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This rulebook pertains to all ranges and types of competition unless the match or range rules specifically state otherwise. Safety rules also pertain to training and practice locations.

**EVERY PERSON INVOLVED IN COMPETITION IS EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE RULES. THIS PERTAINS TO COACHES, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND ANYONE ELSE THAT ASSISTS A COMPETITOR.**

### **-2009 4-H Muzzle Loading Discipline Rules-**

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\*Note: Not all sections have corresponding rules at this time. New rules will be added in the appropriate sections as the need arises.

Special thank you to the NMLRA for providing the foundation of these South Dakota 4-H Muzzle Loading Discipline Rules. These rules are taken from the NMLRA 2008 edition of that organizations rules and regulations. Some rules have been modified specifically to encompass the age and abilities of the competitors, as well as specific requirements of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

These rules have been enacted by the South Dakota Shooting Sports Muzzle Loading Committee. Questions should be addressed to John Condon, Chairman, or Kevin Jensen, Trainer.

### **-Qualification-**

To qualify for the State Muzzle Loader Competition, 4-H members must shoot a score equal to, or greater than, 50% of the total possible score for each target. These targets must be shot in the presence of a Certified 4-H Muzzle Loader Instructor. If your Club does not have a Certified Instructor, a Certified Instructor from any 4-H Club will be acceptable. You can make arrangements to have a volunteer attend your shoot to accomplish this.

## **-RANGE SAFETY-**

**1000-DISCIPLINE**-The safety of competitors, range personnel, and spectators requires continuous attention by all to the careful handling of firearms, and caution in moving about the range. Self-discipline is necessary on the part of all competitors, range personnel, and spectators. Where such self-discipline is lacking, it is the duty of the range personnel to enforce discipline, and the duty of competitors to assist in such enforcement.

**1010-EARLY SHOTS**-Any shot fired before the command of "COMMENCE LOADING, YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY" is a serious infraction of many safety rules. Any competitor violating this rule will be disqualified from competition for a period of time determined by the sponsoring organization.

**1020-LATE SHOTS**-Any shot fired after the command of "Cease Firing" without the express permission of the Range Officer is a serious infraction of the safety rules. At the Range Officer's discretion any one, or combination, of the following will be enforced.

- (1) Verbal reprimand
- (2) Shot with the highest numerical value on the target will be counted as a miss.
- (3) Target disqualification.
- (4) Suspension of the competitor.

The Range Officer will sign the target, state the penalty and reason, and send it to the scoring room.

**1025-LOADING EARLY**-Any person guilty of beginning to load a firearm before the command of "COMMENCE LOADING, YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY" will be disqualified from competition for a period of time determined by the sponsoring organization.

**1030-INTOXICATING BEVERAGES OR DRUGS**-The use of or impairment from intoxicating beverages and/or drugs in the range area shall be ample cause for disqualification.

**1040-SMOKING**-No person shall be allowed to smoke on the firing line or in the loading bench area at any time.

**1050-SAFETY INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT**-Range officials, acting under the authority of the Chief Range Officer, shall have the right to examine a shooter's equipment for safety concerns. The responsibility shall be on the shooter to submit questionable equipment for official safety inspection and approval in sufficient time prior to the beginning of a match so that it will not inconvenience either the shooter or the official.

**1060-UNSAFE FIREARM**-No firearm shall be used in any competition if ruled unsafe by the Range Officer.

**1070-MUZZLE LOADING FIREARM**-Any muzzle loading rifle, pistol, or shotgun that complies with the Range Safety regulations of this rulebook and loads from the muzzle, or

into the chamber of a revolver's cylinder and complies with Rule 1250, is approved. For compliance of break-open actions, see rule 2470.

**1080-CARRYING FIREARMS**-Firearms will be carried between the loading benches and firing line with the muzzle above the shooter's head and pointed directly up. (Exception: pistol shooters and bench shooters need not keep the muzzle above the shooter's head.)

**1085-FIREARM PLACEMENT BETWEEN RELAYS**-After the command 'GROUND ALL FIREARMS AND MAKE THE LINE SAFE' is given, the firing line is considered SAFE. During this safe time competitors may be directed to go down range and post and retrieve targets and all firearms on the firing line will be positioned safely and not touched. Rifles must be placed with the butt plate on the ground with the barrel pointed up and leaned against the loading bench; pistols will be placed on the loading bench with the barrel pointed muzzle up.

**1090-BLOWING DOWN THE BARREL**-There will be NO blowing down the barrel of any firearm during 4-H matches or practice in any manner that requires placing the head in front of the muzzle. A flexible blow tube may be used at the shooter's option, provided that the shooter's head is not placed in front of the muzzle.

