



SHOTGUN

2024



**4-H SAFE ALABAMA
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

ALABAMA EXTENSION





2024 INTRODUCTION & GENERAL RULES

2024 Championship Schedule

April 13: Archery

April 26–28: Shotgun

June 23–28: National 4-H Championships

State 4-H Shooting Sports (SAFE) Program

Specific Matches Information

Sarah Butterworth, Archery, sfb0010@aces.edu, (334) 703-6777

Tim Gothard, Shotgun, tdg0021@aces.edu, (256) 284-5752





Introduction

Applies to all 2024 championship events unless otherwise noted in specific rules

The 4-H Shooting Sports Project is designed to teach life skills and encourage essential elements of belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery through experiential learning. 4-H Shooting Sports competitive events are conducted for the purpose of positive youth development and education.

Competition is but one way to celebrate the 4-H experience and should not be the main objective of any 4-H activity. 4-H coaches are expected to value, teach, promote, and demonstrate safety and education above awards, recognition, and winning.

Alabama 4-H complies with the National 4-H No Repeat Rule. Once a youth demonstrates mastery of a project by attending its terminal event, he or she may not return as a competitor in that event but is welcome to explore a new project or activity.

Conduct

(from National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships rules. Applicable to all 4-H state and national Shooting Sports programs)

- **Tobacco and alcohol:** The use of tobacco/nicotine products and alcoholic beverages by minors at any 4-H event is not permitted. Violation of this policy is grounds for disqualification and dismissal from the 4-H event. Adults may not use tobacco in the presence of youth, and alcohol is strictly forbidden.
- **Footwear:** All participants are required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet while on the shooting line or when shooting in any 4-H event. Examples of unacceptable footwear include, but are not limited to, flip-flops, sandals, clogs, and bare feet.
- **Behavior and sportsmanship:** All participants, coaches, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship, supporting the objectives and ideals promoted by the 4-H program in general and the 4-H Shooting Sports program in particular. Coaches, youth, Extension staff, and spectators are expected to conform, as applicable, to the 4-H youth state code of conduct, Alabama 4-H volunteer behavioral guidelines, volunteer agreements, and the national 4-H Shooting Sports program code of conduct.
- **Knowledge of rules and procedures:** Where possible, Alabama SAFE events are associated with the appropriate national governing body (NGB). Exceptions to any NGB rule are noted in the synopsis of that particular championship. It is the responsibility of each coach and participant to read the championship rules, understand the procedures used in each event, and comply with the rules and standards of each event. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to seek clarification. Ignorance of the rules does not eliminate the existence of the rules. Learning the rules of an event is part of the educational process for 4-H members.

2024 4-H SAFE Championships

Senior first-place teams with corresponding National 4-H Championship events may have the option to represent Alabama 4-H.

- **Archery:** Saturday, April 13, 4-H Center, 892 4-H Road, Columbiana, Alabama
- **Shotgun:** Friday, April 26 to Sunday, April 28, Selwood Farm, Alpine, Alabama, and Red Eagle Skeet & Trap Club, Childersburg, Alabama

4-H SAFE Opportunities

2024 National 4-H Championships: June 23–28, Grand Island, Nebraska. All disciplines (shotgun, archery) except Western Heritage. Participants attend at invitation of state 4-H office based on championship results. Youth and coaches must be outstanding ambassadors for Alabama 4-H at the local and state levels and observe code of conduct and adult behavioral guidelines to maintain eligibility to represent Alabama 4-H. Details are available at <https://4h.unl.edu/shooting-sports/national>.



General Rules

Applies to all 2024 championship events unless otherwise noted in specific rules

Registration

All 2024 SAFE championships, including state-level postal matches, must register through 4HOnline. Registration fees are nonrefundable at match director's discretion. Each championship registration opens approximately 6 to 8 weeks before and closes no earlier than 3 weeks before the date of the championship.

At least one coach from each team must register through 4HOnline. This will be the contact person concerning the specifics for the matches.

