

# PENNSYLVANIA 2009 Youth Hunter Education Challenge



## RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Scotia Range  
State College, PA  
June 27, 2009**

Pennsylvania YHEC Council  
Charles Fox, Chairman  
RR 3 Box 445 Troy, PA 16947  
Phone (570) 297-4642

Registration Fee \$15.00 per person

"WE RECOGNIZE TODAY'S OUTDOOR YOUTH AS TOMORROW'S OUTDOOR LEADERS"

## Program Statement

The goal of Pennsylvania's Youth Hunter Education Challenge is to provide our youth the opportunity to build upon the foundation provided by the Game Commission's Hunter Education Program. The program has been carefully designed to simulate hunting situations; thereby, further developing the knowledge and skills of safe, responsible hunting and interest in the shooting sports.

This booklet provides an overview of the 2009 Pennsylvania YHEC Program. Please note, these event rules are very similar to the National Rifle Association-International Hunter Education Association YHEC rules should you be selected to participate in the 2009 International event later in July. You will need to be familiar with and follow the NRA International Rules. State rules may differ from the International rules. NRA rules govern the International shoot. Coaches and competitors should be familiar with and follow all event rules.

### CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

#### I. EVENTS

- A. Archery
- B. Hunter Responsibility
- C. Wildlife Identification
- D. Rifle Shooting
- E. Shotgun Shooting
- F. Muzzleloading

#### II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Age – under the age 18 years inclusive on or before August 1st of the current year (See "V – Division" on page 2 for exception).
- B. Graduate of an accredited Hunter-Trapper Education Program.

#### III. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Must compete in all categories of competition.
- B. Must be accompanied by a certified HTE Instructor, or a PA YHEC Registered Coach, or a parent/guardian knowledgeable in shooting safety and ethics.
- C. Must abide by all PA YHEC rules and regulations.
- D. Must obey PA YHEC code of conduct
- E. Must submit the required registration form, a copy of a birth certificate and a copy of a Hunter Education Certificate prior to May 31. "DO NOT SUBMIT ORIGINALS!!"
- F. Must submit any other required forms or fees deemed necessary by the staff of PA YHEC.
- G. Late registration may be accepted with the approval of the YHEC Committee

#### IV. LEVEL

- A. Individual - A competitor not part of a team OR any member of a team.
- B. Team - Five (5) competitors, which may include an alternate, at the same age level competing as a formal group; except a junior level participant may compete on a Senior Team.

## V. DIVISION

- A. JUNIOR - Participants 14 years of age or younger (on or before August 1 of the current year) and have passed a certified hunter education course may enter the Junior Division. (Refer to section III for certification requirements)
- B. SENIOR - Participants 15 to 18 years of age on or before August 1 of the current year may enter the Senior Division. (EXCEPTION -- A 19-year-old full-time high school student may also compete as a Senior Level competitor). Must be in high school for the entire year.

## VI. RULES – GENERAL

- A. Must wear approved eye and ear protection devices while on firearm ranges.
- B. Must obey all specific event regulations as noted or posted.
- C. Competitors may not possess ammunition of any kind except when supplied by the Range Officer. (Refer to the "Rifle Shooting Competition rules for more information.)
- D. Only range, trap or ammunition malfunction will constitute an alibi. In the case of contestant equipment failure, similar equipment may be substituted to complete the event. The changing of equipment is prohibited at any other time.
- E. Ammunition for the shotgun and rifle events will be supplied by the PA YHEC Council. Contestants will be notified of brand and technical information in coaches' confirmation letter. Muzzleloaders and components will be supplied to those contestants not having their own equipment.
- F. Firearms must remain cased with actions open except when on the firing line, or going to/from applicable event. Actions will remain open until instructed otherwise by the range officer.
- G. Arrows must remain quivered except at a designated firing point. Arrows may not be nocked until the range officer's command.
- H. Challenges to any scoring or scoring technique may be made by the competitor only and must be made at the actual time of the disagreement. The range officer's decision will be final.
- I. Safety on loaded firearm must be engaged until instructed otherwise by range officer.
- J. Participant may only compete once in each event.
- K. In all range events, the designated range officer's decision will be final and binding.
- L. All common rules of sportsmanship and ethics will be followed.
- M. Must be dressed appropriately.