**1100-LOADING FLINTLOCK FIREARMS**-All flintlock firearms must be loaded with the frizzen and hammer in the forward position.

**1110-SWABBING BETWEEN SHOTS**-Swabbing between shots with a damp patch to eliminate the possibility of glowing embers igniting the next powder charge is strongly recommended.

**1120-FALSE MUZZLES**-All false muzzles must be attached by a cord or similar device so that the firearm may not be placed in a normal firing position without first removing the false muzzle from the barrel.

**1130-WHEN TO LOAD**-No firearm will be loaded, or caps snapped, until the command "COMMENCE LOADING, YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY."

**1140-CAPPING/PRIMING**-. After the command 'COMMENCE LOADING, YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY' has been given, shooters may cap/prime only on the firing line or designated area with the muzzle pointed downrange. Any competitors violating this rule will receive the minimum penalty of having their targets disqualified, along with such other actions, as the Range Officer may deem necessary, including suspension. The Range Officer will sign the target, state the penalty and reason, and send it to the scoring room.

**1150-LOADED FIREARM**-No loaded firearm shall be taken from the firing line.

**1160-CLEARING MISFIRES**-Extreme caution must be used, including reasonable care to inform neighboring shooters. The removal of a ball or bullet must be done in such a

manner that there is no danger to persons or property. The use of a CO<sub>2</sub> ball discharger is highly recommended, and is considered the safest method of ball removal.

**1170-AMMUNITION**-Projectile is patched round ball.

**1180-PATCHING**-Patching shall be of cloth or paper from natural fibers only.

**1190-PLASTIC SABOTS**-The use of plastic sabots with bullet-shaped projectiles is prohibited.

**1200-LUBRICANT**-Any safe lubrication may be used at the shooter's option.

**1210-PROPELLANT**-Propellant to be black powder or any BATF approved black powder substitute only.

**1220-POWDER MEASURE**-A separate powder measure or holder will be used to carry the powder charge from container to the muzzle of the gun. Charging directly from horn or flask is unsafe and is not permitted.

**1230-OPEN POWDER CONTAINERS**-There will not be any open containers of powder on the firing line or loading benches of any range.

**1240-TRIGGERS**- Triggers must be of the pull type. Triggers that function on delay, release, or electronic or hydraulic mechanisms are prohibited. Set triggers are permissible.

**1250-IGNITION**- Ignition must be one of the following: (a) flint stone or substitute, excluding metal, striking frizzen; (b) old type percussion cap that fits on the nipple; (c) primers may be used in all in-line actions; (d) frizzens must be faced with steel soles only; (e) wheel locks with old type of ignition; (f) tube locks, pill locks, and Maynard tape primers may be used in or on an unaltered original. Matchlocks are not allowed in national competition.

**1260-SAFETY SHIELDS**- All flintlock rifles must use a safety shield. Offhand flintlock matches will be shot next to a safety shield.

**1270-SAFETY GLASSES**- Safety glasses are mandatory on all ranges.

**1280-HEARING PROTECTION**- Hearing protection is mandatory.

**1290-FIRING POSITION**- Competitors will take their position at the center of their numbered firing point marker. No portion of the shooter's body or equipment, except wind flags, may rest on or touch the ground forward of the firing point.

**1300-PISTOL**- Also see Pistol section for safety rules pertaining to pistol competition.

## **-RANGE RULES AND REGULATIONS-**

**2000-DISQUALIFICATION-** The Chief Range Officer, upon proper presentation of evidence, may disqualify any competitor for violation of paragraphs included in this section. He may disqualify any competitors or order their expulsion from the range for violation of these rules, or for any conduct considered by the Chief Range Officer to be discreditable.

**2010-SUSPENSION-**The 4-H Shooting Sports Committee, upon presentation of evidence and hearings, as provided in the Association's By-Laws, may suspend or expel any member for violations of these rules.

**2020-ALIASES and FALSIFICATION-** Any competitors who fire under an assumed name, who falsify their score or that of any other competitor, who do not qualify under the 4-H age requirements, or are an accessory thereto, will be disqualified.

**2030-BRIBERY-** No person will offer a bribe of any kind to any of the range personnel, nor be an accessory thereto. Any person doing so will be disqualified. Further action may be taken by the proper officials.

**2040-DISORDERLY CONDUCT-** No intoxicated or disorderly person shall be allowed in the range area at any time.

**2050-LOUD LANGUAGE-** Loud or abusive language will not be permitted. Competitors, coaches and range personnel will limit their conversations on the firing line to official business. Everyone in the range area is asked to be respectful and avoid disruptive language or conversations.

**2060-REFUSAL TO OBEY-** No person will refuse to obey the instructions of the Range Officers or any other officer of the matches in the proper conduct of the affairs of his office.

