University of Idaho State 4-H Shooting Sports Plan



Revised: October 1, 2022

University of Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Plan

The purpose of this plan is to consolidate and clearly articulate state and national 4-H program requirements as they pertain to the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program. By adhering to these policies, we aim to insure a safe, supportive environment where youth and adult participants can acquire essential life skills. Wherever feasible, we will mirror the policies and procedures as set forth by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee to enhance programmatic continuity.

I. Situation Statement

The Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program is dedicated to positive personal development of all youth and adult participants. Experiential education and related natural resource activities will serve as the mechanism to build essential life skills. Dynamic opportunities will help attract new participants and bolster involvement among existing members.

Our prevention education model emphasizes positive youth-adult interaction and peer leadership. The program can enhance quality family time and communications. By creating appropriate environments for caring relationships between youth and a significant adult, we significantly reduce several risk factors facing young people – helping them become productive, contributing members of our communities.

Utilizing National 4-H Shooting Sports program guidelines to enhance program continuity, the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program currently offers the archery, hunting, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle and shotgun disciplines. We are in the process of pilot-testing materials for inclusion of a western heritage option that would include western action shooting. Due to the complexity and potential liability, any project that involves reloading of ammunition is strictly prohibited.

By adopting the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum, we are assured of high-quality educational resources that have been tested and refined over many years. Frequent reviews and appropriate revisions are made with expert input from instructors such as the National Rifle Association, National Archery Association, National Muzzleloading Rifle Association, hunter education teachers and university extension specialists.

All Idaho 4-H programs <u>must</u> only utilize certified adult volunteers who have officially completed statelevel (Level 1) training within each given discipline that they will be leading. An instructor meeting these requirements must always be present to supervise any "live fire" activities and conduct hands-on equipment or safety instruction. Failure to do so may result in loss of University of Idaho liability insurance coverage and/or additional sanctions as may be deemed appropriate by the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator and State 4-H Director.

While the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program continues to acquire critical equipment for competitive events and training purposes, the geographical layout of our state makes it challenging to effectively share resources between districts. Securing additional financial resources is vital to enhance our ability to get a cadre of key volunteers to National trainings, which in turn enables us to expand our base of local 4-H Shooting Sports instructors. These factors ultimately impact our ability to grow the program and reach more of Idaho's youth.

II. Program Goal & Objectives

The goal of 4-H Shooting Sports is to provide high-quality programming necessary for Positive Youth Development by engaging youth in the safe, responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, in a variety of settings, through comprehensive education, life-long recreation, and healthy competition.

Our objectives are to enable youth to:

- 1. Find and explore passions and interests
- 2. Engage in an effective 4-H program setting
- 3. Develop positive relationships with adults, youth and peers
- 4. Explore a vast array of 4-H educational, recreational and competitive activities
- 5. Thrive in multiple settings
- 6. Enhance developmental and long-term outcomes
- 7. Practice safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, enhancing existing shooting, conservation and hunter education programs.
- 8. Explore the three national 4-H Mission Mandates (STEM, Healthy Living and Civic Engagement)
- 9. Model safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior
- 10. Strengthen knowledge and life skills.

III. Program Philosophy and Standards

The following specifications shall constitute the basic expectations and minimum standards of performance for all Extension faculty, staff, volunteers and participants within the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program:

Instructors

- The National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum shall be utilized when training adult instructors and in subsequent educational settings with 4-H youth participants. Each instructor agrees to abide by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Ethics (*Appendix B*), Minimum Standards (*Appendix C*) and Best Management Practices as incorporated within this document.
- Any person seeking to become a certified Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports instructor must be at least 21 years of age. They must apply and receive formal 4-H volunteer authorization from their respective county or tribal Extension office. In addition, they must fully participate in and successfully complete a state-sanctioned (Level 1) training within a given discipline, before providing sole leadership for said discipline within a county, tribal or club level 4-H Shooting Sports program.
- Certification in multiple disciplines can be earned by successfully completing additional statesanctioned (Level 1) trainings. The instructor for each class reserves the right to not pass a participant if they feel that person is not ready to fulfill those duties. For volunteers with multiple years of effective 4-H instruction within a given discipline, they may petition the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator to attend a National (Level 2) training and become a member of the state-level training team.
- All 4-H Shooting Sports instructors must teach or assist in instruction for each of their respective disciplines at least once every three (3) years to maintain certification for that given discipline; as evidenced on the Annual Instructor Activity Report they submit to their local Extension personnel no later than November 15th. They must also participate in any required continuing education training when new materials or instructional methods are developed/released.

