – All individuals participating as team members are compete concomitantly as individuals. Where teams cannot be formed, individual participants may compete in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational for individual awards and recognition.
5. **Team Composition** - Teams are composed of no less than 3 and no more than 4 individuals. Each land grant university, operating a state 4-H Shooting Sports Program is limited to one team per discipline, with a maximum of 36 participants overall.
6. **Team Representation** - No participant may be a member of more than one team or represent more than one 4-H Shooting Sports program in the national event. This does not preclude individuals who change residences and are otherwise eligible from participating as members on any team in 4-H events after meeting the eligibility requirements of the sponsoring 4-H Shooting Sports program.
7. **Event Participation** – Each of the nine disciplines in this competition includes three different events. A given team or individual is restricted to participation in the events in only one discipline in any annual National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational, i.e. no individual may compete in more than one discipline in any given 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational. Participants are expected to complete all individual events in the discipline they represent.
8. **Repeat Participation** - An individual may enter the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational repeatedly, through the processes of selection used in their home state. They may participate in an event in which they qualified if they have not previously competed in that discipline in a prior National Invitational, i.e. they may represent their state in a given discipline only once.
9. **Substitutions** - A team may send a substitute for a registered participant who is unable to attend the Invitational. Substitutes will be accepted until the state contact picks up the official registration materials at the Invitational. Substitutes must have the written approval of the state Shooting Sports Coordinator and meet all eligibility requirements for participation in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational.
10. **Post-Secondary Restriction** – Participants may not represent their state in any discipline in which they have engaged in training or competition at the post-secondary level. Thus, members of club or NCAA competitive teams disqualifies otherwise eligible 4-H members from participation in that discipline in the 4-H National Invitational. For example, training as a member of a rifle, shotgun or archery team, either as a club sport or as a NCAA sport, and representing that college or university disqualifies the member from competing in related events at the National Invitational.

II. Awards and Scoring Procedures

Awards

- Daily Awards - to members of the top five (5) teams and the top ten (10) individuals for each daily competitive event.
- Overall Recognition – High overall individuals and high overall teams will be recognized based upon results from all three (3) of the daily events. Members of top 5 teams and top 10 individuals in each discipline are recognized.
- Medals - 1st, 2nd, 3rd place team members/individuals
Ribbons - 4th-5th place team members; 4th-10th place individuals
- **H.T. “Tom” Davison Award** – state sweepstakes award named in honor of H. T. “Tom” Davison, the first chair of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program and former program leader for 4-H in Texas. This

award recognizes the state recording the greatest number of team points (see explanation below). This traveling trophy stays with the high overall state until the following Invitational. In order to be eligible for the award, a state must have recorded team scores in all nine disciplines.

Scoring

Because of the desire for each event and discipline to have equal standing in determining “overall” awards, various methods of scoring have been used. Whether raw scores, placement points or percentage points are used in determining awards at the 4-H National Invitational...none is perfect. This is because of three different shooting events for each team category; each with varying degrees of difficulty, different scoring opportunities within each event (0 or 1 for silhouette vs. 5,6,7,8,9 or 10 on bullseye targets), and varying raw score potential (i.e. 600 points for smallbore 3P compared to 40 points for silhouette, and large differences in participation numbers). Additionally, there are 9 different divisions or categories for competition. Therefore; the national steering committee has decided to modify the scoring used in previous years and take advantage of multiple scoring methods in the attempt to be as fair and equitable as possible. Please read closely as the scoring methodology is explained.

- Daily individual awards - Raw scores and appropriate tie-breakers are used in determining placements in the daily events. (Highest score wins)
- Daily team awards - The top 3 individual raw scores of each team are used in determining team placements. If a team has 4 members, the lowest score is dropped. If a team tie exists, only then will individual tie-breakers be used.
- Overall Individual Awards - are determined by percentage points (%) score in all 3 events, not by cumulative raw scores.
- Overall Team – will be determined the total of all three (3) daily team percentage points.
- Davison Award – determined by placement points. After overall team awards are determined, each team will be assigned a placement point (as in the past). The highest total of placement points determines the state sweepstakes award.

Percentage Points (%)

Percentage scoring can help equalizes the point differences between events. For example: a raw score potential of 40 in smallbore silhouettes compared to 600 points in 3P.

It also better reflects the relative excellence of competitors compared to placement points. Example: Air Pistol - slow fire bullseye (400 pts).