## VII. AWARDS -- Presented to first, second and third place winners in the following classes:

- A. High Overall - Individual Senior
- B. High Overall - Individual Junior
- C. High Overall - Team Senior
- D. High Overall - Team, Junior
- E. High Archery – Individual and Team, Senior
- F. High Archery - Individual and Team, Junior
- G. High Hunter Responsibility - Individual and Team, Senior

- H. High Hunter Responsibility - Individual and Team, Junior
- I. High Rifle - Individual and Team, Senior
- J. High Rifle - Individual and Team, Junior
- K. High Shotgun - Individual and Team, Senior
- L. High Shotgun - Individual and Team, Junior
- M. High Muzzleloader - Individual and Team, Senior
- N. High Muzzleloader - Individual and Team, Junior

## **VIII. SCORING**

- A. Each event carries a possible high score of one hundred twenty (120) points. High overall individual (junior and senior), and high overall team (junior and senior) carries a possible high score of 720 and 3,600 points.
- B. All ties will be broken as follows:
  - 1. First tie breaker - highest score in hunter responsibility category.
  - 2. Second tie breaker - highest combined score in archery, rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun categories.
  - 3. Third tie breaker - highest score in archery category.
  - 4. Fourth tie breaker - highest score in rifle category.
  - 5. Fifth tie breaker - highest score in shotgun category.

## **A. ARCHERY COMPETITION**

### **I. EVENT**

Participants will walk through a field course in a natural setting, shooting at three-dimensional animal targets with a scoring area marked over the heart/lung area of the animal. Distances will be unmarked and vary between five (5) and forty (40) yards.

### **II. EQUIPMENT**

#### **A. Bows**

- 1. Compound, recurve and long bows are permitted.
- 2. Shooters may not change bows except in the event of breakage
- 3. Bow may not have more than one (1) stabilizer
- 4. Stabilizers must not extend more than twelve (12) inches from the bow.
- 5. Participants must have their own bow - sharing of a bow will not be allowed.
- 6. Coaches will not be allowed to approach the targets; they must stand behind the lines at each station

#### **B. Arrows**

- 1. Arrows must be equipped with a field or target point similar in weight to a broadhead.
- 2. Archers should carry sufficient arrows to allow for loss and breakage. (a minimum of 6 arrows is recommended.)

\* Archers with only one arrow left will receive a zero (0) score for their second shot at each target.

### C. Sights

1. Any sights lawful for hunting in Pennsylvania (Except Optic Sights).

\*Sights may not have more than six (6) sight pins.

\*Sight bar may not extend farther than six (6) inches from the point of attachment to the front of the sight.

### D. Prohibited Equipment

1. Crossbows and similar bows
2. Range finders of any type
3. Binoculars
4. Broadhead hunting tips
5. Arrow placement guides or cards
6. Optic sights

## III. SCORING

- A. Archers will shoot one (1) or two (2) arrows at each target.
- B. Arrows will be scored before they are pulled from the target.
- C. Arrows will be scored similar to IBO standards 10 and 8 for the vitals with body hits scoring 5 on twelve (12) of the targets. For a total potential perfect score of 120.
- D. Any question on the scoring of an arrow must be resolved before the arrow is pulled from the target.
- E. Arrows must stick in the target in order to receive a score.
- F. Witnessed pass through shots will be scored as 5 (five) points.
- G. Arrows will be scored at the point where they enter the target.

## B. HUNTER RESPONSIBILITY COMPETITION

### I. EVENT

The Hunter responsibility Competition will be comprised of twenty- four (24) questions in the form of a written test.

### II. PROCEDURE

- A. All written questions will be taken from information found in the current Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter-Trapper Education Training Manual.
- B. Competitors will complete the event independently. However, an event staff person may read any of the written questions aloud, if requested by a competitor.
- C. A reasonable time limit will be set for completion of this event.

### III. SCORING

- A. Scoring will be based on a possible one hundred twenty (120) points. A correct answer will be worth five (5) points.
- B. An incorrect or incomplete answer will be given a score of zero (0).

## C. WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION COMPETITION

### I. EVENT

The Wildlife Identification Competition will be comprised of twenty-four (24) questions in the form of an identification exercise.

## II. PROCEDURE

- A. All wildlife identification questions will be limited to those species listed in the current Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter-Trapper Education student manual. Wildlife
- B. images, tracks, scat, sign, calls, mounted specimens or parts of specimens; such as fur, feather or bone may be used as a means to identify the species in the question.
- C. Competitors will view, handle or listen to the identification clue, then select the correct species from a work bank of common birds and mammals.
- D. Competitors will complete the event independently.
- E. A reasonable time limit will be set for completion of this event.