**2070-EVASION OF RULES-** No competitor will evade, nor attempt to evade, nor be an accessory to the evasion of any of the conditions of a match as prescribed in the program or in these shooting rules.

**2080-DELAYING A MATCH-** No competitor may delay the start of a match through tardiness of returning from down range between relays.

**2090-INTERFERENCE-** The firing line will be kept clear at all times, with the exception of shooters in competition and such range personnel as may be necessary. Any person or competitor who interferes with or annoys the competitors in any way will be warned, and upon failure to stop will be ordered off the firing line area.

**2100-INTERFERENCE WITH TARGETS-** Competitors will not be permitted to interfere with the handling of targets by the range personnel at any time.

**2110-TURNING IN COMPLETED TARGETS-** When the match program states that the competitors will pull and post their own targets, it is the competitors' responsibility to turn the targets in at the end of the relay in which they are fired. Leaving a target hanging after the start of the next relay may result in the disqualification of that target (see exceptions: Rules 2180, 2190, 5160, 6170, and 6300).

**2130-CHANGING FIREARMS-** No competitor will change firearms during the firing of a match, unless it has become disabled and has been so designated by the Range Officer. For the purpose of this rule, the firing of a match is considered to have started when the competitor has fired the first record shot. A claim that a firearm is disabled must be made immediately. All shots fired up to the time that the claim is made will stand as a part of the official score. No score or partial score will be refired because of a disabled firearm.

**2140-SUBSTITUTION-** No competitors shall be allowed to have another competitor do their firing.

**2150-SHARING OF FIREARMS-** No more than one competitor may use the same firearm in the same relay

**2160-OTHER SHOOTERS' EQUIPMENT-** No shooter or official shall touch the equipment of another without first receiving permission, except for safety reasons or efficient range operation by range officials.

**2170-INSPECTING AND OF GUNS-** All firearms in qualification rounds and competitive matches must be inspected, and marked by a range official before firing the first record target.

**2180-TIME ALLOWANCE-** A competitor may claim inability to complete the score within the time limit because of a disabled firearm, or is ordered by the Range Officer to discontinue firing. If the Range Officer is satisfied that conditions are as claimed, the competitor will be allowed to finish that target in another relay. The time allowed to finish such targets will be equal to the amount of time remaining in the relay at the time of the claim.

**2190-TIME LIMITS-** For State qualification, relays will be one half the number of shots and one half the length of time of that noted in the National Invitational Rules.

**2200-POSTING OF TARGETS-** It is the individual competitor's responsibility to insure that the proper targets have been assigned to the position they wish, and to see that they are hung there.

**2210-COMPLETING OF TARGETS-** Once a competitor has posted an official target, said target must be completed in that relay, unless rule #2220, Malfunction, or rule #2230, Sighting-in Problems, is allowed by the Range Officer.

**2220-MALFUNCTION-** If the firearm fails to function properly due to mechanical defects in a firearm you must notify the Range Officer. If your claim is deemed valid by the Range Officer you will be allowed additional time equal to the time remaining at the time of the malfunction claim to finish that target after you have the gun repaired and inspected. If the firearm is unable to be repaired to the satisfaction of the Range Officer, or if it is declared unsafe, see rule #2130, Changing Firearms. Performance failure due to improper operation or loading, such as loading without powder, is not to be considered a malfunction.

**2230-SIGHTING-IN PROBLEMS-** Sighting-in problems are defined as a competitor's inability to find the target due to equipment problems. If competitors have unusual sighting-in problems, they must notify the Range Officer; additional sighting time may be allowed, at the discretion of the Range Officer. The competitor must not have fired a record shot. A competitor may not claim sighting-in problems due to changes in weather conditions, loading without powder, or the inability to shoot a tight group.

**2240-TIME INTERVALS-** It is not the duty of the Range Officer to warn competitors of the passage of time intervals. Competitors may inquire of the Range Officer as to the time remaining before expiration of the time limit. Range Officers will give such information in a tone, which will not disturb other competitors. Range Officers should give a five-, or two-minute warning.

**2250-TARGETS SHOT BY WRONG COMPETITOR-** If another competitor hangs and shoots one of your targets by mistake, that target will be disqualified, and the shooter firing the wrong target will not get a score. A new target may be issued to the competitor who was not at fault.

**2260-WRONG MARKINGS ON TARGETS-** The competitors are responsible for making sure that they receive the correct targets for each match. If the sponsoring organization gives you the wrong target, or a mis-marked target, and you shoot it anyway, that target will be disqualified. The Range Officer will sign the target, state the penalty and reason, and send it to the scoring room. CHECK YOUR TARGETS.