Cost

Cost varies per discipline and includes participant fees and an event t-shirt. Late registrants are not guaranteed a shirt.

Eligibility

4-H events are open to active members of a chartered Alabama 4-H club that has experiential learning in regularly scheduled and planned meetings. For the state championships, membership must be in a discipline-specific 4-H club. Participation is limited to members who are enrolled in the 4-H program and have been a member for a minimum of 90 days. Enrollment dates are verified through 4HOnline. The Alabama 4-H club year begins on August 1 and ends on July 31. Age eligibility is determined by how old the youth is before January 1 of the Alabama 4-H club year. Check www.aces.edu/blog/topics/about-4-h/alabama-4-h-eligibility/ to determine the division for 4-H membership. Seniors are participants born from 2003 to 2007. Juniors are participants born from 2008 to 2012.

Teams

Teams consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of four or five participants from the same age division, based on the event of participation. Juniors are 9 to 13 as of January 1, 2023. Seniors are 14 to 18 as of January 1, 2023. Counties may bring more than one junior and senior team as long as they are from separate clubs. To qualify as separate clubs, the clubs must meet and practice at different times, in different places, and be led by different volunteers or coaches.

The top scores determine the team as indicated in the discipline's rules. A 4-H'er may decide not to compete for team awards and only participate individually. This must be determined at on-site check-in.

Any individual who participates in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships may not participate in that discipline at the State 4-H Championships in subsequent years.

Individuals

Individuals may participate in all State 4-H SAFE Championships as long as they meet the eligibility rules.

If the winning senior team chooses not to attend the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships, the age-eligible members of that team may compete in that discipline's State 4-H SAFE Championships in the future.

2024 National 4-H Shooting Sports National Competitive Championships

June 23–28, 2024. Limited funding up to \$2,000 is provided by the state 4-H office for teams who opt to go. Winning teams are responsible for the balance of their expenses and encouraged to engage in fundraising. Funds raised in the name of 4-H can be used only for the 4-H team members and one designated coach per team. Per 4-H policy, all fundraisers must be approved by the Extension coordinator of the county in which the team is located. Funds must not be solicited outside the county without permission of that county's Extension coordinator.

Safety

All competitors, coaches, and spectators (including small children) must wear eye and ear protection when forward of the ready line. No eye or ear protection is required for archery, only finger protection. Any individual may be asked to leave the range at the request of the match director, state 4-H SAFE program coordinator, that team's coach, or range officers for exhibiting unsafe actions, attitudes, or behaviors. All decisions are final and not subject to protest. This removal is a disqualification.

No unauthorized electronic devices are allowed on the competition ranges. Use may result in immediate disqualification.

Coaching

Once a team has entered the range or field for competition, only team members, range officers, and scorers/judges are allowed on the range. Range officers are appointed by the match directors. Coaches must remain behind the range. No one, including coaches and spectators, can coach, advise, or assist participants once competition has begun, unless rules otherwise allow. Unauthorized coaching from behind the range can result in disqualification. Coaches must ensure that their competitors are familiar with the range, range procedures, and championship rules. Ignorance of range procedures or championship rules is not a basis for protest.

Awards

First-, second-, and third-place team awards are given in each age division. Individual awards are given to the first-, second-, and third-place finishers in each class and age division. Awards are announced at the end of the respective championships.

Code of Conduct

All participants are expected to follow the 4-H Code of Conduct.

Dress Code

All participants are expected to follow the 4-H dress code.

Protests/Challenges

Only 4-H competitors are allowed to protest/challenge their targets. All protest/challenge monies not returned go to the state 4-H SAFE program. Protest fees vary by championship and are listed in the specific championship rules.

2024 Postal Matches

If a team or individual has a compelling reason why they cannot attend a respective discipline's state championship at the designated venue on the designated dates, team members can shoot what is called a postal match. A postal match is a means by which the scores of absentee 4-H archery teams or individuals may be emailed in and counted toward state 4-H championships. All postal match participants and one coach must register for the event through 4HOnline. All eligibility rules apply to postal matches. Shotgun is excluded from postal match participation.