## III. SCORING

- A. Scoring will be based on a possible one hundred twenty (120) points. A correct answer will be worth five (5) points. An incorrect or incomplete answer will be given a score of zero (0).

## D. RIFLE SHOOTING COMPETITION

### I. EVENT

Competitors will be shooting at **swinger targets similar to what is used at Nationals** at distances varying from fifteen (15) to seventy-five (75) yards; at times, utilizing available props. Ammunition will be provided. Participants may provide their own ammo. Ammo must be given to the Event Director prior to the event. Coaches not participants are responsible for ammo prior to the event.

### II. EQUIPMENT

- A. Standard .22 caliber rim fire rifle designed primarily for hunting and capable of firing long rifle ammunition. All actions other than semi-automatic and automatic are permitted.
- B. Rifle may not exceed eight (8) pounds in weight without sling and must have a minimum trigger pull of two (2) pounds.
- C. A sling not exceeding one and one-half inches (1-1/2") in width is permitted.
- D. Standard high velocity or target ammunition permitted
- E. Participants may provide their own standard velocity or high velocity ammunition for the event. Coaches are responsible for the ammunition, not the participants. 22 ammo will be provided.
- F. Sights will be open, peep with standard front post and bead or a hunting-type scope of 3x9 power.
- G. Not permitted
  - 1. Clothing with added padding, stiffness or shirt cup designed to assist shooter in remaining steady.
  - 2. Shooting mats.
  - 3. Adjustable competition sling swivel.
  - 4. Kneeling roll.
  - 5. Adjustable stocks.
  - 6. Palm rests or forearm of stocks exceeding two and one-quarter inches (2 1/4") wide or two and one-quarter inches (2-1/4") deep as measured from the centerline of the bore.
  - 7. Scope or optics greater than nine (9) power.
  - 8. Range finders.

9. Binoculars, monocular or spotting scopes.
10. Coaching of shooters from the coaches or spectators is not permitted.

### III. SCORING

- A. Spinner targets with animal shapes will be used. Targets similar to these [animals](#) may be used, <http://www.payhec.org/22targets.pdf>
- B. The event will consist of twenty-four (24) shots with a highest possible score of one hundred twenty (120) points. Any hit that causes the target to flip over will score 5 points (Targets are orange on the back). Any shot that swings the target but does not flip it over will score 2 points. (The decision of the scorer will be final.)

\*THIS WORKED VERY WELL AT INTERNATIONALS LAST YEAR. COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS AT THE CLOSE OF THE EVENT.

## E. SHOTGUN COMPETITION

### I. EVENT

The shotgun competition will be shot similar to a hunter's clays course. Clay targets of various sizes to be presented to the competitor in various manners and styles.

### II. EQUIPMENT

#### A. Firearms

1. Any twelve (12) gauge or twenty (20) gauge shotgun in good working condition will be allowed. Since double targets may be presented, the shotgun should be capable of holding two (2) shells. Individuals using 16 ga., 28 ga or 410 ga. will need to provide their own ammunition.
2. Participants may use only one shotgun throughout the event. (Exception shotgun malfunction) Choke tubes and shotgun barrels may not be changed during the event.
3. Lenses, optics, and release triggers are prohibited. Sights that use natural light are permitted.

#### B. Targets

1. Both single and double (pair) targets will be presented.
2. Pairs:
  - a. True - target thrown simultaneously from the same trap.
  - b. Report - two sequential targets where the second target is launched at the sound of the gun firing at the first target. Targets may be launched from one or more traps.
  - c. Following - two sequential targets where the second target is launched at the thrower's discretion (within five (5) seconds) after the first target. Target may be launched from one or more traps.

### III. SCORING

- A. The event will consist of twenty-four (24) targets with a possible score of one hundred twenty (120) points. A "dead bird" is worth five (5) points. A "lost bird" is worth zero (0).
- B. Only targets with visible breakage will be scored "dead bird". Missed birds, "dusters", and birds deflected in flight will be scored "lost bird".
- C. Targets broken by trap malfunction or flight obstacles will not be scored regardless of competitor response. Identical targets will be re-presented. Targets broken by obstacles will be ruled as "No Bird" and re-presented only if the participant did not have a reasonable amount of time to shoot. Otherwise, it will be scored as a "Lost Bird".

