



# California Shooting Sports

## Rifle/Pistol Shooting Match-Facilitator Best Practices Guide

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This guide is intended as a tool for shooting sports leaders who would like to host a shooting sports match. The items included are intended to be helpful in planning and facilitating an event.

### **Choosing a Facility:**

It is important to remember that selection of a facility should primarily be based on the ability to host an event in a safe environment. (Private property, make shift ranges are not best practice.)

- Does the facility have the ability to offer a clear firing line and a safe line of sight for shooters, with a proper “secure” range (no chance of a pedestrian/animal walking onto your range)?
- Can the facility accommodate the number of shooters that you may have attend the event?
- Can the facility accommodate spectators as well as participants?
- Does the facility allow youth shooters?
- Can the facility accommodate parking for event?

Once you have located a proper facility you will most likely need to complete a Facility Use Agreement and perhaps provide a certificate of insurance for use of the facility. Please be aware that Facility Use Agreements can only be signed and completed by the County Director. All insurance must be provided by the UCCE office. These items should be completed prior to advertising for the event or beginning event registration.

### **Event Facilitation:**

Plan early to recruit volunteers for extra safety the day of event. Positions you should recruit for:

- Registration/Safety Check: All firearms should be inspected before being allowed into range facility. This guarantees that all firearms are unloaded, safeties are engaged, proper ammunition is available and the firearms are safe for use.
- Coaches to work directly with the youth during Range Command Demonstration. It is recommended that you provide a dry fire Range Command demonstration for all participants. This makes sure that everyone is aware of the commands and by using coaches during this demonstration you can ensure that all participants properly learn what each command requires for shooter/range safety. \*\* This may not be necessary if you are only working with youth within your project and they are familiar with the range commands.
- Range Commander: This must be an approved 4-H shooting sports leader who has been trained in the discipline that they are conducting. Example: Only trained 4-H Pistol leaders can supervise a .22 pistol competition.



- Facility manager: This position allows someone to run the facilities for spectators and participants as well as to manage/interact with non 4-H attendees or event crashers.
- Scoring Crew: These individuals are trained in how to correctly and consistently score targets.

### **Entry Information:**

Remember that only 4-H youth 9-19 years of age can participate in any type of 4-H shooting sports competition. You may have adult classes but unless they are a 4-H leader, adults are not included in the 4-H insurance and therefore cannot participate in a 4-H shooting sports event. The following information should be considered for all entry information:

- List of available competitions with rules for each competition to include, type of target, distances, positions, equipment, etc.
- List of safety equipment that must be provided by individuals or that will be available at the event.
- Parent expectations: Some events require that parents or a designated adult remain with the participant for the entire event.
- Always require a medical release form be completed for the event.
- Procedures for firearm event check-in. Some events require that all firearms be delivered wrapped or in rifle/pistol cases.
- Always remind participants that anyone not adhering to range rules or failing to follow safety rules will be required to leave the event and forfeit their right to participate.

### **Safety Equipment to Consider:**

Beyond the shooters basic equipment you should consider providing these additional items:

- Extra Safety Glasses
- Hearing protection. You may consider requiring that spectators wear hearing protection.
- If rests will be used you should provide enough for the participants.
- Safety breech flags for rifles and pistols to be used by all participants while on range.
- If range does not easily mark audience location you should provide flagging material and signage that designates who can enter each area.

### **General Guidelines:**

As you are well aware safety comes first. As a 4-H shooting sports leader, you will need to remember that youth will need to be reminded often of safety procedures. It is best to treat everyone as a beginner if you are not familiar with their abilities or know that they have basic safety instruction. Always err on the side of caution. Be prepared to demonstrate each safety aspect that you are teaching. Youth learn through different styles including hearing, seeing and doing.

