

The Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Policy and Procedures Addendum is being updated. The following pages are extracted from the draft document for your use in determining the steps required for an individual to qualify as a member of one of the development teams. The addendum will be published later in 2026.

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Archery

The Policies and procedures for sending a Virginia team to nationals in the Compound and Recurve Archery discipline were approved by the Council in 2026.

These criteria apply to both Compound and Recurve Archery. We are allowed to send teams in each category. If we do not have enough to make a team, individuals are allowed to go on their own with Council Approval similar to a team.

Selecting the Coach of Record for the Archery Development Team

A 4-H certified instructor, with a minimum of a Level I certification and two years of experience in the archery discipline, may apply to the archery committee within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot to serve as coach of record for the development team by submitting a Coach of Record Application.

If more than one instructor applies within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the archery committee will determine if the applicants are acceptable or unacceptable, rank the acceptable applicants, and make a recommendation to the council. The council will appoint the coach of record.

If no instructors apply within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the archery committee will consider additional applications on a first-come; first-served basis up until December 1st. If no applications are received by December 1st, Virginia will forgo sending either /or a Compound or Recurve archery team to the national championships.

Coach of Record Responsibilities

The Archery Coach of Record will:

- ❑ Select team members per guidelines outlined in the following sections and oversee all aspects of preparing for and competing in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships,
- ❑ Submit to the Archery Committee and the Council a list of development team members detailing who was invited to participate, who accepted and who declined,
- ❑ Designate an assistant coach of record who must also be a 4-H certified archery instructor and able to attend the national championships,
- ❑ Submit an After-Action Report to the Shooting Education Coordinator by September 1st.

Selection Process for the Compound & Recurve Development Team

Compete at the State 4-H Shoot in the National Compound division. Competitors from previous years development team that didn't make the National team are invited to join provided they shoot the National Class at the Current year State Shoot.

- Earn a GOLD or SILVER achievement ribbon
- Archery Committee will send out an Invitation to join the Development Team to the those who qualified for the Development Team from the State Shoot with the Intent to Participate form
- Return the INTENT TO PARTICIPATE on the Development Team form by September 30th

“Eligible” for Compound Archery is defined as not having competed in the Compound Archery event at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships and still meeting state and national age requirements. Per national rules, participants must be 14 to 18 years of age on January 1st of the year in which the national championship takes place.

“Eligible” for Recurve Archery is defined as not having competed in the Recurve Archery event at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships and still meeting state and national age requirements. Per national rules, participants must be 14 to 18 years of age on January 1st of the year in which the national championship takes place.

Selection Process for the Compound & Recurve National Team

Compete at the Archery Indoor Nationals (Virginia location - Harrisonburg)

- Information: <https://www.usarchery.org/events/national-tournaments/indoor-nationals>
- Become a member of USA Archery (approximately \$45)
- Pay competition fee
- Age divisions are different from 4-H
- Each round is 72 arrows at a distance of 20 yards, shot in 3 arrow flights. Choose the FITA target you prefer (vertical 3 spot OR 40 cm single spot) when you register.
- JOAD Indoor Nationals is a separate competition held at the same time. Archers may compete in either or both. Note: you must be affiliated with a JOAD team to compete in JOAD.
- USA Archery Indoor Nationals competitors shoot two rounds; JOAD shoots one round. Plan to shoot one round per day. If you shoot more than one round, you may submit your best score.
- Typically held in March. Weekend varies; registration typically opens in December.

Record shots in each of the three categories:

- Course of fire for Nationals FITA Section
 - 60/50 meters = 3 ends of 6 arrows (122cm target face)
 - 40/30 meters = 6 ends of 3 arrows (80cm target face)
- Course of fire for Nationals Field Section 4 arrows 14 stations
- Course of fire for 3D Archery 30 stations 1 arrow per station.

These record shots can be scored from the time the development team is established to the National Championship Simulation. All record shots must be shot by all development team members on the same day, at the same range, using the same course of fire.