**2270-PRACTICE TARGETS-** Practice targets may be shot when range space is available. The sponsoring organization may provide practice targets, but is not required to.

**2280-VACANT POSITIONS-** In the event that a competitor is unable to find a vacant firing position and the Range Officer knows of a position that has been unattended, that position shall be deemed vacant, and the Range Officer may pull any equipment, shooting benches, or spotting scopes back off the firing line to make room.

**2290-PROTESTS-** A competitor may formally protest:

- A. any injustice they feel has been done to them, except the evaluation of a target, which is outlined under the "Challenges" rule;
- B. the conditions under which another competitor has been permitted to fire;
- C. the equipment that another competitor has been permitted to use.

**2290.1-HOW TO PROTEST-** State the complaint orally to the Chief Range Officer; if not satisfied with the Chief Range Officer's decision - file, with the Protest Committee, a written appeal stating all the facts. At national matches, such appeals must be filed within twenty-four (24) hours after the decision of the Chief Range Officer. Protest fees may be established and shall be handled as in the Challenge rule.

**2310-CHALLENGES-** When competitors feel that a match fired by themselves or by another competitor has been improperly evaluated or scored, they may challenge that evaluation or score. Such a challenge must be made within the challenge period. It shall be the challenging competitor's privilege to view the target during rechecks.

**2320-CHALLENGE FEE-** Competitors may challenge their own score once per match without charge, but if still dissatisfied, they must pay a challenge fee as set by the match sponsor. The official scoring committee, comprised of an odd number of individuals, will decide the target, and the majority decision will prevail and be final. A competitor challenging another competitor's target must pay the challenge fee to have the target re-scored. In both cases, if the challenge is sustained, the fee will be returned to the challenger. If the challenge is lost, the fee will be included in the shoot revenues. Any challenge requiring a fee must be made on a challenge form, and the fee paid in advance of the re-examining of the target.

**2330-CHALLENGE PERIOD-** It shall be the match sponsor's responsibility to state in the match program the time limits within which a challenge may be made.

**2340-WIND FLAGS-** Wind flags are permitted, but may not be of any electronic nature. Flags or poles to which they are attached must not be of a size or placed to interfere with another shooter. Flags may be placed ahead of the firing line.

**2350-SHOOTING JACKETS-** Shooting jackets up to and including a large- or small-bore jacket of standard weight will be allowed in all matches. Leather or international cinch-type jackets are NOT allowed.

**2360-SLINGS-** Slings may not be used in any shooting position.

**2370-ARTIFICIAL SUPPORT-** The use of artificial support is prohibited. Digging of, or use of, elbow or heel holes at the firing point, or the use of depressions that form artificial support, is prohibited.

**2380-POSITION OF THE RIFLE BUTT-** In all positions, the butt of the rifle must be held against the front of the shoulder on the outside of the shooting coat or shirt, and must not touch the ground.

**2390-SPOTTING SCOPES-** The use of spotting scopes is permitted in all events. The placement of a spotting scope shall not interfere with another competitor or range officials.

**2400-FIRING POINTS-** The firing points are numbered. All ranges are measured from these firing points to the face of the targets when hung in their customary position in front of the backstop.

**2410-FIRING LINE-** The firing line is that part of the range immediately to the rear of an imaginary line drawn through several firing points.

**2420-SHELTER-** The firing line may be covered but not closed in. The shooter must be exposed to the prevailing winds.

**2430-DISTANCE-** Outdoor ranges are 25 yards and 50 yards, One half scale silhouette ranges are 40 meters for chickens, 60 meters for pigs, 77 meters for turkeys and 100 meters for rams.

**2440-ILLUMINATION-** Lighting of the range is authorized.

**2450-POLICING THE RANGE-** It is the duty of all competitors to police the firing points and loading benches after the completion of each match. All cleaning patches, empty cap boxes, etc., shall be picked up and placed in the proper receptacles behind the firing line.

**2460-AIMING POINTS-** All paper targets used in competition have a printed front side. This printed front side must be posted with the printing towards the competitor, and no other spotters or aiming points may be attached to the target face.

**2470 - BREAK-OPEN POLICY -** Sealed-ignition break-open muzzle loading firearms will be allowed on all ranges in specified matches during the National Shoots.

- a. Approved firearms will have a semi-permanent, mechanically fit breeching system.
- b. Said breeching system shall be either threaded or welded in place.
- c. Firearms with a press-fit breech plug secured by an O ring, such as the Harrington and Richardson Huntsman model, are prohibited,
- d. Approved primers include the priming disk, 209 shotgun primer, center-fire cartridge primer, and percussion cap.
- e. Each range will implement its own range procedures.