1. In the event of a "No Bird" on a "True Pair", nothing can be established. Two good targets must be present to record the score.
  2. In the event of a "No Bird" on the second target of a "Report Pair" or "Following Pair", the first bird will be established as "Dead" or "Lost" and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair, the shooter must make a legitimate attempt at the first target.
- D. On site Scorers will call "Dead Bird", "Lost Bird". Scorers or Throwers can call "No Bird". Any challenge to a call must be made immediately by the participant. The scorer will make the final decision, with assistance from the throwers and range official (if available).
- E. The gun may not be shouldered until the bird is visible.
- F. Only the first shooter of the day at each station will be allowed to see a practice target. All other contestants are expected to learn the course of fire by observing the teams/shooters participating prior to them. This is necessary due to of the number of participants and limited time.

## F. MUZZLELOADER COMPETITION

### I. EVENT

Participants will be shooting from three positions at game targets. The target distances will vary from twenty (20) to seventy-five (75) yards, similar to actual hunting situations. **There will be one off hand shot at long range.**

### II. EQUIPMENT

- A. Only flintlock or percussion type muzzleloading rifles .54 caliber or smaller will be permitted.
- B. Muzzleloading rifles may have a set trigger, which is not to be set until ready to fire.
- C. Soft lead round ball or bullet. 350 grains maximum weight.
- D. Black powder or a black powder substitute will be permitted.
- E. Rear peep sites are permitted, nothing smaller than a two (2) millimeter aperture (0.078). Front site is to be a hunting site consisting of a bead or post. Globes, cross hairs or other target sites are not permitted.
- F. Not permitted:
  1. Scopes or telescopic sights.
  2. More than 60 grains of powder.
  3. Muzzleloader larger than .54 caliber.
  4. Metal-jacketed bullet.
  5. Smokeless powder or any powder containing nitrocellulose.
- G. Range personnel may load for participants that need help.

### III. SCORING

- A. Participants will shoot from various distances at wildlife targets.
- B. A total of six (6) shots will be fired. A "hit" will be scored as twenty (20) points. All "misses" scored as zero (0) with a potential total of one hundred twenty (120) points.
- C. The decision of the range officer is final.

## G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Tug of War
  - After all of the shooting events there will be a tug of war challenge for teams consisting of 5 individuals
    - Divisions
      - Junior
      - Senior
      - Coach (new this year)  
\*\*Please limit coaches teams to a maximum of two heavyweights
  - All participants must be registered PA YHEC participants or coaches
  - If one club does not have enough coaches, coaches from another club may be solicited.
  - All decisions of the tug of war coordinator are final
  - Any questions please contact Steve Petris at (570) 537-2257.

❖ **Scores will be posted on the website ([www.payhec.org](http://www.payhec.org)) the day after the event.**

- ❖ Practice weekend will be at Valley YHEC the weekend of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Camping available onsite. Motels are nearby. Details to follow. Refer to the Valley YHEC website for directions, <http://valleyyhec.com/> and click on the following link for the schedule:  
[http://www.payhec.org/International\\_Practice\\_Weekend.pdf](http://www.payhec.org/International_Practice_Weekend.pdf)

## PA YHEC 2009 SUPPORT

The PA YHEC Council will pay registration fee and travel stipend for the following:

1st place senior team - PA Senior Gold

1st place junior team - PA Junior Gold

The next five, top ranking individuals, less any on first place teams; on both senior and junior level these individuals will comprise the PA Senior Blue and PA Junior Blue teams.

Participants that qualify for the PA Blue Team must participate on the Blue Team to receive funding from the PA YHEC Council.

A stipend of \$250.00 will be provided for four coaches – the two PA gold teams and the two PA blue teams.

Coaches for the blue teams will be the coach of the 2nd place senior team and the coach of the 2nd place junior team from the state competition. If they decline, the committee will open it to volunteers, among the coaches.

### WEBSITES:

PAYHEC--<http://www.payhec.org>

National--<http://www.nrahq.org/hunting/youthed.asp>  
(applications may be down loaded from this site.)

Volunteers are vital to the success of this program. Adults wishing to volunteer should complete a form prior to the event. Forms can be downloaded from the web site:

[http://www.payhec.org/Volunteer\\_Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://www.payhec.org/Volunteer_Registration_Form.pdf)

or obtained from Steve Kluk, 1041 Shoemaker Avenue,  
West Wyoming PA 18644, phone 570-693-3119.

We are in need of individuals with an EMT certification to Volunteer the day of the shoot. If you are interested and can help, contact Charlie Fox at (570) 297-4642