



2025 Shooting Sports Season Update



2024/2025 Important Dates

- SS Coaches Training, Dec. 07, 2024, Lennox: Archery, Rifle, Pistol, Coordinator Participation Requirements
- SS Coaches Training, Dec. 07, 2024, Gettysburg: Rifle, Pistol, Archery
- SS Coaches Training, Jan. 04, 2025, Brookings: Archery, Rifle, Pistol, Hunting
- SS Coaches Training, Jan. 11, 2025, Murdo: Archery, Rifle, Pistol
- SS Coaches Training, Jan. 25, 2025, Rapid City: Archery, Rifle, Pistol
- End of Match 1 – Feb. 15
- Scores for Match 1 due to John – Feb. 16, 9:30 a.m. (CST)
- End of Match 2 (Safety Scores are due and Last Day to register new SS members for Winter Program) – March 15
- Scores for Match 2 due to John – March 16, 9:30 a.m. (CST)
- Enrollment Download into Fairentry, March 15, 5:00 p.m.
- State Match Registration Opens – March 17, 12:01 a.m. Fairentry
- End of Match 3 – April 15
- Scores for Match 3 Due to John, April 16, 9:30 a.m. (CST)
- State Match Entry Closes – April 16
- Spring Shoot Teams due to John by 5:00 p.m. (CST), April 24, 2025
- State Match – April 25-27, 2025 – Ft. Pierre/Pierre
- Spring Shoot ribbon order Due to John, May 16, 2025
- 4-H Summer Outdoor Archery Match – June 7-8, 2025, Yankton
- 4-H SS National Championships – June 22-27, 2025, – Grand Island, NE
- Spring Shooting Sports Season Payments Due – July 1
- End of Match 4 – July 1
- Scores for Match 4 Due to John July 2, by 9:30 a.m. (CST)
- End of Match 5 - (Safety Scores are due and Last Day to register new SS members for Summer Program) – August 1
- Scores for Match 5 Due to John Aug. 2, by 9:30 a.m. (CST)
- Enrollment Download into Fairentry, August 1, 3:00 p.m.
- State Match Registration Opens, August 1, 2025, 12:01 a.m.
- End of Match 6 (Including a Skeet Match) – Sept. 1, 2025
- Scores for Match 6 Due to John, Sept. 2 by 9:30 a.m. (CST)
- Fall Match Entries Close – Sept. 2
- Fall Shoot Teams due to John by 3:30 p.m. (CST) September 4, 2025
- Fall State Shoot – Sept. 5-7, 2025 – Mitchell
- Fall Shoot Ribbon Order Due – Sept. 29
- Fall Season Bills Payment Due, November 1, 2025

Participation Requirements

1. Enroll all kids in 4-H, enroll as many as possible by January 25.
 - a. Several reasons why, the first being that the waiver is necessary, and is included in the 4-H enrollment paperwork. For several years we have had a separate waiver, but as of 2014-15, that wording has been incorporated into the 4-H waiver, so enrolling in 4-H takes care of the waiver, insurance, code of conduct and photo release.

- b. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H before starting practice.
 - c. Youth must be enrolled in 4HOnline by the end of Match 2 (March 15) to compete at State Shoot in the spring.
 - d. Youth must be enrolled in 4HOnline by July 15 to compete in fall shoot.
2. Tests scores must be submitted for all discipline areas (Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Muzzleloading, Shotgun).
 - a. A listing of youth and pass/fail status will be due by March 15 (end of Match 2) for spring, July 15 for fall (70% on a written test is passing).
 - b. Youth must have a passing score submitted before they may schedule a time for the state shoot. If scores are not submitted, youth will be unregistered until their scores have been submitted to the state office.
 - c. If you miss the deadline, you will need to send a copy of **ALL** your kids' tests to John Keimig before they can register for the state shoot.
 3. A youth must submit a Match Score to compete in that discipline at state. The only exception to this is CMP/22 3-P. Submission of a score in either qualifies a participant for both. However, youth are encouraged to participate in a match for both.

Volunteer Coach Requirements

1. Must become a registered 4-H volunteer – Cost \$10
 - a. <https://extension.sdstate.edu/volunteer-policies-forms>
 - b. Become familiar with the process and guides.
 - c. Must complete and pass a background check, through the South Dakota Board of Regents selected company.
 - d. Must be enrolled in 4HOnline and do so yearly!
2. Must complete the training house videos (there is a Shooting Sports volunteer specific set vs. the entire set)
 - a. Work with your local Youth Program Advisor to get through this process.
 - b. If you take a training after December 1, 2022, this is included in the Youth Development training. There will be no additional requirement after completing training.
3. Must go through shooting sports youth development training – Cost \$50
 - a. Could be up to 4 hours.
 - b. At this point, only required once with no recertification.
4. Go through a discipline training - \$50
 - a. Can only pick up one discipline and Youth Development at any training event.
 - b. Discipline areas
 - i. Rifle – (BB Gun, Air Rifle, .22 – CMP and 3-P)
 - ii. Pistol – (Air and .22)
 - iii. Archery – (Recurve and Compound)
 - iv. Shotgun
 - v. Muzzleloading
 - vi. Hunting
 - vii. Coordinator
 - viii. Western Heritage
 - c. Must teach at least once every three (3) years to maintain certification.
5. Go through recertification training every seven (7) years - \$40
 - a. This is for each discipline you choose to be trained in and wish to maintain that certification.
 - b. To do this, you will need to:
 - i. Attend a refresher offered at Annual Meeting.
 - ii. Attend another full certification in the discipline area.
 - iii. Acquire 100 Recertification Points (details in Recertification document on SS website).
6. Follow and adhere to county-specific policies and procedures (these are specific to any given county)
 - a. This may include local dues.
 - b. This may include other event duties.

