**2025 Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships**

**General Guidelines**

**Championship Dates**

**Air Rifle and Pistol- March 1, 2025 – Hancock County Fair Grounds, 620 Apple Street, Greenfield, Indiana 46140**

**Rifle and Pistol- April 19, 2025 – Riley Conservation Club, 6301 E Gross Rd, Riley, IN 47871**

**Archery March 15, 2025 – Cutting Edge Archery, 1305 N Lincoln St, Greensburg, IN 47240**

**Shotgun May 17, 2025 – Indiana Gun Club, 14926 E 113 St, Fortville, Indiana 46040**

The Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships follows the guidelines for State 4-H Competitive Events as established by National 4-H Headquarters at the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

By entry in these events, the team coach or shooting sports program coordinator verifies that those youth entered are *bona fide* members of the 4-H program in their respective counties, knowledgeable and proficient in the safe use of the equipment, and knowledgeable of the general guidelines of the events. Match and/or range officials may dismiss or disqualify any participant if he/she believes the participant does not demonstrate the basic proficiency and knowledge required. Violation of any of these policies and/or guidelines are grounds for disqualification and dismissal from the Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships.

The Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships consists of 7 disciplines with 2-3 events in each:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Discipline** | **Event 1** | **Event 2** | **Event 3** |
| Archery | Open and Genesis Bulleye | Open and Genesis 3-D Round |  |
| Air Pistol | Slow Fire - Bullseye |  |  |
| Air Rifle | State Standard Three-Position Sporter Air Rifle |  |  |
| Muzzle-Loading – Contact Dave with interest 812-621-1248 | 50 Yard Bullseye | 25 Yard Bottles and Haffner Combination | Muzzleloading Rifle Silhouette |
| Shotgun | Sporting Clays | Skeet | Trap |
| Smallbore | Slow-Fire Bullseye – Single Stage | Smallbore Hunter Pistol Silhouette |  |
| Smallbore Rifle | NRA Smallbore Silhouette Rifle | NRA Three-Position |  |

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**2025 Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships**

**Direct Health Measures**

We are asking for your cooperation in following Protect Purdue guidelines that allows us to host this “in-person” State 4-H event this year. The State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee takes the safety, well-being, and health of all participants, parents, volunteers, and spectators very seriously. You will be immediately notified of any changes if they should occur. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Event Expectations**

**Synopsis of General Guidelines**

**I. Participation**

1. **4-H Membership** – All Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports members in good standing are eligible to compete in 4-H shooting sports events. Official 4-H enrollment is required.
2. **Age Requirements** – Participants must be in grade 3-12 on October 1st of 2021 to compete at the

4-H Shooting Sports State Championships. Junior participants are 4-Hers in grades 3-7 and senior participants in grades 8-12.

1. **Official Entry**– Participants and teams must be officially entered through 4-H online events. The selection of participants is at the discretion of the county 4-H Program in which the 4-H Shooting Sports Program resides. A county event is not required to select participants for the state event.
2. **Individual Participation** – All individuals participating as team members are competing concomitantly as individuals. Where teams cannot be formed, individual participants may compete in the 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships for individual awards and recognition.
3. **Team Composition** - Teams are composed of no less than 3 and no more than 4 individuals. Each county operating a 4-H Shooting Sports Program, can bring as many teams per discipline as they wish. A team may consist of both junior and senior members and will compete for senior team and senior individual awards. Mixed teams will not be eligible for National participation.
4. **Team Representation** - No participant may be a member of more than one team or represent more than one county 4-H Shooting Sports program in the State event. This does not preclude individuals who change residences and are otherwise eligible from participating as members on any team in 4-H events after meeting the eligibility requirements of the sponsoring 4-H Shooting Sports program.
5. **Event Participation** – Each of the 7 disciplines in this competition includes 2-3 different events. A given team or individual is restricted to participation in the events in only one discipline in any annual 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships, i.e., no individual may compete in more than one discipline in any given 4-H Shooting Sports State Championship. Participants are expected to complete all individual events in the discipline they represent.
6. **Repeat Participation** - An individual may enter the 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships repeatedly. They may participate in an event if they have not previously competed in that discipline in a prior 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship, i.e., they may represent their state in a given discipline only once.
7. **Substitutions** - A team may send a substitute for a registered participant who is unable to attend the Championships. Substitutes must have the written approval of the state Shooting Sports Coordinator, county Shooting Sports Coordinator, and county Extension Educator. They must meet all eligibility requirements for participation in the 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships. Substitutes will be accepted until the state contact picks up the official registration materials at the Championships.
8. **Post-Secondary Restriction** – Participants may not represent their county in any discipline in which they have engaged in training or competition at the post-secondary level. Thus, members of club or NCAA competitive teams disqualifies otherwise eligible 4-H members from participation in that discipline in the 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships. For example, training as a member of a rifle, shotgun, or archery team, either as a college club sport or as a NCAA sport, and representing that college or university disqualifies the member from competing in related events at the State Championships.
9. **Amateur Status** – Participants must have amateur status in the discipline they are competing in at the 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships. Individuals engaging in any of the following practices would disqualify the individual from competing in related events at the State Championships. Amateurism requirements do not allow:

* Contracts with professional teams
* Salary for participating in athletics
* Prize money above actual and necessary expenses
* Tryouts, practice, or competition as a professional team
* Benefits from an agent or prospective agent
* Agreement to be represented by an agent
* Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition

**II. Conduct**

**1. 4-H Image and Honor -** The 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships is a youth event showcasing a major component of the 4-H program in the individual states and Nationally. Its nature demands that all of us involved in the event from the match directors and state coordinators to the young people, parents and coaches participating must put forward the best image of the Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports Program and the 4-H program generally. To protect that public image, use of alcoholic beverages and any use of tobacco products by minors is not permitted on the grounds of the Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships. Violation of this policy is grounds for disqualification and dismissal from the 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships.

**2. Knowledge of Guidelines and Procedures** – Where possible, each event in this program has been associated with the appropriate State Governing Body for that event. Exceptions to guidelines are noted in the “Synopsis”. Participants and coaches are responsible for reading the guidelines, understanding procedures used in each event, and complying with the guidelines and standards involved. Questions are encouraged to clarify areas of confusion or misunderstanding. Ignorance of the guidelines does not obviate their existence. Participants are responsible for knowing the guidelines of their events and complying with them. Learning the guidelines is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants.

**3. Dress Code** - Participants and coaches are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they participate. This dress code should be followed at all times during the event – from check-in to closing ceremonies. Team uniforms or shirts are encouraged, but not required. Both young people and adults should wear attire appropriate for the weather while remaining modest. While these codes can leave a lot to interpretation, it is important to recognize that individual choices can at times, bring unwanted attention either to an individual or to the group as a whole.

* Shorts, skorts, and skirts must be at least finger-tip length, with arms extended and shoulders relaxed, while standing, so that modesty is maintained in all shooting positions.
* Tank tops with spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, bare midriffs, low necklines, or otherwise revealing clothing will not be allowed.
* Clothing with sexually suggestive wording or graphics; and alcohol or tobacco advertisement is not appropriate.
* Leggings (tight fitting/yoga-type stretch pants) are allowed when worn underneath compliant shorts, skorts or skirts.

Range officials, State committee members and shoot organizers will enforce dress codes, if required. All participants, coaches, parents, and family members must remember that they may be photographed or interviewed for use by local, regional, or State media. Let’s do all we can to make sure that is a positive image for 4-H!

**4. Footwear Policy -** Participants are required to wear shoes that completely cover the foot at all events during the State Contest.  Examples of footwear **not** acceptable, but not limited to, include: open-toe shoes, sandals, clogs, crocks, flip-flops, and bare feet.

**5. Behavior and Sportsmanship** - All participants, coaches, and spectators will demonstrate the highest levels of sportsmanship, supporting the objectives and ideals promoted by the 4-H program in general and the Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports Program in particular. Participants or coaches will render aid and/or testimony if asked to do so by any match official. All participants, coaches, and observers are expected to conform to appropriate state 4-H Behavioral Expectations that members, parents and volunteers sign on an annual basis, not only to the letter, but in its intent.

6. **Fan/Spectator Support Items** – The following items **will NOT** be allowed as fan/spectator support items at the Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships: artificial noisemakers, (including but not limited to horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, shakers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles), compressed air horns/sirens, and whistles. Sportsmanship vocal cheering and support from the team are encouraged.

**III. Range and Facilities**

1. The operators of all golf carts or ATV vehicles at the must be 18 years of age or older and hold a valid driver’s license. Violation of this rule is grounds for disqualification for any individual or team involved. No golf carts, ATV’s, club cars or similar vehicles will be allowed on the ranges during competition except designated Range Officials.
2. Only factory loaded ammunition may be used. On the Trap, Skeet, and/or Sporting Clays Ranges, sizes of

7 ½, 8, 8 ½, or 9 shot may be used. The Indiana Gun Club does have a limited supply of shot shells on hand. Teams are strongly encouraged to source and bring their own ammunition.