Compete in the National Championship Simulation

- Date determined after Indoor Championship dates announced, probably late March to early April
- Three-phase event to model Nationals:
 - 1/2 FITA (72 arrows), three arrow flights: 60 – 50 - 40 – 30 meters
 - Shortened Field course shooting field targets (white background, black target face)
 - Shortened 3-D course

- Two days will be needed to complete this competition
- Scores will be calculated using the same method as Nationals.

Step 5: Bring a copy of your most recent report card to the third qualifying event.

Scores to determine national team members will be calculated as follows:

10% State 4-H Shoot score

10% Indoor Nationals (or JOAD) submit your best score

15% Nationals FITA Section score

15% Nationals Field Section score

15% Nationals 3D Archery Section score

35% Nationals Simulation score

Top four plus an alternate (assuming acceptable grades and recommendations) will be selected to practice as a team. The top four will attend Nationals, with the alternate remaining available to attend in case needed.

Parent Commitment:

- This is an expensive trip. A Team Parent must be willing to act as coordinator for travel, expenses, and fundraising. If funds are not raised, families will be responsible for the cost. 2022 cost per team member: approximately \$4000.
- Dependent upon volunteers stepping up to serve as Coach and Assistant Coach. Must be 4-H Certified Archery Instructors and approved by the 4-H Shooting Council.
- Funding and Fund Raising for Archery Teams
Funds may or may not be available from the Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Program to develop and send any archery team to the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships. If funds are available, the coach of record may apply for funds to cover expenses. The archery committee and council must approve the appropriation of these funds for both development team and national team expenditures. The coaches, 4-H members and families are ultimately responsible for raising the funds necessary for preparation and participation in the national championships.

Muzzleloader

National Muzzleloader Competition: The National Championships will be held in Nebraska in June. Scores fired at the State 4-H Shoot (except Shotgun) will be a major factor used to determine the senior 4-H members who will make up the teams that will represent Virginia. Potential team members will be selected exclusively from those who have competed in the National Class. Open Class competitors will not be eligible for consideration to be selected for the team. Please note: Trips to the National Championships are contingent upon finding at least two willing and qualified adults that assist the team to raise the necessary funds and develop and accompany each team to Nebraska according to the provisions specified in the VA 4-H Shooting Education Council's Policy and Procedures.

After the State Shoot Muzzleloading Rifle relays have been completed, up to 20 eligible competitors in the Senior National Class, who will be aged 14-18 on January 1 of the following year in compliance with the participant age requirements for the 4-H National Championships, will be invited to shoot in an additional relay. Competitors will fire five shots at 25 yards on the NMLRA "Bottle" target (<https://www.nmlra.org/store/schuetzen-sch-3-lg-red-target-tg2453-dwcwy-sfdra-wc8jx-jpj57-j72cp-6spx7>) and five shots at 25 yards on the NMLRA "Critters" target (Hafner Combination <https://www.nmlra.org/store/the-haffner-combination-target-tg0901>). The time limit will be 30 minutes. The purpose of this relay is to provide additional data for the selection of the Virginia Muzzleloading Team. The score from this relay will have no impact on State Shoot scores or standings.

Virginia 4-H Muzzleloader Team Selection Policy for the 4-H National Championships

1. Eligibility Criteria

- Selection will be based on the top four eligible competitors determined by aggregate scores from the National Class event and the Bottles and Critters targets at the Virginia 4-H State Match.
- Competitors who have previously represented Virginia 4-H on a Muzzleloader Team at the 4-H National Championship are not eligible for selection.

2. Selection Process

- Per national rules, teams are composed of no less than three and no more than 4 competitors.
- The four highest-scoring eligible competitors will be invited to join the team.

- If any of the top four competitors are ineligible, unable to participate, or decline the invitation, the coaches of record will invite the next highest-scoring eligible competitor until all team positions are filled.
- If team selection cannot be met using the above criteria the Coach of Record will submit an alternate plan of selection to the muzzleloading committee for approval.