County Office Responsibilities:

1. Ensure that youth participating in Shooting Sports are enrolled in 4-H and are on 4HOnline! There is a form attached that can be used as a waiver for one-time participation and can be used at a check it out night opportunity, this is not intended to be used to get around 4-H enrollment. Contact John Keimig for a waiver.
2. Ensure youth are enrolled in the Shooting Sports Disciplines they intend to qualify in (Archery, BB Gun, Rifle, etc.) in 4HOnline.
3. **Emergency Plans** – Due to State Coordinator (John Keimig) yearly before practice starts.
 - a. Fall/Winter Plans for Archery, Rifle and Pistol, Western Heritage
 - b. Summer Plan for Muzzleloading, Western Heritage, and Shotgun
4. Equipment Inventory - Due to John Keimig by February 1.
5. A list of people who have passed a safety evaluation for each discipline they compete in by the end of Match 2, must be submitted to the state office (John Keimig).
6. Verify that your active coaches are paid volunteers.

Changes from 2024/25:

General

- It was decided to stop having Annual Meetings and put emails on the website for those in charge of an area for questions and comments, which changes this committee to meeting two (2) times per year.
- New rule to help with youth changing teams. They must commit to a team. If they change and go to a different team, they will forfeit their registration paid by the state and must pay their own registration costs.
- All silhouette tie breakers longest string from Rams to turkeys to pigs to chickens.

Dress Code

- Participants and coaches are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they 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. It is important to recognize and respect individual's choices which can at times bring unwanted attention either to an individual or to the group as a whole. All participants, coaches, parents, and family members must remember that they may be photographed or interviewed for use by local, regional, or national media. Let's do all we can to make sure that is a positive image for 4-H!
- Footwear Policy Participants in any shooting event or activity, while on the shooting line, are required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet, including soles. Examples of footwear that are not acceptable include, but are not limited to: sandals, clogs, flip-flops, slippers, house shoes, and bare feet.

Western Heritage

- Western Heritage Costs and registration assistance will be by application and the Selection Committee will decide on four (4) youth a year. Everyone chosen will receive \$150 for the year and each youth cannot receive more than \$450 max, with preference given to those youth that have attended a in state Western Heritage event.

Muzzleloading

- Muzzleloader pistol is coming to state. All Muzzleloader certified instructors that have not attended a training with Larry must attend a new Training to be Muzzleloader pistol certified before they can coach.
- Changes in Muzzleloader: Go to 2 hr lines. You register for Bulls time and Novelties separate. Bulls will now go to 40 shots from 20 so will be 80 minutes of live fire. Cost will be \$40 for a full round, both bulls and Novelties and \$20 separately. This is both Rifle and pistol.
- There will be 3 matches for the fall shoot. July 1, Aug. 1 and Sept. 1. To match spring requirements.
- Rifle will be 20 shots per bull target, 20 shots for Novelty targets, 10 on bottles, and 10 on Critters. Target #s is Rifle TG2406 Critter TG0901 Bottle TG2127.

- Pistol Will be 20 shots per bull target, 20 shots Novelty targets, 10 on Bottles, and 10 on fun target Target #s are Bulls TG2415 Fun target TG2419 Bottles TG2427.
- Pistol sights will be following the Kentucky pistol rules except rear adjustable sights are allowed. Checkered Grips are OK, Remove 2150 from the current pistol rules.
- For both Rifle and pistol, you must drop a rod down the barrel a min of 2 times.

Pistol

- .22 qualifications score is 100 not 50.
- .22 pistol National qualifying scores formulas will be (Bullseye x2)+Total Time+(silhouettes x10).
- .22 pistol only people in the house will be the youth and 1 coach for juniors. Everyone will leave the house when people are down range will leave 1 RO online to watch.
- 22 Pistol: Holds are the same as Air Pistol (Seniors shoot one-handed, including during Rapid Fire). All Divisions have 10 shots per target on three targets (timed, rapid, bullseye) 30 total scoring shots using a B-8 one-bull target, or the B-3 indoor target (designed for 50 ft. range).

Archery

- Clarify V-bar and side Bar without sights some are not covered in rule books.
- Mechanical release for recurve will be defined.
- Add with sights for compound can use lens without magnification.
- Camo Bows without sights must be taped and will include a picture in updates.
- How to break ties.
- All Without sights cannot have Vbars or side bar.
- Miss matched arrows are allowed as long as they are safe.

