

## OHIO 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

### General Information, Definitions and Policies

Revised February 3, 2021

#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports program will utilize the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum to achieve the following goals:

- A.) To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision-making, self-discipline, and concentration.
- B.) To enhance development of participant's self-concept, character, and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in a shooting activity.
- C.) To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior.
- D.) To encourage understanding of natural resources concepts through participant's interests in shooting and hunting.
- E.) To expose participants to a broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to shooting sports.
- F.) To strengthen families through life-long recreational activities.
- G.) To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety and hunter education programs.

4-H Shooting Sports is a Science and Technology 4-H program delivered through a 4-H leader directed group setting, conducted and taught by specially trained and certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors. A 4-H member may not enroll in shooting sports projects without direct supervision of a certified instructor in the project area. Project record books are available for members to establish goals and objectives and keep necessary records. Participation in any shooting sports project requires a member with the physical size to handle the shooting equipment and the attention span and maturity to follow directions and abide by all safety protocols. The program is designed for 4-H members ages 9 to 18.

Ohio 4-H will continue to offer member directed individual 4-H projects in (630) basic gun safety, (631) basic archery, and (622) trapping muskrats in Ohio. These projects are not designed to be used in a group setting but should be supervised by the 4-H member's parent/guardian or another adult approved by the parent/guardian.

4-H Shooting disciplines currently available include (750) rifle, (751) archery, (752) shotgun, (753) pistol, (754) hunting & wildlife, (755) muzzleloading, (756) living history, crossbow, (757) Western Heritage Project, (758). Reloading is an advanced area of study within (750) rifle, (752) shotgun and (753) pistol disciplines.

Coordinator is an adult discipline not a member project. A 4-H shooting sports coordinator is considered a middle manager that leads people, manages meetings and events, provides communications, and holds a multi-disciplinary team together. The firearms, archery and hunting discipline instructors are key leaders who teach the specific knowledge and skills related to their discipline. **Note: some disciplines have prerequisites, please see Policy Statements section discipline prerequisites item 12.**

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## **POLICY STATEMENTS:**

The overall goal of the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Program is to provide a safe and educational experience to 4-H members through volunteer leaders. Two of the important components of safety are instruction and supervision. We feel that the certification of 4-H Shooting Sports instructors at state-sponsored workshops is an important means to provide a standard of instruction and supervision in the program. State sponsored workshops teach volunteers about shooting sports and the developmental abilities and maturity of 4-H youth.

In order to achieve our goal of providing a safe and educational experience, the following policies have been established:

1. All applicants attending a State 4-H Shooting Sports Leader (Instructor) Training Weekend Workshop will need to have completed their county approval process as a 4-H volunteer before attending the training workshops.
2. All Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Courses in Archery, Rifle, Pistol Shotgun, Muzzle Loading, Reloading, Hunting and Living History will have at least one State Instructor Trainer on the teaching team.
3. All 4-H Shooting Sports activities will be directly supervised by an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor. If a program divides the members into groups for concurrent shooting sessions, groups will be under the on-site supervision of an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor.
4. Adult volunteers who are primarily responsible for a concurrent session which involves the use of firearms and/or archery equipment will be Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructors in the discipline which is being taught.
5. Instructor Assistants and all remaining volunteers will be under the direct physical supervision of an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor while engaged in an activity which involves the use of firearms and/or archery equipment. Assistant Instructors may be recruited from a variety of sources.
6. All Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructors will be certified by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee before being permitted to use the curriculum materials.
7. All adult volunteers and youth engaged in the use of firearms and/or archery equipment will be advised of the basic range safety rules before shooting starts.
8. All participants will wear tempered eyeglasses, safety glasses or shooting glasses ***ANSI – 87 Eyewear Standard*** and ear plugs, or muffs as eye and ear protection while on or near the shooting line.
9. Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports programs will use club/4-H owned equipment, equipment loaned by industry or a support organization, or equipment inspected and approved by a qualified person. All club/4-H owned firearms will be stored in a locked secure (Gun safe preferred) box or storage area, from all unauthorized persons.
10. Only reloaded (hand-loaded) ammunition that has been reloaded under the direct supervision of an Ohio 4-H Certified Reloading Instructor will be used in the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports program. **Only factory or factory remanufactured ammunition is used at 4-H shooting sports competitive events.**
11. **Reloaded ammunition will only be used by the 4-H member who reloaded it.**