## **-RANGE OFFICERS-**

**4000-CHIEF RANGE OFFICER-** The Chief Range and Safety Officer is in complete charge of all ranges.

**4010-RANGE OFFICERS-** Range Officers are appointed by and work under the authority of, the Chief Range Officer. Range Officers will be in charge of a specific range, and enforce all safety and specific match rules. The Range Officers have full authority on the firing line. It is the duty of Range Officers to familiarize themselves with these regulations.

**4020-BLOCK OFFICER-** A Block Officer is a range official operating under the authority of a certified Range Officer to assist in range operation and safety.

**4030-COMPLYING WITH INSTRUCTIONS-** Every competitor must promptly comply with the instructions of the Chief Range Officer, Range Officers, and Block Officers. If competitors disagree with these instructions they may protest under Rule #2290; however the instructions must be followed.

### **-RANGE COMMANDS-**

**4040-CEASE FIRING-** At the command of Cease Firing, no firearm shall be discharged without permission of the Range Officer. The Cease Firing command may be given for two reasons:

- #1 An unsafe condition exists on the range.
- #2 The specified time limit has expired.

If this command is given due to an unsafe condition, the clock will be stopped. After the unsafe condition has been corrected the command of Commence Fire will be given, and the clock restarted.

If this command is given due to the expiration of allotted time, the competitors must report all loaded firearms to the Range Officer.

**4050-REPORT ALL HOT LOADS-** At the expiration of allotted time and the command of 'Cease Fire', the command "Report All Hot Loads" is given. If any hot loads are reported to the Range Officer, the other competitors will be directed to stand back from the firing line. When the Range Officer is convinced that it is safe to do so, the person reporting the hot load will be directed to fire the hot load into the back stop, Hot loads fired after the command of Cease Fire must not be fired without the express permission of the Range Officer; see safety rules (#1020, LATE SHOTS) Hot Loads fired after time has expired and the command of Cease Fire, must not be fired at a record target; see scoring rules (#10660, RECORD SHOT FIRED AFTER EXPIRATION OF TIME)

**4060-GROUND ALL RIFLE BUTTS AND MAKE THE LINE SAFE-** After all hot loads have been fired and the Range Officer is sure that there are no loaded firearms on the line, the command "Make The Line Safe and Ground All Rifle Butts" will be given. This will allow the competitors time to place their guns up against the loading benches with the muzzles safely pointed upward.

**4070-COMPETITORS MAY GO FORWARD AND FULL AND POST TARGETS-** When the Range Officer is convinced that the line is safe this command will be given. This will allow the competitors to safely go down range and retrieve completed targets, and post new targets for the next relay.

**4075-ANY PERSON GUILTY OF BEGINNING TO LOAD A FIREARM BEFORE THE COMMAND OF "COMMENCE LOADING" WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM COMPETITION.-** This command is intended to remind the competitors of the importance

of not having any loaded firearms while their fellow competitors are down range. This command may be used once or twice a day or at the end of every relay, at the Range Officer's discretion.

**4050-NO MORE TARGETS MAY BE POSTED-** When the Range Officer determines that the competitors have had sufficient time to "Pull and Post" this command will be given to prevent undue delay by someone going down range at the last minute.

**4090-READY ON THE RIGHT-** This is a preparatory command given after everyone has safely returned from down range. The Range Officer will look to the right and make sure that nothing is reported that would delay the start of the next relay.

**4100-READY ON THE LEFT-** This is another preparatory command given after the Range Officer is sure everything on the left is safe. The Range Officer will look to the left and make sure that nothing is reported that would delay the start of the next relay.

**4110-READY ON THE FIRING LINE-** This command announces that the next relay is about to begin, and gives all competitors one last chance to report any unsafe condition that would delay the start of the next relay.

**4120-COMMENCE LOADING; YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY-** This command allows the competitors to start loading, then start firing as soon as they are ready. The official time limit of the relay starts with this command.

**4130-AS YOU WERE-** This command means to disregard the command just given. (Example: If the command were given "Ready on the firing line" followed by "As you were," it would mean that an unsafe condition has been reported.)

### **-RIFLE LINE MATCH RULES-**

**5000-COACHING IN RIFLE MATCHES-** Coaching is defined as: reading of wind, changing of sights or suggesting sight changes, and indicating in any manner when to fire a shot. Loading of any firearm and placing a bench gun on the bench shall not be considered coaching. Coaching is allowed in all junior matches, No coaching is authorized or allowed in senior matches.

