

4-H Rifle Contest

Northeast District Rules

I. 4-H RIFLE CONTEST OBJECTIVES

To assist 4-H members to learn and practice the rules of rifle safety, sportsmanship, and accuracy with firearms. The contest will consist of 350 points total. Fifty points will be based on a written exam while the remaining 300 points will be based on actual shooting – 100 points per position.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Two teams per class (in each age group) consisting of 3 to 4 members may be entered from each county for a maximum of 4 teams. If not enough members are entered for a team, the county participants will be entered as individuals.

Contestants must be enrolled in the 4-H Rifle project.

Each contestant will be charged a fee for the use of the range. Cost can vary by year, so consult with your county agent each year.

III. AGE CATEGORIES

Based on the age of the 4-H member as of January 1st of the current 4-H year.

1) NOVICE (9 to 11) - A 4-H member must have passed his/her 9th birthday **or** be 8 years old **and** in third grade but not have passed his/her 12th birthday prior to January 1 of the current 4-H program year.

2) JUNIOR (12 to 13) - A 4-H member must have passed his/her 12th birthday **or be 11 years old and in the 6th grade** but not have passed his/her 14th birthday prior to January 1 of the current 4-H program year.

IV. RIFLE CLASSES

1. Target Rifle
2. Light Rifle

V. INSTRUCTIONS - EVENTS AND PROCEDURES

Written Exam

A written exam consisting of questions derived from the 4-H Rifle project book will be given. No other sources will be used to compile the questions. The exam will be 25 questions, with matching, true/false, and multiple choice questions. The total number of correct answers will be added to the shooting score to compile a total score per individual. The exam will include questions on parts identification, safety, and general rifle shooting. **IN THE EVENT OF A TIE DURING SHOOTING, THE WRITTEN EXAM WILL BE USED TO BREAK A TIE AND IF NEEDED, DETERMINE PLACINGS.**

Marksmanship

The shooting match will be conducted using NRA rules.

NOVICE – A total of 30 shots will be taken in three positions – 10 per position

Positions: 1) Prone 2) Sitting and 3) Kneeling

JUNIOR – A total of 30 shots will be taken in three positions – 10 per position

Positions: 1) Prone 2) Standing and 3) Kneeling

Each member will fire all positions in succession. Positions governed by the NRA Rules. (NRA Rules 5.6 to 5.12 define these positions.)

VI. SHOOTING TIME

TOTAL FIRING TIME: 45 minutes – 15 minutes per position

Sighting-In Shots

Contestants may fire FIVE (5) sight-in shots at the sighting-in bull per position. Range Officials ONLY will mark flyers. Shooters and parents will have TWO (2) minutes to look at sight-in shots and will then be asked to return to the firing line.

Record Shots

Contestants will have FIFTEEN (15) minutes per position to shoot for record. Shooters and parents may inspect targets as designated by the Range Master, but may not touch or pull the target. Range Master and designated volunteers will remove targets for scoring. Flyers shot during competition should be pointed out to the Range Master. **Only shots initialed by the Range Master will be considered flyers when scoring targets.**

This process will be repeated for each position.

VII. TARGETS AND SCORING

Standard targets will be used for each position and age category. Targets will be used at a 50-foot range. A separate target will be provided for each of the three positions.

Light Rifle: (NRA: A-32)

Target Rifle: (NRA: A-17)

The maximum number of points per target in each discipline (light and/or target) will be 100 for a total of 300 per discipline. The marksmanship score will be added to the written exam score for a total of 350 points. Team scores will consist of the three highest composite scores for the three positions plus the written exam score.

Scoring will be performed by selected individuals following NRA Rules 14 and 15. Decision of the judges is final.

VIII. EQUIPMENT

Contestants must bring their own rifles and ammunition as **EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE PROVIDED.** There will be **NO** sharing of equipment or guns.

Target Rifles

Rifle: any .22 caliber rimfire cataloged as “.22 short”, “.22 long”, or “.22 long rifle” which can be loaded ONE ROUND AT A TIME and is functional and safe. ***SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES CAN BE USED ONLY IF THEY ARE ABLE TO BE LOADED ONE ROUND AT A TIME AND ACTIONS MUST BE ABLE TO BE LOCKED OPEN.*** Magazines or clips are to be allowed in the firearm at the time of shooting but

are not to be loaded. Firearm must be loaded one round at a time (preferably through the action not the magazine) unless otherwise stated by the Range Master. There is no weight limit for the rifle and/or accessories. Butt plates and hooks are legal if they do not extend more than 6 inches beyond the butt plate (NRA Rules 3.2 and 3.15)

