

**2010
MARYLAND
YOUTH HUNTER
EDUCATION CHALLENGE**



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The Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge, Inc.
The Friends of the National Rifle Association,
And
The National Rifle Association, Hunter Services Department

Hosted by

Potomac Fish and Game

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A PROGRAM
OF
THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE PROGRAM
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	Introduction	
a.	About the YHEC	1
b.	Maryland YHEC Event Dates	1
II.	Safety Rules	
a.	YHEC Safety Rules	2
b.	Event Safety Rules	2
c.	Gun Safety Rules	3
d.	Archery Rules	3
III.	Participation Guidelines	
a.	Eligibility for Participants	4
b.	NRA YHEC Registration	5
IV.	Program Regulations and Code of Conduct	
a.	Program Regulations	6
b.	Code of Conduct	7
V.	Event Rules and Regulations	
a.	Rifle	8
b.	Shotgun	9
c.	Archery	10
d.	Muzzleloader	11
e.	Hunter Responsibility	12
f.	Orienteering	13
g.	Wildlife Identification	13
h.	Hunter Safety Trail	14
VI.	Scoring	14
VII.	Challenges	15
VIII.	Protests	15
IX.	Rule Review Committee	15
X.	Alibis	15
XI.	Awards	15
XII.	Special Activities	16
XIII.	Forms	
a.	Coaches/Volunteer Code of Conduct	16
b.	Coaches/Volunteer Liability/Medical	17
c.	Participant Code of Conduct	18
d.	Participant Liability/Medical	19
e.	Team Registration	20

MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

INTRODUCTION

This program gives hunter safety students across Maryland an opportunity to build upon the foundation provided by the Maryland Hunter Safety course and to further develop their skills and knowledge which will result in safer, more responsible hunters afield.

The Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge is divided onto Eight (8) events or activities:

Shooting Events-

1. Hunting Archery Challenge
2. Hunting Muzzleloading Challenge
3. Hunting Shotgun Challenge
4. Light Hunting Rifle Challenge

Responsibility Events-

5. Hunter Responsibility Exam
6. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge
7. Hunting Orienteering Challenge
8. Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge

EVENTS ... There will be eight scoring events at this years Challenge. Each event will count equally in determining the top team and individual participants. Each participant and team will compete in each of the events.

The **2010** Youth Hunter Education Challenge will be held at the Potomac Fish and Game located in Williamsport, Md. The date of the event will be **Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June20, 2010.**

SAFETY RULES

These rules provide for the efficient and orderly operation of the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Many local range regulations exist for one reason alone – Safety. Others serve a dual purpose – smooth range operation and safety.

It is your responsibility as a participant, coach and YHEC official to become familiar with the rules and to know the meaning behind those which are safety-oriented.

Safety procedures must be strictly adhered to at the challenge, as well as during all practice sessions for the Youth Challenge. Team and individual sponsors must assure that safety rules are followed during all practice sessions that will be held in preparation for the Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Safety violations that occur during practice sessions for the Youth Hunter Education Challenge will result in a team being declared ineligible to participate in the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

In addition to the posted safety rules of the host organization, the following safety rules will be followed during the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

1. When not in use, all firearms and bows will be stored in a gun or bow rack at each activity or in the designated armory. Firearms used for events must be returned to the armory until all events have concluded.
2. Firearms, bow equipment and any accessories will be inspected, including cleanliness which may cause the firearm to malfunction, when checked in at the armory and at each event. Firearms that do not pass inspection will be locked in the armory until all events have been completed and may not be used at any time during the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge.
3. Actions will remain open except when on the firing line, ready to fire.
4. All firearms must have a safety device with the exception of traditional muzzle loaders. The safety will remain on at all times except when ready to shoot.
5. All firearms and drawn bows will be pointed in a safe direction at all times.
6. All firearms must be unloaded except when on the firing line and the participant is ready to fire.
7. Participants should know and obey all range commands. Arrive at each activity at least 10 minutes prior to relay time to receive activity orientation.
8. Unless directed by the range officer, only one shell or cartridge will be placed in a firearm at one time.
9. Eye and ear protection must be worn at all times while on the firing line and is the responsibility of each participant. Participants must provide eye and ear protection.
10. Arrows will not be nocked until on the firing line.
11. Coaches will accompany all participants in possession of firearms.
12. Participants must be prepared in the use of their firearm and archery equipment. Any participant not prepared in the use of their equipment may be disqualified by the event director and receive a zero score for that event.
13. Any participant in possession of ammunition, EXCEPT on the firing line, shall be disqualified from the Md. YHEC events.
14. All changes to the safety rules shall be reviewed and approved by the host club prior to the change taking effect
15. Any team or team member found riding in a vehicle that is NOT authorized by YHEC, in advance, will be disqualified from the entire YHEC event.

