

Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Policies and Procedures

*This publication shall serve as the official source of policies and procedures for
Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports*

Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification

A **County 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor** is an individual who has completed a 12-hour, State 4-H sanctioned shooting sports training and certification workshop. County instructors are eligible to conduct county level 4-H Shooting Sports programs in the discipline in which they have been trained.

The Tennessee 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, airguns, or archery equipment are handled. A maximum ratio of 10 youth per trained adult must be maintained to operate a live-fire range or to conduct any class in which firearms, airguns, or archery equipment are handled. In order to be certified as a 4-H shooting sports instructor in any discipline (rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader / black- powder, archery, and hunting) the following requirements must be met:

1. Category Requirements

- a. **Instructor:** must be at least 21 years old (19 years old for Archery) and have attended a state training (must be present at all live-fire events).
- b. **Assistant Instructor:** must be at least 18 years old and a 4-H member/volunteer in a shooting sports discipline for a minimum of one year. They can only instruct youth under the direct supervision of an instructor and only if the instructor is present during the instruction.

- c. **Teen Leader:** must be at least 14 years old and have leader approval. Teen leaders only function under direct supervision of, and request of, a certified instructor who is present during the instruction. A teen leader is not to be in charge of a live fire range.

- d. **Volunteers/Parents:** May be allowed to assist with approval from the county Extension agent and with approval of 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 Certification

All instructors must be certified 4-H leaders 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. All 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 12 hours of instruction using the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum, which includes discipline instruction (rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader/blackpowder, archery, and hunting), safety, risk management, teaching methods, and 4-H youth program management.

4. Maintaining State 4-H Shooting Sports Certification

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

State Team 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors

1. State Team members must apply and be approved by the State 4-H Office before being a certified member of the State Team.
2. State Team members must be trained and certified at a 40-hour National 4-H Shooting Sports workshop in the discipline they are teaching.
3. State Team Member Shooting Sports Instructors are eligible to conduct 4-H Shooting Sports programs at the county level as well as train and certify instructors as part of the State Team.
4. State Team members are expected to be members for at least three years. Non-active members may be removed from the list.

State Shoot

Proposed rule and event changes will be reviewed by the State Team. Any changes will be approved by the Director, 4-H Youth Development and/or his/her designee.

Teams participating in the state shoot can only win it once; individuals may win continuously. The state shoot will be conducted in accordance with the current Tennessee 4-H Requirements.

Attendance at National Invitational

Only senior 4-H members in good standing participating in the state qualifying match are eligible to attend the National 4-H Invitational Shoot. Youth must also be enrolled in 4-H and the discipline they are competing in the year they participate at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational. They also must not have reached their 19th birthday before January 1 of the year the national event is held. National Invitational team members for each discipline will be determined at the state competition; and will consist of the top placing State Shoot team. State 4-H Guidelines will be followed when determining participation in the National Invitational.

****An individual may participate only once at the National level in any one venue.***

The Director, 4-H Youth Development or designee must certify all state teams, individuals, or groups attending regional or national 4-H events.

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