Team members or individuals shoot rounds, strictly following the 4-H rules, under the supervision of an adult range owner or officer who has no affiliation with the 4-H club (cannot be a relative, close friend, or the 4-Her's coach). Teams must submit requests for postal match participation in writing, by email, to the state 4-H SAFE program coordinator and appropriate discipline lead for the particular championship 45 days before the date of the event. Submission must be completed by the relevant 4-H Foundation regional Extension agent and contain the following information:

1. Subject line: Postal Match Request
2. Reason for not attending respective discipline championship
3. Date and location of postal match
4. Name and contact information of unbiased third-party scorekeeper

The person requesting a postal match receives permission or denial by email within 7 business days after the request is made. More information may be requested so that an informed decision can be made concerning participation.

Teams or individuals who opt for a postal match in lieu of attending a State 4-H SAFE Championship are responsible for their own target, ammo, and range fees. The fee to submit scores is double the registration fee per person for that championship.

Postal Match Rules

- Each discipline postal match strictly follows the course of fire for that discipline. For scores to count as team scores, all members must shoot together at the same time and location.
- Postal match scores must be supervised and certified by an unbiased third-party scorekeeper. The team's 4-H coach and anyone associated with the team is not approved to certify postal match scores.
- The scorekeeper must be approved in advance by the state coordinator and discipline lead. Scores must be recorded on standard scorecards, which are provided. The scorekeeper must legibly sign each submitted scorecard and include the following information:
 - name
 - address
 - phone
 - email
 - date of postal match
 - start and end times of postal match
 - location of postal match
- In the event of a tie between an on-site team or individual and a postal match team, the on-site participants have preference over postal match entries.
- Postal match scores must be submitted by email to the state 4-H SAFE program coordinator and respective championship discipline lead 2 weeks before the date of the respective championship. Include the subject line: Postal Match Scores.



4-H Shotgun

2024 State 4-H SAFE Championship

Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clay

Match Contact

Tim Gothard, Shotgun Discipline Lead/Match Director
(256) 284-5752, tdg0021@aces.edu

Dates

Friday, April 26, Saturday, April 27, and
Sunday, April 28, 2024

Locations

Red Eagle Skeet & Trap Club, Childersburg, Alabama
Selwood Farms, Alpine, Alabama

Times

April 26, 7:00 a.m. (on-site check-in, Selwood Farms)
April 27, 8:00 a.m. (Red Eagle Skeet & Trap Club)
April 28, 8:00 a.m. (Red Eagle Skeet & Trap Club)

Age Divisions

Juniors age 9 to 13 (as of January 1, 2024)
Seniors age 14 to 18 (as of January 1, 2024)

Cost

\$75 per shooter (nonrefundable)

Registration

All teams and individuals must register through v2.4honline.com. At least one coach from each team must register. Registration opens March 4 and closes April 11. All shooters must be enrolled in 4HOnline by midnight on January 26, 2024, to be eligible to participate in this event.

Eric Massey/Will Gunnin Memorial Shotgun Fund

This 4-H Foundation fund is named for Eric Massey, longtime 4-H Shotgun Club volunteer and leader from Lauderdale County who died in December 2012, and Will Gunnin, 4-H member and State Championship participant who died in December 2016. Fund donations are used to support statewide 4-H shotgun programs. Donations will be accepted at the 2024 State 4-H Shotgun Championship.



Event

Team schedules for shoot times are emailed the week before the championship to the coach that registers through 4HOnline for each team. A [mandatory safety video](#) is posted on YouTube for all team members to view before arrival at Selwood Farms. Everyone on-site (shooter and nonshooter) is required to sign a Selwood liability waiver for the event.

Teams rotate through lunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Concessions are open Saturday and Sunday at Red Eagle for purchasing food and drinks. Participants should eat when they have time between rotations.