Gun Safety Rules

Fundamental rules for gun handling are:

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to shoot

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

1. Be sure the gun is safe to operate
2. Know how to safely use the gun
3. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun
4. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
5. Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

Archery Safety Rules

Fundamental rules for archery/bow handling are:

1. Do not nock an arrow on the bow string until ready to use.
2. Always keep the bow with a nocked arrow pointed in a safe direction.
3. Never draw a bow when nocked until ready to shoot
4. Always keep field points or broadheads covered until ready to shoot

Broad heads are prohibited in the YHEC

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

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

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Any person 19 years old or younger, who has completed a recognized Hunter Education Course in North America, is eligible to participate in the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Participants may register as individuals or with a five member team. Each individual or team must have a sponsoring coach or organization.

MARYLAND YHEC DIVISIONS

The Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge will use the Following Divisions:

1. **SENIOR DIVISION:** are those participants that are age 15 through 18 years of age on or before August 1st will be eligible for the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge as a senior participant. Participants who are 18 years of age and younger may enter in the Senior Division.
2. **EXCEPTION:** Participants turning 19 years of age during the calendar year of the Md YHEC Event must be enrolled in high school for the full school year, of the current year to be eligible for participation in the NRA International Youth Education Challenge Program.
3. **JUNIOR DIVISION** are those participants that are 14 years of age or younger on or before August 1st will be eligible for the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge as a junior participant.

TEAMS

Participants may register with up to 5 individuals to a team.

ALTERNATES

An alternate may be registered and are limited to one (1) additional person per team. This person would participate as a team member only in case of sickness or a no show of a fellow team member. Alternates may be eligible for awards with the team that the participant is an alternate for. (If the alternate starts the Challenge with a team then he/she must finish with that team and will be eligible only for that teams awards.)

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS

Participants not part of a team will be allowed to participate in the Challenge contest. These participants will not be eligible for team awards, but will be eligible for individual awards. Individuals not part of a team must have at least one sponsoring coach or organization. Alternates will be allowed to participate as individuals. If an alternate starts in the individual's category, he or she must finish in the individual category. Individuals and alternates *may* be placed in a 5 person squad by the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge staff.

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

Participants must be pre-registered with the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge Coordinator at 4356 Salem Bottom Road, Westminster, MD 21157 and the application must be post marked by April 30, 2010 with an accompanying registration fee of \$35.00 per participant and \$15.00 per coach. **The only exception to this rule will be for new teams that are forming with prior approval from both the State YHEC Coordinator and State YHEC Director. Any team or individual not pre-registered by April 30, 2010 will not be eligible to participate.** A pre-registration form has been provided for that purpose therefore, verbal pre-registration will not be permitted. The registration fee will cover ammunition, awards, targets, keepsakes and meals.

Participants are required to provide the following items **prior** to participating at the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

1. Birth Certificate (copy)
2. Hunter Education Card (copy)
3. Completed Code of Conduct form (Original signed by the Parent and participant)
4. Completed Liability/Medical form (Original signed by the Parent and Participant)
5. Completed registration form
6. Registration Fee (\$35.00 per participant and \$15.00 per coach) coaches are reminded to contact the challenge staff to address any individual having hardship meeting the requirement.

Coaches are required to provide the following **prior** to the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge event. **Only one coach per team will be accepted.**

1. Completed Code of Conduct form (Signed Original)
2. Completed Liability/Medical form (Signed Original)

Once Maryland YHEC Registration forms have been submitted for processing by the Maryland staff, participants may not alter their participation status.

There will not be any refunds of fees or gratuities after the registration forms have been submitted.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS should be considered if traveling long distances as participants are encouraged to arrive at the Challenge site extra early.

REGISTRATION FOR THE NRA INTERNATIONAL YHEC

The NRA 2010 International events will be announced at a later date. ***Any youngster interested in attending the NRA International YHEC must participate in a state level challenge before attending the International event.*** Anyone attending Maryland's YHEC will assume all responsibilities involved in participating in the N.R.A. International Youth Hunter Education Challenge. These responsibilities include the finances of registration, traveling and any other fees encountered at the N.R.A. International Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE REGULATIONS

