

2023-2024 Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Postal League

What are Postal Leagues? Originally named “Postal Leagues” because the targets were mailed in for scoring via the U.S. Postal Service, Postal Leagues are a state-wide competitive shooting match in which participants can compete with others across the state without having to travel outside their home county. Participants complete their course of fire at the club practice over an extended designated time frame. Thus, allowing for greater flexibility of schedules and eliminating the cost of travel to an event. Following the close of the matches, scores are submitted electronically to the State Office.

Events include: 3-P Smallbore Rifle, Air Pistol, Archery, BB Gun, Light Rifle, Precision Air Rifle, Sporter Air Rifle, Smallbore Pistol, Muzzleloading Rifle, Muzzleloading Pistol, Trap, and Skeet. Participants may compete in as many events as their county/club will allow. All shooting must be supervised by a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach certified in the appropriate shooting discipline (Archery, Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, Muzzleloading).

Registration & Score Submission Instructions

(All Disciplines: Archery, Muzzleloading, Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun)

1. October 31, 2023-April 1, 2024: Complete Events

Review the event details, course of fire, scoring procedures, etc. for each event in which you are participating. Event information is available on the website: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/shooting-sports> then click the ‘Contests’ tab and scroll to the Postal Leagues section. Complete each event and document your scores throughout.

2. February 1-April 1, 2024: Official Registration/Payment AND Score Submission

\$10 registration fee per participant (first event) plus \$10 per event thereafter.

Have your scores and the name and email of your Certified 4-H Shooting Sports coach readily available for each event in which you participated. Login to 4-H Connect via your personal profile. Complete the event registration “2023-24 Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Postal Leagues Registration & Score Submission”. **PLEASE NOTE: You may only complete registration and score submission once. You must submit all scores for all events in which you have participated at the same time.**

3. Following Registration/Score Submission: Coach Review

Scores will be distributed to Coaches and County Extension Agents for review and any issues, incorrect entries, etc. will be resolved.

4. Following Coach Review: Results Posted & Awards Distributed

Results will be announced on the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports webpage, followed by posting to the facebook page. Awards and patches will be mailed to County Extension Offices for distribution. *Please understand that awards will probably not be mailed until August of 2024.*

For Information and Updates:

- Web: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/shooting-sports>
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/naturalresources



2023-20240... Postal Leagues General Rules and Event Specifics

General Rules

Eligibility: All 4-H members currently enrolled via 4-H Connect who are members of a 4-H Shooting Sports project are eligible to participate with the exception of those who are also members of a military or collegiate team receiving coaching.

All shooting must be witnessed by a minimum of two witnesses other than the shooter.

Record rounds must be declared before they are shot, not selected from a series of rounds after the fact.

Age Divisions:

1. Age Requirements

Youth may participate in 4-H year from September 1st of grade three through August 31st following completion of grade twelve, with these age restrictions:

- Minimum age - 8 (in addition to being in the 3rd grade)
- Maximum age - 18 (as of August 31 of the current 4-H year)
- Special education youth who are older than 19 and have not graduated from high school may participate in 4-H Youth Development programs as members, with approval by the county Extension agent. Participation is limited to the club or county level. County Extension staff have the option, on a case-by-case basis, to allow Special Education youth older than 19 to participate in competitive events at the club or county level.

2. Texas 4-H Member Categories

- Junior: Grades 3, 4, and 5
- Intermediate: Grades 6, 7, and 8
- Senior: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Scoring: Targets are to be scored by the range officer or their appointees. Scores and totals should be verified by each shooter. Any question of scoring should be resolved before official scores are recorded and reported.

NOTE: NO Orion scoring will be accepted. This is due to the fact that not everyone has the opportunity to have their targets scored by an Orion scanner. To be fair to everyone, we will not accept Orion scoring.

Tie Breaking Procedure: For all archery, rifle, pistol, and muzzleloading events, ties will be broken by highest number of 10's (total number of 10's, all 4 complete courses of fire combined). This information will be required when submitting final scores. For shotgun tie breaking, see the shotgun event information.

