

RULES and ACTIVITIES MANUAL

19th Annual

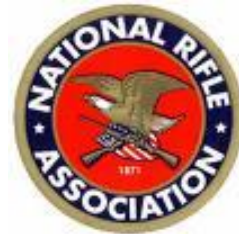
Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge

at the

AMERICAN SHOOTING CENTERS

Houston, Texas

May 14-16, 2010



Life's better outside.™



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******IMPORTANT NOTICE******

ALL YHEC PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ALL
EVENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONTENTS OF THIS PROGRAM

PREFACE

For many years, there has often been a void between the basic hunter education course currently offered in our State of Texas, as in many other states, and the need to further develop the skills and knowledge of young hunters. The National Rifle Association Youth Hunter Education Challenge program is designed to bridge this gap between basic and advanced hunter training. The State of Texas in recent years has begun to have a State competition for our youth.

The program consists of having a state level competition for junior and senior level youth that leads to an annual National NRA Youth Education Challenge. This program gives young hunters across North America an opportunity to build upon the foundation provided by their initial hunter education course.

The activities have been carefully designed to simulate hunting situations and test hunting knowledge and skills. Preparation for the Texas and NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge will provide hands-on experience for young hunters that will serve them in actual hunting situations and develop safer, more responsible hunters.

In recent years, over 30,000 young Texas hunters annually emerge from the hunter education program equipped with a basic knowledge of wildlife, game laws, and gun handling. The developments of local, regional and state youth hunter education challenge programs are what will enable perhaps hundreds of these young hunters to become involved. It is the "grass-roots" participation that will encourage them to further develop their skills and attitudes in shooting, hunting and wildlife management.

A vital key to the success of this program is the involvement of volunteer and professional hunter educators. Without their leadership and organizational ability, students cannot participate and the program will not succeed. The important role that the sponsors at local and state youth hunter education challenges play in the future growth and success of this program also cannot be stressed enough.

Participation in this program at any level will be a very positive learning experience for all young hunter education students. The opportunity for participants, volunteers and sponsors to take part in the youth hunter education challenge should be just a small part of the experience and not the main objective. The feeling of personal pride, accomplishment and satisfaction in showing knowledge and helping to develop safe, responsible young hunters will contribute immeasurably to ensuring a bright future for the sport of hunting in our great State of Texas and the rest of North America.

2010 TEXAS YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE OFFICIALS AND STAFF

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| TxYHEC Director- | TBA |
| Assistant Director - | Heidi Rao |
| Event Coordinator - | Peggy Weyel Home 210-696-9599 Cell 210-413-3912 or PWEYEL@SBCGLOBAL.NET |
| Volunteer Coordinator - | Peggy Weyel |
| Director –Archery Challenge - | TBA |
| Director – Hunter Exam Challenge - | TBA |
| Director – Muzzleloading Challenge - | Jose Garcia |
| Director – Orienteering Challenge- | TBA |
| Director – Rifle Challenge - | Joe Drobniak |
| Director – Shotgun Challenge - | TBA |
| Director – Skills Trail Challenge - | TBA |
| Director – Wildlife Identification | Clint Free and TPWD Game Warden (TBA) |
| Statistical Officer | Jeanette Hammonds |
| Contact For Entries | Peggy Weyel |
| Awards Coordinator | Duke Walton |
| NRA State Coordinator | Duke Walton |

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Friday, May 14, 2010

4:00 – 7:00 PM Registration and Check-in

Saturday, May 15, 2010

7:00 – 8:00 AM Final Registration at Challenge HQ-ASC Hall

7:30 – 8:00 AM Volunteer Assignments

8:00 – 8:15 AM Welcoming Ceremonies at Challenge Headquarters

8:15 – 9:45 AM Hunter Responsibility and Muzzleloader Exam

10:00 AM – 8:00 PM Challenge Events

12 Noon – 1:00 PM Lunch

Sunday, May 16, 2010

7:30 – 9:30 AM Completion of Challenge Events (if necessary) or Awards Ceremony

9:30 – 10:30 AM Awards Ceremony (if necessary)

Possible THEIA Meeting following Awards Ceremony

Once Challenge Events have been set, there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

THIS IS A TWO-DAY EVENT – PLAN ON IT!

QUALIFICATIONS

The Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge is open to any state organization that has a shooting sports program. Those who may participate include the 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Texas Hunter Education Program youths and any other youth groups involved in shooting programs. The Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the American Shooting Centers will co-host the 2010 Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

SITE LOCATION: American Shooting Centers
16500 Westheimer Parkway, Houston, Texas

ELIGIBILITY: PARTICIPATION IS OPEN TO TEXAS RESIDENTS ONLY.

All participants must have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course in North America and have proof of certification. Individuals are not required to have the same hunter education course, or to have taken the class from the sponsoring instructor.

Each individual attending the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge must have at least one sponsoring adult from the organization the group represented. The sponsoring adult will chaperon and instruct for the duration of the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Participants may be male or female.

All participants must have in their possession at registration to the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge the following (photocopies of each permitted):

A. Birth Certificate; and B. Hunter Education Certification Card

**IT IS PREFERRED THAT THESE ITEMS BE SENT WITH REGISTRATION,
BUT WILL BE ACCEPTED UPON CHECK-IN.
THESE TWO ITEMS ARE MANDATORY, THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

All individuals **MUST** participate in all events of the TxyHEC.

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL COMPETE SOLELY AS INDIVIDUALS

DIVISIONS:

1. **Junior Division** (14 years of age and under)
Participants age 14 years of age and under on or before August 1, 2010.
2. **Senior Division** (15 through 18 years of age)
Participants age 15 through 18 years of age on or before August 1, 2010.

