



2026 Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament General Rules



Registration

All contestants (including alternates) must be registered online by **July 19, 2026**, to participate in the State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament. **No late or on-site registrations or changes will be accepted.**

The contestant **must** complete the following items to be considered for the tournament:

1. Complete the registration form using the information provided by the county instructor(s). Be sure to include an email address where a registration confirmation can be sent. Participants are responsible for checking this email confirmation to ensure that they are registered correctly.
2. Submit a \$40.00 tournament registration fee. There is no additional charge for team competition. Registrations received without payment will be canceled on July 20th.
3. The Michigan 4-H Youth Authorization and Acknowledgment Form must be on file with the contestant's county office, either in [4-H Online](#) or on a signed hard copy.
4. Cancellation and refund policy:
 - a. 100% refunds will be granted if cancellations are received by July 19, 2026.
 - b. Partial refunds apply as follows:
 - i. \$27 refund during the first week, ending July 25, 2026
 - ii. \$13 refund during the second week, ending August 1, 2026
 - iii. No refunds on or after August 2, 2026

There is a maximum number of youth and teams that a county can enter in any EVENT (not division). Those limits are listed at the top of the rules for each event. It is up to the individual Counties to determine the selection process for participants from their county if necessary.

Volunteers

Each county must register **ONE** adult volunteer for every **FOUR** competitors registered. If less than four competitors are registering, ONE ADULT volunteer must register. **One of those volunteers must be appointed and registered as the County Coordinator** responsible for on-site registration/check-in for all county competitors on tournament day; assisting competitors with questions; and accepting/transporting/distributing medals if not claimed by youth at the awards ceremony. The **County Coordinator is the only person permitted to pick up the county packet** at the state tournament. Youth from counties that do not register and send the minimum number of adult volunteers on the day of the competition are not guaranteed the right to compete.

Volunteers must register through the Tournament registration prior to the event.

Eligibility

1. Contestants may participate in **one** event in the tournament. See the information provided by the instructor(s), division information, general rules, and event-specific rules for details on event and division eligibility.
2. Team scores will be compiled from the individual scores of those participants designated as team members at registration. There will not be a separate team event.
3. Team members must be designated by the county instructor on the information provided to each qualified contestant. Team members who scratch the day of the event may be replaced with an alternate from that county who is already registered for the same event, and not already on a team.

This change MUST take place at Headquarters before shooting begins. A team must consist of more than 1 member.

4. Contestants must be currently enrolled in a 4-H Shooting Sports Club, which is supervised by a Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor holding current certification.
5. Males and females compete in the same divisions in individual and team events; there are no gender-specific divisions.
6. Previous year's winners of individual events in any Division are ineligible to compete in the same division the following year. The previous year's Beginner and Junior Division winners, however, may compete in an older-age division of the same event.
7. Contestants **must** have previously participated in an organized competitive shooting event (for example, a county 4-H shoot or a club event) in the event for which they are registering. Shooters are required to understand the procedures and skills needed to compete in an event. Range officers who determine a contestant is not safely participating in a discipline will ask the contestant to discontinue his/her participation and **Shooting Sports Instructors who enter youth in events without having sufficient local event experience are subject to losing their certification credentials.**

Range Safety and Equipment Policies

1. All contestants will use their own sporting arms and ammunition. The range officer at each tournament event site will inspect and have the authority to reject equipment from the competition due to safety problems, rule violations, etc.
2. According to state law, firearms and bows must be broken down or enclosed in a case or carried in the locked trunk of an automobile when being transported to and from the tournament site.
3. **All firearms and bows will be transported/moved on the event site in a case.** Cases must be designed for that purpose and be capable of being secured with snap(s), string, zipper or catches. Firearms or bows wrapped in towels or blankets do not meet this requirement. No firearms or bows will not be removed from the case until participants are directed to do so by the range officer immediately prior to participation in an event. Contestants will not uncase firearms or bows elsewhere on the tournament site. Range officers or their authorized assistants will inspect the firearm or bow and direct its placement. Upon completion of the event, the range officer or his authorized assistant will inspect the firearm and direct the firearm to be cased. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in disqualification. This rule is predicated on safety and liability issues and is in no way a reflection on the ability or capabilities of the contestants.
4. **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 that protects both eyes (glasses or goggles) and ear protection.** For air events, only eye protection is required; and eye protection is strongly recommended but not required for archery events. Shooters are **required to provide** their own eye and ear protection so that they have used it in practice, are familiar with it in competition, and are satisfied with its quality. **None will be provided at the event.**
5. Footwear/Apparel Policy - Any participant while shooting in any shooting event is required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet. Examples of footwear that are not acceptable include, but are not limited to: sandals, clogs, crocs, flip-flops, and bare feet. No Military/Tactical vests, no loose-fitting tops, no dangling earrings or necklaces will be allowed on the firing line.
6. No practice will be allowed on tournament grounds during tournament day.

