

HUNTING SKILLS CHALLENGE

November 29, 2006

1. Decision Making.

The participant should be knowledgeable in the characteristics of all types of hunting and camping equipments. Such as Knives, Binoculars, guns, ammo, clothes and other equipment used in different hunting situation, participants will be given a scenario and asked to list items in order of best to worst. Participant will be given points for reasoning and deduction skills. Points will be awarded by a group of experienced judges.

2. Techniques.

Map & compass, Orienteering, blind construction, Fire craft etc. Participant asked to communicate their knowledge on a written exam or through a field demonstration. For example, identifying certain items on a map, taking bearings with their compass or close a triangle. Other demonstrations may include blind building, fire building, and shelter construction as facilities allow or course superintendent sets course. Scores are determined by point system.

3. Wildlife Identification.

Trail course may include up to 60 items of North American species that are legally hunted. Course can consist of mounted game, wings, tracks, scat, etc. Participants will be walking though a trail course. They may use binoculars, but no spotting scopes. They will identify items from 0 to 60 yards; item Id must be specific (like a golden eye drake cannot be Id as just a duck). Trail will be scored on point system. Identification may be done indoors and not as a trail.

4. Wildlife Management.

Written test can be based on The Hunters Guide, Colorado Hunters Education manual and other wildlife management resources.

5. Live fire course.

A) .22 hunting style rifle.

Open sights, maximum of 4 power scopes will be allowed. No bull barrels. Participants will shoot at 5 targets, 3 shots at each target. Target will be life size animal type paper targets, placed from 15 to 75 yards. Scores is based on vital zone hits. Point will be deducted for non-vital hits

B) Muzzle loader.

Bullet will be patched round ball. Maximum of 60 grains black powder or pyrodex; no triple 7 or other non approved powders. Targets and scoring system will be the same as 22 rifle. Half ball rule on scoring Open sights only.

C) Shotgun.

Sporting clay style, minimum of at least 3 presentations, 1 will be a rabbit. Scored as hit or miss. No 10 gauges shot size of 7 ½ or smaller

D) Archery

Targets will be 3D, shot with hunting style bows (compound, recurve, longbow) no bows with stabilizers over 6" long , no Broad heads, No scopes with magnification,, 2-5 shots per target pending amount of targets. Scoring the same as .22.

E) High power Rifle

SR's only. 50-200 yards (pending range. Hunting style rifles only, no bull barrels no magnums, factory ammo (No reloads). Scopes 3x9 or less, open sights, slings allowed, targets will be life size animal type. Scoring will be the same as 22 rifle. Silhouettes may be used in all 3 rifle games, NRA-NMRA sized silhouettes, for safety reasons RSO has final say on rifles & rifles ammo, (high power & 22 Pistol could be introduced in future)

Recommendations.

First year JR's 10 or younger may only shoot .22 rifle. For safety reasons, superintendents may chose to have other first year shooters shoot .22 rifle. It is our feeling that a first year shooters will have enough to learn with one discipline, let alone three additional disciplines. (Archery, Muzzle loader, Shotgun).

As in hunting, each of these areas is unique and could be different each year as the national match is different each year depending on different ranges and topography. Also, the amount of participants at the state match may differ each year changing the way a match may be conducted.

All 4-H rules would apply. We should use caution in trying to make this standardized as hunting is different every time we go. So our project should be a little different each year. Remember we are trying to teach youth hunting and outdoor skills, as well as, reasoning skills. Most important, is to have fun in a safe environment.

* Live fire course may contain shoot/no shoot scenarios. Points will be deducted for shooting at a no shot target.

*Written test would may include questions on Wildlife Management, written portion of Techniques, and Decision Making.