

Washington State 4-H General Shooting Sports Guidelines, Policies, and Procedures

Washington State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee (last revised July 1, 2019)

We follow all policies and procedures in the Washington State 4-H Policy Handbook

4-H Shooting Sports is a program under the area of 4-H General Projects and has a strong Science and Technology 4-H element. Shooting Sports in Washington is delivered through a 4-H leader-directed group setting, conducted and taught by trained and certified 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders, that have completed project discipline-specific training (e.g., archery, hunting, or shotgun). A Washington 4-H member may not enroll in shooting sports projects without direct supervision of a certified instructor in the project area and discipline. Participation in any shooting sports project requires a member with the appropriate physical size, attention span, and personal maturity to safely handle the shooting equipment, ability to follow directions and abide by all safety protocols. The program, in general, is designed for 4-H members ages 8 to 18.

Standards and Practices for Washington State Shooting Sports

1. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum is the established adult teaching curriculum for training adult leaders to teach youth within the 4-H program.
2. Adults must be 21 years of age, successfully complete their county 4-H leader training and be in good standing as a volunteer before they complete 4-H shooting sports training in the specific discipline they will be teaching.
3. All 4-H shooting sports leaders accept and abide by the National 4-H Shooting Sports code of Ethics.
4. State, County and Club level 4-H shooting sports programs will have written risk management plans which includes the items covered in chapter 5 of their teaching curriculum. These plans will be on file at your county WSU Extension office.
5. Level one 4-H shooting sports leaders are certified by Washington State and National 4-H to teach youth. This training provides a minimum of twelve (12) hours of instruction, including a minimum of nine (9) hours instruction in the specific discipline and a minimum of three (3) hours in teaching positive youth development and risk management.
6. Level two 4-H shooting sports leader are certified by Washington State and National 4-H shooting sports to teach youth and certify level one 4-H leaders. Upon completion of the national level 2 training these leaders may certify level one leaders in their home county but must receive permission to certify leaders outside of their home county by the state 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinators.
7. To maintain certification as a 4-H shooting sports Level 1 or Level 2 instructor, one must teach or assist in instruction within the discipline certified at least once every three (3) years as reported to the Washington State University volunteer data base.

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8. Only factory ammunition is used at 4-H shooting sports competitive events.
9. Reloaded ammunition will only be used by the 4-H member who reloaded it and used only in practice situations (see 8 above)
10. It is inappropriate in any 4-H program to engage in simulated combat sports. This includes, but is not limited to paintball guns, air-soft, laser guns/laser tag, or archery tag. Pointing any type of firearm including paintball guns, air-soft guns, laser guns, paint-ball, archery tag bows and arrows or sighting devices at any person or any humanoid shaped target is unacceptable.
11. Targets which make use of or are composed of live ammunition, explosive chemicals, flammable substances, pressurized containers are never to be used during a 4-H event or activity.
12. Although concealed carry of a firearm by individuals who have a valid concealed carry permit is acceptable at State 4-H contests and events; (providing that the concealed carry is not in violation of any federal, state, local government or private property limitations that prohibit concealed carry of a firearm,) for reasons of public perception and possible concern of others at the event, the Open Carry of a firearm by non-4-H Shooting Sports competitors (4-H Volunteers, 4-H parents, family members) is highly discouraged at 4-H contests and events. We would ask for cooperation from anyone who open carries on this matter.
13. In the interest of safety for the participant and others in the program a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor has the right to refuse any participant from the shooting sports activity.
14. Instructors are required, within reason and safety guidelines, to identify strategies to accommodate youth/adults with disabilities in consultation with their County 4-H Office Staff.
15. 4-H Shooting Sports Programs are open to all youth 8 years of age or older (as of October 1 of the current year) without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, religion, age, or national origin. The age of eligibility for National 4-H Shooting Sports Events are determined by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and may be different than that of Washington State. 4-H Cloverbuds (age 5-7) are not eligible to participate in any aspect of the 4-H shooting sports programs as these are not age appropriate activity.
16. Eye Protection: Adequate eye protection (shooting glasses, safety glasses or safety goggles, or hardened prescription glasses) is required for all participants in Muzzle Loading, Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun disciplines. This includes Hunting and Western

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Heritage live fire events. Such protection is strongly advised for archery events as well. Coaches or spectators on or near firing lines are subject to the same requirements.

