

**The Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program
2008 Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Postal League**

Changes and Their Intent - Some volunteers who have been involved in the program for years have been asking why the Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Postal League is not posted with the October newsletter. The answer is, "because the folks responding to our survey on postal leagues asked for a change". For the past several years we have had excellent sign-up rates with low completion rates for this match. The leaders commenting on the match have indicated that the fall-winter timing of the event is a problem. They are wrapped up in starting new shooters in the basics, and that is complicated by the many members who would rather spend their daylight hours in the field using their skills in hunting rather than on a range knocking down steel silhouettes, as much fun as that is. I have to admit that, I would rather be waiting on squirrel action in an oak bottom or watching a favorite deer crossing than shooting silhouettes, in spite of my enjoyment of the game. Field time is much more limited than range time. After discussion with a few folks, we have decided to try a winter-spring time frame for the match. The enrollment forms will be posted with the January newsletter with a January through March start date and a May 31 ending date with a 2 June postmark date. That will lead into the serious shooting season for rifle and pistol shooters, with the capstone at the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Games in July. My hope is that more of those who sign up will post scores giving us a more lively competition.

Registration - Enter your contestants' names and age classes on the registration form and duplicate it, keeping two copies and sending the **original** on or before 1 February 2008 to the

**Texas 4-H Foundation,
PO Box 11020,
College Station, TX 77843-1020.**

Make the check for entry fees payable to the **Texas 4-H Foundation**. Registration fees for the match are \$6.00 per shooter for entries postmarked prior to the entry deadline, and \$12.00 per shooter for entries postmarked after February 1. Retain the remaining forms making duplicate records of the scores fired by your shooters in the three matches. Note that the normal age classes apply with Seniors split into S1 and S2 groups if there are sufficient numbers. They will be lumped if the groups are too small. That decision will be made once all applications are received.

Deadlines - Registration forms must be post marked on or before **1 February 2008**. Score report forms must be **post marked on or before 2 June 2008**. Shooting for the match may commence immediately upon mailing the registration forms. We will not send confirmation of registration or any official report forms aside from what is listed in the newsletter.

Silhouettes - Standard 1/5 scale metallic silhouettes are used in this match. Scale drawings are available in the NRA Silhouette Manual or upon request from the Texas 4-H Office (we experience some distortion in copying the drawings, so the former source is a better one).

Age Classes - All ages are based on the age on 31 August 2007. Classes are as follows.

Junior	- 9 (or 8 and in 3 rd grade)-10
Intermediate	- 11-13
Senior - S1	- 14-15 We may divide or lump seniors in this program
Senior - S2	- 16-18

Courses of Fire - Juniors will shoot pigs at 40 yards and rams at 60 yards. Intermediates will shoot pigs at 40 yards, turkeys at 60 yards, and rams at 77 yards. Seniors, both S1 and S2, will shoot chickens at 40 yards, pigs at 60 yards, turkeys at 77 yards and rams at 100 yards. Each age group will shoot two banks of 5 targets at each distance for each match.

Time Limits - Shooters will have a 15 second ready period and a 2 ½ minute firing period for each bank of 5 targets.

Shooting Order - Targets must be attempted from left to right, one shot per target, starting with the left bank of targets.

Scoring - Any target knocked down or knocked off the stand in order will be recorded as a hit. Any target hit out of order **or** hit but not knocked down or off the stand **or** spun around but remaining upright is scored as a miss. Note that a target that was hit but held upright by its nose and a foot is considered hit under current rules. If a target is

missing for any reason, the shooter will take the next target in the order, returning to the first remaining target to complete the course of fire or being given a target as an alibi.

Coaching - Shooters may have a coach or spotter who may call shots, suggest corrections, or offer quiet verbal advice. They may not touch the shooter or any part of the firearm except in a situation where it is mandatory to maintain safety on the range. We strongly endorse having shooters spot for and score for other shooters.

Awards - The number of awards is determined by the number of shooters in each class. Awards will recognize top shooters in four age classes: junior, intermediate, and senior (S1 and S1). All participants completing the match will receive a 4-H Smallbore Rifle Silhouette patch in recognition of their participation in the match. Plaques will be awarded according to the following schedule of awards. No award will be given for a division with fewer than two entries. No more than 5 awards will be offered in the A Class, but shooters may opt out of Lewis classes (i.e. A class only) by checking the box so marked on the entry forms. Note that opting out does not mean that the individual will be ranked in the A class regardless of score, just that they will not be eligible for awards outside the A Class.

2 entries	1 award	46-54 entries	8 awards
3-6 entries	2 awards	55-65 entries	9 awards
7-11 entries	3 awards	66-75 entries	10 awards
12-18 entries	4 awards	76-85 entries	11 awards
19-27 entries	5 awards	86-95 entries	12 awards
28-36 entries	6 awards	96-105 entries	13 awards
37-45 entries	7 awards	106-115 entries	14 awards

Rules - The Texas 4-H Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Rules are based upon the current NRA Silhouette rules. The primary differences are in the courses of fire prescribed for the Junior and Intermediate age groups in the 4-H Rules. It is permissible for individuals to shoot in a higher age class if they so choose. This option is left solely to the shooter and does not impact any other match. Where conflicts in the rules occur, 4-H rules have precedence. Rules may be reviewed on line at the NRA web site.

Courses of Fire - All shooters fire ten silhouettes per distance in two banks of five targets each. Time allotments are based upon a 5-shot string on one bank of targets.

Juniors - Junior shooters shoot at pigs and rams at 40 and 60 yards or meters, respectively.

Intermediates - Intermediates shoot at pigs, turkeys and rams at 40, 60 and 77 yards or meters, respectively.

Seniors - Both **S1** and **S2** seniors shoot the standard adult course of fire with chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams at 40, 60, 77 and 100 yards or meters respectively.

Firearms and Ammunition - Smallbore rifles as described by the NRA Smallbore Rifle Silhouette rules may be used in this match. All ammunition must be lead or lead alloy solid point, .22 Long Rifle rimfire ammunition. Hollow points, hyper velocity loads, and .22 magnum, .20 caliber or 5 mm arms or centerfire arms of any type are not permitted.

For additional rules and procedures consult the synoptic 4-H Rifle Rules or the NRA Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Rules. This match operates under the "any safe rifle" rule as opposed to the sporting rifle rule.