

Laramie County Shooting Sports Policies

The Laramie County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is a county based 4-H program, rather than a club level based program. Rational for having Shooting Sports as a county-wide program revolves around the issue of firearms, safety and risk management. The Shooting Sports Committee owns most of the equipment used by the youth, however, equipment personally owned by the participant can be used after it has been inspected and approved for safety and proper function by a Laramie County Shooting Sports leader.

In order to be on the firing line, you must be a certified Laramie County 4-H Shooting Sports leader. Laramie County 4-H leaders and other non-certified authorized volunteers may be used, as necessary, under the direction of the key shooting sports leader on site. Spectators may not coach or otherwise distract shooters while on the firing line.

Each shooting sports leader must attend a discipline specific state shooting sports training session or be trained by a county shooting sports key leader. Shooting sports leaders must be current in their chosen discipline in order to instruct a 4-H member. Only key leaders or state trained leaders are authorized to certify other leaders. Re-certification of shooting sport leaders is required every five (5) years for their chosen discipline.

~~All youth attending shooting sports orientations, clinics, and practices must be enrolled in the discipline(s) they are attending. All first-year shooters (regardless of age) intending to participate in a firearms discipline (air rifle, .22 rifle, shotgun, black powder, air pistol or .22 pistol) must first attend an air rifle orientation AND the first three scheduled air rifle practices—Upon completion of the three mandatory practices, each shooter will be evaluated. If the shooter can demonstrate proper firearm safety and knowledge, they will be given a safety certificate, which will then give them the opportunity to advance to other firearms disciplines. NO shooter will be allowed to participate in any other firearms disciplines without a firearms safety certificate. (All shooters prior to this date, May 2011, will be grandfathered in and given a safety certificate).~~

All youth attending shooting sports clinics, practices and competitions must be enrolled in the discipline(s) they are attending. All shooters (regardless of age) intending to participate in a shooting sports discipline (air rifle, .22 rifle, shotgun, archery, black powder, air pistol or .22 pistol) must first attend an annually offered discipline-specific orientation. Youth wanting to participate in firearm disciplines (everything but archery) will be required to

obtain a firearm safety certificate or be exempt from this requirement at the discretion of the program leaders. Juniors (8-10) will be required to complete one full year of air rifle or air pistol before being allowed to participate in any other firearm discipline (air rifle for: .22 rifle, shotgun, and black powder; air pistol for .22 pistol).

Youth that are new to Laramie County, but not necessarily new to Wyoming 4H Shooting sports, will be allowed to participate if proof of prior shooting safety certification can be produced. These youth will be monitored by the Laramie County 4H program leaders in order to determine if they possess the necessary safety skills. Youth that are determined to not demonstrate the required safety skills and knowledge may be asked to complete a year of air rifle in order to teach the youth the desired skills and safety knowledge taught in Laramie County.

~~No first-year shooters will be allowed to shoot air pistol or .22 pistol. Each shooter, wishing to participate in air pistol or .22 pistol, must complete one year of shooting sports and possess a fire arms safety certificate before being allowed to participate in short bore disciplines.~~

First year shooters that are either Intermediate (11-13) or Senior (14-18) may be allowed to participate in shotgun, .22 rifle, .22 pistol, and black powder disciplines at the discretion of the program leaders without having to participate in air rifle or air pistol first.

The rifle discipline has three classes: Sporter, Light Target, and Precision. The Sporter and Light Target classes are open to all interested 4H members. Since limited rifles and clothing are available for the Precision class, members wishing to shoot in this class must compete once annually for the opportunity. Once each 4H year, leaders will hold a local match to determine Precision class eligibility. The match is open to any Laramie County 4H shooting sports member who has previously earned a safety card. The match date and time will be announced at least 7 days before the event. An alternative make-up day will be offered within two weeks of the original match date. The top scoring junior, intermediate, or senior Sporter or Light Target members who score at least 250 total points in 4-position will be offered Precision slots provided they commit to participating in at least four (4) rifle matches during the 4H year. Eligible matches include County Shoot (Cheyenne), State Shoot, USA Olympic (Cheyenne), USA 3P (Lander), CMP

Postal (Cheyenne), CMP Aces (Cheyenne), CMP Western Regional, CMP Rocky Mountain Cup (Fort Carson, CO), NRA Sectional (Lander), or other sanctioned matches. Funding may be available to assist members interested in out-of-town matches.

Once a member has earned a Precision class slot, they retain that slot for the entire 4H year. However, in the next new 4H year, they must participate in the local eligibility match to retain their precision rifle. Furthermore, they must score higher than Light Target or Sporter competitors to retain their Precision slot. These competitors will be at a distinct advantage because they will be using precision gear while competing against Sporter and Light Target shooters.

Members who intend to shoot archery only must attend the archery orientation and are not required to attend firearms training.

To qualify for the Wyoming 4-H State Shoot, competitors must have attended a minimum of five practices in the current 4-H year and be deemed safe by a certified shooting sports leader. For the non-archery shooting disciplines, competitors must have a Laramie County Shooting Sports safety card.

Qualification to attend the State Match is not an automatic bid to shoot on a designated county team. To be eligible for team consideration, the member must exhibit the following behavior: Regular attendance, good sportsmanship, proper skill development, and range etiquette. In addition, state shoot team members will be determined annually by their average score from multiple matches or scored events as defined below. County Shoot may be one of the matches, though it is not a requirement. If a member has scores from more than the minimum number of scoring occasions in the 4-H year starting October 1, then the top scores will be used. In the event of a tie, attendance at County Shoot and number of practices attended will be considered. Matches or scoring events follow 4-H State Shoot guidelines and members must shoot shoulder-to-shoulder with other 4-H members. The following details pertain to individual disciplines:

- Shotgun: Combined score out of 50 shots possible at 16 yards from three scored events
- Rifle: Combined score at three scored events
- Archery: Blue face score from two scored events

- Muzzleloader: Combined score for all targets from two scored events
- Pistol: Combined score out of 40 shots from three scored events.

Any shooting sports leader has the right and obligation to send a 4-H member back to air rifle basic class, if they fail to demonstrate range safety and etiquette in a firearms shooting sports discipline. The range officer, in any shooting sports discipline, has the authority to remove a 4-H shooting sports participant and/or spectator from the range for safety rule violations or disruptive behavior. Any 4-H shooting sports participant who has repeatedly violated range safety and etiquette could be dismissed from the shooting sports program.

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