- Any individual who has not successfully completed a state-sanctioned (Level 1) training cannot provide live fire, hands-on or safety instruction without a certified Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports instructor within that given discipline present. Each instructor is responsible to insure their assistants are qualified to work with youth.
- The University of Idaho provides liability insurance for every currently enrolled, certified Idaho
 4-H Shooting Sports instructor, provided they are operating within these program guidelines,
 plus have their current risk management plan and signed (hardcopy or electronic) volunteer job
 description on file with their respective county or tribal Extension office. Variance from these
 established procedures may void that instructor's liability coverage.

<u>Safety</u>

- Should a certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructor not be available for a group session where livefire or hands-on instruction was planned, the session should be cancelled or modified so the session does not include live-fire or handling of firearms (including archery equipment).
- The opportunity to use a firearm within the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program is subject to the certified instructor's approval to ensure the well-being of all participants, spectators and general public contingent upon the youth's ability to follow directions and adhere to all firearm safety rules. Within the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program, any device that emits a projectile shall be considered a firearm (including rifles, pistols, shotguns, bows, etc.).
- Adequate ear and eye protection shall be worn by all participants, volunteers, coaches and observers on or near the firing line during all hunting, muzzleloader, small-bore pistol, smallbore rifle and shotgun live fire activities. Eye protection should meet ANSI Z87.1 standards. If electronic hearing protection is used, it may not include radio or similar broadcasts as background noise, since that could interfere with hearing range commands.
- Eye protection is required for all participants, volunteers, coaches and observers on or near the firing line during all air pistol and air rifle live-fire activities. Eye protection may be required for archery participants, volunteers, coaches and observers if their range is near another live-fire hunting, muzzleloader, pistol, rifle, or shotgun range.
- All participants engaged in any shooting activity are required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet. Shoes with holes, perforations, or open tops, backs or sides are not permitted. Unacceptable footwear includes, but is not limited to: sandals, clogs, crocks, and flip-flops.
- The 4-H Shooting Sports program is designed to promote positive youth development through the safe and responsible use of firearms. Therefore, the pointing of any type of firearm (paintball, air-soft or laser guns, archery tag bows & arrows, laser sighting devices, etc.) at any person or humanoid-shaped target is not an acceptable 4-H Shooting Sports activity.
- Only factory manufactured ammunition is to be utilized at any Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program and/or related activity.

Other Considerations

- Each 4-H Shooting Sports participant (youth and adult) must be properly enrolled through their respective county or tribal Extension office and have accident insurance coverage in place before handling firearms. Youth less than eight (8) years of age as of January 1st of the current 4-H year are ineligible to participate in the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program.
- The Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program will be taught in a club, project or group setting (such as camps, retreats, etc.) by a certified instructor. It is not open for independent membership.

IV. Program Administration

The Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator (within the University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development Office) will administer the program with input from the State 4-H Director and Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory team.

The advisory team shall consist of one University of Idaho Extension staff representative from each of the four Extension 4-H districts plus at least one nationally certified (Level 2) instructor for each of the six disciplines (archery, hunting, muzzleloader, pistol/handgun, rifle and shotgun). This team will meet bi-monthly, either in-person or electronically. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

The advisory team will:

- Provide policy recommendations
- Created/update a consistent state-approved outline for local programs to follow
- Conduct educational programs to train local (Level 1) 4-H Shooting Sports volunteers
- Develop program-related educational and informational materials
- Cultivate resource development opportunities in support of Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports
- Cooperate/assist county and tribal Extension personnel with program oversight and operations
- Deliver orientation and volunteer trainings, within established parameters
- Provide leadership and support for all State 4-H Shooting Sports events, including:
 - 4-H Shooting Sports instructor certification trainings
 - \circ $\;$ State 4-H Shooting Sports Contests
 - \circ $\;$ Other contests, events, activities or programs endorsed by Extension 4-H Administration

V. Instructor Certification Requirements

The University of Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program requires the use of state-trained (Level 1) or nationally-trained (Level 2) instructors to conduct 4-H classes/programs related to archery, hunting, muzzleloader, pistol, rifle and/or shotgun. These certified instructors must always be present to oversee any live-fire ranges and conduct classes in which firearms (including archery) are handled.

