

2027
Hamblen County Shooting Sports Handbook

UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Table of Contents

1) Welcome & Program Purpose 3

2) Program organization 3

How to use this handbook 3

3) Eligibility & Supervision 3

4) Communication 3

5) How to Join 3

6) Quick Rules / Required to Participate 4

Supervision & Readiness 4

Safety (Non-negotiable) 4

Conduct 4

7) Safety, Conduct, and Expectations 4

Attendance / “Must attend or can’t shoot” Rules 5

Line/Range Safety Rules 5

Behavior / Sportsmanship Expectations That Affect Safety 5

Dress Code / Footwear / Cell Phones 5

Range / Club Rules Apply in Addition to 4-H Rules 5

Weather / Cancellation Policy 5

8) Training Requirements 6

Safety Meeting (required) 6

Required Dry Fire Training (see Appendix B: Season Information for date): 6

Optional Range Practice Sessions 6

9) Fundraising 6

Appendix A: Code of Conduct

Appendix B: Season Information

Appendix C: Archery

Appendix D: Rifle

Appendix E: Shotgun

1) Welcome & Program Purpose

The Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is a volunteer-led youth development program that teaches life skills and STEM concepts through safe, hands-on instruction. The program is affiliated with Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports and the National 4-H Shooting Sports.

Safety is a non-negotiable priority.

2) Program organization

- Disciplines may include archery, air rifle/rifle, shotgun and other disciplines as certified instructors and facilities allow.

How to use this handbook

- This Core Handbook applies to all disciplines.
- Discipline-specific requirements are in the appropriate Discipline Appendix (Appendix C, D, E, etc.).
- Dates, deadlines, costs and schedules are located in Appendix B: Season Information (year-specific swap page).

3) Eligibility & Supervision

- Open to 4-H members grades 4-12 (grade as of January 1 of the current 4-H year)

Supervision:

- Parent/guardian supervision requirements: see Section 6 (Quick Rules)
- A 16-year-old member may not serve as the adult supervisor for underage siblings
- Line control: Certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors supervise all live-fire and all equipment-handling activities and control the firing line

4) Communication

Band App (free) is the *only* communication method used for discipline announcements, schedule updates and reminders.

If you are not in Band, you will miss official schedule updates and may be marked as absent.

5) How to Join

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS (READ FIRST)

- Registration must be paid in full before the athlete may practice or compete.
- Sign in is required each day for everyone on range property.
- Band App is the only official communication method for schedule changes and reminders.

To join:

- Complete registration and submit required paperwork (see Appendix B and the discipline appendix)
- See Appendix B: Season Information for deadlines, costs and schedule

6) Quick Rules / Required to Participate

Supervision & Readiness

- Members under 16 must have a parent/guardian remain on site (21 or older)
- Members age 16 or older may attend without a parent/guardian on site only when driving themselves. A parent/guardian must be reachable by phone and able to pick them up immediately if needed
- If a member age 16 or older is not driving themselves, a parent/guardian must remain on site
- Sign in immediately upon arrival, everyone present must sign in daily
- Arrive 10-15 minutes early and be ready at start time
- Missing three practices or meetings without documentation or approval may result in suspension or dismissal

Safety (Non-negotiable)

- Treat all firearms as loaded: safe handling at all times
- Firearms remain unloaded/ not nocked/ not chambered until coach instruction or it's the athlete's turn
- When not shooting: equipment secured as directed, action open when applicable, left alone
- Ceasefire: anyone may call a ceasefire for safety concerns
- Eye and/or ear protection requirements apply on/near the line as directed by discipline and host range rules
- No phones/electronic devices on the shooting line or downrange; phones only in designated observation areas

Conduct

- Follow school-appropriate attire and closed-toe shoes
- Athletes help pick up after each class as directed (hulls/trash/etc.)
- Simulated combat-style activities and humanoid-shaped targets are prohibited
- Reactive targets involving explosives/flammables/pressurized containers are prohibited

7) Safety, Conduct, and Expectations

Participation requires athletes and parents/guardians to:

- Follow coach instructions
- Follow all range rules
- Follow Appendix A: Code of Conduct (signed at registration)
- Follow daily sign-in requirements

Failure to comply may result in discipline up to removal from practice/team.

Unless the issue involves safety, athletes will normally receive one warning and coaching correction before being dismissed for the day

APPLIES TO EVERYONE ON RANGE PROPERTY (IMPORTANT)

- These rules apply to everyone on range property, including athletes and spectators/observers.