3. Financial Responsibility

- All travel costs associated with attending the 4-H National Championship are the responsibility of each competitor.
- Coaches and team members will collaborate on fundraising efforts to help offset travel expenses.

4. Team Development and Expectations

- Team members are expected to work together throughout the development phase to improve individual and team skills, with an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship over aggregate scores.
- Coaches of record reserve the right to remove any team member who fails to demonstrate exemplary 4-H sportsmanship or who does not represent themselves, their family, the team, or Virginia 4-H in a positive manner.

Air Pistol

Selecting Coach of Record for Air Pistol Development Team

A 4-H certified instructor, with a minimum of a Level I pistol certification and two years of experience in the pistol discipline, may apply to the pistol committee within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot to serve as coach of record for the development team by submitting a *Coach of Record Application*.

If more than one instructor applies within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the pistol committee will determine if the applicants are acceptable or unacceptable, rank the acceptable applicants, and make a recommendation to the council. The council will appoint the coach of record. If no instructors apply within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the pistol committee will consider additional applications on a first-come; first-served basis up until December 1st. If no applications are received by December 1st, Virginia will forgo sending an air pistol team to the national championships.

Air Pistol Coach of Record Responsibilities

The Air Pistol Coach of Record will:

- ❑ Select team members per guidelines outlined in the following sections and oversee all aspects of preparing for and competing in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships,
- ❑ Submit to the pistol committee and the council a list of development team members detailing who was invited to participate, who accepted and who declined,
- ❑ Designate an assistant coach of record who must also be a 4-H certified pistol instructor and able to attend the national championships,
- ❑ Document scores used for selecting the development team, national team, and alternate, and
- ❑ Submit an After-Action Report to the Shooting Education Coordinator by September 1st.

Selection Process for Air Pistol Development Team

To qualify for the air pistol development team, senior 4-H members must shoot their record shots at the Spring Air 4-H match, and State 4-H Shoot in the year preceding the national championship. Record shots to include the progressive-position air pistol match in the international standing position and the air pistol silhouette match.

The air pistol coach of record will invite the 6 highest-scoring, eligible shooters from Spring Air and State 4-H Shoot to join the air pistol development team. If any of the 6 highest-scoring, eligible shooters or remaining, eligible development team members decline to participate, the next highest-scoring shooter from the State 4-H Shoot may be invited and so on, going down the ranking until a development team has been selected. Prospective team members will be invited to join the air pistol development team no later than December 15th.

“Eligible” is defined as not having competed in the air pistol event at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships and still meeting state and national age requirements. Per national

rules, participants must be 14 to 19 years of age on January 1st of the year in which the national championship takes place. Per national rules, a 4-H member may compete in the air pistol event one year and the smallbore pistol event in a different year.

Selection Process for Air Pistol National Team

Per national rules, teams are composed of no less than three (3) and no more than four (4) individuals. The national team members will be chosen based on the following aggregate score:

- Aggregate Progressive-position air pistol scores shot in the international standing position at Spring Air and The State 4-H Shoot in the year preceding the national championship,
- Aggregate Air pistol silhouette scores shot at Spring Air and The State 4-H Shoot in the year preceding the national championship.
- If team selection cannot be met using the above criteria the Coach of Record will submit an alternate plan to the pistol committee and executive committee for approval.

**Members selected will be required to compete in The Spring Air progressive pistol international standing, and Spring Air Air Pistol Silhouettes match.
Members selected will be encouraged to compete in the State Jr Olympic Air Pistol Match.

Funding and Fund Raising for Air Pistol Teams

Funds may or may not be available from the Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Program to develop and send an air pistol team to the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships. If funds are available, the coach of record may apply for funds to cover expenses for the development team and the national team. The pistol committee and council must approve the appropriation of these funds. The coaches, 4-H members and their families are ultimately responsible for raising the funds necessary for preparation and participation in the national championships.