SPECIAL NOTIFICATION: If a participant turns 19 years of age during the calendar year 2010, they must be enrolled in high school for the full school year of 2009-2010 to be eligible for participation in the 2010 Youth Hunter Education Challenge Program.

REGISTRATION

A participant's pre-registration must be received by the State Contact for entries postmarked no later than April 30, 2010 with the accompanying registration fee.

Registration forms will have all items complete for each participant. Late and on-site registration will be accepted, as space is available. On-site registration and check-in will begin on Friday afternoon, May 14, 2010 from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the ASC Hall at the American Shooting Centers (look for the THEIA banner) and from 6:45 AM to 7:30 AM on Saturday morning, May 15, 2010.

Pre-registration forms/entry fees will be sent to:

**Peggy Weyel
13502 Syracuse Street
San Antonio, Texas 78249-1722**

For information: 210-696-9599 210-413-3912 (cell) or PWEYEL@SBCGLOBAL.NET

ENTRY FEE

Entry fee will be \$20.00 per participant if registrations are postmarked on or before April 30, 2010. Registrations postmarked on or after May 1 will be \$25.00 per participant.

The registration fee will cover awards, shotgun targets, keepsakes, and entry packet, and lunch for youth.

Checks for entry fees should be made payable to:
"THEIA – YOUTH CHALLENGE"

CANCELLATIONS

The registration fee is non-refundable.

LUNCH

For all parents and guests lunch may be purchased at \$8.00 per meal.

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

- A. Safety will be the first and foremost consideration during all YHEC activities.
- B. Participants, coaches and spectators assume all risk of personal injury or property damage as noted on the required release form accompanying registration materials.
- C. Participants violating any safety rule as established within these program rules and regulations will be given one warning and face disqualification from further participation should a second infraction occur. If the safety violation is severe, the participant may not be given a warning.
- D. Participants provide their own firearms, ammunition, muzzleloader supplies and equipment, bows and arrows, compasses, and eye and ear protection.
- E. Individuals may not participate for one another in any activity.
- F. Participants are expected to exhibit behavior above reproach at all times. **All participants and parents/guardians must sign**
 - a release regarding program regulations.
 - a code of conduct before the event.
- G. **All participants and coaches are required to wear blaze orange cap and vest while participating in events, except when noted.**

The orange vest is not required during the shotgun event when the participant is fully within the shooting cage.
- H. Participants and their coaches will be responsible for the safe storage of their firearms when not in use. Firearms will be stored unloaded in a hard case.
- I. All ammunition will be stored separately from firearms in a locked case.

TIME LIMITS and POSSIBLE POINTS

EACH EVENT IS LIMITED TO 50 MINUTES

EACH EVENT HAS A POSSIBILITY OF 300 POINTS PER PARTICIPANT

CODE OF CONDUCT

Program regulations governing conduct for all attendees at the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge: staff, participants, coaches, volunteers, spectators, etc., with the following **regulations and conduct codes are to be adhered to at all times during the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge.**

It is understood that each participant will:

1. Always follow NRA's rules of firearms safety.
2. Participate fully in all activities.
3. Know and follow all local, state, and federal laws.
4. Know and follow all rules pertaining to the event(s) in which you are participating.
5. Respect others and their property at all times.
6. Exhibit high moral and ethical standards.
7. Notify administration when situations occur that require attention.
8. Always dress in appropriate attire. Recognizing publicity attracted by the NRA and the IHEA programs, it is important to promote a positive image for the hunting and shooting sports. Clothing worn during the YHEC should be tasteful and appropriate for this type of event. Articles of clothing featuring controversial, questionable or offensive illustrations, slogans or language are prohibited.

It is further understood that staff, participants, coaches, volunteers and/or family members are PROHIBITED from:

1. Possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages, and/or illegal drugs/narcotic substances or any tobacco products during the YHEC program.
2. Keeping ammunition in their housing units/areas.
3. Going to, observing, and/or evaluating an event before actual participation.
4. Videotaping, taking still photographs, or written, recorded notes with the intent of showing participants (and/or coaches, non-participants, spectators), event layouts.
5. Using physical gestures and/or electronic equipment (i.e. cell phones, walkie-talkies, pagers, two-ways or other messaging/communications equipment) with the intent of assisting individuals participating in events.
6. Coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator area(s).
7. Participants are prohibited from having person communication devices (cell phones, Blackberries, personal radios, etc.)

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the activity.

EVENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

HUNTING ARCHERY CHALLENGE

1. Hunting Archery Challenge Participants will move through a field archery course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while bowhunting.
2. The Hunting Archery Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at targets varying in distance. Targets will be either Life-size Game Targets or 3-D game targets with scoring areas directly over the vital areas of the animal.
3. Maximum distance: 30 yards.
4. Time limit: 45 seconds will be applied at each station.

NOTE: MISSED SHOTS - ARROWS WILL NOT BE RETRIEVED UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE YOUTH CHALLENGE. Therefore, it is recommended that each participant bring enough arrows – see below.

5. Scoring. Each participant will shoot a total of 30 shots. (The Archery Director will have the discretion of applying only 15 shots each worth 20 points). All shots breaking or touching the vital area will be counted as a "hit." Challenges must be made on the range before the next arrow is pulled. All arrows must have either glue on or screw in target or field points. The Hunting Archery Challenge has the maximum possibility of 300 points.

Archery and Equipment

Required

Shooters may use only one bow for this activity (**exception** - bow malfunction).