Attendance / “Must attend or can’t shoot” Rules

- Required meetings: Athletes must attend required safety meetings (or complete an approved makeup) before participation
- Arrive 10-15 minutes early and be ready at start time
- Missing 3 practices/meetings without documentation/approval can result in suspension/dismissal
- State 4-H Invitational qualifiers: If an athlete qualifies for a State 4-H Invitational, they must attend regular practices prior to that shoot or forfeit the opportunity

Line/Range Safety Rules

- Treat all firearms as loaded: safe handling at all times
- Remain unloaded until coach instruction or it is the athlete’s turn
- When not shooting: secured as directed; action open; left alone
- No talking on the line unless communicating with an instructor/coach
- No walking onto the range during live fire
- Ceasefire: anyone may call
- Coaches may bench equipment believed unsafe
- Prohibited activities/targets: see Appendix A: Code of Conduct

Behavior / Sportsmanship Expectations That Affect Safety

- No horseplay or loud/disruptive behavior
- Athletes, parents/guardians, volunteers and coaches must show respect toward teammates, competitors, instructors, other teams and range members
- Appropriate language at all times (applies to athletes and adults)

Dress Code / Footwear / Cell Phones

- School-appropriate attire and closed-toe shoes required
- Phones/electronic devices prohibited on firing line, shooting line, or downrange: allowed only in designated observation areas

Range / Club Rules Apply in Addition to 4-H Rules

Host range rules apply in addition to 4-H and team rules.

If anything in this handbook differs from Appendix A: Code of Conduct or the range officer/coach’s instructions, the Code of Conduct and the range officer/coach’s instructions are the rules we will follow.

Weather / Cancellation Policy

- Practices and events may be delayed, modified, relocated or cancelled due to weather or unsafe conditions.
- If Hamblen County Schools are closed for inclement weather, then practice is cancelled.
- If thunder/lightning or other hazardous conditions are observed, activities will stop and participants will follow staff/range instruction immediately.
- Any weather-related cancellations or schedule changes will be communicated through the Band App.

8) Training Requirements

Safety Meeting (required)

Attendance is required before participating

Required Dry Fire Training (see Appendix B: Season Information for date):

- New athletes: 2 hours
- Returning athletes: 1 hour

Optional Range Practice Sessions

Mondays at 6:00 PM (November through February)

9) Fundraising

Fundraising may be conducted some years; when fundraising is scheduled, participation requirements will be communicated and may be tied to team support items (targets/ammunition).

Appendix A: Code of Conduct
Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports

Purpose

Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports is a volunteer-led youth development program that teaches life skills and STEM principles through safe, hands-on instruction in shooting sports disciplines.

The program emphasizes safe and responsible equipment handling and is affiliated with Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports and National 4-H Shooting Sports.

This code of conduct applies to members, parents/guardian, coaches, volunteers and spectators while on range property or at any 4-H Shooting Sports event.

Supervision, Sign-in, and Readiness

1. A parent/guardian is expected to remain on site for practices and events. If the member is 16 or older and arrives without a parent/guardian (including driving themselves), a parent/guardian is not required to remain on site; however, the member must have a parent/guardian available by phone and must be picked up immediately if dismissed or in an emergency.
2. Sign-in is required immediately upon arrival. Every person present must sign in each day, including athletes, parents/guardians, siblings, other adults, coaches and volunteers.
3. Arrive 10-15 minutes early to prepare equipment/PPE and be ready to start on time.
4. All live-fire activities and all activities where firearms/air guns/bows are handled will be conducted under the direction and supervision of trained/certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors and designated assistants.

Safety is Mandatory (All Disciplines)

5. Treat all firearms and archery equipment as if they are loaded/ready to use at all times, and handle them safely.
6. Equipment remains unloaded/not nocked/not chambered until the coach gives the command or it is the athlete's turn.
7. When not actively shooting: equipment must be secured as directed (ex: on rack/ground/table), with actions open (when applicable) and left alone until returning to the line.
8. **Ceasefire**: Immediately stop, follow coach instructions, and keep equipment pointed in a safe direction. Anyone may call a ceasefire for safety concerns.
9. Coaches may remove any firearm/bow/equipment from use if it is believed to be unsafe or not functioning properly.
10. Simulated combat activities (including paintball, airsoft, laser guns, archery tag, etc.) are not part of 4-H Shooting Sports. Pointing any firearm, bow or sighting device at any person, or at any humanoid-shaped target, is prohibited.
11. Reactive targets that use live ammunition, explosives/flammable substances/chemicals, or pressurized containers are prohibited at any 4-H Shooting Sports activity.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Required Gear

12. Required protective equipment must be worn/used as directed by discipline and range rules.

13. Live-fire line rule: eye/ear protection requirements apply to athletes and may apply to coaches/volunteers/parents based on the discipline and range policy.