Competition continues until all teams have completed their scheduled courses of fire and all (if any) shoot-offs are complete. Shoot-offs are held on Sunday. Awards are presented at the conclusion of the event on Sunday at Red Eagle.

The ranges at Red Eagle Skeet & Trap Club open at noon on Friday, April 26, if you wish to come early and familiarize yourself with the ranges. Red Eagle Club members may be available upon request to coach your teams at this practice. The range fee for 4-H members at Red Eagle is \$5 per twenty-five targets.

Coaches

A mandatory Zoom meeting for coaches will be held on April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Connection for this meeting will be sent to the coach that registers through 4HOnline. The coach that registers does not have to be the one that attends, but one coach from each registered team must attend.

Shotgun Allowances

Participants must provide their own shotguns, ammunition (no reloads), and eye and ear protection. Allowable shotguns include any shotgun 12 gauge or smaller firing a shot charge (not to exceed 1 1/8 ounces with shot no larger than US 7 1/2 fine or smaller than US 9 fine) at velocities approximating 1,200 feet per second. Participants should have a means of carrying enough shells (twenty-five) to complete a round of fire, and they must be able to carry fifty rounds of ammunition at Selwood Farms. All equipment and ammunition are subject to inspection by range officials before and/or during usage as necessary to ensure safety.

General Guidelines

- Music listening devices are not hearing protection and are not allowed on the firing line.
- Students are not allowed to listen to anything other than range activity through their hearing protection devices while shooting at the 4-H Championship. Violations will result in disqualification.
- At no time may shooters rest the muzzle of a firearm on any part of their bodies.
- Firearms must remain unloaded until a shooter is on station and ready to immediately call for a target.
- Postal match rules are not applicable to the 4-H Shotgun Championship. Teams/shooters must be on-site to compete in one or all of the three shotgun games that comprise the championship event.
- Tents, chairs, spectators, etc., must remain behind the ready line at all times.
- Teams must be on their range at the ready line prepared to take the field 10 minutes prior to their scheduled shoot time.
- To accommodate unforeseen schedule adjustments, complete teams must be at Red Eagle and available for call-up 2 hours before their scheduled shoot time. (This does not apply to first rotation of the day.)
- Practice shells may not be available for purchase at the range. Bring all you may need for the weekend.
- Alcohol is not permitted at 4-H events (spectators and parents included).

Match Logistics

Juniors and seniors shoot two rounds (fifty targets) of trap, two rounds (fifty targets) of skeet, and fifty targets of sporting clays.

Team Scores

The top four scores determine the team, with the top three scores determining the team score in both junior and senior divisions. A 4-H'er may decide not to compete for team awards and only participate individually; this must be determined at on-site check-in.

After each round, shooters must initial their score on their score sheet. Once a shooter leaves the range, the score is final. Issues on the range are arbitrated by the chief referee.

Selwood Farms

- Participants walk from the bridge to the sporting clays range and between stations during the competition. 4-H members participating in sporting clays are not allowed to ride carts until they have completed the sporting clays course.
- A limited number of carts are available for parents to rent. Parents are welcome to bring their own golf cart or UTV for the day.

Sporting Clays

- Event: Standard NSCA (American) Sporting Clays
- Course of fire: fifty targets; may consist of singles, doubles, and report pairs
- Time limits: Each squad has 15 minutes to shoot each station. Shooters should be prepared to take the field 30 minutes before their scheduled firing time. Prestaging with a safety briefing takes place at the bridge before shooters walk out to the range.
- Misses: A shooter may take a second shot at a missed single target but at no time may fire more than two shots at any given station during a scored presentation.

Skeet

- Event: Standard NSSA (American) Skeet
- Course of fire: Two rounds (fifty targets) consisting of singles and doubles; doubles from stations one, two, six, and seven and singles from stations three, four, five, and eight
- Time limits: Shooters must fire in an expeditious manner to avoid unnecessary delays.