### **SIGHTS**

**5010-Approved Sights -** May use any metallic sight (AMS). No optical sights allowed.

### **TARGETS SCORING AND MARKING**

**10000-Scoring of Targets –** Targets will be scored with use of NMLRA overlays.

## 2008/09 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational GENERAL RULES

**To qualify for the State Muzzle Loader Competition, 4-H members must shoot a score equal to, or greater than, 50% of the total possible score for each target. These targets must be shot in the presence of a Certified 4-H Muzzle Loader Instructor. If you Club does not have a Certified Instructor, a Certified Instructor from any 4-H Club will be acceptable. You can make arrangements to have a volunteer attend your shoot to accomplish this.**

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) at 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 is verifying that the youth entered are knowledgeable and proficient in the safe use of the equipment and the fundamentals of the event. Match and/or range officials may dismiss or disqualify a 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 (1/2 Field Round)                        | FITA Round (1/2 FITA)              | 3-D Round                              |
| Archery Recurve  | FITA Round (1/2 FITA)                                | Field Round (1/2 Field Round)      | 3-D Round                              |
| Air Pistol       | Slow Fire - Bullseye                                 | Timed Fire/Rapid Fire Combo        | Air Pistol Silhouette                  |
| Air Rifle        | National STD Three-position Sporter Air Rifle        | Sporter Air Rifle Event (Standing) | Sporter Air Rifle Silhouette           |
| Hunting          | Hunter Decision-Making                               | Hunting Skills                     | Wildlife Identification and Management |
| Muzzle-Loading   | 25 Yard Novelty – Bottles and Haffner Critters combo | 50 Yard Bullseye                   | Muzzleloading Rifle Silhouette         |

|                  |   |                                   |                                    |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                  |   |                                   |                                    |
| Shotgun          | Skeet                                     | Trap                              | Sporting Clays                     |
| Smallbore Pistol | Camp Perry Round (modified)               | Slow-Fire Bullseye – single stage | Smallbore Hunter Pistol Silhouette |
| Smallbore Rifle  | Smallbore Silhouette Rifle (NRA Rule 3.2) | NRA Three-Position                | CMP Sporter Rifle Match            |

## **PARTICIPATION**

**4-H membership** – All 4-H Shooting Sports members in good standing 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.

**Age Requirement** – Participants must have past 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.

**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 does not have to be held to select participants for the national event.

**Individual Participation** – Individual participants may compete in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational, and are eligible for individual recognition and awards.

**Team Composition** - Teams are composed of no less than 3 or 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.

**Team Representation** - No participant may be a member of more than one team or represent more than one 4-H Shooting Sports program. All members or any team in 4-H events must meet all eligibility requirements, per the sponsoring 4-H Shooting Sports program.

**Event Participation** – Each of the nine disciplines of competition consists of three different events. A team (or individual) is restricted to participation in only one discipline of competition. Participants are expected to compete in all three events within the discipline which they entered. Individual and team awards are offered in each event as well as an overall discipline award – which is a composite score of all 3 events.

**Repeat Participation** - An individual may enter the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational repeatedly, but may only compete in a specific discipline once. If the participant has competed in the events of one of the nine disciplines of the National Invitational, they cannot return to compete in the same discipline events – but may return and compete in a different discipline.

**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 other eligibility requirements for participation in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational.

**Post-secondary Restriction** – Participants may not engage in training for any post-secondary competition in the discipline which they are competing in at national 4-H competitive events. This would include either “club” sports or official collegiate athletics/sports. i.e. If a youth is practicing with others for the college rifle team, he/she may not compete in rifle at the national match.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Medical Consent Form & 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 should be present at the event site, with immediate access to the forms anytime their youth are participating in an event. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program and host institution are not responsible for medical authorizations or health histories of the participants.

**Safety** – Safety is the highest priority for range staff, participants, coaches, and spectators. Standard accepted safety rules will be followed at all times, special safety considerations will be announced at each venue. The Match Director, Range officers, or other event staff may dismiss anyone from the range for unsafe behavior. The score may be forfeited, participant disqualified, or spectators barred at the discretion of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational staff.

**Equipment – Participants must comply with** all federal laws pertaining to youth and handguns (see Youth Safety Handgun Act, <http://iweb.tntech.edu/cpardue/youthnotice.html> ). Federal law prohibits the transportation of a handgun for any reason by a youth under 18 years of age. Please ensure that handguns are transported by an adult. See the National 4-H Invitational Event Synopsis for further requirements related to equipment.

**Cell Phones** – The use of cell phones or other electronic devices are not permitted during competitive events at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational by participants or coaches unless permission is requested and granted from the range officer.

**Eye and Ear Protection Requirement** – For all firearm events, eye and ear protection is required. All participants and other persons on or in the immediate vicinity of the firing line, including coaches, range officials and any spectators must wear adequate eye protection (glasses or goggles) and ear protection. The equipment must protect both eyes. For air events, only eye protection is required; and eye protection is strongly recommended but not required for archery events.