		Raw Score	Placement Pts	%	Mod %
Competitor A	1 st	376 pts 18		.9400	1.000
Competitor B	2 nd	360 pts 17		.9000	.9574
Competitor C	3 rd	359 pts 16		.8975	.9548

In this example, a placement point differential of (1) is the same when A is compared to B - 376/360(14 pts raw score) as well as when B is Compared to C - 360/359 (1 pt raw score). Most people feel that relative excellence should be considered when determining High Overall Awards within a shooting discipline/category. The percentage scoring method permits this.

A modified % will be used at the National Invitational. Using the highest score recorded for a particular event as the baseline rather than the “perfect” score helps in equalizing the various difficulties of different daily events.

Modified % Formula: $\frac{\text{Ind Score}}{\text{Highest Score}} = \% \text{ score}$

Percentage scoring is also a better alternative for determining for High Overall Individual awards because tie-breakers will not affect the result as does placement points. Example: Shotgun -Trap. Top 10 scores with Placement Points after ties are broken: 100(81), 99(80), 99(79), 98(78),98(77), 98(76), 98(75), 98(74), 97(73), 97(72). In this example, 2nd place has a raw score of 99 and placement point value of 80 – AND 8th place has a score of 98 with a placement point value of 74. That’s 6 placement points difference for only 1

less target. With the percentage method 2nd place equals .99 and 8th place equals .98, a 1% difference. Breaking ties does not handicap an individual (or team) when figuring High Overall Awards.

Placement points

Placement points are used to provide equal status among the nine (9) categories of competition. Each discipline is awarded the same standing for team placements in each event. This is the same method used in other multiple event team competitions such as swimming and track & field. This permits comparison across disciplines on an equal standing for determining the Tom Davison Award.

Actual point value of each team placement at the National Invitational is determined by the discipline/event with the highest number of registered teams. Example: if Shotgun has the greatest number of teams (21), placing points for teams in all events will be 21 points for 1st, 20 points for 2nd, 19 for 3rd, etc. Placement points are awarded after team ranking is determined by the percentage method.

Ties –

Ties will only be broken to determine top 10 individual awards and top 5 team awards. Each event has its own specific method for breaking tie scores.

III. Range and Facilities

1. The National Shooting Complex allows the use of Clay Carts on site. However, all cart owners must submit a Clay Cart Agreement (see attached) to the Texas 4-H Office prior to June 1, 2011. The Texas 4-H Office will produce Clay Cart Permits and will have them available for pick up at the Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch during registration times, as well as during the week at the National Shooting Complex. The National Shooting Complex may be able to rent a cart for you from a third party dealer. Contact the National Shooting Complex directly if you are interested in renting a Clays Cart for the week. You will also need a Clay Cart Permit for the week, so please fill out the Clay Cart Agreement and send it into the Texas 4-H Natural Resources Office prior to June 1, 2011.
2. Only factory loaded ammunition may be used. Shotgun ammunition is available at the range. Contact the National Shooting Complex 210.688.3371 with specific questions you may have regarding ammunition purchases.
3. Texas heat makes it imperative that any food be kept either hot or cold to avoid food-borne pathogens. Food will be available at the range near the NSC Headquarters and the main shotgun fields. AO Bar Catering offers a variety of meal options for the entire family. The catering company is headquartered on the grounds of the National Shooting Complex and offers indoor and outdoor seating for guests. AO Bar Catering serves full meals, desserts, snacks, and beverages at an affordable price. The AO Bar Catering Company is located near the upper shotgun fields adjacent to the Clubhouse.

IV. Equipment and Firearms Check-in

1. All firearms and archery equipment, including air guns, must be checked prior to the start of official competition. Equipment certification will start during the check-in period, and stickers will be attached to verify that check-in. Spot checks of equipment may take place on the ranges prior to or after any match. Texas 4-H Shooting Sports staff may verify check-ins on the range. Spot checks prior to or following any competitive event are permitted and likely. Competitors whose equipment does not meet the event standards will be given an opportunity to adjust or to modify equipment to bring it into compliance prior to a second check. Check-in staff may be able to assist in that process if needed. Equipment failing to meet specifications during on-range spot checks will result in disqualification.
2. During check-ins, firearms must be brought to the check-in stations cased with an ECI (OBI, CBI) in place and the action open. Safe handling is imperative, particularly with respect to muzzle control. A site for opening cases will be designated.