Trap

- Event: Standard ATA (American) Trap
- Course of fire: Two rounds (fifty targets) consisting of five targets from each of five shooting stations at 16 yards.
- Time limits: Each squad has 15 minutes to shoot each station. Shooters should be prepared to take the field 30 minutes before their scheduled firing time.

Team Ties

In the event that two or more teams in skeet or trap tie for one or more placings, a shoot-off is held. Each trap team chooses a representative and shoots a complete round. Skeet teams shoot doubles at stations three, four, and five. If the first tie-breaker round results in a tie, shooters will be moved back to handicap boxes for subsequent rounds. Team ties in sporting clays are broken by using the longest run from the final target.

Individual Ties

Individual ties in skeet are broken by shooting doubles at stations three, four, and five on the skeet range. Individual ties in trap are broken by shooting complete rounds of twenty-five targets until the tie is broken. Individual ties in sporting clays are broken by using the longest run from the final target. For individual ties in trap and skeet, if the first tie-breaker round results in a tie, shooters will be moved back to handicap boxes for subsequent rounds.

Protests

Any questions regarding the rules, including protests and appeals, are directed to the event rules committee consisting of the match director and/or a representative of the State 4-H SAFE committee. All decisions by the rules committee are final.

Directions

Red Eagle Skeet & Trap Club, 332 Hollywood Boulevard, Childersburg, Alabama 35044

From Birmingham

Take Hwy. 280 East to Childersburg. After crossing the Childersburg Veterans Memorial Bridge, turn left at the first traffic signal onto Hwy. 235N. Proceed 1.2 miles and turn right onto Pinecrest Avenue. After crossing the railroad tracks, immediately turn left onto Hollywood Boulevard. Proceed approximately 200 yards and look to the right for the Red Eagle sign.

From I-65 South

North of Clanton, take AL Hwy. 145 to Wilsonville. Turn right on AL Hwy. 25. Turn right on AL Hwy. 76 and follow to US 280. Turn right on US 280, cross Childersburg Veterans Memorial Bridge, and turn left at the first traffic light (AL Hwy. 235N). Proceed 1.2 miles and turn right onto Pinecrest Avenue. After crossing the railroad tracks, immediately turn left onto Hollywood Boulevard. Proceed approximately 200 yards and look to the right for the Red Eagle sign.

From Auburn

Follow US 280 West to Childersburg. Turn right on AL Hwy. 235N. Proceed 1.2 miles and turn right onto Pinecrest Avenue. After crossing the railroad tracks, immediately turn left onto Hollywood Boulevard. Proceed approximately 200 yards and look for the Red Eagle sign.

From Talladega

Take Hwy. 21 South approximately 10 miles and then take Hwy. 76 West (Desoto Cavern Parkway) approximately 10 miles to Hwy. 280. Turn right on Hwy. 280 and proceed to the next traffic signal and turn right on Hwy. 235N. Proceed 1.2 miles and turn right onto Pinecrest Ave. After crossing the railroad tracks, immediately turn left onto Hollywood Boulevard. Proceed approximately 200 yards and look to the right for the Red Eagle sign.

From Red Eagle to Selwood Farms

Selwood Farms (Sporting Clays), 706 Selwood Road, Alpine, Alabama 35014

Drive out to the paved road and turn left on Hollywood Boulevard. Turn left onto Pinecrest Drive and take the first right onto Hillcrest Lane. At the dead end turn left onto Forest Hills Drive. At the dead end turn left onto AL 76 for 4 miles, then turn right onto Selwood Road. Go ½ mile to the stone gate on the right. Parking is on the left across from the entrance. (Selwood road is a public access road. Please be aware of traffic.)

Camping

Campsites are available at Red Eagle for \$75 per day and nearby at Majestic Caverns, formerly known as DeSoto Caverns.



In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating because of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, and American Sign Language) should contact the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Human Resources Department at (334) 844-5531 or the State of Alabama Governor's Office on Disability (GOOD) at (888) 879-3582 or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Revised MARCH 2024, 4HYD-2131-E

© 2024 by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. All rights reserved.

www.aces.edu