Smallbore Pistol

Selecting Coach of Record for Smallbore Pistol Development Team

A 4-H certified instructor, with a minimum of a Level I pistol certification and two years of experience in the pistol discipline, may apply to the pistol committee within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot to serve as coach of record for the development team by submitting a *Coach of Record Application*.

If more than one instructor applies within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the pistol committee will determine if the applicants are acceptable or unacceptable, rank the acceptable applicants, and make a recommendation to the council. The council will appoint the coach of record. If no instructors apply within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the pistol committee will consider additional applications on a first-come; first-served basis up until December 1st. If no applications are received by December 1st, Virginia will forgo sending a smallbore pistol team to the national championships.

Smallbore Pistol Coach of Record Responsibilities

The Smallbore Pistol Coach of Record will:

- ❑ Select team members per guidelines outlined in the following sections and oversee all aspects of preparing for and competing in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships,
- ❑ Submit to the pistol committee and the council a list of development team members detailing who was invited to participate, who accepted and who declined,
- ❑ Designate an assistant coach of record who must also be a 4-H certified pistol instructor and able to attend the national championships,
- ❑ Document scores used for selecting the development team, national team, and alternate, and
- ❑ Submit an After-Action Report to the Shooting Education Coordinator by September 1st.

Selection Process for Smallbore Pistol Development Team

To qualify for the Smallbore pistol development team, senior 4-H members must shoot their record shots at the State 4-H Shoot in both the Camp Perry and the smallbore pistol Silhouette events in the year preceding the national championship.

The smallbore pistol coach of record will invite the 6 highest-scoring, eligible shooters from the State 4-H Shoot to join the smallbore pistol development team. If any of the 6 highest-scoring, eligible shooters or remaining, eligible development team members decline to participate, the next highest-scoring shooter from the State 4-H Shoot may be invited and so on, going down the ranking until a development team has been selected. Prospective team members will be invited to join the smallbore pistol development team no later than December 15th.

“Eligible” is defined as not having competed in the air pistol event at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships and still meeting state and national age requirements. Per national rules, participants must be 14 to 19 years of age on January 1st of the year in which the

national championship takes place. Per national rules, a 4-H member may compete in the air pistol event one year and the smallbore pistol event in a different year.

Selection Process for the Smallbore Pistol National Team

Per national rules, teams are composed of no less than three (3) and no more than four (4) individuals. The national team members will be chosen based on the following aggregate score:

- Camp Perry Smallbore Pistol scores shot in The State 4-H Shoot in the year preceding the national championship,
- Smallbore pistol silhouette scores shot at The State 4-H Shoot in the year preceding the national championship,
- If team selection cannot be met using the above criteria the Coach of Record will submit an alternate plan to the pistol committee and executive committee for approval.

**Members selected will be strongly encouraged to compete in the State Jr Olympic Smallbore Pistol match, and required to compete in the Spring Air Pistol match in international standing.

Funding and Fund Raising for Smallbore Pistol Teams

Funds may or may not be available from the Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Program to develop and send a Smallbore pistol team to the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships. If funds are available, the coach of record may apply for funds to cover expenses for the development team and the national team. The pistol committee and council must approve the appropriation of these funds. The coaches, 4-H members and their families are ultimately responsible for raising the funds necessary for preparation and participation in the national championships.

Smallbore Rifle

Selecting Coach of Record for Smallbore Rifle Development Team

A 4-H certified instructor, with a minimum of a Level I Rifle certification and two years of experience in the rifle discipline, may apply to the rifle committee within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot to serve as coach of record for the development team by submitting a *Coach of Record Application*.