17. Ear Protection: Adequate ear protection is required for all participants in Muzzle Loading, Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun disciplines. This includes Hunting and Western Heritage live fire events. Where electronic hearing protection is used, it may not include radio or similar broadcasts as background noise, since that could interfere with range commands. Such protection is strongly advised for archery events as well. Coaches or spectators on or near firing lines are subject to the same requirements.
18. Footwear - Any participant while on the shooting line or shooting in any outdoor shooting event is required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet. Examples of footwear that are not acceptable include, but not limited to sandals, clogs, crocks, flip-flops, or bare feet.

Objectives of 4-H the Shooting Sports Program

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program strives to enable members, parents, and adult volunteers to become responsible, self-directed, and productive members of society. Faculty, staff, leaders, instructor, and coaches must understand the goals and objectives of the program to manage or present it properly. These goals and objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of the 4-H program. The program transfers knowledge skills and attitudes to develop human capital, using the subject matter and resources of the land-grant universities.

The specific goals and objectives of the Washington 4-H Shooting Sports Program include, but are not limited to, those listed below.

1. To encourage participation in natural and related natural science programs by exposing participants to the content through shooting, hunting, and related activities.
2. To enhance development of self-concept, character, and personal growth through safe, educational, and socially acceptable involvement in shooting activity.
3. To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision-making, self-discipline, and concentration.
4. To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior.
5. To introduce relevant science and technology concepts, helping 4-H youth to connect real-world interests and experiences to physical science and technological concepts in shooting sports
6. To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to shooting sports.

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7. To strengthen families through participation in life-long recreational activities.
8. To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting and hunter education programs using experimental educational methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

Suggested Best Management Practices – 4-H Shooting Sports Equipment - Storage & Transportation

Inventory Control

1. An inventory list of equipment should be maintained by one individual in charge of equipment for the local group/county program/state program. A sign-out process will be used to record who/when/what/when returned.
2. Only approved, current instructors may sign out program equipment from an inventory.
3. Extension staff responsible for the 4-H Shooting Sports program in the county/state will have access to all program equipment, the inventory list, and sign-out records.
4. Equipment inventories should be audited annually (or more often if requested) by local and/or state Extension personnel responsible for 4-H Shooting Sports program.

Storage of Firearms & Muzzle loading Equipment

1. All firearms must be stored, unloaded, with an open action, or clear bore indicator when stored in a locked commercial firearm safe or equivalent.
2. All gun safes or equivalents (e.g. lockable steel stand-up or foot lockers) should be secured in a locked storage area, following local or state statutory requirements. If no local laws apply, suitable locations include local law enforcement department firearm storage, locked storage closet or room with limited access, etc.
3. Keys and combinations should be available only to certified instructors, county 4-H Extension faculty and staff, and state coordinators.

Storage of Air Guns

1. Air guns will be stored in gun cases that can be locked and stored in a locked storage room accessible only to instructors, county coordinator and state coordinator. They will be stored unloaded with an open bolt or open/clear bore indicator when not in use.

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2. Keys and combinations should be available only to certified instructors, county 4-H Extension faculty and staff, and state coordinators

Storage of Archery Equipment

1. Archery equipment will be stored in a locked closet or room.
2. Keys and combinations should be available only to certified instructors, county 4-H Extension faculty and staff, and state coordinators.

Ammunition

1. All ammunition, shotgun shells, rifle shells, pistol shells, powder, caps, BB's, and pellets will be stored separate from the firearms.
2. General access, keys and combinations should be available only to certified instructors, county 4-H Extension faculty and staff, and state coordinators

Transportation of Equipment

1. All applicable local, state, and federal laws are to be followed when transporting firearms, ammunition and other 4-H Shooting Sports program equipment and supplies. Only licensed individuals age 21 and older are permitted to drive vehicles transporting 4-H Shooting Sports equipment. It is strongly recommended that the driver carry 4-H identification.
2. When transporting firearms, air guns, ammunition and muzzle loading firearms, it is recommended that:
 - a. the transporter should have the firearms in locked hard cases with locks on each firearm (either a trigger style or a cable style gun lock), or
 - b. at the very least that each firearm is transported in a protective soft case and has a trigger style, or a cable style gun lock attached
3. Equipment should be transported in such a way that the equipment cannot be seen from outside the vehicle. Some examples of concealment include transporting in the vehicle's trunk, in a locked trailer, beneath a pick-up truck bed topper, etc. The vehicle should not be left unattended when equipment is being transported.

Transfer of firearm ownership

1. All Federal and Washington State policies and regulations regarding transfer of firearm ownership must be followed.
2. All 4-H owned firearms must be registered to a 4-H volunteer, staff, or faculty.