

Guidelines for Handling Firearms on 4-H Ranges

It is the responsibility of each and every person to insure that our programs continue the high standards of safety and continues to serve as great education tool for young people interested in the sport of shooting. This not only includes the 4-H'ers and coaches, but parents as well.

- 1) When firearms are brought to and from the 4-H range, they should be case and the actions should remain open where applicable. When firearms are brought to the range in a different manner, the SAFE Development Committee suggests that a young person should not be allowed to participate in the day's activities.
- 2) Please communicate to parents that it is their responsibility to check and insure that all firearms are unloaded and cased before coming to the range. In event that a firearm arrives at the range with ammunition in the magazine or chamber, the firearm should be made safe and returned to the parent. Coaches and county Extension Staff members should work together to determine the appropriate action be taking regarding the future participation of the 4-H.
- 3) When firearms arrive at the range, coaches (not parents or 4-H'ers) should uncase all firearms and check to make sure that they are safe.
- 4) 4-H rules do allow for 4-H'ers to carry their own firearm to the shooting line at the discretion of the coaches. However, ammunition should be controlled by the coaches and made available only when it is a 4-H'ers time to shoot. For modified trap, coaches should still hand shotshells one at a time to 4-H'ers. For Skeet, Trap and Sporting Clays, 4-H'ers should only have ammunition when it is their turn on the field and only enough ammunition to complete the round.
- 5) Before leaving the shooting station, it is the responsibility of both the coach and the 4-H'er to insure that the firearm in unload.
- 6) After completing the round, firearms should be returned to the rack or cased.
- 7) Please remind 4-H'ers and all adults that no one should every touch another person's firearm without permission from both the owner and an adult.