Discipline Notes

14. Shotgun: shooting vest is required (provided by team).
15. Archery: arm guard and finger protection required.
16. Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun: eye and ear protection required on/near the line as directed.

Conduct, Sportsmanship, and Range Courtesy

17. Show respect for teammates, competitors, instructors/coaches, volunteers and the host range and its members.
18. No horseplay, loud/disruptive behavior, or unsafe distractions at any time.
19. No talking on the line unless communicating with an instructor/coach.
20. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices are not permitted on the firing line, shooting line, or downrange areas. Phones may only be used in designated observation areas and must never interfere with safety commands or instruction.
21. Do not walk onto any range/field of fire while shooting is in progress.
22. Appropriate language is required from athletes and adults.

Attendance & Eligibility to Participate

23. Required safety meetings/trainings must be attended (or made up as approved) before participation.
24. Missing three (3) practices/meetings without documentation or coach approval/notification may result in suspension or dismissal.
25. Athletes who qualify for a next-level event must attend required practices prior to that event or may forfeit the opportunity (as determined by coaches).

Facility Care

26. Athlete help clean up at the end of practice and as directed (hulls/arrows/trash/etc.)

Fundraising

27. If the program conducts fundraising in a given year, participation expectations and how funds will be used will be communicated in writing.

Authority, Enforcement and Additional Rules

28. Unless the issue involves safety, an athlete will receive one warning and coaching correction before being dismissed for the day.
29. Coaches/instructors may dismiss an athlete and/or parent/guardian from practice or the team for unsafe or disrespectful behavior or refusal to follow rules.
30. Coaches/instructors may add or adjust safety rules as needed to maintain safety.
31. No firearms/bows on school property.
32. Host range rules apply in addition to 4-H and team rules.

Acknowledgement

By signing the Activity and Event Acceptance Form (F600A), the 4-H member/athlete and parent/guardian agree to follow all program rules, this Code of Conduct and all range guidelines.

Appendix B: Season Information (2027)
Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports

B-1) Key Dates & Deadlines (All Disciplines)

Signing Day (required)

- Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 6:00-7:30 PM
- Location: 4-H Office – 511 W. 2nd North St., Room 204

Deadlines

ITEM	DEADLINE
Signing Day registration forms and payment	October 15, 2026
Ammunition add-on deadline (shotgun only)	November 15, 2026
Shotgun Premium registration paid in full	January 1, 2027

Communication: Band App is the only official communication method for schedule changes and reminders.

Sign-in: Daily sign-in is required for everyone on range property.

B-2) Discipline Summary (Quick References)

DISCIPLINE	DISCIPLINE APPENDIX	SEASON DETAILS BELOW
Archery	Appendix C	Section B-4
Rifle	Appendix D	Section B-5
Shotgun	Appendix E	Section B-6

B-3) Registration Items (Applies to All Disciplines)

Required Paperwork (bring/submit at Signing Day unless otherwise directed)

- Registration form
- Health form (F600A)
- Code of Conduct (signed by athlete and parent/guardian)
- School permission form (if in public school)

Payment Policy

- Athletes cannot practice until paid in full

B-4) Archery – Season Information

Fees/Registration

- Registration Fees - $110 total, due in full at registration
  - 4-H Registration Fee: $60
  - Archery Club family membership: $50
- Registration limit (if applicable): 32 athletes (then waitlist)

Practices / Location

- Practice location: Morristown Archery Club – 2953 Cherokee Park Rd., Morristown
- Practice day/time: Thursdays from January-May, 4:00-5:30 & 5:30-7:00
- Required safety meeting date/time: January 7, 2027
- Archery Jamboree: April 9-10, 2027 – Cookeville, TN
- Weather policy: see Core Handbook (Weather/Cancellation Policy)

Equipment notes: See Appendix C for archery equipment and standards

B-5) Rifle – Season Information

Fees/Registration

- 4-H Registration Fee: $60
- Registration limit (if applicable): 18 athletes (then waitlist)

Practices / Location

- Practice location: National Guard Armory – 5255 E. Andrew Johnson Hwy, Russellville
- Practice day/time: Mondays from November to May
  - November 16, 30; December 7, 14; January-March weekly; April/May bi-weekly
  - BB – 4:00-6:00 PM
  - Air Rifle – 6:00-8:00 PM
  - Smallbore – TBD based on light and location
- Required safety meeting date/time: November 2, 2026
- Jamboree:
  - BB/Air Rifle – March 19-20, 2027
  - Smallbore – May 15, 2027
- Weather policy: see Core Handbook (Weather/Cancellation Policy)