If more than one instructor applies within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the rifle committee will determine if the applicants are acceptable or unacceptable, rank the acceptable applicants, and make a recommendation to the council. The council will appoint the coach of record. If no instructors apply within two weeks of the State 4-H Shoot, the rifle committee will consider additional applications on a first-come; first-served basis up until December 1st. If no applications are received by December 1st, Virginia will forgo sending a smallbore rifle team to the national championships.

Smallbore Rifle Coach of Record Responsibilities

The Smallbore Rifle Coach of Record will:

- ❑ Select team members per guidelines outlined in the following sections and oversee all aspects of preparing for and competing in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships,
- ❑ Submit to the rifle committee and the council a list of development team members detailing who was invited to participate, who accepted and who declined,
- ❑ Designate an assistant coach of record who must also be a 4-H certified rifle instructor and able to attend the national championships,
- ❑ Document scores used for selecting the development team, national team, and alternate, and
- ❑ Submit an After-Action Report to the Shooting Education Coordinator by September 1st.

Selection Process for Smallbore Rifle Development Team

To qualify for the Smallbore rifle development team, senior 4-H members must shoot their record shots at the State 4-H Shoot in both the 3P Light Rifle Iron Sights and the smallbore rifle Silhouette events in the year preceding the national championship.

The smallbore rifle coach of record will invite the top 10% or 10 highest-scoring (whichever is greater) eligible shooters from the State 4-H Shoot to join the smallbore rifle development team. If any of the 10 highest-scoring, eligible shooters or remaining, eligible development team members decline to participate, the next highest-scoring shooter from the State 4-H Shoot may be invited and so on, going down the ranking until a development team has been selected. Prospective team members will be invited to join the smallbore rifle development team no later than December 15th.

“Eligible” is defined as not having competed in the smallbore rifle event at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships and still meeting state and national age requirements. Per

national rules, participants must be 14 to 19 years of age on January 1st of the year in which the national championship takes place. Per national rules, a 4-H member may compete in the air rifle event one year and the smallbore rifle event in a different year.

Selection Process for the Smallbore Rifle National Development Team

Per national rules, teams are composed of no less than three (3) and no more than four (4) individuals. The national team members will be chosen based on the following aggregate score:

- 1 times Smallbore Rifle 3P (light rifle iron sights) scores shot in The State 4-H Shoot in the year preceding the national championship,
- Smallbore Rifle silhouette scores shot at The State 4-H Shoot in the year preceding the national championship,
- 2 times state shoot Smallbore Rifle standing score (Light Rifle Iron Sights).
- If team selection cannot be met using the above criteria the Coach of Record will submit an alternate plan to the rifle committee and executive committee for approval.

The smallbore rifle development team will operate in accordance with guidance provided by the latest version of the Guidelines for Team Development and Competition in 4-H National Rifle Competitions.

The coach-of-record can, at the coach's discretion, establish quantitative thresholds to select members to continue participating in the smallbore rifle development team.

All funds relative to the smallbore rifle development team will be handled through a Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Council account. A complete accounting of funds must be provided to the Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Council within 30 days after the 4-H National Match. Excess funds will be allocated to the Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Council operating account for use by future Rifle Development Programs.

Shotgun

Policies and procedures for sending a Virginia team to nationals in the Shotgun discipline were approved by the Council in 2007 with revisions in 2022.

Selecting the Coach of Record for the Shotgun Development Team

A 4-H certified instructor, with a minimum of a Level I certification and two years of experience in the shotgun discipline, may apply to the shotgun committee within two weeks of the R.L. Harris Jr. Memorial 4-H Shotgun Championship to serve as coach of record for the development team by submitting a Coach of Record Application.

If more than one instructor applies within two weeks of the shotgun championship, the shotgun committee will determine if the applicants are acceptable or unacceptable, rank the acceptable applicants, and make a recommendation to the council. The council will appoint the coach of record.

If no instructors apply within two weeks of the shotgun championship, the shotgun committee will consider additional applications on a first-come; first-served basis up until December 1st. If no applications are received by December 1st, Virginia will forgo sending a shotgun team to the national championships.