## **REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS**

**Participants with Physical Disabilities** – A participant who because of physical disability cannot fire from one or more of the prescribed shooting positions outlined in these rules, or who must use special equipment when firing, may petition for permission to assume a special position or to use modified equipment or both. This petition will be in the form of a written request from

the individual participant to the Committee (match director) outlining in detail the reasons why the special position must be assumed or the special equipment must be used. The petition will be accompanied by pictures of the participant in the position desiring approval and, if special equipment is required; the picture will show how this equipment is used. The petition and all pictures must be furnished in exact duplicate. The petition must be accompanied by a medical doctor's statement if the physical disability is not completely evident in the pictures submitted. Only a qualified individual with a disability is eligible for reasonable accommodation. An individual with a disability, for purposes of reasonable accommodation, is defined as a person who has a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.

### **Filing a Petition for Accommodations:**

(a) 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) 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.

## **AWARDS**

**Team & Individual Awards** - Awards will be presented to the top 3 teams and top 10 individuals in each event and for overall results in the discipline, which is a composite of all three events. Each event of the 3-event aggregate is to be equal in value when determining the overall discipline awards. Consequently, the director may use mathematical means to equalize the daily events.

**Team Scoring**—The high three scores from team participants for the day will count toward the daily team score. If there are 4 members to a team, the low score for the day will be dropped. States with less than 3 competitors are not eligible for team awards.

**State Sweepstakes Award** - The Tom Davidson Trophy (traveling trophy) is awarded to the state with the most placing points. In order for all events to contribute equally to the state sweepstakes award, the overall team awards are based upon placing points. The point value awarded to the 1st place team is determined by the event having the greatest number of teams participating. The first place team in each discipline will be awarded that number of placing points, e.g. 21 points if the greatest number of teams in any one event is 21. Each successive team will receive one point less. Overall awards are based upon placing points rather than raw scores or handicapped score aggregates.

## COACHING

**Coaches** – 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 Program Leader and State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

**Event Coaching** - As a general rule, limited coaching at the event site is permitted. However, coaching must never disturb other participants. Each state is limited to 1 “coach” per event. A coaching line will be established on each range - behind the participant’s area and firing line and separate from the spectator area. Except during preparation time, coaches are to stay behind the firing line and in the coaching area. Coaches may assist the participant during prep time only. Once shooting for record begins, no coaching is permitted unless the participant asks permission from the range officer. Any request for coach assistance must be initiated by the participant; the coach may not initiate contact with the participant. The participant will put down their equipment, make it safe, leave the line, and then go talk to their coach. Coaches may ask the line officer to have their youth member come back to talk, but may not initiate contact with the participant. Coaches may not handle firearms or equipment after the match begins nor advance to the firing line unless authorized by the range officer. A coach may set up his/her own spotting equipment. Please note that specific coaching instructions may be issued at the range for each event.

**Spotters/Scorers in silhouette matches** - State Teams will be split into different shooting relays and teammates will spot for one another (2 per relay). Quiet conversation between the spotter and the participant is permissible. An official scorer, not from the same team, will be assigned to each participant to record hits and misses.

## CONDUCT

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational is a youth event, as such the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages, during an event or on the grounds of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational is not permitted. Violation of this policy by a participant is grounds for dismissal from the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational.

**Dress Code** - Participants are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they will 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 have the final word concerning the dress code and may announce or address specific cases. All participants and coaches should remember that they may be having photographs taken or be asked to interview for the media. Remember that you represent all of 4-H Shooting Sports. Make it a positive image!

**Behavior and Sportsmanship** - All participants, coaches, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level 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, and the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program Code of Conduct, not only to the letter, but to the intent.

**Knowledge of Rules and Procedures** – Where possible, each of the national events have been associated with a National Governing Body (NGB). An exception to any NGB rule is noted in the “Synopsis”. It is the responsibility of each participant and coach to read the NGB rulebook, understand the procedures used in each event, and comply with the rules and standards of the events. Questions are encouraged to clarify any areas of misunderstanding or lack of knowledge. Ignorance of the rules in any event does not obviate their existence. Participants are responsible for knowing the rules of their event and staying within them. Learning the rules of the events is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants.

## CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS

**Challenges** - Only participants may review their own targets and challenge the scoring. Once targets have been scored, they will be available for review by participants for a period of 30 minutes unless otherwise posted. Upon completion of that time period the scores may no longer be challenged. Challenges must be accompanied by a fee of \$1 per hole being challenged. A jury (not including the original scorer) will review the challenge and pronounce their findings to the challenger. If the challenge is upheld, the \$1 will be returned to the participant. If the challenge is rejected, the fee will be deposited in the 4-H National Match funds. No fee is required to point out mathematical errors. Each range may announce its own procedures and time allowances for challenge.