Three levels of leadership exist with the following conditions:

1. Instructor

- a. Must be at least 21 years of age, as of January 1st of the current 4-H year.
- b. Must have successfully completed all steps of the Idaho 4-H Volunteer certification process (including application, background check, protecting minors training, etc.) and be appointed as a current 4-H volunteer through their county or tribal extension office.
- c. Successfully complete state-sanctioned (Level 1) training and certification for each discipline in which they will be providing instruction. Reciprocal 4-H Shooting Sports trainings are available with Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington; however,

participants are responsible for insuring that written documentation for said training is submitted to the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator when attending trainings in another state.

2. Assistant Instructor

- a. Must be at least 18 years of age, as of January 1st of the current 4-H year.
- b. Must have at least one year of 4-H member experience in that Shooting Sports discipline, or have sufficient equivalent experience with the instructor's approval.
- c. Can only provide youth instruction under the direct supervision of the instructor (the certified instructor must be physically present during the instruction).

3. Teen Volunteer

- a. Must be at least 14 years of age, as of January 1st of the current 4-H year.
- b. Must have the approval of the certified instructor.
- c. Can only assist under the direct supervision of the instructor (the certified instructor must be physically present).
- d. Cannot be placed in charge of a live-fire range.

VI. Instructor Renewals/Annual Reauthorization

In accordance with Idaho 4-H policies, all instructors must annually re-enroll with their respective county or tribal Extension office, fulfil all applicable requirements and receive official 4-H volunteer authorization. In addition, instructors must meet these three (3) standards to retain their Level 1 certification:

- 1. Teach or assist in teaching a 4-H Shooting Sports course at least once every three years for each discipline in which they are certified.
- Complete an annual report (see Appendix A or access electronically via the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports website, under the Documents, Forms & Tools tab) detailing number of hours spent and number of participants trained in each certified discipline during the past 4-H program year (October 1 to September 30). Submit report to their local extension office by November 15th.
- 3. Attend instructor update sessions when new state or national program materials, instructional methods or significant program changes occur, or as deemed necessary by the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator

Failure to meet these standards will result in loss of certification for each specific discipline (in cases where the instructor is certified in two or more disciplines) for which the aforementioned requirements are not met. Instructors will have to complete another applicable state-sanctioned Level 1 training for recertification, before teaching again within that specific discipline.

VII. Certified Instructor Duties & Responsibilities

While all extension 4-H volunteers sign a generic annual job description as a part of the 4-H enrollment process, the following is a reminder of specific duties for all Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports instructors:

1. Provide a safe, positive setting where you can provide basic instruction on proper shooting techniques while developing life skills. Incorporate appropriate science, technology, engineering, mathematics, natural resources, health and civic engagement.

- 2. While encouraging youth to do their best, remember that our 4-H objectives emphasize positive youth development over individual competitive results.
- 3. Encourage a parent/guardian to participate with each youth throughout the entire program.
- 4. Ensure use of safe, properly maintained equipment, and use of ear and eye protection by all participants, leaders, coaches and by-standers in accordance with discipline requirements.
- 5. Maintain effective communication with extension 4-H personnel to ensure compliance with all applicable state, tribal and county regulations and expectations.
- 6. Assist in recruitment of potential Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports instructors, and encourage other adult participants to enroll within the club/group as an assistant instructor.
- 7. Help guide youth in developing an annual 4-H Shooting Sports program and calendar of activities; insure this is distributed to all club participants and their families.
- 8. Keep current on certification requirements by teaching classes and attending instructor update workshops.
- 9. Maintain applicable Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports records and provide required reports to designated extension 4-H personnel by the established deadlines.
- 10. A 4-H Shooting Sports instructor has the right to refuse any participant from the shooting sports activity in the interest of safety for the participant and others in the program.
- 11. Instructors are encouraged to identify strategies which would safely accommodate youth and/or adults with disabilities, if possible.
- 12. Ensure 4-H Shooting Sports program access to all youth ages 8 to 18 (as of January 1st) in compliance with Idaho 4-H policies and procedures. Cloverbuds are not eligible for participation in any aspect of the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program.

Any Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports instructor operating in an unsafe manner or failing to comply with the policies and standards set forth in this document are subject to dismissal from the 4-H program.