1. Safety will be the first and foremost consideration during all activities.
2. Participants and spectators assume all risk of personal injury or property damage as noted on the required release form accompanying registration materials
3. *Participants violating any safety rule may be given one warning.* A second safety violation by said participant shall result in disqualification of that individual!! The protest committee shall make the final determination as to whether an individual continues to participate in the challenge. If a safety violation is severe, the protest committee may not give a warning, and the participant may be disqualified from further participation.
4. Individuals may not participate for one another in any activity
5. Participants, coaches, volunteers and spectators are expected to exhibit behavior above reproach at all times
6. All participants/coaches and parents/guardians of minor participants must sign a release regarding conduct before the event.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Participants must provide their own firearms, bow and arrows and eye and ear protection. Ammunition will be provided by the challenge officials. **.50 caliber Muzzle loaders, over and under shotguns and .22 rifles will be available for those participants unable to provide their own.**
2. Meals will be provided for the participants and coaches from breakfast on Saturday, **June 19** thru breakfast on Sunday, **June 20, 2010**. Meals will be available for sale to non-participants.
3. Parents and other spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend. Spectators are advised to bring eye and ear protection to use during each shooting event.
4. Participants should come to the site location prepared for any weather conditions. Dress appropriately including proper footwear.
5. Teams are expected to participate rain or shine.
6. Unless at an event where the firearm is needed, All firearms shall be stored in the Md YHEC armory until the events are concluded. Gun cases will not be stored in the armory. Participant must bring the appropriate gun case to the armory for transportation to and from the events.
7. Participants must bring all equipment including backup to the armory upon their arrival to the challenge location. The armory will be open at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, **June 18, 2010** and 7:30 a.m. Saturday, **June 19, 2010** to accommodate those wishing to arrive early, which is encouraged. Archery equipment may be stored in the participant's vehicles.
8. Time will not allow for any sighting in of firearms. This must be done prior to coming to the challenge.
9. Late arrival to the challenge site may disqualify an individual and/or team from participating and all registration fees paid will be forfeited.
10. Any adaptive equipment to be used by handicapped contestants must be specified on the entry form.
11. At no time while the participants are on the firing line and/or challenge events courses may the participants communicate between other participants, coaches and/or other individuals. No electronic earmuffs.
12. Coaches will accompany all participants in possession of firearms or bow & arrows.
13. Coaches will be responsible at all times for all team members while at the Maryland YHEC site.
14. ******Any participant in possession of ammunition, EXCEPT on the firing line, shall be disqualified from the Md. YHEC events.******
15. ******There will be no selling of raffle tickets and/or promotional items other than those sold for the benefit of the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge Committee or the host club Potomac Fish and Game.**
16. **SPARE GUNS – if a team brings spare firearms, those firearms must be checked into the armory. If it is to be used as a back-up firearm (in case of malfunction of a participant's firearm) the coach must take it with him/her. It may be used as a back-up firearm ONLY if it is in the rack at the shooting event. The spare firearm must be placed in the rack at the shooting event when the team arrives at that event and the Director of the event must be told that a back-up firearm is in the rack. If no back-up firearm is brought out to the range, and a malfunction occurs, the participant will have to use the YHEC firearm. The event will not be stopped for someone to get a firearm from the armory or another location. This firearm can not be transported or kept in a private vehicle.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

Program regulations governing conduct for all attendees at the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge: Staff, participants, coaches, volunteers, spectators, etc.

The following regulations and conduct codes are to be adhered to at all times during the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge program.

It is understood that each participant will:

1. Participate fully in all activities, within their abilities
2. Exhibit behavior above reproach at all times
3. Fully cooperate and comply with all established rules, regulations and reasonable requests made by Maryland's officers, agents and servants.
4. Wear proper attire. Recognizing publicity attracted by the NRA and its 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. YHEC staff and Event Directors are empowered to take action necessary to maintain acceptable clothing standards.

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 during the YHEC program.
2. Keeping ammunition, firearms and archery equipment in their on site housing or camping units/areas
3. Evaluating and/or observing an event before actual participation.
4. Videotaping or taking still photographs with the intent of showing participants event layouts, prior to and during participation.
5. Using physical gestures and/or electronic equipment (i.e. walkie talkies, beepers, pagers, two-ways, cell phones or other communications equipment) during participation or at the events. (Exceptions are the YHEC staff)
6. Coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator area(s)

Any breach of this code may be cause for immediate and permanent expulsion of individual(s) from the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge program.

MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE EVENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

.22 RIMFIRE RIFLE

Shooting event *may* be conducted in one to three stages. There will be a long range (75 yards or less), a medium range (60 yards or less), and a short range (30 yards or less). A participant will be allowed 5 minutes per position with the complete course to be fired in 15 minutes. This time period does not include breaks between shooting positions (Short, Medium and Long Range). The time limit between shooting positions will be at the discretion of the Event Director.

At the long range station, any shooting position may be used, utilizing any of the provided props. At the medium range station, use of any shooting position may be utilized excluding the prone position. At the short range station, only the standing shooting position will be allowed without the use of any props. Targets for this event will be NRA life-sized game targets.

Participants with Adjustable scopes will be able to adjust the scopes until the firing line has been called hot at each shooting position.