**Protests** - Youth participants only (no adults), may protest; a) an injustice they feel has been done them individually; b) the conditions under which another competitor was permitted to fire; or c) the equipment another competitor was permitted to use.

### **Steps to Filing an Official Protest:**

- a. Range Officer – The protest is made orally to the chief range officer or other National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational official present on the range.
- b. Range Jury – The protest may be stated orally to the jury of 3 or more officials present at the match, indicating the decision of the range officer. The jury should include a national discipline representative as well as local match officials.
- c. Match Director or /Jury – The protest must be submitted in writing to the Match Director or the Chief Range Officer, accompanied by a \$25 cash protest fee, within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the event. If the Protest is given to the Chief Range Officer, they will notify the Match Director immediately via radio or phone. The match jury will consider the statement, may ask questions of the participant and range officials and will render a decision in an expeditious manner. The decision of the match jury will be final and no further appeal is possible. Coaches, parents, and other parties may not participate in the process. If the protest is ruled valid, the fee will be returned.

## MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE EVENTS

### EQUIPMENT STANDARD:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>EQUIPMENT</b>   | Rifle: Any traditional or non-traditional NMLRA Conventional muzzle loading rifle (in-lines permitted);<br>Sights: Metallic – non-traditional permitted (open or aperture);<br>Position: Standing –no slings;<br>Ignition: percussion cap, or flintlock. No. 209 primers will be permitted;<br>Maximum charge of 60 grains of black powder or its equivalent is allowable. There are no limits on the caliber. <u>All events are restricted to patched rounds balls only.</u> No open powder containers are permitted on the firing line except when powder is actually being measured. Any open container will become the property of the range officer. A separate powder measure must be used to carry the powder from the container to the muzzle of the gun. No rifle may be capped or primed until on the firing line and the command to fire has been given by the range officer. |
| <b>RULES</b>       | NMLRA Muzzle Loading Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun–except as noted   |
| <b>INFORMATION</b> | <a href="http://www.nmlra.org/store.asp?CatID=3">http://www.nmlra.org/store.asp?CatID=3</a>  |

### 25 YARD NOVELTY – Bottles and Haffner Critters combo

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>TARGET</b>         | NMLRA Bottle Target (TG2427), and NMLRA Haffner Combination Target (TG901)  |
| <b>DISTANCE</b>       | 25 yards  |
| <b>COURSE OF FIRE</b> | 10 record shots on each target, 2 per bull, (20 record shots)   |
| <b>TIME LIMIT</b>     | 80 minutes total running time; May be run in 2 series of 10 shots; 40 minutes/series  |
| <b>PROJECTILE</b>     | Patched soft lead round ball only;  |
| <b>SCORING</b>        | <b>Bottles:</b> as outlined on the target. Completely within neck-10 pts; nicking the neck-7 pts; within body-5 pts; nicking the body -3 pts.<br><b>Haffner:</b> highest scoring area touched by ball ( <b>Note:</b> The latter is less stringent than standard NMLRA scoring.) |

### 50 YARD BULLSEYE

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>TARGET</b>         | NMLRA 100 yard 8 ring targets (TG2406)   |
| <b>DISTANCE</b>       | 50 yards   |
| <b>COURSE OF FIRE</b> | 20 shots standing. Sight-in shots permitted but as part of the total running time;                           |
| <b>TIME LIMIT</b>     | 80 minutes total running time. May be run in 2 series of 10 shots - 40 minutes/series                        |
| <b>PROJECTILE</b>     | Patched soft lead round ball only;   |
| <b>SCORING</b>        | Highest scoring area touched by ball. <b>Note:</b> The latter is less stringent than standard NMLRA scoring. |

## MUZZLELOADING RIFLE SILHOUETTE

This is a 4-H "hybrid" event that fits neither NRA Black Powder Silhouette nor NMLRA Silhouette. The steel silhouette and distances are used in order to allow the use of an NRA smallbore silhouette range and standard NRA targets.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>TARGET</b>         | ½ scale metallic silhouettes (NRA Hunter Pistol) 20 targets  |
| <b>DISTANCE</b>       | 5 Chickens at 40 meters, 5 pigs at 60 meters, 5 turkeys at 77 meters, 5 rams at 100 meters;  |
| <b>COURSE OF FIRE</b> | 5 targets at each distance, one shot per target fired upon in order from left to right;  |
| <b>TIME LIMIT</b>     | 20 minutes per bank of 5 targets;  |
| <b>PROJECTILE</b>     | Patched soft lead round ball only;   |
| <b>SCORING</b>        | Target must be knocked over or from its stand in order to be scored as a hit. Targets not knocked over or hit out of order will be scored as misses. |