

2021 Hunting Skills Coaches letter

Welcome 2021 Coaches,

I am looking forward to another fantastic year at this year's National 4-H Shooting Sport competition and getting to meet new competitors and coaches, as well as re-connecting with coaches from past years.

The Hunting Skills (HS) competition is different from the other 8 disciplines that compete at this national event. The other 8 disciplines are focused wholly on shooting skills. While we do some shooting, the HS discipline focuses on the skills and techniques used in the outdoors, and the preparation needed for hunting or other outdoor activity. Please share this with your participants and families so they are not disappointed and frustrated that the actual shooting is only a small percentage of the overall HS competition. In a real world hunting situation, pulling the trigger accounts for a very small portion of the hunting event.

The majority of points in the competition will come from the reference material listed in the synopsis, and will be in a written test format. The study of these materials will be necessary to perform well in this contest. Competitors will need to be comfortable navigating with a compass, as they will be traversing two compass courses in the field.

The rounded scoring apportionment percentage for the three days of competition has been changed by the national committee for this year as a one year trial and will be as follows:

Wildlife ID- 11%, Wildlife Management- 11%, Hunter Skills- 12%, Map/compass test- 11%, Compass Courses- 11%, Decision making, Shoot/No Shoot- 11%, Shooting- 33% (11% of each days score).

The shooting portion of the contest will consist of different equipment (firearm/bow) each day. All three disciplines will be scored as Hit/Miss. Refer to the synopsis for specific equipment limitations.

Archery will be shot at 3-D targets at un-marked yardages. An arrow in the marked vital ring of the target will be considered a hit.

Shotgun will take place on the sporting clays range and be scored a Hit with a broken target. Competitor will be in a hunting-type setting and will not preview the targets or call for targets.

Rifle will take place on the rifle range at 2-D animal targets and un-marked yardages. The shooting positions will be standing, kneeling and prone. A hunting style sling (attached at both ends) may be used but no 3-P slings. If a support/cushion is desired in the prone or kneeling position, contestants may use something commonly on your person while hunting such as a jacket or pack. If this issue gets abused, we will eliminate all support items.

The tentative schedule each day will be to shoot in the morning, practice for the next day's shooting discipline, then go to the event center (Indoors) for the rest of the day's competition.

Competitors will NOT be allowed use of binoculars/range finders on ranges and electronic devices will NOT be allowed during any portion of the competition.

I look forward to meeting you in Grand Island! If you should have questions, you may contact me at 660-341-9401 or e-mail tcmlcoy@gmail.com.

Tim Coy

Hunting Skills Chief Range Officer