VIII. Instructor Training

- 1. All certified instructors will receive a copy of the current National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum for their respective discipline, as a part of their state-sanctioned (Level1) training.
- 2. State-sanctioned (Level1) trainings will consist of a minimum of twelve hours; including eight to nine (8-9) hours of instruction within the respective discipline for which certification is sought, along with three to four (3-4) hours of youth development and risk management training.
- 3. Instructional methodology for state-sanctioned (Level1) trainings will include: lesson outlines, hands-on learning, live-fire exercises, demonstrations, role playing, simulations, interactive lecture, visual aids and/or related exhibits.
- 4. Training sessions will incorporate principles of positive youth development, risk and program management, discipline and coaching education, plus opportunities for potential instructors to demonstrate and refine their teaching skills via in-person instruction or use of online modules.

IX. Instructor Code of Ethics

The development of essential life skills and socially acceptable behaviors is at the very core of the 4-H program. As such, all certified Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports instructors are expected to support all aspects of the Idaho 4-H Policies and Procedures, and adhere to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Ethics (*see Appendix B*).

In serving as a positive role model, certified instructors within clubs and/or special interest groups will encourage participation in club, county, tribal and state programs. Such actions shall include:

- 1. Complete all required enrollment and registration forms
- 2. Attend a majority of all project and club meetings (including learning the 4-H Pledge)

- 3. Give an project-related oral presentation (speech, demonstration or illustrated talk)
- 4. Maintain all required 4-H member records
- 5. Exhibit project skills at an extension-approved public venue

Recommended Best Management Practices for Shooting Sports Equipment

It is important that all volunteers and Extension personnel connected to the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program serve as positive role models in the proper storage and use of all equipment. Demonstrating and requiring the safe and responsible handling of firearms, ammunition and archery equipment by all youth and adult participants is essential.

Equipment Inventory Control

- Each group (club, county, tribal, district, state, etc.) that possesses 4-H Shooting Sports equipment is to maintain an inventory list of all items. An updated inventory list of club equipment should be submitted annually to their respective county or tribal Extension office by November 15th.
- Only currently approved, certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors shall be permitted to sign out equipment from respective club, county, tribal or district-controlled inventories, and only in those disciplines for which they are certified. Under no circumstances are these to be used for personal purposes.
- 3. A sign-out process should be established to track what equipment is checked out, by whom, when it is to be returned, along with a notation of any equipment that needs repair prior to being checked out again.
- 4. All firearms and archery equipment used for live fire should be inspected by the 4-H Shooting Sports instructor to verify safe working condition before use. If in question, the services of a certified gunsmith or technician should be employed.
- 5. State 4-H Shooting Sports equipment is only to be checked out to:
 - a. Respectively certified Level 2 instructors for the purpose of conducting state-sanctioned Level 1 volunteer instructor training (host county or tribal 4-H personnel can pick-up equipment for delivery to said instructors), or
 - b. County or tribal 4-H personnel who are conducting local or multi-county educational events for youth participants, under the direct supervision of a current Level 1 or Level 2 instructor certified in that given discipline.
- 6. Any lost, stolen or missing firearms and archery equipment must be reported to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction (police, sheriff, etc.) within 48 hours of the discovery. Once reported, notify the local 4-H personnel and state 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator, along with the case number assigned.

Equipment Storage

- 1. All 4-H Shooting Sports equipment should be stored in a lockable metal closet which is secured to the floor and/or wall within the closet, or in a small fully enclosed closet with locking door.
- 2. Access to this secure storage should be limited to the designated certified 4-H instructor in club settings or the appropriate 4-H personnel in county settings.
- 3. All firearms will be stored unloaded and separate from ammunition.

Ammunition

- 1. All ammunition (shotgun shells, pistol and rifle cartridges, powder, caps, BB's, pellets, etc.) will be kept in locked storage, separate from the guns in which they are used.
- 2. Only factory-loaded ammunition shall be used in the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports program.
- 3. Access to this secure storage should be limited to the designated certified 4-H instructor in club settings or the appropriate 4-H personnel in county or tribal settings.

Equipment Transport

- 1. All applicable local, state and federal laws are to be followed whenever transporting firearms, ammunition and other 4-H Shooting Sports equipment and supplies. Only currently licensed individuals, age 18 and over, are permitted to drive vehicles transporting said club, county, tribal and/or state-owned equipment.
- 2. All firearms (including muzzleloaders, pistols, rifles, air pistols, air rifles, etc.) should be transported in secure cases, with appropriate gun locks (trigger or cable) on each gun.
- 3. Equipment should be transported in a non-conspicuous manner such that it cannot be easily seen from outside the vehicle. The vehicle should not be left unattended when the equipment is being transported.



