ARIZONA 4-H SAFE GUN HANDLING POLICY

Safety is critical to the Arizona 4-H Shooting Sports Education Program. This University of Arizona Policy establishes a uniform standard for safe gun handling. Shooting Sports Instructors are responsible for following this policy; instructor’s 4-H Shooting Sports certifications may be revoked for violations of this policy. Failure to follow this policy will jeopardize the instructor’s eligibility for legal defense and liability insurance coverage in the event of an accident and resulting damages. The safe handling practices described herein are in addition to the rules and practices described in the 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum.

Policy: the following safe gun handling practices are mandatory for all youth and adult Arizona 4-H Shooting Sports Education activities:

- No person shall touch or handle a gun when the muzzle is pointing in the direction of another person. This applies even if the action is open or the gun has a Clear Barrel Indicator (CBI) or Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) installed.

- No part of the body shall be rest on the muzzle. The muzzle shall not rest on any part of the body, e.g. resting a muzzle on the top of the foot.

- All guns shall be cased until directed by the instructor or range master to be uncased. The action shall be opened, empty condition verified, and magazine removed immediately upon opening the case. Rifles and pistols shall have a CBI, ECI, or marked ramrod installed upon opening of the case. The muzzle must be pointed in a safe direction before the gun is removed from or placed into the case.

- When not in use, uncased guns shall be placed so that the muzzle will be pointed in a safe direction when the gun is picked up. Guns may be placed in a rack holding the muzzle up or placed on a table or on the ground. If placed on a table or the ground, the area in front of the muzzles must be controlled so that the guns are handled only when no one is in front of the muzzles.

- Actions shall be open and an indicating device installed in all rifles and pistols at all times except during preparation, loading, and firing periods. The indicating device shall be installed during a cease fire when anyone is forward of the firing line.
  - Air guns shall use a Clear Barrel Indicator (CBI) per the latest Civilian Marksmanship Program National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules. CBIs shall be inserted from the breech end of the barrel.
  - Cartridge firing rifles and pistols shall use an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI).
  - Muzzleloading arms shall use a ramrod marked to show an empty condition.
• Shotguns shall be thoroughly inspected to make sure that the action is open and all ammunition is removed when not at the shooting position. Break-open shotguns shall be handled so that opening and closing the action is done so the muzzle is never pointed in an unsafe direction.

• Guns and live ammunition shall not be together except at a safe shooting range. Purpose made inert/dummy ammunition may be used for classroom demonstrations.

• Ammunition shall be loaded only during the loading and firing periods at a safe shooting range.

• All guns shall be secured to prevent unauthorized handling when not under the direct control of the instructor: when unattended, during transportation, or in storage. When secured, unauthorized handling requires intentionally defeating or circumventing a locking device.

Approved:

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Document History:

Reviewed at the June 11, 2010 4-H Shooting Sports Oversight Committee meeting.

Initial release June 14th, 2010.