

## Oklahoma 4-H Shooting Sports Program Exemption

### Overview:

The primary goal of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program is youth development through long term interaction with caring adults and other youth in positive and safe environments. In this program youth, with adult supervision, can participate in air pistol, air rifle, compound archery, recurve archery, Genesis archery, hunting skills, muzzle loading, shotgun, smallbore pistol, smallbore rifle, and western heritage shooting. The project seeks to teach firearm safety, ethics and environmental stewardship, while also helping youth gain a better understanding of their duties and responsibilities as participants.

For a number of years, 4-H on the local to national levels has been involved in the Shooting Sports Program. In Oklahoma, the project continues to grow and is one of the most popular of all 4-H project areas reaching a large number of youth and significantly more teenagers than any other 4-H project. The project is one of the safest programs offered due to the prescribed curriculum and training conducted for the leaders and youth.

When a county elects to offer this project, a team of adult volunteers and/or OSU Extension staff attend a training session conducted by nationally certified 4-H discipline coaches. The team members who receive certification then work with local parents and members in delivering a prescribed curriculum. **4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification is specified in Article V of the Oklahoma 4-H Shooting Sports Guidelines.** (Appendix 1)

Historically, the National Rifle Association Foundation has offered program development grants to non-profit groups such as 4-H for the purpose of expanding firearm safety education and the advancement of the shooting sports. Several county 4-H programs have received grants from this foundation to support the establishment of shooting sports projects.

The president's approval of this exemption to the Oklahoma State University policy regarding firearms will allow county OSU Extension professionals and certified 4-H shooting sports volunteers the opportunity to continue carrying out the objectives of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program by providing educational, recreational, and competitive programs and events. This exemption enumerates measures for program risk management and fiscal accountability when purchasing actual firearms for the specific use of conducting the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

Specifically, it is requested that OSU Extension staff and trained volunteers be authorized to conduct Shooting Sports trainings, workshops and competitions; and to apply for grants, seek donations or collect appropriate fees in order to carry out the same. Furthermore, county OSU Extension staff will be required to route all 4-H Shooting Sports grants through their appropriate District Extension Director, Agriculture Sponsored Programs, and the University. Facility and management fees are to be charged unless the granting agency's policy does not permit such fees.

### Safety Protocol:

Because liability coverage for the 4-H Shooting Sports hinges on this program being within the scope of University business under the OSU Extension Service, the following protocol will be implemented related to this project. Furthermore, this authorization is contingent upon Oklahoma State University policy and procedures being strictly followed and is only valid as long as the following criteria are followed:

- 1.e The State 4-H Program will annually secure and maintain accident insurance for all 4-H Shooting Sports Program participants.e
- 2.e The county will adhere to the Oklahoma 4-H Shooting Sports policies as prescribed by the OSU Extension Service (Appendix 1).e

3. An annual safety plan will be submitted by County Extension offices who have a shooting sports program (Appendix 2). The annual safety plan must be submitted each fiscal year no later than July 15 and must include a Firearm Inventory List (Appendix 3: A-C). If an approved plan is not on file with the State 4-H office, shooting sports programs will be suspended within that county.
4. Any existing or future purchased firearms will be annually inspected by a gunsmith, trained law enforcement officer, or military weapons specialist. Such documentation shall be on file in the county office along with an inventory of firearms beginning at the date of purchase. A copy of the report shall be included as part of the annual safety plan. Ammunition, targets and other equipment will be stored in a secure location separate from all firearms or archery equipment.
5. All youth and adults involved in the program will adhere to protocol mentioned above regarding the handling, storage, and training, or their status as a 4-H member or volunteer shall be subject to revocation.
6. Using the 4-H enrollment management system, county staff will annually provide a list of all youth enrolled in the shooting sports project.
7. County staff will annually provide a list of all certified 4-H Shooting Sports Coaches who are actively involved in their 4-H Shooting Sports Program to the State 4-H Program Leader or assigned program specialist.
8. County Staff will have all 4-H members complete and keep on file an Oklahoma 4-H Form 1 - Youth Participation (Appendix 4) which is a Medical Release Form and Code of Conduct when becoming involved in the Shooting Sports Program.
9. Purchases of firearms for the 4-H Shooting Sports Program must be done through the OKCorral System to ensure prior approval and inventory control. Donated firearms must be thoroughly inspected and the donation approved by the state 4-H program leader or assigned program specialist prior to receiving. For the purpose of this exemption, firearms include, shotguns, small bore rifles/pistols, air rifles/pistols, muzzleloaders, and compound and recurve bows.
10. Targets, ammunition and accessories for approved 4-H Shooting Sports programs may be purchased by County Extension Staff using state approved procedures including agency accounts, p-cards and OKCorral. By way of example but not limited to, these items include shotgun shells, clay targets, arrows, paper targets, .22 ammunition, pellets, and items needed to maintain firearms and bows.
11. If a county program becomes inactive for more than two years, or if the protocol is not followed, the program in said county will be suspended and the firearms will be distributed to other programs as authorized by the OSU Risk Management Office, Campus Police and the State 4-H Program Leader.

This agreement is entered into as of the 26 Day of February 2024 and complies with OSU Policy and Procedure letter #I-1301 Weapons, Firearms, Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives, and Dangerous Chemicals and specifically provides exception by the President as prescribed in section 4.05 of said document.

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