Awards: All contestants completing one or more events and submitting scores will receive a Texas 4-H Archery Postal League patch. After scores are compiled and tabulated by age division, scores will be posted and awards will be mailed to the County Extension offices of recipients. Awards will be given for 1st through 3rd in each age division in each equipment class.

Event Specifics

ARCHERY EVENTS

Equipment Classes:

- Bare Bow (longbow or recurve) – Bows may not be equipped with sights or sighting marks. Mechanical release aids, cushion plungers, peep sights, and kissers buttons are not permitted.
- Recurve – Bows may be equipped with a single sighting device, single pin, multiple pin, or hunting style sights; may not be equipped with string peeps or string marks for rear sights. Mechanical release aids are not permitted.
- Compound Aided – Bows may be equipped with magnified sights and stabilizers. Mechanical release aids are permitted. No laser or holographic sights permitted.
- Compound Unaided – Bows may not be equipped with magnified sights or stabilizers. Bows may be equipped with single pin or multiple pin sights. Mechanical release aids are not permitted.
- NASP- Genesis bows with no sights or sighting marks and no stabilizers. Mechanical release aids are not permitted. Only the stock (original) unmodified Genesis™ bow approved for NASP® may be used. The Genesis Mini, Pro, and GenX are not allowed for use. Only the original unmodified Easton aluminum 1820 arrows approved for NASP® may be used.

Courses of Fire: Each contestant will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire) per equipment class registered.

One complete course of fire consists of:

- Juniors: two ends of 6 arrows each at 20 feet and two ends of 6 arrows each at 30 feet
- Intermediates: three ends of 6 arrows each at 30 feet and three ends of 6 arrows each at 45 feet
- Seniors: four ends of 6 arrows each at 45 feet and four ends of 6 arrows each at 60 feet

Time Limits: Each end of 6 arrows will be allowed 4 minutes to shoot.

Targets: Official FITA 40 cm, five color targets must be used for the matches using a 10-1 scoring system from the inner ring to the outer ring.

Scoring: Targets are to be scored by the range officer or their appointees. Scores and totals should be verified by each shooter before arrows are touched or removed from the target. Any question of scoring should be resolved before any arrow is touched or removed from the target.

Score Cards: See the Score Cards section at the end of this document.

SHOTGUN EVENTS

Trap & Skeet

Equipment: any safe 20 or 12 gauge shotgun

Ammunition: 20 or 12 gauge shot shells not to exceed the standard maximum length of 2 ¾ inches

Courses of Fire: Each contestant must shoot the required number of targets for each event during the designated 2014-2015 Postal League match dates. The required targets may be shot any time, but they may not be repeated to better the score. If the shooter is entered in both trap and skeet, the targets for each may be shot on separate days.

- Junior: 150 targets (Six 25-shot matches)
- Intermediate: 225 targets (Nine 25-shot matches)
- Senior: 300 targets (Twelve 25-shot matches)

Breaking Ties: Ties for both Trap and Skeet will be broken by long runs from the front. We will use long run front (first target to first miss) beginning with match 1 and proceeding to the following matches consecutively until the tie is broken.

RIFLE EVENTS

3-Position Smallbore Rifle

Equipment: Any safe .22 rimfire rifle equipped with any safe trigger.

Sights: Metallic sights only

Firing Distance: 50 feet (indoor or outdoor)

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire).

- Juniors & Intermediates: 30 shots per course of fire, 10 shots in each position: prone, standing, and kneeling in that order.
- Senior: 60 shots per course of fire, 20 shots in each position: prone, standing, and kneeling in that order.

Time Limits: Prone-1 minute per record shot, Standing-2 minutes per record shot, Kneeling-1 ½ minutes per record shot.

If targets are posted for each stage, a minimum of 5 minutes shall be provided for each position change. Times are cumulative within the stage only, thus remaining time from one position may not be carried over to the next one.

If all targets are posted at the same time, a running time of 45 minutes for Juniors and Intermediates and running time of 90 minutes for Seniors may be used.