V. 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 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 in place, and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. In shotgun events, a visibly open action is sufficient.

2. All firearms will remain cased until the competitor prepares to take the range for their relay and the range officer has declared the range ready. ECIs 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.
3. Muzzleloading rifles will have a marked ramrod in the barrel except while loading or firing. Loading will take place at the loading line.
4. No direct loading from bulk containers, cans, bottles, powder horns, etc. is permitted.
 - a. Charges shall be transferred from horn or flask to the muzzle using a powder measure or similar device.
 - b. Capping or charging will take place on the firing line.
 - c. Upon a cease fire, any muzzleloading rifle shooter with a loaded rifle shall keep the rifle pointed down range and raise a hand to signal that he/she has a loaded firearm. The range officer shall issue the command, "Dump it in the hill", and the shooter shall fire into the berm to clear the rifle.
5. Except while actually measuring a powder charge, no powder container shall be left open. Any open container will be confiscated by range staff.
6. Break action shotguns must be opened immediately upon being uncased with the muzzle(s) pointed in a safe direction until they are placed in the racks on the range. Shotguns must be carried from station to station with the action open and the muzzle(s) pointed in a safe direction.
7. 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.
8. Bows may be drawn only on approved ranges with the permission of the range staff. Under no circumstance is "sky-drawing" permitted.
9. Deliberate shooting or attempting to shoot any living animal while on competitive ranges is grounds for ejection from the event or from the match.
10. Muzzleloading rifle competitors must review the limits on powder charges in silhouette. Damage to targets will require a replacement fee and reduction in the load to eliminate such damage.

VI. Practice Rounds

1. Practice rounds will be squadded with an effort to give all competitors who wish to practice an opportunity to do so. Practice on all ranges where it is permitted will be supervised by Texas 4-H Shooting Sports staff. Efforts to allow all those wishing to practice have an opportunity to do so, practice will be squadded and monopolization of ranges will not be permitted.
2. Where practice on competition ranges is not permitted, shoot management will attempt to provide an alternative practice sites.
3. Where practice is not permitted on competition ranges, no shooter, coach or other individual aside from authorized range staff shall preview, walk, scout, use range finding devices, or attempt to inform competitors of shooting distances, shot placement, or other information designed to give the shooter an advantage. 3-D archery, hunting live fire, and sporting clays are examples.

VII. Health and Safety

1. **Medical Consent Form and Adult Supervision** - It is the responsibility of each team to have the appropriate state health consent and release forms for each participant. An adult supervisor or coach must be present at each event site with immediate access to those forms during events. They must also have access to them in off hours. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program and the host institution are not responsible for medical authorizations or health histories of the participants.
2. **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 National Committee staff or event management at any level.
3. **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices** –

1) 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.

2) 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.

4. Ranging, Walking or Previewing Ranges – In any contest where estimating ranges is inherent in the contest, use of range finders, previewing ranges, communicating distances to later competitors or similar actions are forms of cheating. As such it is grounds for disqualification for any individual or team involved in such actions.

5. 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 black powder, pistol, rifle, and shotgun games. This includes hunting live fire events. Such protection is strongly advised for archery events as well. 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.

VIII. Reasonable Accommodation

1. **Participants with Physical Disabilities:** A participant who cannot fire from one or more prescribed shooting positions as outlined in the rules or who must use special equipment when firing may petition for permission to assume a special position or to use specialized equipment or both. Evaluation of the request requires exact duplicate photographs of the position or equipment and its proposed use and a medical doctor's statement if the disability is not clearly and completely evident. Those instances require a written petition supported by a physician's written statement detailing the problem, the physical issues preventing the use of standard position or positions, or modifications in equipment required to permit participation in the event. Such petition must be supported by exact duplicate photographs of the position or equipment and its proposed use. The petition must be accompanied by a medical doctor's statement if the physical disability is not completely evident in the pictures submitted. An individual with a disability, for purposes of reasonable accommodation, is defined as a person who has a physical impairment substantially limiting one or more major life activities.

- a. Those with lower body injuries, temporary or permanent, may shoot from a wheel chair, using the wheels as their feet and the next more challenging positions for those they cannot assume.

