

Minimum Standards of a 4-H Shooting Sports Program

As Established by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee

The following minimum standards are not negotiable. A state level 4-H program with an active 4-H Shooting Sports component is advised to adopt and adhere to these standards at the state and county level. Should an injury occur in a state due to the disregard of any of these minimum standards, the potential negative legal/ liability ramifications for a land-grant university system could be significant.

1. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer Curriculum is the established adult teaching curriculum for training adults to teach youth the shooting sports within the 4-H program.
2. All instructors accept and abide by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Ethics.
3. State, County, and Club level 4-H Shooting Sports Programs will have written risk management plans which includes items such as emergency response and preparedness, insurance, safe storage of firearms and ammunition, state-level reloading policies, etc.
4. All certified 4-H shooting sports instructors are a minimum of 21 years of age and have completed a state level 4-H shooting sports workshop in the specific discipline they will be teaching.
5. State level 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor certification workshops provide a minimum of twelve (12) hours of instruction; including a minimum of nine (9) hours instruction in each specific discipline and a minimum of three (3) hours instruction in teaching youth development, life skills, and risk management. It is preferable and recommended that state level certification workshops provide fifteen (15) hours of instruction composed of twelve (12) hours of discipline instruction and three (3) hours of teaching positive youth development, life skills and risk management.
6. To maintain certification as a 4-H shooting sports Level I or Level II instructor, one must teach or assist in instruction within the discipline certified at least once every two (2) years.
 - Level 1 Instructors – Must be recertified a minimum of every 7 years. Recertification could include any of the following, as determined by the State Coordinator:
 - Continuing education credits
 - Updates to curriculum or state standards/requirements
 - Refresher course on curriculum
 - Attend a Level 1 training
 - Instructors must be recertified after a major revision of the curriculum
 - Level 2 Instructors - Must be recertified a minimum of every 7 years, as determined by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee, or at the

determination of the State Coordinator. Re-certification could include any of the following, as determined by the State Coordinator:

- Attend a Level 2 training
 - Attend an update training hosted by a Level 3 Instructor or a Level 2 Instructor certified using the revised curriculum.
 - Level 3 Instructors – Must be re-appointed annually by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee. (*effective 10/1/2018*)
7. Only factory ammunition is used at 4-H shooting sports competitive events.
 8. **Regarding simulated combat sports including but not limited to, paintball guns, air-soft, laser guns, archery tag.** Pointing any type of gun including paintball guns, air-soft guns, laser guns, laser paint-ball, archery tag bows & arrows or sighting devices at any person or any humanoid shaped target is inappropriate in any 4-H program activity.
 9. **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.
 10. 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.
 11. All 4-H Shooting Sports functions (events, meetings, club practices, etc.) which include the handling or use of firearms or archery equipment requires the physical presence and constant supervision of at least one adult 4-H Shooting Sports instructor who is currently certified in that respective discipline(s) (*adopted 4/2018*)

National 4-H Shooting Sports Objectives of 4-H the Shooting Sports Program

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

The program transfers knowledge skills and attitudes to develop human capital, using the subject matter and resources of the land-grant universities.

4-H Shooting Sport Program Goal and Objectives

4-H Shooting Sports provides the high-quality program necessary for Positive Youth Development by engaging youth in the safe, responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, in a variety of settings, through comprehensive education, life-long recreation, and healthy competition.

The objectives of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program are to enable youth to:

1. Find and explore passions and interests
2. Engage in an effective 4-H program setting
3. Develop positive relationships with adults, youth, and peers
4. Explore a vast array of 4-H educational, recreational, and competitive activities
5. Thrive in multiple settings
6. Enhance developmental and long-term outcomes
7. Practice safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, enhancing existing shooting, conservation, and hunter education programs
8. Explore the three national 4-H Mission Mandates (STEM, Healthy Living, Civic Engagement)
9. Model safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior
10. Strengthen knowledge and life skills