The State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest follows the guidelines for National 4-H Competitive Events as established by National 4-H Headquarters at the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Before entry to this event, the WSU Extension Staff Signature is required on the registration form. No signature will mean that the entry will not be processed. This is verifying that the youth participant is a currently enrolled member. Match and/or range officials may dismiss or disqualify a participant if he/she believes the participant does not demonstrate the basic proficiency and knowledge required.

The State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest consists of 9 disciplines with 3 events in each:

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<td>FITA Round (1/2 FITA)</td>
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**PARTICIPATION**

4-H membership – All 4-H Shooting Sports members in good standing are eligible to compete in 4-H shooting sports events, subject to limitations imposed by the specific event and the rules for active membership instituted by their state. Official 4-H enrollment is required with a minimum of 90 days prior to event date.

Age Requirement – Participants must have past their 9th birthday by January 1 of the current year and may not have passed their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current year in which the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest is held.

Official Entry – Participants must be approved as the official entry by their County 4-H WSU Extension Staff or his/her designee. The selection of participants is at the discretion of the State 4-H Program Contest Committee.

Individual Participation – Individual participants may compete in the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest, and are eligible for individual recognition and awards.

Event Participation – Each of the nine disciplines of competition consists of three different events. An individual is restricted to participation in only one discipline of competition. Participants are expected to compete in all three
events within the discipline in which they entered. Individual awards are offered in each event – which is a composite score of all 3 events.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Medical Consent Form & Adult Supervision** - It is the responsibility of the participant to have the appropriate state health consent and release forms available upon registration. An adult supervisor or coach should be present at the event site, with immediate access to the forms anytime their youth are participating in an event. The State 4-H Shooting Sports Program and host institution are not responsible for medical authorizations or health histories of the participants.

**Safety** - Safety is the highest priority for range staff, participants, coaches, and spectators. Standard accepted safety rules will be followed at all times, 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 District 4-H Shooting Sports Contest staff.

**Equipment - Participants must comply with** all federal laws pertaining to youth and handguns (see Youth Safety Handgun Act, [http://iweb.tntech.edu/cpardue/youthnotice.html](http://iweb.tntech.edu/cpardue/youthnotice.html)). Federal law prohibits the transportation of a handgun for any reason by a youth under 18 years of age. Please ensure that handguns are transported by an adult.

**Cell Phones** - The use of cell phones or other electronic devices are not permitted during competitive events at the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest by participants or coaches unless permission is requested and granted from the range officer.

**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 (glasses or goggles) and ear protection. The equipment must protect both eyes. For air events, only eye protection is required ear protection is strongly recommended. Eye protection is strongly recommended but not required for archery events.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

**Request Accommodations** - Every attempt for reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and or special needs who submit a formal request in writing to by April 28, 2016 to: Toni Gwin at WSU Pacific County Extension, PO Box 88 South Bend WA 98586 phone 360 875 9331 or email tgwin@wsu.edu

AWARDS

**Individual Awards** - Awards will be presented to the top 4 individuals in each event in each age group for overall results in the discipline, which is a composite of all three events. Each event of the 3-event aggregate is to be equal in value when determining the overall discipline awards.

COACHING

**Coaches** – Each team shall be officially represented by only one coach. This coach is the only adult permitted to discuss procedures, ask questions, or advocate for his/her team with range officials. This coach should be designated on the entry form and approved by the appropriate District 4-H Program Leader and State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

**Event Coaching** - As a general rule, limited coaching at the event site is permitted. However, coaching must never disturb other participants. Each County is limited to 1 “coach” per event. A coaching line will be established on each
range - behind the participant's 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 participant during prep time only. Once shooting for record begins, no coaching is permitted unless the participant asks permission from the range officer. Any request for coach assistance must be initiated by the participant; the coach may not initiate contact with the participant. The participant 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 youth member come back to talk, but may not initiate contact with the participant. Coaches may not handle firearms or equipment after the match begins nor advance to the firing line unless authorized by the range officer. A coach may set up his/her own spotting equipment. Please note that 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). Quiet conversation between the spotter and the participant is permissible. An official scorer, not from the same team, will be assigned to each participant to record hits and misses.

CONDUCT

The State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest is a youth event, as such the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages, during an event or on the grounds of the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest is not permitted. Violation of this policy by a participant is grounds for dismissal from the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest.

Dress Code - Participants are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they will participate. 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. Range officials have the final word concerning the dress code and may announce or address specific cases. All participants 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!

Behavior and Sportsmanship - All participants, coaches, 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. 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 Code of Conduct expectations or volunteer agreements, and the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program Code of Conduct, not only to the letter, but to the intent.

Knowledge of Rules and Procedures - Where possible, each of the State events have been associated with a National Governing Body (NGB). An exception to any NGB rule is noted in the “Synopsis”. It is the responsibility of each participant and coach to read the NGB rulebook, 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 lack of knowledge. Ignorance of the rules in any event does not obviate their existence. Participants 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.

CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS

Challenges - Only participants may review their own targets and challenge the scoring. Once targets have been scored, they will be available for review by participants for a period of 10 minutes unless otherwise posted. Upon completion of that time period the scores may no longer be challenged. Challenges must be accompanied by a fee of $1 per hole being challenged. A jury (not including the original scorer) will review the challenge and pronounce their findings to the challenger. If the challenge is upheld, the $1 will be returned to the participant. If the challenge is rejected, the fee will be deposited in the 4-H Foundation funds designated for shooting sports. No fee is required to point out mathematical errors. Each range may announce its own procedures and time allowances for challenge.

Revised March 20, 2014
Protests - Youth participants only (no adults), may protest; a) an injustice they feel has been done them individually; b) the conditions under which another competitor was permitted to fire; or c) the equipment another competitor was permitted to use.

Steps to Filing an Official Protest:

a. Range Officer – The protest is made orally to the chief range officer or other State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest official present on the range.

b. Range Jury – The protest may be stated orally to the jury of 3 or more officials present at the match, indicating the decision of the range officer. The jury should include a State discipline representative as well as local match officials.

c. Match Director or Jury – The protest must be submitted in writing to the Match Director or the Chief Range Officer, accompanied by a $25 protest fee, within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the event. If the Protest is given to the Chief Range Officer, they will notify the Match Director immediately via radio or phone. The match jury will consider the statement, may ask questions of the participant and range officials and will render a decision in an expeditious manner. The decision of the match jury will be final and no further appeal is possible. Coaches, parents, and other parties may not participate in the process. If the protest is ruled valid, the fee will be returned.