12. (Discipline Prerequisites) **Archery Advanced** – Must have completed the 4-H Basic Archery previously. **Muzzleloading** – Must have completed one the 4-H Basic Pistol, Rifle or shotgun disciplines previously. **Hunting and Wildlife** – If Archery and or firearms are being taught, then instructors and members must complete the level or levels of 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines being exercised. **Note: Exception with interest to photography and binoculars only, (no shooting disciplines being taught)** Hunting and Wildlife is an allowable discipline without previous prerequisites. **Pistol Advanced** – Must have completed 4-H Basic Pistol discipline previously. **Rifle Marksmanship (Rifle Advanced)** – Must have completed the 4-H Basic Rifle discipline previously. **Shotgun Advanced** – Must have completed the 4-H Basic Shotgun discipline previously. **Living History** – If Archery and or firearms are being taught, then instructors and members must complete the level or levels of 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines being exercised. **Reloading - Metallic, Shotshell,** – Must have completed one of the 4-H Basic Pistol, Rifle or Shotgun discipline previously. **Western Heritage** where firearms are being taught, then instructors and members must complete the level or levels of 4-H Shooting Sports basic disciplines being exercised.
13. A statewide competition could be developed as the need and interest grows.
14. **Regarding simulated combat sports including but not limited to, paintball guns, air-soft, laser guns, archery tag.** Pointing any type of gun including paint ball guns, air-soft guns, laser guns, laser paintball, archery tag bows & arrows or sighting devices at any person or any humanoid shaped target is inappropriate in any 4-H program activity.

The purpose of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program is to promote youth development through the safe and responsible and ethical use of Archery equipment and firearms. Therefore, the National 4-H Shooting Sports and the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is opposed to such use in the 4-H program.

15. The Ohio 4-H shooting sports program is open to 4-H members ages 9 by January 1 of current year through 19.
16. An Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports club meets at least six times during the 4-H year.
17. The 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum is provided solely to certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors who have successfully completed a 4-H Shooting Sports training recognized by the state where they are enrolled as a certified 4-H volunteer.

Persons possessing this curriculum without appropriate training are not authorized to conduct a shooting sports training for 4-H or other organizations nor are they authorized to lead any 4-H Shooting Sports projects.

ONLY the State 4-H Shooting Sports Program Coordinator may authorize such transfer of material. Any other individuals (i.e.: Level 2 Instructors or Level 1 Instructors) must have the express permission of the State Coordinator to do so.

## DEFINITIONS:

Ohio 4-H State Instructor Trainer (“State Instructor Trainer”) is an adult who has successfully completed a course of training conducted by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and gives leadership to the training of volunteers here in Ohio.

Ohio 4-H State Shooting Sports Instructor (“State Instructor”): an adult who: a) is an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor, and b) teaches or assists in teaching a course at a state

workshop in the discipline(s) for which s/he has been certified or has documented training and or experience.

Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor (“Certified Instructor”): an adult who has successfully completed a course of training conducted by the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Committee.

Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Assistant (“Instructor Assistant”): a person who has locally recognized experience in shooting sports and/or youth development and has proper background validation and who has been trained at the local level by a “Certified Instructor” in the discipline(s) which are being taught.

Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Junior Leader (“Junior Leader”): is a 4-H teen member who has completed training and assists with 4-H Shooting Sports Programs for youth under the supervision of a “Certified Instructor”.

### **INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- A.) 21 years of age or older for all disciplines *except Archery, Crossbow, Hunting and Wildlife and Living History which is 18 years of age or older. Note: Living History and Hunting and Wildlife – If any firearms are to be used in either of these disciplines then the age 21 or older requirement applies.*
- B.) Successfully complete the instructor training program conducted by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee.
- C.) No felony convictions or any convictions for hunting or fishing law violations within the past two years.

### **INSTRUCTOR RENEWALS AND RECERTIFICATION:**

- a.) To keep certification as a 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor, you must be a current 4-H volunteer. (one can be removed as a 4-H volunteer after one year of inactivity)
- b.) To keep certification as a 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor, one must teach or assist in teaching a class every three years.
- c.) Once certification lapses, one may have to repeat a state training workshop.
- d.) Renewal for expired / or Replacement of Certification Card: Contact State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator and give Name, County and Current Discipline Certifications. New card will be sent to your County 4-H Extension Educator.
- e.) Renewal will be required of all instructors when a program change necessitates an update.