

**Pinal County 4-H**  
**Shooting Sports Rules**

1. **4-H Membership** – All bona fide 4-H Shooting Sports enrolled members receiving training under the leadership of a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports project leader are eligible to compete in 4-H shooting sports events, subject to limitations imposed by the specific event.
2. **Age Requirement** – Contestant must be 9 years of age, and may not have passed their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the 4-H year.
  - a. The categories for competition will be in three division:
    - i. Sub-Juniors 9 – 11
    - ii. Juniors 12 – 13
    - iii. Seniors 14 – 19
  - b. In the shotgun event participants will be divided based on their level of expertise and will be at the discretion of the County Shooting Sports Coordinator, Volunteer Project Leader, and the Match Director:
    - i. Novice
    - ii. Intermediate
    - iii. Advanced
3. **Official Contestant** – For national or state competition, contestants or teams of contestants must be certified as the official county entry by the County Shooting Sports Coordinator or the County 4-H Agent. The individuals or teams may be selected by any procedure the County Shooting Sports Committee believes appropriate. A county competition does not have to be held to select contestants.
4. **Team Composition** – Teams are composed of 3 or 4 individuals. If 4 members on a team the top 3 scores for each event will count toward the official team score. Mixed squads are permitted (different age groups on a single team). Only Senior 4-H members from the winning team are eligible to represent Arizona at the National Invitation with the remainder coming from the individual list, beginning with the high point person and going down.
5. **Individual Participation** – A county does not have to send a complete team to compete in the State Shooting Education Event. Individuals may participate and are eligible for individual recognition and awards.
6. **Team Representation** – No shooter may be a member of more than one team or represent more than one county shooting sports program in any given event. All members or any team in 4-H events must meet the eligibility requirements, including enrollment in the shooting sports program as per sponsoring county.
7. **Post-secondary Restriction** – The contestant may not have participated in training for any post-secondary competition in the subject area in which they are competing in a State

4-H competitive event. This would include club sports or official collegiate athletics/sports. For example, if a youth is practicing with others for the college rifle team, s/he may not compete in rifle at the State match.

8. **Safety** – Safety must be the number one priority of range personnel, participants, and spectators. Standard accepted safety rules will be followed at all time, 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 range staff.
9. **Eye and Ear Protection Requirement** – Eye and ear protection is required for all firearm events. All shooters 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. Eye protection only required for air events; and it strongly recommended but not required for archery events.
10. **Coaching** – As a general rule, limited coaching is permitted. However coaching must never disturb other participants. Each county is limited to 1 coach per state or national event. A coaching line will be established on each range – behind the shooters 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 shooter during prep time. Once shooting for record begins, no coaching is permitted unless the shooter asks permission from the range officer. Any request for coach assistance must be initiated by the shooter; the coach may not initiate contact with the shooter. The shooter 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 pupil come back to talk, but it not to initiate contact with the shooter. Coaches may not handle firearms or equipment after the match begins, or advance to the firing line unless authorized by the range officer. A coach may set up their own spotting equipment. Specific coaching instructions may be issued at the range for each event.

**Spotters/Scorers in Silhouette Matches** – County Teams will be split into different shooting relays and teammates will spot for one another (2 per relay). Quite conversation between the spotter and the shooter is permissible. An official scorer – not from the same club for county events or the same county for state and national events – will be assigned to each shooter to record hits and misses.

11. **No Smoking** – No smoking is permitted on or near the firing lines or in any situation where smoke would constitute interference to shooters. Smoking by minors is prohibited by law and by Arizona 4-H policy and it not permitted on the grounds at any time.
12. **Alcohol Policy** – No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the grounds of any 4-H contests (county, state, or national) per Arizona and National 4-H policy. Violation of this policy is grounds for ejection from the grounds.

13. **Dress Code** – Participants are expected to dress appropriately. 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. All shooters 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!
14. **Behavior** – All participants 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. All participants and observers are expected to conform to the Code of Conduct as supplied, not only to the letter but to the intent.
15. **Rules / Knowledge of Procedures and Rules** – Where possible, each of the State events have been associated with a National Governing Body (NGB); exceptions to any NGB rule is noted in the Match bulletins. It is the shooter's and coach's responsibility to read the NGB rulebook and 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 ignorance. Ignorance of the rules in any event does not obviate their existence. Shooters 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.
16. **Challenges** – Scoring of rifle targets may be reviewed by the **shooter only**. S/he may challenge the scoring if they feel it is incorrect for any reason. A challenge fee of \$1.00 is required for each shot challenged, either because of inadvertent miss-recording of the score or because the shooter feels it was scored improperly. If the challenge is upheld, the score will be adjusted and the fee will be returned to the shooter. If it is denied, the shooter will be given a receipt and the funds will be deposited in the 4-H Shooting Sports Fund. No fee is required to point out mathematical errors. Each range will announce its own procedures for challenge.