Total number of members enrolled in 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines you led:

	Processed into County Summary
For Office Use Only:	Date Received

Appendix A. Annual Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports Activity Reporting Form

National 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Ethics

A complete 4-H shooting sports program must convey life skills development and be presented in a way that is safe, technically competent, and helps to instill 4-H values in participants through teaching and example. Certified shooting sports instructors and volunteers must be cognizant of their role as a moral and ethical mentor, as well as teacher to youth and adults in their state and community.

As a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor or Volunteer:

- I will respect the participants, volunteers and property associated with the 4-H shooting sports program.
- I will set a good example as a mentor and role model for 4-H shooting sports youth and volunteer leaders.
- I will conduct myself and my 4-H shooting sports program in a professional and ethical manner.
- I will strive to be knowledgeable of the life skills embodied in the 4-H shooting sports program and aid positively in the development of youth through adherence to those principles.
- I will strive to be technically competent in the subject matter I teach and adhere to the national 4-H shooting sports guidelines and curriculum.
- I will respect the dignity of each participant in the 4-H shooting sports program regardless of gender, origin, ability, achievement or conviction.

Appendix C. National 4-H Shooting Sports Minimum Standards

The following minimum standards are not negotiable. A state level 4-H program with an active 4-H Shooting Sports component is advised to adopt and adhere to these standards at the state and county level. Should an injury occur in a state due to the disregard of any of these minimum standards, the potential negative legal/ liability ramifications for a land-grant university system could be significant.

- 1. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum is the established adult teaching curriculum for training adults to teach youth the shooting sports within the 4-H program.
- 2. All instructors accept and abide by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Ethics.
- 3. State, County, and Club level 4-H Shooting Sports Programs will have written risk management plans which includes items such as emergency response and preparedness, insurance, safe storage of firearms and ammunition, state-level reloading policies, etc.
- 4. All certified 4-H shooting sports instructors are a minimum of 21 years of age and have completed a state level 4-H shooting sports workshop in the specific discipline they will be teaching.
- 5. State level 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor certification workshops provide a minimum of twelve (12) hours of instruction; including a minimum of nine (9) hours instruction in each specific discipline and a minimum of three (3) hours instruction in teaching youth development, life skills, and risk management. It is preferable and recommended that state level certification workshops provide fifteen (15) hours of instruction composed of twelve (12) hours of discipline instruction and three (3) hours of teaching positive youth development, life skills and risk management.
- 6. To maintain certification as a 4-H shooting sports Level I or Level II instructor, one must teach or assist in instruction within the discipline certified at least once every three (3) years.
 - A. Level 1 Instructors Must be recertified a minimum of every 7 years. Re-certification could include any of the following, as determined by the State Coordinator:
 - i. Continuing education credits
 - ii. Updates to curriculum or state standards/requirements
 - iii. Refresher course on curriculum
 - iv. Attend a Level 1 training
 - v. Other options
 - B. Level 2 Instructors Must be recertified after a major revision of the curriculum, as determined by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee, or at the determination of the State Coordinator. Re-certification may include attending a Level 2 training or attending an update training by a Level 3 Instructor or a Level 2 Instructor certified using the revised curriculum.
 - C. Level 3 Instructors Must be re-appointed annually by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee.
- 7. Only factory ammunition is used at 4-H shooting sports competitive events. {<u>Note</u>: Idaho requires use of factory ammunition for all 4-H Shooting Sports programs, not just competitive events.}
- 8. Regarding simulated combat sports including but not limited to, paintball guns, air-soft, laser guns, archery tag. Pointing any type of gun including paintball guns, air-soft guns, laser guns, laser paintball, archery tag bows & arrows or sighting devices at any person or any humanoid shaped target is inappropriate in any 4-H program activity.
- 9. Reactive Targets Targets which make use of or are composed of (1) live ammunition, (2) explosives, chemicals or flammable substances, or (3) pressurized containers are never to be used at any 4-H event or activity.

- 10. Cloverbud age youth are not allowed to participate in any shooting sports activity that includes the handling or live-fire of any air-guns, firearms, or archery equipment.
- 11. All 4-H Shooting Sports functions (events, meetings, club practices, etc.) which include the handling or use of firearms or archery equipment requires the physical presence and constant supervision of at least one adult 4-H Shooting Sports instructor who is currently certified in that respective discipline(s)