SCORING

1. Targets will be scored as ten (10) points for shots touching or within the vital area and zero (0) points for shots outside of the vital area.
2. Challenges concerning any scored shot must be made on the range at the time the shot is being scored. Only the participant may challenge the value of the shot, not the team, instructor, coach or spectators and before conferring with the team, instructor, coach and/or spectator.
3. There will be a total of 30 shots in the .22 rimfire Rifle Challenge, with each shot being scored as ten (10) points. The total possible score for this event is 300 points.
4. ****Cross fires:

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 the 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 and will subsequently receive "DQ" (amounting to "0") under both individual and team scores.*****

EQUIPMENT

1. Participants may only use one rifle throughout the activity, (exception - gun Malfunction).
2. Only standard type .22 caliber rifles designed primarily for hunting will be permitted.
3. All action types, except fully automatic, will be permitted. The rifle may not exceed eight pounds in weight without a sling and must have a minimum trigger pull of two (2) pounds.
4. Rifles may be equipped with sling not to exceed 1 ½ inches in width. Sling must remain attached at both ends, but may be used as hasty sling when firing.
5. Rifles may be equipped with sporter-type thumbhole stocks (non-adjustable)
6. Sights will be open or peep rear sights with a standard front post and bead, or hunting scopes variable or fixed up to 9 power. Shooters may not change guns after firing begins, except in the event of a gun malfunction.
7. All ammunition used in this event will be .22 caliber long Rifle Rimfire, and will be supplied by the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge Officials. If Possible the Md YHEC will notify participants of the specific type of ammunition once received by the Md YHEC to facilitate advance rifle sight-in.
8. **Remington High Velocity .22 Caliber Long Rifle (Thunderbolt) will be used at the 2010 Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge.**

The following will not be permitted for rifle event:

1. Adjustment of Scopes after the Line has been called Hot.
2. Clothing with added padding or stiffness designed to assist the shooter to remain steady
3. Shooting mats
4. Adjustable competition sling swivels
5. Kneeling roll
6. Adjustable or competitive thumbhole stocks
7. Palm rests or forearms of stocks exceeding 2 1/4 inches (5.72 centimeters) wide or 2 1/4 inches (5.72 centimeters) deep as measured from the center line of the bore.
8. Scopes, fixed or variable power optics with capabilities greater than nine (9) power.
9. Range finders
10. Peep sights with a rear aperture less than two (2) millimeters.
11. Spotting scopes, Binoculars or monocular
12. More than one shooting position per shooting sequence
13. Shooting Sticks or Any mechanical shooting rest
14. Adjustable range rings on scopes
15. Hook butt plate

SHOTGUN CHALLENGE

Each participant will shoot a minimum of 25 rounds from a standard trap house, skeet house, Hunters Clays Course, 5 stand clays course or any combination of the 4 clays courses. The Hunters Clays Course layout will vary depending on the available topography. The shooting station will make use of available cover to best depict running animals, bird flight and shooting obstacles. The Hunters Shotgun Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at clay targets and the sizes of the clay targets may vary depending on the different situations. Clay Targets may be thrown in any combination to better depict a hunting situation such as poison pair with the poison bird located in different positions.

Each team will be allowed up to 25 minutes to complete the shotgun event after the first team member has started shooting. Any team not completing the event within the time limit will receive a zero score for the remainder of the event.

When ready for a target, participants must use a two handed ready position for their shotgun and must hold the butt plate below shoulder height. After calling for a target, a delay of up to 5 seconds may occur before the clay target is released. Shotguns may not be shouldered before the target is visible. Shotguns shouldered before the target is visible will be considered a lost and no score given. This will occur even if the target showed a visible sign of breakage.

In order for a target to be scored as a hit, a shooter must hit the target and a piece must break off. Dusters, targets deflected or redirected in flight (but with no visible breakage) will be scored lost. The scorer will call out "LOST" for a missed target.

The score judge will be sole judge of whether or not a target is broken. Officials may ask assistance from the trap puller or a range official if they feel their assistance is required. Any challenges by the shooter to the call must be made immediately and will be determined by the trap operator, scorer and/or range officer. **Only the participant may challenge the value of the shot, not the team, instructor, coach or spectators.** Targets broken by the trap or another obstruction will not be scored. These are illegal targets and will be re-thrown for the participant, regardless of whether or not the participant fires at the target.

Based on the scorer's judgment, should a target hit an obstruction (i.e. tree or tree limb) before the participant has had ample time to fire, a new target will be thrown. However, should the participant have ample time to fire (in the scorer's judgment), and fails to do so before the target hits an object near the end of its path and breaks, the target will be scored "lost".

Shotguns may not be larger than 12 gauge. All action types except fully automatic and Release triggers will be allowed in this event. **Shotguns may have adjustable cheek stocks or butt plates and may not be adjusted once the participant has started the shotgun challenge.** Double targets may be thrown in some instances; therefore the shotgun should be capable of holding two shot shells. Participants may not change firearms or chokes after beginning the course, except in the event of a malfunction.

All ammunition will be factory loaded shells and furnished by challenge officials for both 12 and 20 gauge shotguns. The Shotgun Ammunition will be Field/Target Grade with the shot size between 7 ½ and 9. Those choosing a gauge other than that detailed above, are required to furnish their own shells. Specify gauge on entry form.

A: Scoring:

1. Targets will be scored as a hit or lost. Zero (0) points will be awarded for a "LOST" target. Hits will be scored according to the total possible hits divided by the total number of shots for this event.
2. There will be a minimum of 25 shots in the Shotgun Challenge, with each shot being scored. Scoring will be determined by the total of shots divided into the total hits a participant scores will determine the score for each hit. The total possible score for this event is 300 points.
3. If there is a malfunction a new target will be thrown. Ammunition malfunction or Trap or trap operator failure is considering a malfunction.
4. Participant error, failure to load a gun, failure of a gun to fire (other than defective ammunition) or failure of a gun to reload will not be a malfunction and targets will be scored a "lost".