Permitted

- a. Only hunting-type compounds, recurves or long bows will be permitted.
- b. Bows may be equipped with hunting-type sights.
- c. Self-adjusting sights (i.e. Sightmaster).
- d. **There are no minimum or maximum draw weight restrictions.**

Prohibited

- a. Extended sight bars that measure farther than six inches from the back of riser of bow to front of sight.

Prohibited (continued)

- b.** Manually adjustable sights may have no more than six sight pins or be adjusted to more than six sight positions
- c.** More than one stabilizer
- d.** Stabilizers over twelve inches
- e.** Range finders
- f.** Crossbows
- g.** Broadhead hunting tips
- h.** Arrow shafts that do not have target or field points
- i.** Sights that have lens with or without magnification
- j.** Shocker Points
- k.** Bludgeon Points

HUNTER RESPONSIBILITY EXAM

1. Hunter Responsibility Exam participants will complete a written examination that includes 60 objective questions (multiple choice, true or false or fill-in-the-blank).

NOTE: The exam will also be read aloud to accommodate participants with specific learning requirements.

2. The Hunter Responsibility Exam consists of broad-based hunting and conservation information. The following publication will serve as a reference text: NRA's *The Hunter's Guide*. (Ordering information may be obtained by contacting the NRA Hunter Services Department, 703-267-1523.)
3. Scoring. Participants will be asked to answer all or as many questions possible in the allotted amount of time. Participants must answer all test questions with no assistance from other participants, written materials or coaches. Students will have 60 minutes (one hour) to complete the test. Correct answers are worth five points; incorrect answers are worth zero points. The Hunter Responsibility Exam will consist of 60 questions, with a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Prohibited

- a. Hunter education books
- b. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials
- c. Communications between the participants, coaches or other individuals while taking the exam.

HUNTING MUZZLELOADER CHALLENGE

Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge NOTE: ***Smoking prohibited on this venue. No open cans of powder on the firing line or loading bench.***

1. Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge participants will shoot the muzzleloader course in a natural setting. The course may be designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while hunting.
2. The Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge will be conducted with participants shooting at NRA-approved action, **retractable metal targets** or NRA Life-Size Paper targets varying in distance, with scoring areas determined by type of target(s) used. **On retractable metal targets, a target knock down will count as a hit.** Participants will shoot from three positions. A participant will be allowed 15 minutes per position with the complete course to be fired in 45 minutes. This time period does not include breaks between shooting position (short, medium and long range.) Time will be at the discretion of the Event Director. The Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge will also include a written test (see 3. *Scoring* portion of this event section).
 - a. Position one (1) - (short range) may have a distance of 35 yards or less. Participants will shoot from a standing position with no props permitted at these distances or position.
 - b. Position two (2) - (medium range) may have a shooting distance of 50 yards or less. Participants may use any shooting position (excluding prone).
 - c. Position three (3) - (long range) may have a shooting distance of 75 yards or less. Participants may utilize any shooting position and available props. *Props to be utilized will be at the discretion of the Event Director.*
3. **Scoring** - Participants will shoot a total of five (5) shots worth ten (10) points, at each of three (3) positions totaling 15 rounds and a possible total of 150 points for the **shooting portion** of the event.

Participants will take a written test that will consist of thirty (30) true or false questions relating to the safe use and maintenance of muzzleloading firearms. Each question will be worth five (5) points for a possible total score of 150 points for the written portion of the event. (Reference guide information: NRA *The Hunter's Guide* and/or TPWD Hunter Education Student Manual.

The Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Muzzleloaders and Equipment

- **Participants MUST furnish their own projectiles, patches, powder, primer caps, and all accessories such as bullet puller, ramrods, etc.**
- **Any lead bullets designed for muzzleloaders will be allowed except jacketed bullets and/or sabots will NOT be allowed**

Required

- a. Shooters may use only one muzzleloader rifle throughout this activity (**exception** - muzzleloader malfunction).
- b. Ear and eye protection will be worn at all times inside the firing range unless specified differently by the Director.**

Permitted

- a. Muzzleloaders may have a set trigger, not to be set until ready to fire.
- b. Muzzleloaders may be equipped with sporter type thumbhole stocks (non-adjustable).
- c. Muzzleloaders may also be equipped with a sling not to exceed 1 1/2 inches (3.81 centimeters) in width.
- d. Muzzleloaders will have open sights.
- e. Muzzleloaders may be loaded with single projectile patched balls or pure lead bullets.
- f. Each participant will be required to load their own firearm without assistance, excluding starting the ball, if necessary.**
- g. Participants are to use their own accessories, however all accessories must be inspected by Event Director prior to participation. Caps to be used must be presented to range officials in a capper.
- h. Participants are allowed to use black powder substitutes (i.e. pyrodex).
- i. A non-padded ground cover, with approval of the event director, will be permitted. The purpose is to protect the participant from dirt, mud or water.**

Prohibited

- a. Shooting mats
- b. Binoculars, monoculars, spotting scopes or telescopic sights (optical devices)
- c. Range finders
- d. Open cans and/or dispensers of powder on the line
- e. No more than 60 grains ignition components by volume
- f. Pure lead bullets/balls weighing more than 385 grains
- g. Peep sights
- h. Kneeling rolls
- i. Adjustable competition sling swivels
- j. Any smokeless or nitro cellulose-based powder
- k. Muzzleloaders larger than .54 caliber
- l. More than one shooting position per shooting sequence
- m. Wooden ramrods
- n. Metal-jacketed bullet sabots

Shooting Procedures - Participants only will be allowed on the station or firing line while shooting each station. The score judge or range officer will oversee firing line, loading bench and the participant as required. The participant will shoot his/her quota of rounds and return the gun to the bench. This sequence is repeated for each participant until all have completed the activity. Participants will be allowed to dry patch and cap, if necessary, after every fourth shot. The score judges or range officers only will be responsible for capping all muzzleloaders. Percussion caps will be presented to the Event Director by the coach. The Scoring Judge will issue caps to the shoot at the firing line when individual is in position to shoot.

