

Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Conduct

Hamblen County Shooting Sports Program teaches life skills to 4-H youth. It is valuable for helping young people develop self-confidence, personal discipline, responsibility, teamwork, self-esteem and sportsmanship. It also teaches youth respect for wildlife and hunting. This program is affiliated with National 4-H Shooting Sports. Exposure to safety and responsible firearm/bow handling is vital in preventing accidents. Our program teaches youth safe and ethical use of firearms/bows. Shooting sports disciplines teach safety, concentration, self-discipline, self-confidence, goal setting and decision-making skills.

Hamblen County Shooting Sports Code of Conduct

1. Parents or guardians must be present at practices. They do not have to participate but must be present on the property.
2. Every child participating in shotgun must have a shooting vest or belt. Every child participating in archery must have arm and finger guards.
3. All shotgun and rifle athletes will wear shooting glasses and ear plugs/ear protection on the line at all times. This includes coaches, volunteers and parents.
4. All athletes will show respect for other competitors, teammates, instructors/coaches and/or volunteers.
5. Firearms/bows will be handled safely and treated as loaded **AT ALL TIMES**.
6. If you are not on the line shooting, your firearm/bow is to be on the rack, actions open (if applicable) and left alone until you return to the line.
7. Firearms/bows will remain unloaded until live fire instruction is given by coach or it is your turn to shoot. This includes putting a shell/arrow in too early on the line.
8. Instructor/Coach has the right to put a firearm/bow out of service if they believe that it is unsafe and un-operational.
9. Athletes will be respectful to other teams that shoot at that range.
10. Athletes **must help to pick up after each class or 25 rounds**. This includes empty firearm rounds, arrow and trash such as drinks and snacks.
11. Athletes need to attend all meetings. The first few meetings will deal with safety. This is for the safety of the individuals, teammates and volunteers. If you do not attend these meetings or make them up, you will not be allowed to participate.
12. Arrive 10-15 minutes early for each meeting. This prep time should be used to put on shooting gear, prepare the firearm and sign-in. All athletes, parents, coaches and other observers **MUST** sign-in for UT Contact Tracing Requirements. Athletes should be geared up and ready to begin practice at the scheduled practice time.
13. Athletes that miss 3 meetings/practices, without proper documentation or approval by the instructor/coach, will be suspended and/or dismissed from the team.

14. Any athlete qualifying for a next level shoot will be required to attend regular practices for said athlete prior to the shoot or they forfeit their opportunity to attend the next level shoot. There will be practices held off-site (not at MTC) dedicated for skeet and/or sporting clays.
15. Appropriate language is expected at all times. This includes athletes, instructors, volunteers and parents/guardians.
16. School dress code and appropriate attire, including closed toe shoes, are required during all Shooting Sports activities, practices and events.
17. Shooting sports is considered an athletic sport which requires discipline, commitment and responsibility. We also want athletes to have fun as well.
18. No horse playing or being loud at any club/range at any time. This includes team members, instructors, coaches, volunteers, parents/guardians and any others supporting the team as observers. This could cause an athlete to be distracted and someone end up getting hurt.
19. No talking on the line at any time, unless with an instructor/coach.
20. No walking on to the range while live fire is going on. This includes athletes and parents/guardians.
21. Ceasefire: IMMEDIATELY stop firing, unload firearm/bow and keep the firearm/bow pointed in a safe direction (up is always the safest direction). Anyone can call a ceasefire if they see anything that is unsafe, including parents/guardians.
22. Instructors/coaches have the right to dismiss a child from practice or from the team for being unsafe, disrespectful or refusing to follow the rules. Instructors/coaches can also dismiss a child from practice or from the team for parents/guardians being unsafe, disrespectful or refusing to follow the rules.
23. All athletes must participate in fundraiser activities in order to be eligible for targets and/or ammunition to be provided. All money from the fundraisers will go to purchasing things for the team such as practice targets, shells and anything else deemed necessary by the instructors and 4-H Agent. See Fundraising attachment.
24. Instructors/coaches have the right to add or change rules as they deem necessary to keep all athletes and observers safe at all times.
25. Please remember not to have any firearms/bows on school property. This is a zero tolerance and students will be dismissed from the school.
26. Both the Morristown Trap Club and the Archery Club have their own set of club rules. These will be followed in addition to the 4-H rules.

Hamblen County Shooting Sports meets a minimum of once a week at the appropriate range.

By signing the Activity and Event Acceptance Form (F600A) both the 4-H member/athlete and the parent/guardian have agreed to abide by all rules set forth in the general 4-H program, the 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Conduct and Range Guidelines.