1. Food and drink may be brought to the Shoot sites.

**IV. Equipment and Firearms Check-in**

1. Sharing of Equipment: Sharing equipment is allowed, but no more than two people on a team may share a piece of equipment. This is an allowance that helps those teams and individuals with limited resources, while at the same time, helps match efficiency by limiting the number of relays that must be conducted.
2. All firearms and archery equipment must be checked at registration prior to the start of official competition. Equipment certification will start during the check-in period. Spot check of equipment may take place on the range prior to, during, or after any match. Chief Range Officers may verify check-ins on the range. Spot checks prior to or following any competitive event are permitted and likely. Competitors whose equipment does not meet the event standards will be given an opportunity to adjust or to modify equipment to bring it into compliance prior to a second check. Check-in staff may be able to assist in that process if needed.
3. During check-ins, firearms must be brought to the check-in stations cased with a clear bore indicator in place and the action open. Safe handling is imperative, particularly with respect to muzzle control. A site for opening cases will be designated.
4. Competitors are limited to checking in a maximum of three firearms or bows during the official equipment check-in period. Chief Range Officers may verify a backup firearm or archery equipment, if needed.

**V. Range Protocols**

**Note:** **In this section, "firearm" is broadly defined to include all rifles, pistols, shotguns, and muzzle loading arms regardless of type or action, including air guns. Range safety protocols will be strictly and vigorously enforced**.

1. Firearms will be the last piece of equipment brought to the range by the competitors and the first piece of equipment to be removed from the range at the end of each event. When moving among positions, e.g., to different firing points in silhouette, the action must be open, ECI or CBI in place, and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. In shotgun events, a visibly open action is sufficient.
2. All firearms will remain cased until the competitor prepares to take the range for their relay and the range officer has declared the range ready. ECIs or CBIs will be in place until the shooter is on the firing line and will be replaced in the action prior to leaving the firing line. This does not apply to shotguns where the open actions permit visual observation by range staff.
3. No competitor shall rest the muzzle(s) of a shotgun or any other firearm on a shoe, toe pad or similar device such that the muzzle points at any part of an individual’s body.
4. Deliberate shooting or attempting to shoot any living animal while on competitive ranges is grounds for ejection from the event or from the match.

**VII. Health and Safety**

1. **Medical Consent Form and Adult Supervision**

It is the responsibility of each team to have the appropriate state health consent and release forms for each participant. An adult supervisor or coach must be present at each event site with immediate access to those forms during events. They must also have access to them in off hours. The Indiana State 4-H Shooting Sports Program and the host institution are not responsible for medical authorizations or health histories of the participants.

**2. Safety**

Safety is the first priority for range staff, participants, coaches, and spectators. Standard and accepted range and shooting safety guidelines will be followed at all times. Any site-specific safety considerations will be announced at the appropriate venues. Match Directors, Range officers, or other event staff may caution, warn, or eject any person on any range for unsafe behavior. Such ejection may result in forfeited scores, disqualification, or ejection from the grounds. Any spectator contributing to unsafe behavior or guidelines violations may be barred from the ranges by State Committee staff or event management at any level.

**3. Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

a. Except in emergency situations, cell phones, radios, or other electronic communication devices may not be used on or in the immediate vicinity of competitive ranges during active competition.

b. Essential communication may take place off the ranges where the process will not interfere with participants in any venue or compromise safe operation of the range.

**4. Ranging, Walking or Previewing Ranges**

In any contest where estimating ranges is inherent in the contest, use of range finders, previewing ranges, communicating distances to later competitors or similar actions is not allowed. These actions are grounds for disqualification for any individual or team involved.

**5. Eye and Ear Protection Requirement**

* 1. **Eye Protection:** Adequate eye protection (shooting glasses, safety glasses or safety goggles, or hardened prescription glasses are required for all competitors in muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, and shotgun events. Coaches or spectators on or near firing lines are subject to the same requirements.
  2. **Ear Protection:** In muzzle loading, shotgun, smallbore pistol, and smallbore rifle, all competitors and those on firing lines must have adequate hearing protection. Where electronic hearing protection is used, it may not include radio or similar broadcasts as background noise, since that could interfere with range commands. This protection is strongly advised for spectators who are close to such ranges.

**VIII. Reasonable Accommodation**

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in the Indiana 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships, the individual or county coordinator **MUST** contact the host state Match Director, David Osborne, before completing the registration process and prior to the registration deadline of April 15, 2022. Those instances require a written petition supported by a physician's written statement detailing the accommodation, the issues preventing the use of standard position or positions, or modifications in equipment required to permit participation in the event.