Crossfires

Paper Targets

If a participant's target has been shot more than the rounds fired by that participant, the target has been "cross fired."

1. Event Director must determine that the crossfire was unintentionally caused (with no malicious intent) by participants on the firing line. If this is established, the cross-fired target will receive the total score of rounds inside the scoring area (not to exceed the maximum score for that round of shooting). *The participant committing a crossfire act will only be scored for the amount of rounds inside their actual target's scoring areas.*
2. Should the Event Director find that cross firing was an intentional act by participants to gain unfair advantage, all parties involved will be immediately disqualified from the event with a score of 0.

Crossfires (continued)

Metal Targets

If a participant target has been knock down by another participant, a cross fire has occurred. The participant unintentionally firing the crossfire will get a score of zero (0) for that shot. The participant that was cross fired upon will get to shoot his respective target once it has been reset.

HUNTING ORIENTEERING SKILLS CHALLENGE

1. Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge Participants will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of outdoor skills by completing a written test and accomplishing field compass skills at pre-determined outdoor stations. **NOTE:** Time limits may be applied to each task.
2. The Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge will be conducted with participants taking bearings with their compass. Participants may also be asked to close a triangle, identify map symbols, or define words (i.e. contour lines, scale, or declination).

Participants may be asked to describe how nature provides individuals with different directions of travel (north, south, east and west, etc.). These situations, as well as others, may be used in the Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge (not to be announced before the program).

3. Scoring. Participants will be asked to demonstrate compass skills and complete written, map and field questions. The Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge has a possibility of 300 points.
4. Only compasses may be used on the Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge course. The information for this event has been taken from NRA's *The Hunter's Guide* (see Section V, E. 2 for ordering information), the U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Geological Survey *Topographic Map Symbols* publication - ISBN 0-607- 84384-5 (contact 1-800-USA-MAPS for ordering information), *The Backcountry Classroom* by Jack Drury and Bruce F. Bonney, *Compass and Map Navigator Book - The Complete Guide to Staying Found* by Michael Hodgson. (These Nexus publications as well as other orienteering resource materials, may be purchased through The Brunton Co., 620 East Monroe Avenue, Riverton, WY 82501 - 800-443-4871), *Be Expert With Map And Compass – The Complete Orienteering Handbook* by Bjorn Kjellstrom. (This Silva Compass publication may be purchased through Johnson Camping, P.O. Box 966, Binghamton, NY 13902, or by calling 1-800 847-1460.)

Prohibited

- a. Calculators
- b. Orienteering books
- c. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials
- d. Electronic equipment including electronic or battery-operated compasses
- e. Communications between the participants, coaches or other individuals while on the course. Such communication may be verbal or graphic and include the use of any number of devices including cell phones, walkie-talkies, pagers, two-ways or other messaging and communications equipment)
- f. **Tripods or other means of support for compass**

LIGHT HUNTING RIFLE CHALLENGE

1. Light Hunting Rifle Challenge participants may move through a rifle field course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while hunting.
2. The Light Hunting Rifle Challenge will be conducted with participants shooting at NRA Life-Size Paper or NRA-approved action targets varying in distance, with scoring areas determined based upon type of target (s) used. Participants will shoot from three positions.
 - a. Position one (1) (short range) may have a distance of 30 yards or less. Participants will shoot from a standing position with no props permitted at these distances.
 - b. Position two (2) (medium range) may have a distance of 60 yards or less. Participants may use any shooting position (excluding prone) with the vertical post prop as the only aide.
 - c. Position three (3) (long range) may have a distance of 75 yards or less. Participants may use any shooting position and utilize any available props.
3. Scoring. Each participant will shoot a total of 30 shots. All shots on metal targets that result in a target knock-down will be counted as a “hit” and only one “hit” per shot. A participant will be allowed seven minutes per position with the complete course to be fired in 21 minutes. This time period does not include breaks between shooting positions (short, medium and long range.) The Hunting Rifle Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.
4. **Time. Each participant will have 7 minutes to complete each position.**

Rifles and Equipment

Required

- a. Participants may only use one rifle throughout the activity.
(**exception:** gun malfunction).
- b. **Participants will furnish their own standard, .22 caliber, long rifle cartridges. These cartridges will be placed in the hands of the Event Director before the event.**

Permitted

- a. Only standard type .22 caliber rifles designed primarily for hunting will be permitted.

Permitted (continued)

- b. All action types, excluding fully automatic, will be permitted. The rifle may not exceed eight pounds-eight ounces (8.8) in weight without a sling and must have a minimum trigger pull of two pounds (907 grams).
- c. Rifles may be equipped with a hunting sling not to exceed 1 1/2" (3.81centimeters) in width.
- d. Rifles may also be equipped with sporter-type thumbhole stocks (non-adjustable).
- e. Sights will be open, peep with standard front post and bead, or hunting scopes, fixed or variable power optics nine power or less. All ammunition used in this activity will be .22 caliber long rifle cartridges.