Targets: Official NRA/USA 50 targets

Light Rifle

Equipment: Light rifles include any rifle chambered for the .22 caliber rimfire rifle cartridge, having a trigger pull of at least 2 pounds and a total weight no more than 8 ½ pounds complete with sights, standard safety features and accessories. Adjustable butt plates may be used if they are fixed in the neutral position. Slings, palm rests, and Schuetzen type butt plates may not be used.

Sights: Any sights may be used, with the exception of sights that project an image on the target or operate the firing mechanism, as long as the total weight limit is not exceeded.

Equipment Classes: Must be designated by shooter prior to starting event. Scores will be submitted separately for each class. Participants may compete in both classes if they complete the course of fire twice (once for each class).

- Metallic Sights Only
- Any Sights-Metallic or Telescopic

Ammunition: Any solid point .22 rimfire short, long, or long rifle ammunition may be used.

Firing Distance: 50 feet

Shooting Position: Standing Only

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire). All shooters will fire 4 shots at each record bull on each target per course of fire.

- Juniors: 20 shots per course of fire
- Intermediates & Seniors: 40 shots per course of fire

Time Limits: Participants shall be allotted 1 ½ minutes of shooting time per record shot. Unlimited sighting shots are permitted within that time frame.

- Juniors will have 30 minutes for each target
- Intermediates and Seniors will be allowed 60 minutes running time or two 30 minute periods excluding the time required to make the target change.

Targets: Official NRA A-32 targets, using 5 of the 6 bulls for record shots and the 6th bull for sighting.

Precision Air Rifle

Equipment: Any safe .177 caliber air rifle

Sights: Metallic sights only

Firing Distance: 10 meters

Shooting Positions: Standing only

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire).

- Juniors: 20 shots per course of fire
- Intermediates: 30 shots per course of fire
- Senior: 40 shots per course of fire

Time Limits:

- Juniors: 45 minutes per 20 shot course
- Intermediates: 70 minutes per 30 shot course
- Seniors: 90 minutes per 40 shot course

Targets: Official NRA AR 5/10 targets

Sporter Air Rifle

Equipment: Any safe .177 caliber air rifle

Sights: Metallic sights only

Firing Distance: 10 meters

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire).

- Juniors: 30 shots per course of fire, 10 shots in each position: prone, standing, and kneeling in that order
- Intermediates and Seniors: 60 shots per course of fire, 20 shots in each position: prone, standing, and kneeling in that order

Time Limits: Time limits may be either one of the following with sighting shots included in the time constraints:

- 1 ½ minutes per record shot in the prone and kneeling positions, 2 minutes per record shot in the standing position
- Running time (all targets posted simultaneously) of 50 minutes for Juniors or 100 minutes for Intermediates and Seniors

Targets: Official NRA AR 5 / 10 targets

BB Gun

Equipment: Any safe, factory smoothbore BB gun weighing a total of six (6) pounds or less may be used.

Sights: Metallic sights only. Rear sights with eyecups and any hooded front sight that extends beyond the muzzle may not be used. Blinders are permitted.

Firing Distance: 5 meters

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire).

Each course of fire consisting of 10 shots in each position: prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling in that order.

Time Limits: One minute is allowed for each record shot, with the time allocated by position or as a total running time when multiple targets are hung at the same time.

Targets: Official NRA AR 4/10 target.

PISTOL EVENTS

Air Pistol

Equipment: Any safe .177 caliber air pistol.

Sights: Metallic sights only

Firing Distance: 10 meters

Shooting Positions: Each age class will use a prescribed shooting position:

- Juniors will shoot from a supported two-handed position at the bench using a sandbag or equivalent. Note that only the butt of the gun and/or the hands may be in contact with the sandbag. The arms may not touch the rest or any surface above the wrist.
- Intermediates will shoot from a two-handed standing position.
- Seniors will fire from the standard one-handed standing position.

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire).

- Juniors: 10 shots per course of fire, firing on three record bulls per course of fire and distributing the shots so two record bulls receive 3 shots and the third bull receives 4 shots.
- Intermediates: 20 shots per course of fire, 5 shots per bull
- Seniors: 30 shots per course of fire, 5 shots per bull, two targets per course of fire

Time Limits: To accommodate mixed age groups on the firing line, time limits will be the same for all age groups. A 5 minute period is allowed for unlimited sighting shots on an appropriately marked target or bull. After a 1 minute pause, each shooter will have 30 minutes to fire their course of fire of 10, 20, or 30 shots. If age classes are separated into different relays, allow 1 minute per record shot.