Special Considerations

The state 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament is planned and conducted by the Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Board of Directors, which is composed of 4-H staff members, volunteer leaders, and teens. This committee makes the following requests in order for participants and organizers to have an enjoyable tournament experience:

1. As a sanctioned 4-H activity, there will be **NO SMOKING, VAPING, TOBACCO, OR ALCOHOL USE PERMITTED ANYWHERE ON THE GROUNDS** during the tournament or awards ceremony.

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2. Spectator cell phones, two-way radios, and walkie-talkies must be on vibrate or low volume, and should not be heard by competitors, range officers, or tournament staff on or near the firing line during competition.
3. Practice shooting in unused areas is not allowed.
4. Please be courteous and tidy guests.
5. **Host site rules:**
 - a) **Spectators must wear eye and ear protection near firearm ranges.**
 - b) **Pregnant women are prohibited on the trap and skeet ranges.**
6. The range officers and/or State 4-H Shooting Sports Program Committee reserve the right to make exceptions to the rules when necessary for safety reasons or for achieving the goals of the 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament or program.
7. The Shooting Sports Committee may change shooting events (course of fire, targets, etc.) due to unforeseen occurrences.
8. Because all our range officers and target scorers are volunteers (many with their own county programs), courtesy and patience on the part of contestants, coaches, and parents are essential. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and will result in the elimination of participants and possibly entire county delegations.
9. Counties are encouraged to send 4-H members with disabilities to participate in this shoot. These members must shoot under all existing standards, and the county must determine that the members can participate in the shoot without endangering themselves or others. **Please specify any adaptive equipment or accommodations during online registration** and present them at the onsite equipment check-in. Contact the state office with any questions, concerns, or special considerations.

Coach Responsibilities

1. Coaches must conduct themselves in a quiet, supportive, and cooperative manner at all times.
2. Coaching is not permitted during events at any time, except at the direct instruction of the range officer.
3. Coaches may be requested by the range officer to assist a shooter with a situation on the firing line.
4. A coach may provide replacement or additional equipment as needed after obtaining permission from the range officer.
5. Range staff or the 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator may remove a coach from the vicinity of the firing line if the coach violates rules, distracts other shooters, or appears to distract his/her own shooters. In the event that a coach is removed, a replacement may be permitted at the discretion of the range officer. **Continued disruption is cause for disqualification of the team, individual and/or county competing.**

Conduct Policies

The spirit of 4-H sportsmanship as well as safe, appropriate behavior is expected of all shooters, coaches, and spectators at 4-H Shooting Sports events at all times.

1. Shooters and coaches are responsible for understanding the procedures used in each event and complying with the rules and standards of the event.
2. Learning the rules of the events is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants; the intent is to aid shooters rather than entrap them. Ignorance of the rules is not a valid excuse.
3. Questions from competitors are encouraged to clarify any areas of misunderstanding or confusion. **Any questions concerning the match must come from the competitors and only the competitors. Questions from coaches and parents will NOT be accepted.**
4. Disorderly, disruptive, or unsafe conduct has no place on the shooting range and is not permitted. Poor conduct by a participant, coach, spectator, or volunteer at the tournament will be grounds for immediate disqualification and/or ejection by the range officer, the Tournament Director, the Board of Directors, and/or the 4-H State Shooting Sports Educator. This includes but is not limited to disruptive behavior, poor sportsmanship, inappropriate language, **inappropriate attire (including tactical)**, and confrontations with any 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament Staff, host facility staff, contestants, or spectators.

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- a. **Staff Discretion** – All authorized range staff carry the discretionary responsibility to enforce behavioral guidelines.
 - b. **Warning** – Any contestant, coach, or spectator displaying disorderly, destructive, or abusive conduct will be warned only once.
 - c. **Penalties** – Further instances of such conduct may result in one or more of the following: disqualification of the shooter, ejection from the tournament grounds, **disqualification of all competitors in that event from the county.**
 - d. **Upon review of the offense, the 4-H State Shooting Sports Board of Directors and event coordinators may render the competitor, the instructor, and/or the county ineligible to compete in future state shooting sports events. In addition, the certification of the shooting sports instructor of record may be suspended or permanently revoked.**
5. The decisions of the State 4-H Shooting Sports Educator, Head Range Officer, the Tournament Director, the 4-H Shooting Sports Board of Directors, and the scorers are final.
 6. Communication between spectators, parents, or coaches and the shooters while on the shooting line during events is prohibited.
 7. Anyone participating in a state-sponsored 4-H activity who is involved in any illegal, unethical or unacceptable activities will immediately be sent home at his/her own expense and may be turned over to the proper authorities.

Results and Awards

1. Up to three places will be awarded in all individual events. Up to three places will be awarded in team events in which at least two full teams are registered. No tiebreaker procedures will be used for any events; in case of ties, duplicate medals will be awarded.
2. Targets and scorecards will not be posted and will not be available. There will be a QR Code at Headquarters that will take you to the scores webpage with a rolling list of scores as they are updated. It is the responsibility of the participant to check these scores in a timely fashion.
3. Final scores and standings will be posted online after the event.
4. **Medals will be awarded on-site after completion of the results being tallied from the last event.**
5. Participants and spectators are asked to assist range officers in breaking down and cleaning up each range to allow for quicker attendance at the awards ceremony following the competition.

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