Prohibited

- a. Clothing with added padding, stiffness or shirt cup designed to assist shooter in remaining steady
- b. Shooting mats
- c. Adjustable competition sling swivel
- d. Kneeling rolls
- e. Competitive thumbhole stocks
- f. Palm rests or forearm of stocks exceeding 2 1/4 inches wide or 2 1/4 inches deep as measured from the center line of the bore
- g. Scopes, fixed, or variable power optics with capabilities **greater** than nine power. **NOTE: Taping of scopes will not be allowed.**
- h. Range finders
- i. Peep sights with rear aperture less than two millimeters
- j. Binoculars, monoculars, or spotting scopes
- k. More than one shooting position per shooting sequence
- l. Shooting sticks

Crossfires

If a participant's target has been shot more than the rounds fired by that participant, the target has been "cross fired."

1. Event Director must determine that the crossfire was unintentionally caused (with no malicious intent) by participants on the firing line. If this is established, the cross-fired target will receive the total score of rounds inside the scoring area (not to exceed the maximum score for that round of shooting). The participant committing a crossfire act will only be scored for the amount of rounds inside their actual target's scoring areas.

Crossfires (continued)

2. Should the Event Director find that cross firing was an intentional act by participants to gain unfair advantage, all parties involved will be immediately disqualified from the event and given a score of 0.
3. Metal Targets If a participant's target has been knocked down by another participant, a crossfire has occurred. The participant unintentionally firing the crossfire will get a score of zero (0) for that shot. The participant that was crossfired upon will get to shoot his/her respective target once it has been reset.

MATS and GROUNDCOVERS

A non-padded ground cover, with approval of the event director, will be permitted. The purpose is to protect the participant from dirt, mud, or water.

HUNTING SHOTGUN CHALLENGE

1. Hunting Shotgun Challenge participants may move through a multiple station Hunter's Clays course. This course is not patterned after conventional skeet and trap shooting, but is designed to simulate hunting conditions and situations. The layout will vary depending on the available topography. Shooting stations could make use of available cover to best depict running animals, bird flight and shooting obstacles.
2. The Hunting Shotgun Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at clay targets. Sizes of the clay targets may vary depending on different situations.
3. Scoring. Each participant will shoot a total of 30 shots, each worth 10 points for a hit (broken target) and zero points for a miss (lost target). The Hunting Shotgun Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Shotguns and Equipment

Required

Participants may only use one shotgun throughout the activity, (**exception** - gun malfunction).

Saf-T-Plugs will be provided to participants and **must** be used in participant's shotgun to show it is in a "safe" condition when out of the gun case and not in use.

Permitted

Any 12- or 20- gauge shotgun will be permitted.

Double targets will be thrown in some instances; therefore the shotgun should be capable of holding two shells.

Only factory-loaded **low brass target shells** with shot size between 7 ½ and 9 (inclusive) will be permitted. It will be the responsibility of the participant/coach to provide this ammunition to the event officials prior to the activity.

Prohibited

- a. Release triggers
- b. Shot size larger than 7 1/2
- c. Shot size smaller than 9
- d. Ventilated rib greater than 1/2 inch in height or width

Shotgun Shooting Rules –

- a. Safety and courtesy are first in gun handling; therefore, all guns will be carried unloaded and with actions open.
- b. **Resting shotgun barrel on toe will constitute a safety violation.**
- c. Shotguns, shotguns with choke tubes as well as shotgun barrels are not to be changed during the shotgun activity. Participants may use only one shotgun throughout the activity (*exception* - shotgun malfunction).
- d. Cheek stocks or butt plates may be adjusted (taped) prior to event orientation. No further adjustments will be allowed once competition has begun.
- e. Any shotgun in good, safe working condition will be allowed.
- f. Double targets will be thrown in some instances; therefore the shotgun should be capable of holding two shells.
- g. Ammunition in low brass target loads will be used by every participant. Only factory loaded target ammunition will be allowed.
- h. **Ammunition will NOT be provided by the event sponsor.** All participants will have to furnish their own **factory-loaded ammunition**. These shells must be placed in the hands of the Event Director before the activity is started.

Shooting Procedures

Each participant may or may not be allowed to see one legal target from each trap prior to shooting the activity at the station. Only participants will be allowed on the station or firing line while shooting each station. The score judge or range officer will hand shells to the participant as required. The participant will shoot his/her quota of targets and return the gun to the rack. This sequence is repeated for each participant until all have completed the activity.

The "ready position" in calling for the target requires the gun to be off the shoulder with the butt plate **below the shoulder level**. The firearm may not be shouldered until after the target is visible. In other words, in case of a delay pull, the participant cannot call for the target and immediately shoulder the gun. The participant must wait for the target to appear.

- a. Legal Target - whole clay target that is thrown from the trap in a prescribed pattern within the five-second time limit after the participant calls for the target.
- b. Illegal Target - Target broken by the trap or another obstruction. Illegal targets will be re-thrown for the participant, regardless of whether or not the participant fires at the target.

Malfunctions -

- a. The following occurrences will be considered malfunctions and new target(s) will be thrown:
 - 1) Ammunition malfunction
 - 2) Trap or trap operator failure

- b. The following malfunctions **will not be** allowed and targets will be scored "lost":
 - 1) Participant error
 - 2) Failure to load gun
 - 3) Failure of gun to fire (other than defective ammunition)
 - 4) Failure of gun to reload

- c. Should a gun break through no fault of the participant, another gun may be borrowed and the activity continued. However, if the breakage occurs during the firing at a target, and the target is missed, it will be scored as "lost".

SCORING

The State Event selected officials will do scoring. Only legal targets will be scored and the scorer will be sole judge of whether or not a target is broken. Officials may ask assistance from the trap puller or the range official if they feel their assistance is required.

