

## 4-H Shooting Sports Policy Statement

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.

The 4-H State Shooting Sports committee has been made aware of and have seen a problem with participants attending the state shoot that are not trained in the discipline in which they are shooting. The 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 division 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 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.

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”.

## **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 and conducted on an in-state regional basis. Their primary role is to serve as local club leaders and assist with various regional/state events.

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

Teen Leaders 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. Minimum age for a team coach is 14 years old.

### **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 developmental 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 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 19 years of age regardless of any disability.

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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 Program as a youth development tool is primarily due to the dedication of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee. The committed work 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**. 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.

#### Requirements and Forms for hosting and participating in a 4-H Shooting Sports Education Event

1. Any county, club, or district hosting a 4-H Shooting Sports Event must fill out the following host form. This form must be mailed to the state 4-H office, or emailed to Jennifer Lynn [jllynn@uky.edu](mailto:jllynn@uky.edu) one month in advance of the event. The information about the event can be sent any time, and will be put on the Shooting Sports Calendar of Events on the KY 4-H website. This hosting form will be kept on file at the State 4-H Office for one year after the event. The hosting county should also have on hand at the event, the information Report for individuals wishing to fill out an occurrence at the event.

2. Any county participating in that event must fill out the participant portion of the form. This must be sent to the hosting county and will be kept on file for a period of one year from the event. The hosting county will establish their own deadline for the form to be sent. Participating counties may wish to take copies of the Information Reports for reporting an occurrence at any 4-H Shooting Sports Event.

3. Violations at 4-H Shooting Sports Events will be dealt with as according to the nature of the violation. A 4-H Shooting Sports Education Event can be shut down at any time, by the Assistant Director of Kentucky 4-H. Violations threaten the use of the 4-H name and emblem and the liability coverage by the University of Kentucky.

**4-H Shooting Sport Education Event**  
**Host County Form**

\_\_\_\_\_ will be hosting a shooting event on \_\_\_\_\_  
**Host County** **Date**

All involved in event management have read and agree to abide by the Kentucky Shooting Sports Education policy and current year rules. We understand that not following these will prohibit the use of the 4-H name and University of Kentucky support.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Event Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Event County 4-H Agent

Contact Info:  
Registration:

Contact Info:

**4-H Shooting Sport Education Event**  
**Participant County Form**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Participating County**  
will be attending your shooting event. Our coaches and participants have read and fully understand the policy and current year rules of Kentucky Shooting Sports Education and agree to follow them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
County 4-H Agent

**SEND TO:**





Submit additional pages if more space is required:

***Action Taken:***

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