Equipment notes: See Appendix D for rifle equipment/clothing standards

B-6) Shotgun – Season Information

Packages / Fees

- **Starter 4-H Package - $260**

  Includes:
  - 12 Practices (targets included as scheduled)
  - 4-H Insurance
  - Dry fire session(s)
  - 4-H Shooting Sports t-shirt
  - Individual MTC membership
  - Free ATA membership for first-time athletes
  - Smoky Mountain Trap Series membership (see Appendix B-6: Schedule)

  Payment: $260 due at registration
- **Premium 4-H Package - $820**

  Includes everything in Starter, plus: 7 cases of ammunition (minimum required)

  Payment options:
  - $300 deposit at Signing Day + two payments of $260 due by Jan. 1, 2027
  - OR $820 paid in full at registration

Ammunition (Shotgun)

- Minimum required: 7 cases
- Premium package includes: 7 cases
- Ammunition add-on (registration add-on only): $80 per case
- Add-on deadline: Nov. 15, 2026
- Allowed ammunition: factory ammunition only; under 1300 FPS; no reloads / no high-brass

Schedule (Practices + Competitions)

Date	Time	Type	Event	Location	Rounds/Targets
Feb. 27	10 AM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
Mar 1	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
Mar 6	10 AM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	75
Mar 8	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	75
Mar 13	10 AM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	100
Mar 15	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	100
Mar 20	10 AM	SMTS	Event 1	Morristown Trap Club	50
Mar 22	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
Apr 3	10 AM	SMTS	Event 2	Morristown Trap Club	100
Apr 5	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
Apr 10	9 AM	SMTS	Event 3	Morristown Trap Club	100
Apr 12	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
Apr 17	8 AM	SMTS	Event 4	Hog Heaven ATA Spring Shoot	200
Apr 19	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
Apr 24	10 AM	SMTS	Event 5	Hog Heaven Youth Invitational	100
Apr 26	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
May 1	10 AM	SMTS	Event 6	Morristown Trap Club	100
May 3	6 PM	Practice		Morristown Trap Club	50
May 15	8 AM	SMTS	Event 7	SMTS Championship/ Hog Heaven AIM	200

- Optional: 4-H Shotgun Jamboree- May 1, 2027 – Nashville Gun Club
- Weather policy: see Core Handbook (Weather/Cancellation Policy)

Competition Fees

- Paid week-to-week; cash or check (payable to hosting club)
- Submit payment at Monday practice for the upcoming weekend event

Training Notes (Shotgun)

- Dry fire completion deadline: February 27, 2027
- Dry fire hours: New – 2 hours, Returning – 1 hour
- Optional practice sessions (after paid in full): Mondays at 6:00 PM (November through February)

Equipment Notes: See Appendix E for shotgun equipment and standards

B-7) Contacts

4-H Agent

- Elizabeth D. Hobbs, Extension Agent III, 4-H Youth Development
  423-586-6111 | edoan@utk.edu

Lead Discipline Contacts

- Archery Lead Instructor: Elizabeth Hobbs – 423-586-6111
- Rifle Lead Instructor: Elizabeth Hobbs – 423-586-6111

- Shotgun Lead Instructor: Jim Honnold – 423-312-2295 – jim.honnold@gmail.com

B-8) Other Opportunities

4-H Jamborees

- BB, Air Rifle, Air Pistol – March 19-20, 2027 – Murfreesboro, TN
- Archery – April 9-10, 2027 – Cookeville, TN
- Shotgun – May 1, 2027 – Nashville Gun Club
- Smallbore – May 15, 2027 – Crossville, TN

Summer Camp

- Target Smart Camp (5^{th}-9^{th} grade) – May 31-June 4, 2027 – Crossville, TN

Jamboree and Camp descriptions and details are published on the Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports page.

Appendix C: Archery
Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports

What this discipline includes

Archery instruction focuses on safe range behavior, shooting fundamentals and preparation for archery events identified in Appendix B.

Eligibility / participation notes

- Archery eligibility follows the Core Handbook eligibility and supervision rules.
- Any archery-specific participation requirements (example: jamboree attendance) are listed in Appendix B-4.

Equipment

Athletes must bring/use equipment that meets the event standards listed for the year.