The scorers will call "LOST" for any target they feel is missed. All challenges to the call must be made immediately by the participant. The scorer will then make the final decision with assistance from the trap operator and/or the range official.

Rule violations and procedure violations can be referred to the State Youth Challenge Director and his staff for settlement, but legality of targets and whether or not the target is broken is the responsibility of the scorer. Only targets with a visible piece broken off will be scored dead. Dusters or even birds deflected in flight (but with not visible breakage) will be scored **lost**.

Based on the scorer's judgment, if a target hits an obstruction such as a tree or limb of a tree before the participant has had ample time to fire at the bird, a new target will be thrown. However, if the participant has had ample time to fire in the scorer's judgment, and failed to do so before the target hits an object near the end of its flight and breaks, the target will be scored lost.

HUNTER SKILLS TRAIL CHALLENGE

1. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge participants will walk through a multiple station, pre-determined trail, designed to simulate actual hunting conditions and situations. Participants will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of hunter safety on this practical field course. **NOTE:** Participants may receive a YHEC hunting license (valid for YHEC Event only) and regulations at event check-in.
2. The Hunter Safety Trail Challenge will be conducted with participants moving from station to station with each situation varying greatly. Participants may be tested and scored on the "dos" and "don'ts" of firearms safety and "shoot/don't shoot situations" encountered in a hunting environment. Stations may include, but are not limited to, hunter game situations, target identification, landowner relationships, and safe gun handling afield. **NOTE:** Participants may be required to be knowledgeable of game laws and bag limits.
3. Scoring. Each participant may travel to 10 stations with each station worth 30 points for correct answers and zero for incorrect answers. **(A thirty-point penalty, per station, will be assessed if a participant violates safety rules.)** The Hunter Safety Trail Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Prohibited

- a. Hunter education books
- b. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials
- c. Communications between the participants, coaches, or other individuals while on the course other than the Event Director or volunteers. Such prohibited communications may be verbal or graphic and include cell phones, walkie-talkies, pagers, two-ways or other messaging and communications equipment.

WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION CHALLENGE

DESCRIPTION: Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge participants will walk through multiple station field and/or woodland course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate actual wildlife signs encountered while outdoors.

Participants may observe animal tracks, mounted (game or non-game) animals, and read and identify wildlife signs. Wildlife will constitute mounted or tanned hides, depending upon availability. Animal tracks may be original or molds made of prints. Other wildlife signs may be real or reproduced. Reference materials are:

- *NRA The Hunter's Guide*
- *TPWD Hunter Education Manual, Today's Hunter*
- *Field Guide to Eastern Birds*, by R.T. Peterson
- *Field Guide to Western Birds* by R.T. Peterson
- *Field Guide to Mammals*, by Burt C. Grossenheider

Bird and mammal books may be purchased through Houghton Mifflin Company, Wayside Road, Burlington, MA 01803, or by calling 1-800-225-3362, or through Amazon.com.

SCORING: Participants may be asked to identify a maximum of 30 animals, tracks or wildlife signs.

PROHIBITED:

- a. Wildlife identification books, encyclopedias.
- b. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials.
- c. Electronic equipment.
- d. Communications between the participants, coaches or other individuals while on the course other than the Event Director or volunteers. Such prohibited communications may be verbal or graphic and include cell phones, walkie-talkies, pagers, two-ways or other messaging and communications equipment.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

Safety is Shooting's Most Important Rule

These rules provide for the efficient and orderly operation of the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC). Many local range regulations exist for one reason alone -- **SAFETY**. Others serve a dual purpose -- smooth range operation and safety.

It's your responsibility as a participant or as a YHEC official to become familiar with the rules and to know the meaning behind those that are safety-oriented.

Event Safety Rules

- A. Actions of uncased firearms must always be open except when on the firing line, ready to fire.
- B. Guns are only to be loaded **ONLY** after the Safety Officer's command to get ready to fire.
- C. Arrows will only be nocked on the firing line.
- D. All firearms must have a safety device with the exception of traditional muzzleloaders. The safety will remain on at all times except when ready to fire.
- E. All firearms will be pointed and bows drawn in a safe direction at all times.
- F. Know and obey all range commands. Arrive at each activity at least 15 minutes prior to relay time to receive activity orientation.
- G. Only one shell or cartridge may be placed in a firearm at a time, unless otherwise specified in the rules for the activity or by the Event Director.
- H. Participants must wear adequate eye and ear protection while on the firing line.
- I. Firearms and bows not in use should be placed in a gun or bow rack at the activity or stored in a secure place. The storing of firearms, ammunition and bows in vehicles is strongly discouraged. Those participants opting to utilize vehicles as a means of storage are solely responsible for their safekeeping. In the event that NRA provides on-site housing, **firearms, bows and ammunition will not be permitted in the housing areas.**

SAFETY IS SHOOTING'S MOST IMPORTANT RULE

These rules provide for the efficient and orderly operation of the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC). Many local range regulations exist for one reason alone -- **SAFETY**. Others serve a dual purpose -- smooth range operation and safety.

It's your responsibility as a participant or as a YHEC official to become familiar with the rules and to know the meaning behind those that are safety-oriented.

NRA Gun Safety Rules

The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling are:

- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

When using or storing a gun, always follow these NRA rules:

- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Know how to use the gun safely.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Protection of your sight and hearing are **YOUR** responsibility. Wear adequate eye and ear protection while on the firing line-as shooter, official or spectator.

To learn more about gun safety, enroll in a NRA safety training or basic marksmanship course, NRA hunter clinic or Texas Hunter Education class.

