



Pima County Hunting Skills

At the Pima County Competition, all Hunting Skills events will be based on the content of the following resources:

- 4H Arizona Shooting Sports Member Manual- Big Game Animals Booklet/ Ducks, Geese, and Swans Booklet/ Small Game and Furbearers Booklet/Upland Game Birds Booklet.
- NRA Hunters Guide: NRA Program Materials Center(nrahq.org)
- 2025-2026 Arizona Hunting Regulations

Other helpful how to references:

- Public Land Survey System
- “Be Expert with Map and Compass” by Bjorn Kjellstrom
- “Animal Skulls” (North American) by Mark E. Broch
- “Peterson Field Guides – A Field Guide to Mammals of North America” (4th Edition) by Fiona Reid

Competitors must provide:

- Eye and Ear protection
- Orienteering Compass
- Protractor(optional)
- Clip board, free of any writing(optional)
- Pens and pencils
- Water
- Sunscreen
- Suitable field clothing and footwear. Close-toed shoes required and long pants strongly recommended.

Prohibited items while competing:

- Cell phones/ smart watches
- Range Finders
- Eye/Ear protection capable of two-way communication.
- Range Finding Equipment
- Binoculars
- Field Guides
- Radios
- Electronic and/or Digital Compass

Shooting Equipment:

Only in case of malfunction may a competitor change firearm or bow during the activity. No Rangefinders or binoculars permitted. Competitors must provide their own archery equipment, firearms, and ammunition for the live fire-events.

Shooting Equipment must meet the following guidelines:

- **Rifle:** Any safe rifle meeting 4-H Minimum standards in .22 rimfire caliber; maximum weight including sights of 8.0 pounds with safe hunting triggers (at least 2.5 pounds). Scopes no greater than 6X. If variable scopes are used, they must be taped by the Range Officer before the beginning of the event at no greater than 6X. Range-finder reticles are not permitted. Standard velocity .22 LR ammunition or high velocity .22 LR ammunition is allowed... must be less than 1400fps. All smallbore rifles are required to use an ECI (Empty Chamber Indicator). A hunting-style sling no more than 1 ½ inches in width is permitted. This is the ONLY support item allowed. NO: Bipods, shooting sticks, Day packs, jackets, gloves, etc.
- **Shotgun:** 12 gauge or smaller, capable of 2 shots without reloading. Standard factory target or factory field loads of no more than 1 1/8 ounces of shot and shot no larger than #7 1/2. No hand loads.
- **Archery:** Recurve or compound suitable for hunting (no crossbows), drawing no more than 60 pounds with suitable arrows tipped with field points only (no broad head tips), are permitted. For Seniors, no less than 30lbs draw weight. Hunting style sights are allowed, to include single pin adjustable sights. Sights may only be

adjusted when it's the competitor's turn to shoot and complete within the announced time frame. Arrows to be carried in a quiver. Stabilizers are limited to a maximum length of 12 inches. Side stabilizers are not allowed.

Note: For the purpose of this competition, Juniors and Intermediates will be permitted to shoot under a 30 pound draw for archery.

Shooting Skills Course of Fire:

Coaches/parents need to stay behind designated shooting lines during competition.

Coaching competitors is not permitted by coaches/parents during competition.

Coaches/parents will be asked to stay behind designated spectator lines.

All shooting in all disciplines will be at unmarked distances.

- **Archery** – for archery, a “hit” will be the heart-lung vital area on a 3-D target. A “miss” will be any other shot. The course may not be previewed, scouted, or walked ahead of time. No binoculars/range finders. Hunting scenarios may include shooting from blinds, elevated stands, kneeling, sitting, moving targets, and other hunting situations. Distances are unmarked.

Number of Targets:

Seniors: Up to 8 targets.

Intermediates: Up to 8 targets.

Juniors: Up to 5 targets.