Rifle

- BB Gun – Pledges for each line will remove bad lines and not number them and tape that back stop off.
- Air Rifle – Clarifying CMP Sanctioned Match to follow the coaching rules. They must notify the RSO before the event if coaching is needed.
- Rifle – ALL Spotters will be 4-H members for silhouettes.
- Targets changed in 3P rifle.
- 22 Rifle: Both divisions shoot a 30-shot (300 point) match from three positions: prone, standing, kneeling (or sitting, by choice for CMP), using the following targets:
 - Indoor 3-P at 50 feet: USAS/NRA 50 or the Orion target TAR0046 (50m rifle reduced for 50 ft.) - 12-bull targets.
 - Outdoor 3-P at 50 yards: A-51 (50 yard reduction of 50 meter small bore) or the Orion target TAR0051 (50m rifle reduced for 50-yard) - 6 bull targets.
 - 3-P: 1 minute per shot prone, 2 minutes per shot standing, and 1.5 minutes per shot kneeling will be allowed.
 - Indoor CMP: RF 50-A (rimfire sporter 50 ft. reduced for prone and sitting/kneeling position) and RF 50-B (rimfire sporter 50 ft. reduced for standing position), slow fire only.
 - Outdoor CMP: CMP B-19 at 50 yards (prone and sitting or kneeling) and 25 yards (standing).
 - CMP (slow fire): 10 shots in a time limit of ten minutes - all positions.

2025 Match Score Submission

2025 match scores will be submitted via an Excel document. The Excel sheets (Team and Individual) will be due to John Keimig via email (john.keimig@sdstate.edu) by 9:30 a.m. (CST) on the day after the ending date of the match (due Feb. 16, March 16, April 16, July 1, Aug. 1, and Sept. 1). If scores are not submitted on time (Team and Individual) they will not be accepted. There will be two Excel documents sent out—one for teams, one for individuals—that have the format for the score submissions. Each discipline (CWS, CWSR, BB Gun, Air Rifle, etc.) will have its own sheet on that document. The county office or a local Shooting Sports Coordinator can submit the document. Please only submit one document (i.e., don't have three people send it to make sure I get it).

Enrollment Verification and Safety test completion

This process will need to become a cooperative effort of the Shooting Sports leaders and the county office. Shooting Sports Coaches will need to make sure that they are communicating with the county office. Coaches should be communicating the following:

- ☐ Names of participants (this should be done regularly, not only after the first night)
- ☐ Each participant's safety evaluation status (pass/fail, %, etc.) for each discipline

The county offices should verify the enrollment status of youth participants and communicate this back to the coaches. Together, coaches and the county office will ensure all youth are enrolled for the current year in 4HOnline before scores are submitted.

State Shoot Registration

State Shoot Registration will continue to be done through Fairentry. State match registration will be open at 12:01 a.m. on March 17 and will close on April 16.

State Match teams will need to be submitted to John Keimig by 5:00 p.m. on April 24, 2025. You can use the team match submission spreadsheet to do this. Please indicate on the spreadsheet that these are your state teams.

Final Thoughts:

There are no rules about what parents do with their cloverbuds at home, but they cannot be on the line during a regular 4-H practice. It is NOT possible to make individual decisions about this. It is an insurance issue. If you allow cloverbuds on the firing line during 4-H practice or any 4-H event you are NOT insured if there is an accident and your status as a volunteer will be in jeopardy.

Matches serve multiple purposes. They are to set a minimum qualification level for participation at state shoot and as an in-season opportunity to compete against peers involved in the SS program throughout the state. It is acceptable to compete in every match or to only choose to compete once. For counties that work up budgets for their programs and include match and state fees in your registration cost, I encourage you to give the families the option to compete in multiple matches, but to make them aware that there is a cost associated with that competition. Matches allow for team and individual competition and those competitions are awarded.

I would also encourage your programs to look at expanding their opportunities. 4-H Shooting Sports does a great job of introducing youth to shooting and teaching them valuable safety lessons. However, there is more available. Within each discipline there is some opportunity to progress through different types of tools and to learn to master different competitive opportunities. For example, in the rifle discipline, we start youth with BB Guns and that is where many of our programs stop. However, there is the option of moving on to Air Rifles and beyond that 22 rifles. Even once you get to 22 rifles the student can compete in CMP or 3-P position. We struggle to keep older youth involved, when they have so many things pulling at their time. Expanding their competitive opportunities may keep them interested.

If you have questions on expanding your county program into other areas, I encourage you to reach out. If I can't help you, I can find people to put you in contact with that may be able to tell you about other opportunities for our youth. These may include through Junior Olympic competition, American Legion, Delta Waterfowl, and NFAA. We have people and programs with youth competing on all levels, and I know they would be happy to tell you how to get involved. Shooting is a lifelong activity and 4-H is a great way to get youth introduced and to help them find that spark that will keep a flame burning for a lifetime!