Required

- Bow (type per event standards: Genesis / compound / recurve as allowed for the year)
    - Equipment standards are published under Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports event resources (Rules/Results/Dates of Interest) at Shooting Sports Events | Tennessee 4-H Youth Development
- Arrows (as required; Genesis arrows are provided each year)
- Arm guard
- Finger protection – tab, glove or quick release (compound/recurve)

Strongly recommended

- Bow case
- Arrow quiver

Range & practice location notes

- Practice location, day/time, and weather/cancellation procedures are listed in Appendix B-4 and the Core Handbook weather policy
- Host facility rules apply in addition to 4-H and team rules

Safety & PPE reminders

- Follow coach commands immediately
- No equipment is to be handled until the coach gives instruction/permission
- Follow the Code of Conduct (Appendix A) at all times

Contacts

- Archery lead instructor contact information is listed in Appendix B-7

Appendix D: Rifle
Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports

What this discipline includes

Rifle instruction focuses on safe range behavior, shooting fundamentals and preparation for rifle events identified in Appendix B.

Eligibility / participation notes

- Rifle eligibility follows the Core Handbook eligibility and supervision rules.
- Any rifle-specific participation requirements (example: jamboree attendance) are listed in Appendix B-5.

Program levels

- BB – 4th grade through 16 years of age
- Air Rifle
- Smallbore – must participate in 1 year of BB/Air Rifle to be eligible

Equipment

Athletes must bring/use equipment that meets the event standards listed for the year.

Program firearms

- A limited number of BB guns, air rifles and smallbore rifles are available.
- Personal equipment may be used if it meets the equipment standards for the applicable event and is in good working order, as determined by a rifle instructor
    - Equipment standards can be found at Shooting Sports Events | Tennessee 4-H Youth Development under Rules, Results and Dates of Interest; under Jamborees

Required

- Eye protection
- Ear protection (smallbore)
- Lockable case for transporting any personal firearm/gun (if applicable)

Optional

- Ear protection (BB/air rifle)
- Shooting glove

Clothing requirements

- Closed toe shoes that do not come above the ankle bone
- No shooting jackets
- No compression apparels

Range & practice location notes

- Practice location, day/time, and weather/cancellation procedures are listed in Appendix B-5 and the Core Handbook weather policy
- Host facility rules apply in addition to 4-H and team rules

Safety & PPE reminders

- Follow coach/range officer commands immediately
- Treat all firearms as loaded and maintain safe muzzle control
- Actions open and firearms secured when not shooting, as directed
- Follow the Code of Conduct (Appendix A) at all times

Contacts

- Rifle lead instructor contact information is listed in Appendix B-7

Appendix E: Shotgun
Hamblen County 4-H Shooting Sports

What this discipline includes

Shotgun instruction covers safe range procedures, shotgun fundamentals and preparation for SMTS and other events listed in Appendix B-6/B-8

Eligibility / participation notes

- Shotgun eligibility follows the Core Handbook eligibility and supervision rules.
- Any shotgun-specific participation requirements (example: jamboree attendance) are listed in Appendix B-6.

Equipment

Required

- Shotgun (do not purchase before first practice – let instructors help you choose a correct fit and recommended place to purchase)
- Eye and ear protection as required on/near the shooting line
- Firearm case
- Shell catcher for semi-automatic shotguns (or rubber bands)
- Shooting Vest (team vest provided and must be worn)
- Ammunition

Ammunition Rules (What is allowed)

- Factory ammunition only (no reloads)
- Under 1300 FPS (no high-brass)
- Ammunition add-on is a registration add-on only (not a stand-alone ammunition purchase)
- Pricing/deadlines for ammo add-ons are listed in Appendix B-6

Program Ammunition Policy (How ammo is provided)

- Ammunition is provided only through registration packages and optional registration add-ons
- Premium package includes minimum number of cases required for the season
- Families may add-on cases of ammunition to their registration fees
- The program does not sell ammunition separately and cannot accept payment for ammunition outside of registration/package add-ons
- If You Need More Than Your Package/Add-On Includes, you are responsible for obtaining additional ammunition independently (must meets ammo rules)

Training requirements

Required dry fire training (deadline in Appendix B-6)

- New athletes: 2 hours
- Returning athletes: 1 hour

Optional practice sessions (dates in Appendix B-6)

- Mondays at 6:00 PM

Competition notes

- SMTS schedule and squadding notes: Appendix B-6

- Competition fee process and amounts: Appendix B-6 Contacts

Contacts

Shotgun lead instructor contact information is listed in Appendix B-7