**IX. Coaching**

1. **Coaches** – Each team must have one (and only one) adult coach, designated at the time of registration, and present during practice and competition. The designated coach is the only adult permitted to discuss procedures, ask questions, or advocate for his or her team with range officials. The coach must be designated on the official entry in 4-H Online and approved by the appropriate county 4-H educator or

county 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

**2. Coaching** – As a general rule, limited coaching is permitted as described in this section; but some events and some Chief Range Officers may have different guidelines for coaches.  It is each coach’s responsibility to know what is allowed in the discipline/event they are coaching. Coaches may not create a disturbance, upset either their competitors or others, create unnecessary delays, or otherwise interfere with the safe and efficient operation of the range and execution of the matches. Coaches may assist participants during prep time, setting up equipment, spotting sighter shots, and offering positive advice and support. Unless called to the line by range officials, coaches will remain in the coaches’ area. The coach’s area will be set up behind the competitor ready line. Coaches will remain behind that line once preparation time ends, unless called to a firing point by the referee. Once record shooting begins, no coaching is permitted unless initiated by the shooter through the range officer and with his or her permission. Coaches may NOT initiate contact with their shooters. Coaches may not handle firearms or equipment once the match has begun, nor may they advance to the firing line unless authorized by the range officer. Coaches may use spotting scopes to observe shot placement. Specific coaching instructions may be issued on the ranges for each event. **PLEASE NOTE:** Non-verbal coaching is permitted in air rifle, provided it does not disturb other competitors. Other forms of coaching or communication such as talking or the use of electronic communications between a competitor and coach while the competitor is on the firing line are prohibited.

**3. Spotters and Scorers in Silhouette Matches** – State team members will be split into different relays to permit

shooters to spot for one another. Teams with three competitors may have one of the original pair spot for

the third team member. Coaches **may not** be Spotters. Spotters can only be a registered competitor within

that event. One exception, if a Team/State only has a single shooter, then Coach/Parent/Another competitor

may spot for the shooter. Quiet conversation between the spotter and the shooter is permissible. An

official scorer, either from another team or an event official will be assigned as an official scorer. Match

directors will provide instruction as needed for scorers.

**X. Challenges and Protests**

**1. Challenges** – **Only** participants may review their targets and challenge scoring. Once targets have been scored, they will be made available for review by the shooters firing on those targets for a period of sixty (60) minutes, unless otherwise posted. Upon completion of that time period, the right of challenge expires, and scores will be deemed correct as posted. Serial challenges (following one challenge with another) are permitted, but once the shooter has reviewed and either challenged or accepted their scores, the right of review terminates. A jury (not including the original scorer) will review each challenge and render judgment to the challenger. An upheld challenge will result in changing the score to reflect the proper scoring.

**2. Protests -** Youth participants only (no coaches, parents, or other adults) may protest:

a) an injustice they feel has been done to them individually.

b) conditions under which another competitor was permitted to fire, or

c) equipment not meeting standards another competitor was permitted to use.

**3. Steps to Filing an Official Protest -** Only the shooter affected can make the protest – not parents, coaches, or other adults.  A protest must be initiated immediately upon the occurrence of the protested incident.  Failure to comply with the following procedure will automatically void the protest:

1. State the complaint verbally to the Chief Range Officer.  If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Chief Range Officer, then:
2. Appeal the decision in writing to the Assistant Range Officer within 30 minutes of the CRO’s decision.  The Assistant Range Officer will then assemble a Range Jury\*.

\*The Range Jury of five (5), shall be composed of a range official (not the one that just ruled), two state team coaches and two 4-H competitors.  Jury members must be familiar with the guidelines and have experience in competition.  It is the responsibility of the Range Jury to interpret and apply the guidelines and resolve protests.  Jury members may not rule on a matter in which they or their team are personally involved.  Decisions by the Jury must be based on applicable guidelines or, in cases not specifically covered by the guidelines, must be governed by the intent and spirit of the guidelines. The jury may also hear verbal explanations from both the Chief Range Officer and the person making the appeal. No Jury decision may be made that is contrary to the Guidelines. Written protests must be decided by a majority of the Jury.

If not satisfied with the decision of the Range Jury, then:

1. The Final Appeal in written form must be submitted to the Match Director within 30 minutes of the Range Jury’s decision. The written protest must include: shooter’s name, date, time, description of incident, a solution, and signature of shooter. A Match Jury composed of the Match Director and 2 representatives of the 4-H Shooting Sports State Committee will render the final decision.  No further appeal may be made.
2. If the Match Jury decides in favor of the appeal, the cash protest fee will be returned.  If the previous decision is upheld, the protest fee will not be returned.

**XI. Awards and Scoring Procedures**

**Awards**

* Discipline Awards - to members of the top five (5) Sr/Jr teams and the top ten (10)Sr/Jr individuals for each discipline competitive event.
* Medals - 1st, 2nd, 3rd place team members/individuals
* Overall Individual Awards - are determined by an individual’s total accumulated points from the events in that discipline.
* Overall Team – are determined by a team’s top 3 total accumulated points from the events in each discipline.
* The top senior teams in each discipline will earn the right to participate at the National Shoot.

**Ties**

Ties will only be broken to determine top 10 individual awards and top 5 team awards. Ties for high overall individuals and high overall teams broken using the last shots working backward to break ties.