Targets: NRA B-40 10 meter Air Pistol Targets

Smallbore Pistol

Equipment: Any pistol (single shot or semi-automatic) or revolver using the .22 caliber rimfire cartridge with a barrel length, including cylinder, of not more than 10 inches, distance between front and rear sights of no more than 10 inches, trigger pull of at least 2 pounds, and functional safety features.

Sights: Any sights, including telescopic sights, may be used with the exception of sights that project an image on the target or operate the firing mechanism.

Equipment Classes: Must be designated by shooter prior to starting event. Scores will be submitted separately for each class. Participants may compete in both classes if they complete the course of fire twice (once for each class).

- Metallic Sights Only
- Any Sights-Metallic or Telescopic

Firing Distance: 50 feet

Shooting Positions: Each age class will use a prescribed shooting position:

- Juniors will shoot from a supported two-handed position at the bench using a sandbag or equivalent. Note that only the butt of the gun and/or the hands may be in contact with the sandbag. The arms may not touch the rest or any surface above the wrist.
- Intermediates will shoot from a two-handed standing position.
- Seniors will shoot from the standard one-handed standing position.

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot four complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire).

- Juniors: 10 shots per course of fire
- Intermediates: 20 shots per course of fire
- Seniors: 30 shots per course of fire

Time Limits: To accommodate mixed age groups on the firing line, time limits will be the same for all age groups. A 5 minute period is allowed for unlimited sighting shots on an appropriately marked target or bull. After a 1 minute pause, each shooter will have 30 minutes to fire their course of fire of 10, 20, or 30 shots. If age classes are separated into different relays, allow 1 minute per record shot.

Targets: NRA B-2 50 foot Pistol Targets

MUZZLELOADING EVENTS

General Rules (In addition to Postal Leagues general rules)

- A coach or other qualified person must observe loading operations.
- A pistol loading jig must be clamped to the loading table.
- No open powder containers except while measuring a powder charge.
- Pre-measured powder charges are permitted.
- Juniors and Intermediates may be assisted in loading by a qualified adult.
- Loaded firearms held at the cease fire command will be shot into the berm upon the command "Dump it in the hill"

Muzzleloading Rifle

Equipment: maximum charge of 60 grains of black powder or approved substitutes; patched round ball only.

Sights: Metallic sights only

Firing Distance: 50 yards

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot 4 complete courses of fire and submit four scores (one per course of fire); each course of fire consisting of 2 shots per bullseye, no sighting shots

- Juniors and Intermediates: 1 target, 10 shots per course of fire
- Seniors: 2 targets, 20 shots per course of fire

Time Limits:

- Juniors and Intermediates: 50 minutes running time
- Seniors: 90 minutes running time

Target: NMLRA 100 yard bullseye target (8 ring black)

Scoring: Highest scoring area touched by half the ball

Muzzleloading Pistol

Equipment: Single shot muzzleloading pistols using black powder or approved substitutes and patched round balls only, any caliber is permitted

Sights: Metallic sights only, front sight may be lengthened to place ball on target

Firing Distance: 25 yards

Shooting Positions: Each age class will use a prescribed shooting position:

- Juniors will shoot from a supported two-handed position at the bench using a sandbag or equivalent. Note that only the butt of the gun and/or the hands may be in contact with the sandbag. The arms may not touch the rest or any surface above the wrist.
- Intermediates will shoot from a two-handed standing position.
- Seniors will shoot from the standard one-handed standing position.

Courses of Fire: Participants will shoot 4 complete courses of fire submit four scores (one per course of fire); each course of fire consisting of two 5-shot strings, 10 shots total per course of fire

Time Limits: 30 minutes running time

Targets: 25 yard Muzzleloading Pistol Target

Scoring: Highest scoring area touched by half the ball

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service | Texas 4-H & Youth Development Program

Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program

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