Archery Safety Rules

The fundamental rules for safe archery/bow handling are:

- Do not nock an arrow on the bowstring until ready to use.
- Always keep the bow with a nocked arrow pointed in a safe direction.
- Never draw a bow with nocked arrow until ready to shoot.
- Always keep field points or broadheads* covered until ready to use.

* **Broadheads prohibited** in the YHEC program.

When using or storing a bow, always follow these rules:

- Be sure the bow is safe to operate.
- Know how to safely use the bow and its equipment.
- Use only the correct arrows and equipment for your bow.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
- Store bows and other archery equipment so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
- Never dry-fire a bow.

Be aware that certain types of archery equipment and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Muzzleloader Safety Rules

The basic safety rules of Muzzleloading are:

- Use only black powder or Pyrodex
- Always point the muzzleloader down range or in a safe direction.
- Never prime or cap a muzzleloader until you're ready to fire.
- Never bring a loaded muzzleloader into your home, camp or vehicle.
- Never climb a tree with a primed or capped Muzzleloading firearm.
- Be sure the half-cock and full-cock notches are working properly before loading.
- Always wear shooting glasses and ear protection. Long-sleeved shirts protect your arms.
- Never smoke while shooting or loading or when near a powder horn or flask.
- Never load directly from a horn, flask or other container.
- Never leave a charged muzzleloader unattended.

CROSSFIRES

If a participant's target has been shot more than the rounds fired by the participant, the target has been "crossfire."

- The Event Director must determine that the crossfire was unintentionally caused (with no malice) by the participants on the firing line. If this is established, the crossfire target will receive the total score of rounds inside the scoring area (not to exceed the maximum score for that position).
- The participant committing a crossfire act will be scored for the amount of rounds inside their actual targets scoring area.

Should the Event Director find that the crossfire was an intentional act by participants to gain unfair advantage, all parties will be immediately disqualified from the event and will subsequently receive a disqualification score of "0".

CHALLENGES

Challenges concerning the value of shots as scored must be made immediately by the participant and will be resolved at each event.

When shot value scores cannot be determined between the participant and the volunteer score judge, the Challenge Director will make the final determination.

Only participants may challenge and all challenges must be made during the challenge period. (The challenge period is immediately before the next participant comes to the station or firing line or as outlined in the specific event regulations.)

TIE BREAKERS

Scoring ties for all individuals/teams per event, and overall will be broken. The following tie breaking criteria will be used in the TYHEC program:

In the event of a tie, the individual with the highest level of achievement in the Hunter Responsibility Exam will be declared the winner(s).

If a tie remains, the individual with the highest level of achievement on the Hunter Safety Trail Challenge will be declared the winner(s).

TIE BREAKERS (continued)

Should a tie remain, the individual with the highest combined level of achievement in the four (4) responsibility events (Hunter Responsibility Exam, Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge, Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge, Hunter Safety Trail Challenge), will be declared the winner(s).

The final tiebreaker will be based on a combined score of the four (4) shooting events (Hunting Shotgun Challenge, the Light Hunting Rifle Challenge, Hunting Archery Challenge and the Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge).

Should individuals tie in the Hunter Responsibility Exam, the tie breaking formula will start at the second criteria (Hunter Safety Trail Challenge).

ALIBIS

Only range, trap, target or ammunition malfunction will constitute an alibi. Alibis will not be allowed for firearm, arrow or bow malfunctions. In the event of a firearm or bow malfunction, participants may borrow a firearm or bow and continue the relay. No practice or sighting-in will be allowed for borrowed firearms once the Texas State Youth Hunter Education Challenge activities have begun.

PROTESTS

Protests are to be brought to the attention of the TxYHEC Director. If the individual receives no satisfaction, a written protest may then be submitted to the YHEC State Coordinator within two hours of the protest, for review, consideration and final decision.

Protests may only be presented by the Coach.

All decisions made by the program officials will be final.