Trigger: must not pull less than 3 pounds (NRA Rule 3.1)

Sights: Metallic sights only (NRA Rule 3.7a)

Light Rifles

Rifle: any .22 caliber rimfire cataloged as “.22 short”, “.22 long”, or “.22 long rifle” which can be loaded ONE ROUND AT A TIME and is functional and safe. **SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES CAN BE USED ONLY IF THEY ARE ABLE TO BE LOADED ONE ROUND AT A TIME AND ACTIONS MUST BE ABLE TO BE LOCKED**

OPEN. Magazines or clips are to be allowed in the firearm at the time of shooting but are not to be loaded. Firearm must be loaded one round at a time (preferably through the action not the magazine) unless otherwise stated by the Range Master. Rifles plus equipment is not to exceed 8.5 pounds. (NRA Rule 3.3)

Trigger: must not pull less than 2 pounds (NRA Rule 3.3)

Sights: Metallic sights only (NRA Rule 3.7a)

Ammunition

STANDARD VELOCITY rimfire cartridge commercially cataloged as the “.22 short”, “.22 long”, or “.22 long rifle” which have an overall length not more than 1.1 inches and loaded with lead or alloy bullet of not larger than .23 inch diameter which weighs not more than 40 grains. Hollow point, tracer, incendiary, or explosive bullets are specifically excluded from ammunition authorized for match use. **NO MAGNUMS** will be allowed in the competition. Ammunition is **NOT** provided. Shooters are expected to bring their own ammunition to the contest. Ammunition may be checked to ensure it meets these requirements. (NRA Rule 3.17)

Ground Cloth, Eye/Ear Protection, and Optional Items

Ground cloth may be used provided it is not constructed or used in a manner to provide artificial rest or support. (NRA Rule 3.10)

Eye and ear protection will be required for all 4-H competitors to protect the eyes and hearing. (NRA Rules 3.19 and 3.20)

Spotting scopes, shooting kits, gloves, rifle slings and kneeling roll (kneeling position only) used in accordance with NRA regulations are authorized. The sling cannot be used in the standing position (NRA Rule 5.12). In Target Rifle classes, a palm rest may be used in the standing position (NRA Rule 3.14).

USE OF OTHER DEVICES OR EQUIPMENT IS PROHIBITED.

IX. RANGE CONTROL

A Range Master (RM) will be responsible for conducting the contest, setting up the range, monitoring safety and assisting shooters if necessary. **Decisions of the Range Master are final.**

X. SAFETY AND CONDUCT

4-H members and adults are expected to conduct themselves in a safe manner at all times. All firearms, whether being carried, at rest in vehicles, or at rest on the firing line will be unloaded and will have bolts open except when on the firing line competing. All 4-H members must wear protective gear such as hearing protection and eye protection at all times when on the firing line. Failure to comply with safety rules and not acting in a responsible and safe manner will result in immediate disqualification and the 4-H member will be asked to leave the range.

Shooters are expected to follow ALL safety and range rules. Failure to follow safety rules and behave in a safe, sportsmanlike manner will result in immediate disqualification from the contest and the participant will be asked to leave the range. **NO REFUND OF ENTRY FEE WILL BE MADE.**

XI. COACHING

Adult and youth coaching is permitted in all 4-H matches. Each county is encouraged to have an adult coach present. The coach may assist team members by calling the shots, checking time, checking scoring, ordering sight changes, etc., but he or she must control their voice and actions as not to disturb other competitors and coaching must remain **positive** and **constructive**. The Coach will not physically help in loading, but **may be asked by Range Master** to assist clearing any sort of malfunction of team members equipment. Contestants should learn to make their own sight corrections as well. Coaches are asked to remain behind the firing line (off the concrete pad) to the rear of the shooter as to allow room for Range Master and Range Officers to pass freely.

XII. PROTESTS

Protests or concerns of any nature should be immediately made to the contest superintendent. **Written exams and actual targets are NOT returned to competitors.**

XIII. AWARDS

Ribbons will be awarded to:

Teams – 1st through 5th (A team is a squad of three to four members).

Individuals – 1st through 5th

XIV. REFERENCES

The 4-H Rifle Project Materials

The National Rifle Association's "The Hunter's Guide" (ISBN: 0-935998-69-1)

The National Rifle Association's "Smallbore Rifle Rules"

The National Rifle Association's "Junior Rifle Handbook"

The National Rifle Association's webpage: www.nra.org

XV. CONTACT INFORMATION

Feel free to contact your local county agent for more information.

Sean Moore is the Colfax County Extension 4-H Agent. Feel free to contact him at 575-445-8071 or semoore@nmsu.edu for contest information.