Maximum distance to target:

Seniors: 50 yards

Intermediates: 35 yards

Juniors: 25 yards

- **Shotgun** – clay targets will be scored as a “hit” or “miss”. Shooting stations will imitate various hunting scenarios. This event will be conducted on a sporting clays course. Previewing clays ahead of shooting is not permitted. Shooters will shoot from ready position.

Number of Targets:

Seniors and Intermediates: Up to 6 targets.

Juniors: Up to 4 targets.

- **Rifle** – a “hit” will be the heart-lung vital area on a 2-D animal target as noted in the examples exhibited at the contest. Competitors may be expected to shoot in Prone, Kneeling/Sitting, or Standing positions for Seniors and Intermediates. Junior competitors will shoot in sitting position. Distances are unmarked.

Number of Targets:

Seniors and Intermediates: 4 targets, 20 rounds

Juniors: 2 targets, 10 rounds

Maximum Distance to target:

Seniors: 80 yards

Intermediate: 50 yards

Juniors: 25 yards

All Juniors and Intermediates will have the lowest scoring live fire event dropped.

Wildlife Identification and Management:

This event includes wildlife identification and management, and wildlife management techniques or problems. Competitors will be asked to identify specimens or parts of specimens including skulls, furs, wings, feathers, antlers/horns, tracks, scat, or other sign. Wildlife identification and management questions may consist of True/False, multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in the blank, ranking alternative choices or any other objective testing method the officials may choose. Some identification questions may be via picture. Competitors may not touch the items at the stations.

- **Number of Questions:**
Seniors: Up to 20 questions
Juniors/Intermediates: 10-15 questions
- **Time Limits:** Competitors will have 40 minutes for this test.

Map Reading:

This event includes questions concerning map interpretation and map reading. Questions may consist of True/False, multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in the blank, ranking alternative choices or any other objective testing method the officials may choose. USGS/topographic maps will be used for test purposes.

- **Number of Questions:**
Seniors: Up to 20 questions.
Intermediates/Juniors: 10-15 questions
- **Time Limits:** Competitors will have 40 minutes for this test.

Hunter Skills/ Outdoor Skills/ Safety:

Questions may consist of True/False, multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in the blank, ranking alternative choices or any other objective testing method the officials may choose.

This event includes a written exam that contains questions covering topics from the NRA Hunter's Guide and is not limited to:

- Stand or blind location or use
- First Aid
- Cutting instruments
- Hunting clothes/footwear choices
- Firearms/ammunition
- Basic ballistics for hunters
- Map navigation and use
- Game recovery
- Post harvest handling
- Track and sign interpretation
- Calls and calling
- Hunt planning
- Optics
- Decoys and their use
- Care and use of hunting equipment
- "Woodsmanship" and "Plainsmanship"

- Any other skills or equipment included in the reference
- **Number of Questions:**
Seniors: Up to 20 questions
Juniors/Intermediates: 10-15 questions
- **Time Limits:** Competitors will have 40 minutes for this test.

Compass Course:

Competitors will be required to complete a compass course for this event. No calculators are allowed on the compass course. Compass and writing pen or pencil must be provided by the competitors.

- **The compass courses will run the following units:** Feet
- **Time Limits:** TBD and announced at the competition.

Hunter Ethics and Decision-Making:

This event is based on ethics, safety, landowner relationships, Arizona's games laws, regulations, and shooting skills. Decision Making and Hunting Scenario questions may consist of True/False, multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in the blank, ranking alternative choices or any other objective testing methods the officials may choose.

Competitors may be asked to demonstrate knowledge or skill and/or may be evaluated by an oral or written test. The desire is that any judgments during testing will be as "objective" as possible rather than "subjective" in nature.

In addition, competitors may view videos or pictures of hunting situations and be asked "shoot or don't shoot" and "why."

Competitors will have access to the 2025-2026 Arizona Hunting Regulations book if desired.

- **Number of Questions:**
Seniors: Up to 10 questions.
Juniors/Intermediates: Up to 8 questions.
- **Time Limits:** TBD and announced at competition.