WEATHER GUIDELINES

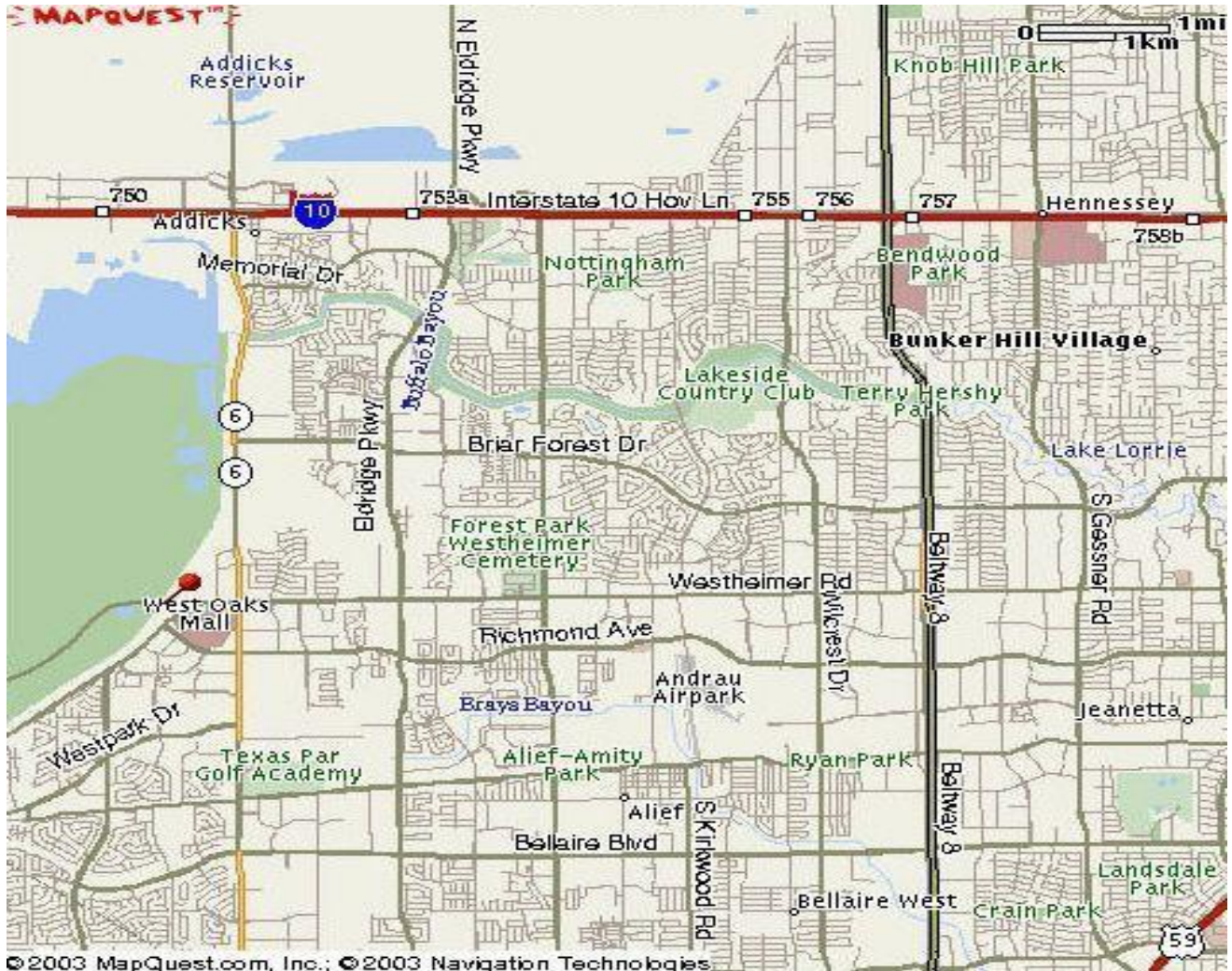
The following weather guidelines should be followed during all YHEC operations.

| Weather Conditions | Forecast | Wind Speed | Restrictions/ Event Delays |
|---------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| Good to Fair | Total Sunshine, mostly or partly sunny, mostly or partly cloudy, or cloudy | 25 mph and under | Normal Operations/ No Delays |
| Marginal | Mostly cloudy, cloudy with mist, showers, light rain, or rain | 25 mph and under | Operations may proceed. Delays will be at the discretion of the YHEC Director |
| Unfavorable | Predominately cloudy or cloudy with driving or heavy rain, hail, thunder and lightning, or tornado | Under or over 25 mph | Operations will be suspended. Attendees will seek shelter in a secure facility out of the elements. |

- When adverse weather has passed, operations will be reopened at the discretion of the YHEC Director.
- Once operations have been suspended, the YHEC Director may postpone scheduled events until the following day.
- Officials appointed by the YHEC director will convey communications between event directors concerning the suspension or reopening of events.
- When unfavorable (bad) weather is approaching, Event Directors should check with Operations Headquarters immediately for further directions.

DIRECTIONS TO THE YOUTH CHALLENGE SITE

The site for the 2010 Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge is:
American Shooting Centers
16500 Westheimer Parkway
Houston, TX 77082
(Phone: 281-556-8199)



DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From I-10, turn south on Hwy 6; go to the traffic light at Westheimer Road
Turn right and proceed 2 blocks to the next traffic light.
Turn RIGHT onto Westheimer Parkway; you will be entering George Bush Park.
Pass over the dam.
Continue 1 ½ miles further.
American Shooting Centers is on the RIGHT.

Registration and Check-in will be located in the Pavilion area:

Turn LEFT at the flagpole; park in the parking area to your left; look for the 2-story building.

TRAVEL and LODGING ACCOMODATIONS

All participants and volunteers will be responsible for all travel arrangements and expenses, including room and board, to and from the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge and throughout the Challenge.

Holiday Inn Express and Suites

281-497-9888
2205 Blarker Oaks at Hwy. 6
Houston, Texas 77077

Intown Suites

(281) 759-7065
3000 Highway 6 South
Houston, TX 77082

Scottish Inns & Suites

(281) 879-5544
8415 Highway 6 South
Houston, TX 77083

Palace Inn

(281) 988-9900
7777 Highway 6 South
Houston, TX 77083

Super 8 Motel

(281) 395-5757
22157 Katy Freeway, Unit I-10
Katy, TX 77450

Red Roof Inn Houston I-10 West

(281) 579-7200
15701 Park Ten Place
Houston, TX 77084

Drury Inn & Suites Houston West

(281) 558-7007
1000 Highway 6 North
Houston, TX 77079

Motel 6

(281) 497-5000
14833 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77094

Omni Houston at Westside

(281) 558-8338
13210 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77077

Staybridge Suites Houston West/ Energy Corridor Extended Stay Hotel

(800) 950-0424
1225 Eldridge Parkway
Houston, TX 77077

La Quinta Inns and Suites

281-656-9200
15225 Katy Expressway at Highway 6
Houston, TX 77094

List of Contributors

National Rifle Association

Texas Game Wardens

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association

American Shooting Centers, Inc.

Jim and Jeani Harris

Houston Gulf Coast SCI *First for Hunters*

Cabela's
World's Foremost Outfitter

All the Participants, Coaches, Parents and Volunteers

THANK YOU...

WE REALLY COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU ALL.

