

MEMO

From: Nation 4-H Shooting Sports Committee

RE: Position on adding/expanding disciplines at 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship

For the past several years, it has been asked or suggested that National Committee add or expand disciplines at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship, specifically to have a “traditional class” in re-curve archery.

At this time, the National Committee will not be adding or expanding disciplines at the National Championship and would like to share the rationale behind that decision.

1. By adding a “traditional class” in re-curve archery, there is a concern that this will open the door to other disciplines wanting to add specific classes. Examples could include barebow for compound, open sites only class in any of the firearm disciplines, 16-gauge and under class in shotgun, etc. This would add a significant amount of time and cost to the event.
2. Every State Coordinator, Coach, and Competitor should be aware of the rules and what equipment is allowed at the National Championship. What type of equipment a competitor decides to use at the Championships is a personal choice as long as it falls within the rules. Not every competitor that attends the National Championships strives to be at the top of the podium. Some strive to obtain a new personal high score or goal, while others go for the experience and to represent their club and State.
3. 4-H is a positive youth development program that strives to teach individuals the desire to be the best they can be with the equipment they have or CHOOSE to use. In speaking with youth that attend and have been to the championships in the past, they don’t talk about how they shot, or the equipment they used, but about the experience they had and the friends they met. Members of the committee have heard, multiple times, youth with Olympic bow setups speak in awe to youth that shoot traditional style. Statements like “Wow, I am so jealous of how well you shoot. I could never shoot that well if I didn’t have my sights, clicker, stabilizer etc.” are heard yearly.

The Committee understands that some people believe it is unfair that competitors don’t all have the same equipment and therefor can’t “compete”. We believe that the definition of competition is an individual choice and the equipment does not make the champion. The dedication, desire, hard work, attitude, and how the competitor represents their sport, club, state and 4-H defines the Champion.