2. Filing a Petition for Accommodations:

- a. **Petition Review** - Each petition will be reviewed by the 4-H National Invitational Committee. The Committee may require additional or supplementary statements or pictures. After review the Match Director will be instructed by the committee to issue special authorization to individuals who submit petitions and pictures which have been approved. Such certificates will have necessary pictures attached.
- b. **Carrying Authorization** - Participants who have received special authorization will be required to carry them when competing and to present the certificate when requested by officials of the match. In the case of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by such a participant, the range officials will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the participant. Holders of current NRA authorizations will be honored as valid authorizations, but the Match Director must be informed at earliest date possible and not later than at the time of entry.

IX. Coaching

1. **Coaching** – Only one official coach may represent each team. The designated coach is the only adult permitted to discuss procedures, ask questions, or advocate for his or her team with range officials. The coach must be designated on the official entry form and approved by the appropriate state 4-H program leader or their official representative. Each team shall be officially represented by only one coach. This coach is the only adult permitted to discuss procedures, ask questions, or advocate

for his/her team with range officials. This coach should be designated on the entry form and approved by the appropriate State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

- 2. Event Coaching** – As a general rule, limited coaching is permitted in each event. 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. Each state team may have one coach in any given event. Those coaches may remain the same for all events or they may change with the event. Coaches may assist participants during prep time, setting up equipment, spotting sightseer shots, and offering positive advice and support. Unless called to the line by range officials, coaches will remain in the coaches' area. The coaches 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.
- 3. Spotters and Scorers in Silhouette Matches** – State team members will be split into different relays to permit shooters to spot for one another. Teams with three competitors may have one of the original pair spot for the third team member. Quiet conversation between the spotter and the shooter is permissible. An official scorer, either from another team or an event official will be assigned as an official scorer. Match directors will provide instruction as needed for scorers.

XI. Conduct

- 1. 4-H Image and Honor** - The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational 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 on the grounds of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational. Violation of this policy is grounds for disqualification and dismissal from the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational.
- 2. Dress Code** - Participants 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 and socially acceptable. Clothing with sexually suggestive wording or graphics; and alcohol or tobacco advertisement is not appropriate. Range officials will enforce dress codes, if required. All participants and coaches must remember that they may be photographed or interviewed for use by local or regional media. That means that each of us represents all of 4-H Shooting Sports. Let's do all we can to make sure that is a positive image!
- 3. Footwear Policy** - Any participant while on the shooting line or shooting in any outdoor shooting event is required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet. Examples of footwear that are not acceptable include, but not limited to: sandals, clogs, crocks, flip-flops, and bare feet.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.

XII. Challenges and Protests

- 1. Challenges** – Participants **only** may review their targets and challenge scoring. Once targets have been scored, they will be made available for review by the shooters firing on those targets for a period of sixty (60) minutes, unless otherwise posted. Upon completion of that time period, the right of challenge expires and scores will be deemed correct as posted.
- 2. Challenge Fees** - Any challenge must be accompanied by a fee of \$1 per hole challenged. Serial challenges (following one challenge with another) are permitted, but once the shooter has reviewed and either challenged or accepted their scores, the right of review terminates. A jury (not including the original scorer) will review each challenge and render judgment to the challenger. An upheld challenge will result in changing the score to reflect the proper scoring and return of the challenge fee. Challenges sustained, i.e. scoring determined to be correct, will result in forfeiture of the fees, which will be deposited in 4-H National Shooting Sports Invitational funds. No fee is required to point out mathematical errors or similar mechanical problems.
- 3. Protests and Protest Fees** - Youth participants only (no coaches, parents or other adults) may protest:
 - a) injustice they feel has been done them individually;
 - b) conditions under which another competitor was permitted to fire, or
 - c) equipment not meeting standards another competitor was permitted to use.
- 4. Steps to Filing an Official Protest:**
 - a) Range Officer - the case must be stated to the chief range officer in that discipline
 - b) Range Jury - an oral protest stating the situation and the decision of the range officer must be made. Said jury shall include a national representative and local match staff
 - c) Formal Protest - a written protest, accompanied by a \$25 cash protest fee, must be submitted to the match director or chief range officer within one hour of the conclusion of that match.
 - d) The jury will consider the statement, notify the match director, confer with range officials and render a decision in an expeditious manner. This decision is final and no further appeal may be made.
 - e) If the decision on the field is upheld, the protest fee will be retained. If it is overturned, the fee will be refunded and a means of redress will be determined.
 - f) Jury decision are final and not subject to further appeal.