Shotgun Coach of Record Responsibilities

The Shotgun Coach of Record will:

- ❑ Select team members per guidelines outlined in the following sections and oversee all aspects of preparing for and competing in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships,
- ❑ Submit to the Shotgun Committee and the Council a list of development team members detailing who was invited to participate, who accepted and who declined,
- ❑ Designate an assistant coach of record who must also be a 4-H certified shotgun instructor and able to attend the national championships,
- ❑ Document scores used for selecting the development team and the national team, and
- ❑ Submit an After-Action Report to the Shooting Education Coordinator by September 1st.

Selection Process for Shotgun Development Team

To qualify for a slot on the shotgun development team, senior 4-H members must shoot their first 200 mandatory targets (also referred to as "record shots") at the R.L. Harris Jr. Memorial 4-H Shotgun Championship in the year preceding the national championship. Shotgun development team members from the previous year must also shoot their first 200 mandatory targets at the R.L. Harris Jr. Memorial 4-H Shotgun Championship in the year preceding the national championship.

The shotgun coach of record will invite the 10 highest-scoring, eligible shooters from the shotgun championship to join the shotgun development team. The coach will also invite the remaining, eligible development team members from the previous year if they competed in the shotgun championship. If any of the 10 highest-scoring, eligible shooters or remaining, eligible development team members decline to participate, the next highest-scoring shooter from the

shotgun championship may be invited and so on, going down the ranking until a development team has been selected. If feasible, prospective team members should be contacted within 30 days of the shotgun championship.

“Eligible” is defined as not having competed in the shotgun event at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships and still meeting state and national age requirements. Per national rules, participants must be 14 to 18 years of age on January 1st of the year in which the national championship takes place.

Selection Process for Shotgun National Team

Per national rules, teams are composed of no less than three (3) and no more than four (4) individuals. The national team will be chosen from the high cumulative scores from the R.L. Harris Jr. Memorial 4-H Shotgun Championship PLUS a series of 300 mandatory targets shot in EACH trap, skeet and sporting clays. Mandatory targets must be shot by all development team members on the same day, at the same range, using the same course of fire. It is recommended that the 300 trap, 300 skeet and 300 sporting clay targets be shot by the end of March to allow sufficient time for continued development of the team, fundraising, airline and hotel reservations, etc.

Per national rules, a state team may send a substitute for a registered participant who is unable to attend the national championships. The Coach of Record must designate a substitute (alternate) in the event that one of Virginia’s registered participants is unable to attend. The alternate cannot compete as an individual at nationals.

Funding and Fund Raising for Shotgun Teams

Funds may or may not be available from the Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Program to develop and send a shotgun team to the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships. If funds are available in the *Shotgun Development Team* subaccount, the coach of record may apply for up to \$5,000 to cover expenses. The shotgun committee and council must approve the appropriation of these funds for both development team and national team expenditures. The coaches, 4-H members and families are ultimately responsible for raising the funds necessary for preparation and participation in the national championships.

Additional Shotgun Guidelines

Traveling with the shotgun team to the national championships must be a minimum of two adults, age 21 or older, designated as the Coach of Record and the Assistant Coach of Record. Ideally, the assistant coach of record will make a two-year commitment and submit a Coach of Record Application the following year. Be advised, some companies have a minimum age requirement of 25 to rent a vehicle.

All youth and adults participating on/traveling with the teams must be officially enrolled in the Virginia 4-H Program which now includes a criminal background screening for anyone 18 years of age or older. 4-H members must sign and adhere to the *Virginia 4-H Standardized Code of*

Conduct; adults must sign and adhere to the *Standards of Behavior for Virginia 4-H Volunteers*. Additional expectations will be presented at a mandatory informational meeting for prospective team members and their parents/guardians.

The coach of record must have up-to-date Health History Report Forms with original signatures for all youth and adults participating on/traveling with either the development team or the national team.