The following will not be permitted for the Shotgun event:

- A. Release triggers
- B. Shot size larger than 7 1/2
- C. Shot smaller than 9
- D. Ventilated rib heights .5 inches or more, measured from the top of the barrel

ARCHERY CHALLENGE

Participants will walk through a field archery course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations while bow hunting.

The archery event will be conducted similar to the rifle shooting event. Participants will take shots at targets varying in distance up to 40 yards.

All bows will be tested by the Director for poundage and the draw weight will be written on the card that is carried by the participant to each station. Seniors MUST pull at least a 30 pound bow – no exceptions. Juniors who do not pull a 30 pound bow will not shoot at the large game target. Instead they will have another small game target, near the location of the large game target. If the Junior participant pulls a 30 pound bow they will be permitted to shoot at the large game target.

Targets will be life sized game targets with scoring areas directly over vital areas of the game species. There will be a minimum of five targets. Participants must complete the course within the schedule time frame of the event. Anyone not completing the course within the scheduled time frame for the event will receive a zero score for the remainder of the event. Participants should be prepared with enough arrows to complete the course. Participants unable to complete the course due to lost arrows will receive a zero score for the remaining targets.

A: Scoring for the Archery Event:

1. Targets will be scored prior to the arrows being pulled. All shots breaking or touching the scoring ring will be counted as a "hit". All other shots outside the vital areas will be scored a zero (0).
2. Challenges must be made on the range before the arrow is pulled. **Only the participant may challenge the value of the shot, not the team instructor, coach or spectators.**
3. There will be a minimum of 25 shots in the archery challenge. The total number of shots taken in the archery event divided into the total hits the participant's shoots for the archery event will determine the value of each possible hit.
4. Tie scores will be broken.
5. When using a tree stand participants must demonstrate proper tree stand safety techniques. Participants will be assessed penalty points for improper tree stand safety techniques.

B: Archery Equipment:

1. Shooters may use only one bow for this event except in the case of a malfunction.
2. Only hunting type compound, recurve, or long bows will be permitted.
3. Bows may be equipped with hunting type sights. Self adjusting sights may be used (i.e. Sight Master)
4. Only target or field arrows will be permitted.

C: The Following Will Not Be Allowed for the Archery Challenge:

1. Extended sight bars that measure farther than **six (6)** inches from the back of riser of bow to the front of the sight.
2. Manually adjustable sights may have no more than six sight pins or be adjusted to more than six sight positions
3. More than one stabilizer.
4. Stabilizers over twelve (12) inches.
5. Range finders
6. Crossbows.
7. Broadhead Hunting Tips
8. Arrows shafts that do not have target or field points
9. Binoculars, Monocular or Spotting Scopes
10. Shocker points
11. Bludgeon points

HUNTING MUZZLELOADER CHALLENGE

1. The Muzzleloading Event will be much like that of the Rifle Event.
2. The Muzzleloading Event will be conducted with participants shooting at NRA Life-Sized Game Targets varying in distance from 20 to 75 yards.
3. Participants may be required to shoot up to three positions.
4. Participants will be asked to answer questions related to Muzzleloading.
5. Muzzleloaders and equipment will be available for participant use.
6. Participants may use only one muzzleloader rifle throughout this activity (exception - muzzleloader malfunction)

Scoring for the Muzzleloader Event:

1. Participants will shoot minimum 5 shots with a 25 minute time limitation. Participants must complete the course within the schedule time frame of the event.
2. All powder will be pre-measured for each shooter.
3. All muzzleloaders provided by the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge will be right handed.
4. Youth Hunter Education Challenge staff working the event will direct each participant in the safe loading of a muzzle loader.
5. Each shot if touching the line or inside the vital area will be scored a hit, any shot outside the vital area will be scored a zero.
6. The Muzzleloading Event has a maximum possibility of 300 points. (200 points shooting the events, 100 points written).
7. Challenges concerning the scored shot must be made on the range. **Only the participant may challenge the value of the shot, not the team instructor, coach or spectators.**
8. ****Cross fires:

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

3. 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 the 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.
4. 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 will subsequently receive "DQ" (amounting to "0") under both individual and team scores.*****

MUZZLELOADING EQUIPMENT:

1. Muzzleloaders and Equipment (including lead balls) will be available for participants.
2. Black powder, percussion caps and 209 primers will be provided by the Maryland YHEC. All other accessories needed such as musket caps, disks and specialty accessories must be provided by the participant.
3. Shooters may use only one muzzleloader rifle throughout this event (exception - muzzle loader malfunction)
4. Any flintlock, disk, Musket cap, percussion or 209 primer type Muzzleloading **.54 caliber or smaller** rifles will be permitted. .50 caliber muzzleloaders and accessories will be available for use during the event. Those participants choosing to use another caliber (**i.e. .40, .45, or .54**) are required to furnish their own accessories with the exception of black powder and caps.(patches, roundball(swage))
5. Muzzleloaders may have a set trigger; Set triggers may not be set until ready to fire.
6. Muzzleloaders may be equipped with sporter type thumbhole stocks (non-adjustable)
7. Muzzleloaders may be equipped with a sling not to exceed 1 ½ inches in width.
8. Sights will be open with adjustable rear sight and fixed front post.
9. Muzzleloaders will be loaded with single projectile **patched ball** only and FFFg Black Powder only.
10. ***Participants are allowed to use their own accessories however; all accessories must be inspected by event officials prior to participation.***

The Following ***will not*** be permitted for the Muzzleloading event:

- A. Shooting mats
- B. Binoculars, Monoculars, Spotting scopes or Telescopic sights
- C. Range finders
- D. Cans of powder on the line
- E. **Everyone will shoot 60 grains of black powder by volume.**
- F. Peep sights
- G. Kneeling rolls
- H. Adjustable competition sling swivels
- I. Any smokeless or nitro cellulose-based powder
- J. Muzzleloaders larger than .54 calibers
- K. More than one shooting position per shooting sequence.
- L. Wooden ramrods
- M. Metal-jacketed bullet sabots
- N. Pyrodex or other black powder substitutes
- O. Mechanical shooting rests
- P. Adapter kits that would change muzzleloader's ignition
- Q. Adjustable or competitive thumbhole stocks

HUNTER RESPONSIBILITY CHALLENGE

The hunter responsibility exam may be split into several phases as outlined below.

Phase 1: Will consist of questions, which will be true/false, matching, or multiple choices.

Phase 2: A series of slides may be shown in which the participants must identify safe/unsafe or shoot/don't shoot situations.

Phase 3: Participants may be asked to identify firearms, types of actions and ammunition.

Material for each of the three (3) phases will be taken from the NRA Basic Hunter Education Handbook, The International Bow Hunter Education Manual, The Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland 2007-2008, as well as the Basic Hunter Education Course that each participant completed.

The Following **will not** be permitted for the Hunter Responsibility Exam

- 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

HUNTING ORIENTEERING CHALLENGE:

1. Participants or teams will be required to use a compass to follow a bearing to a predetermined outdoor skills station. At each station, the participants will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of outdoor skills by answering questions or performing certain tasks.
2. Each participant will be asked to answer compass bearings or other related questions in map compass orienteering. The Orienteering Challenge has a possibility of 300 points. Participants must complete the event within the scheduled frame of the event. Participants not completing the event within the scheduled time will receive a zero score for anything not completed.
3. Only compasses can be used on the Orienteering Challenge course.
4. Participants may bring their own compass but are recommended to use a Silva Explorer 3 or Brunton equivalent type compass. Silva Explorer 3 and Brunton Compasses will be available for the participants to use on the Orienteering Event.

The Following will not be permitted for the Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge

- A. Calculators
- B. Orienteering books
- C. Encyclopedias
- D. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials
- E. Electronic equipment including but not limited to GPS equipment
- F. Communications between the participants, coaches or other individuals while on the course

HUNTING WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION CHALLENGE:

1. Participants will be shown slides and/or walk through a field and/or woodland course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate actual wildlife sign encounters while outdoors.
2. The Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge will be conducted with the participants or teams observing animal tracks, mounted animals, tanned hides, wildlife sounds, reading wildlife signs and identifying them from one (1) to fifty (50) yards.
3. Participants will be given a total of 25 minutes to complete the course. Participants not completing the course within the scheduled time will receive a zero score for the remainder of the event.
4. Participants or teams should be familiar with all wildlife including upland game, forest game, waterfowl, furbearer, endangered species and non-game species.

A: Scoring for the Hunting Wildlife Identification:

1. Each correctly identified animal, hide, track or wildlife sign will be worth 12 points. An incorrect identification will be scored as zero (0) points.
2. There will be a total of 25 animals, hides, tracks, wildlife signs, or slides in the Wildlife Identification Challenge with a possible score of 300 points.

The Following will not be permitted for the Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge

- A. Wildlife identification books
- B. Encyclopedias
- C. Written taped or transcribed information and reference materials
- D. Communications between the participants and coaches or other individuals

Hunter Safety Trail:

1. The participants will walk through a pre-determined trail designed to simulate actual hunting conditions and situations. The participant will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of hunter safety on this course. Participants may receive an YHEC hunting license and regulations at event check in.
2. Each team will be allowed up to 25 minutes to complete the course. Teams not completing the trail within the scheduled time will receive a zero score for anything not completed. Participants will be allowed 5 seconds at Shoot/Don't Shoot stations to determine if the shot is safe or unsafe. If no decision is made within the 5 seconds, the station will be scored a zero.
3. The Hunter Safety Trail will be conducted with the participants and/or teams moving from station to station with each situation varying greatly. Participants may be tested and scored on the do's and don'ts of firearm 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. Participants may be required to be knowledgeable of game laws and bag limits.
4. Participants may be required to possess a Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge hunting license as designated by the Orienteering Event Director of the Maryland YHEC Event Director.
5. If the Maryland YHEC Hunting License is required, the license will be issued at registration of the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge.
6. The hunting license shall be kept in good condition while in the possession of the participant.
7. Upon arrival at the hunter safety trail, Any Participant that fails to have a license in possession (on their person) at the Maryland Hunter Safety Trail event will receive a zero score for the Hunter Safety Trail Event. The participant must have the hunting license in their possession the entire time while on the hunter safety trail until instructed by the Orienteering Event Director to return the hunting license.

Scoring for the Hunter Safety Trail:-

1. Each team will travel to 10 stations worth 30 points for a correct answer and zero for an incorrect answer. A thirty point penalty, per station, will be assessed if a participant violates safety rules.
2. The Hunter Safety Trail Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points and will be scored as a team event only.
3. In the event a team has less than 5 members per team, the team score will be a combined score of each member of the team receiving one-fifth or 20% of the total score and any bonus points earned. i.e. - a 4 member team scoring 300 points after completing the event will then receive 60 points for each member for a total final score of 240 points plus any bonus points on the hunter safety trail.
4. There is no individual competition in this event.
5. The Hunter Safety Trail may have up to 3 bonus stations worth 5 points each for a total of 15 bonus points.

The following will not be permitted on the Safety Trail:

- A. Hunter Education Books
- B. Other written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials.
- C. Communications between the participants, coaches or other individuals while on the course.

Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge Scoring

Event points are accumulated by correctly answering a predetermined number of questions, making a certain number of hits in a prescribed target area, or correctly completing a prescribed activity. The maximum possible points for each event are 300 points.

Ties for all categories, individuals per event, and overall individual scores will be broken. The following tie breaking criteria will be used:

In the event of a tie, the individual/team with the highest level of achievement in the Hunter Responsibility Exam will be declared the winner. The final tie breaker will be based on the combined score of the four (4) shooting events.

The team score in the overall aggregate challenge will be comprised of the highest scores of the eight challenge events. The hunter responsibility exam, rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, hunting orienteering, Hunter safety trail, Hunter Muzzleloading and hunting wildlife identification events combined.

CHALLENGES

Challenges concerning the value of shots as scored will be resolved as detailed in the section on each activity. Challenges must be done while being scored and only the participant being scored may challenge the score prior to conferring with the team, team instructor/coach and/or spectator. Challenges made by the team, team instructor/coach and/or spectator are not allowed. All decisions on challenges will be final by the Director of that event.

PROTESTS

Protests are to be in the following order. Protests are to be brought to the attention of the Event Director. If the individual receives no satisfaction, a written protest must then be submitted to the YHEC Protest Committee and State YHEC Coordinator within 30 minutes of the protest to the event director for review, consideration and final decision. A protest committee will be selected and identified to handle all disputes except those regarding the value of the shots or events as scored. Any questionable equipment, behavior or safety violations will be decided by these officials. All decisions of the protest committee will be final.

RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Any violation of the Rules or Regulations will be reviewed by the Rules Review Committee for a determination of disposition and all decisions will be final.

ALIBIS

Only range, trap, or ammunition malfunction will constitute an alibi. No alibis will be allowed for firearm, arrow or bow malfunction. In the event of a firearm or bow malfunction, the participants may borrow a firearm or bow and continue the relay. No practice or sighting in will be allowed for the borrowed firearms or bow once the challenge activities have started.

AWARDS

There will be two award categories, team and individual. The number of awards and the types of awards will be determined based on the number of entries.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Special activities and events may be held during the course of the challenge to enhance the learning atmosphere. These events will in no way count towards the scoring or awards process.

2010 MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Code of Conduct Form

**** (This form must be completed by coach/volunteer). ****

I, _____, the coach/volunteer, give my permission for emergency medical treatment of myself for illness or accident.

(Date)

(Signature of Coach/Volunteer)

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____

In case of an emergency, contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parental Release and Athletic Code:

I, _____, the coach/volunteer, give permission for myself to participate in the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge conducted at Potomac Fish and Game June 19 through 20, 2010

It is understood that each person participating in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge will:

1. Participate fully in all activities within his/her capabilities;
2. Exhibit behavior above reproach at all times;
3. Fully cooperate with the YHEC officials and personnel, and the Maryland Hunter Education Instructors.
4. **Comply with all regulations and requests made by the YHEC Officials and the Hunter Education Instructors.**

It is further understood that any breach of this code may be cause for the immediate and permanent exclusion from the Maryland and the NRA International Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

(Date)

(Signature of coach/volunteer)

2010 MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Liability/Medical Form

CHECK ONE () Coach () Volunteer () Other_____

**** (This form must be completed by coaches/volunteers). ****

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Health Insurance Plan: _____ Policy No. _____

Special Medical Considerations (i.e., Prescription, Allergies, Medications): _____

Liability/Medical

- If I am injured while participating in the programs at the Maryland Youth Hunter Challenge or any auxiliary facility...
1. I and my family agree to waive any legal claim against the Department of Natural Resources, Potomac Fish and Game, The Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge Corporation and the Md. YHEC volunteers;
 2. I give my consent for the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources or the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge personnel to provide medical/athletic training attentions, transportation and emergency medical services as warranted.

If injured while traveling to or from the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge by public, or any other means of conveyance, I agree to waive any legal claims against the State of Maryland, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Maryland Hunter Education instructors, The Maryland YHEC and the Md YHEC Staff and Volunteers, The National Rifle Association, Potomac Fish and Game and my State. By voluntarily signing this release, I swear that I am in good physical condition and I am not aware of any disease or injury that would result in my being injured during any program participation. **I understand if I am less than 18 years of age, or a minor under the laws of the state where I live, my parent or legal guardian shall sign this release for me.**

I understand that as a registered guest at the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge, I will not bring nor possess any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while on the premises. I further understand and agree to abide by the general rules of conduct prescribed for guests of the Potomac Fish and Game and the Maryland YHEC rules and regulations.

(Date)

(Signature of coach/volunteer)

2010 MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Code of Conduct Form

**** (This form must be completed by parent or legal guardian of all participants). ****

I, _____, the legal guardian of minor, give my permission for emergency medical treatment of _____ (son/daughter/dependant), Date of Birth, _____ for illness or accident.

(Date)

(Signature of legal parent/guardian)

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____

In case of an emergency, contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parental Release and Athletic Code:

I, _____, the parent or legal guardian, gives permission for _____ (son/daughter/dependent) to participate in the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge conducted at Potomac Fish and Game June 19 through June 20, 2010

It is understood that each person participating in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge will:

1. Participate fully in all activities within his/her capabilities;
2. Exhibit behavior above reproach at all times;
3. Fully cooperate with the YHEC officials and personnel, and the Maryland Hunter Education Instructors.
4. Comply with all regulations and requests made by the YHEC Officials and the Hunter Education Instructors.

It is further understood that any breach of this code may be cause for the immediate and permanent exclusion from the Maryland and the NRA International Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

(Date)

(Signature of Participant)

(Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian)

(Witness Name)

(Witness Signature)

2010 MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Liability/Medical Form

CHECK ONE () Participant () Other _____

**** (This form must be completed by coaches/volunteers/parent or guardian of all participants). ****

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Health Insurance Plan: _____ Policy No. _____

Special Medical Considerations (i.e., Prescription, Allergies, Medications): _____

Liability/Medical

If I am injured while participating in the programs at the Maryland Youth Hunter Challenge or any auxiliary facility....

1. I and my family agree to waive any legal claim against the Department of Natural Resources, Potomac Fish and Game, The Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge Corporation and the Md. YHEC volunteers;
2. I give my consent for the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources or the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge personnel to provide medical/athletic training attentions, transportation and emergency medical services as warranted.

If injured while traveling to or from the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge by public, or any other means of conveyance, I agree to waive any legal claims against the State of Maryland, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Maryland Hunter Education instructors, The Maryland YHEC and the Md YHEC Staff and Volunteers, The National Rifle Association, Potomac Fish and Game and my State. By voluntarily signing this release, I swear that I am in good physical condition and I am not aware of any disease or injury that would result in my being injured during any program participation. **I understand if I am less than 18 years of age, or a minor under the laws of the state where I live, my parent or legal guardian shall sign this release for me.**

I understand that as a registered guest at the Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge, I will not bring nor possess any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while on the premises. I further understand and agree to abide by the general rules of conduct prescribed for guests of the Potomac Fish and Game and the Maryland YHEC rules and regulations.

(Date)

(Signature of Participant)

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(Witness Name)

(Witness Signature)

2010 MARYLAND YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return this pre-registration form for teams as well as individuals as soon as possible (BEFORE **April 30, 2010**) to:

Terry Barth, YHEC Coordinator
4356 Salem Bottom Rd.
Westminster MD 21157

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: _____

(IF APPLICABLE)

NAME OF COACH/INSTRUCTOR: _____ **SHIRT SIZE** _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARTICIPANT</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>GUN GA.</u>	<u>SHIRT SIZE</u>	<u>BOW #</u>
1. _____ _____ _____	____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____ _____ _____	____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____ _____ _____	____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____ _____ _____	____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____ _____ _____	____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____ _____ _____	____	_____	_____	_____	_____

The following must accompany this registration form:

1. **Copy of each Participants Birth Certificate and Maryland's Hunter Safety Card.**
2. **Emergency Medical Treatment Consent Form.**
3. **Liability / Medical Release Form.**
4. Registration Fee of \$35.00 per Participant and \$15.00 per Coach. (Make Checks Payable to: MD YHEC)