

**VIRGINIA HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE
REGULATIONS**

MAY 3-4, 2008

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center

Sponsored by: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Co-sponsored by: Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center

SAFETY RULES

1. Firearms must remain unloaded and cased until presented to the event staff. No uncased firearms are allowed anywhere in the camp except on the ranges.
2. Actions of uncased firearms must always be open, except when on the firing line ready to fire.
3. Firearms are to be unloaded, except when on the firing line, ready to fire.
4. The safety device of a firearm will remain on at all times, except when ready to fire.
5. All firearms and drawn bows will be pointed in a safe direction at all times.
6. Know and obey all range commands.
7. Only one shell or cartridge may be placed in a firearm at a time, unless otherwise directed by the event staff.
8. Competitors shall wear adequate eye and ear protection while on the firing line.
9. If not using a firearm or bow it should be cased and/or placed in a rack or safe area.
10. Arrows will not be nocked until on the firing line.

GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES

1. Coaches are responsible for the safety and behavior of their team members at all times while on the 4-H Center grounds.
2. In the event of an accident or emergency, after 10:00 PM contact the Department designee located in the nurse's quarters, adjacent to cabin #1.
3. Swimming in the lake is prohibited. The camp director must approve pool swimming. **Any unauthorized swimming or trespass in the pool area WILL result in disqualification.**
4. Security for all personal equipment is the responsibility of each team coach.
5. **Manipulation of any part of a firearm or other equipment to circumvent any rules will result in the immediate disqualification of the competitor.**
6. If a team member has a disability, please discreetly notify the event officials when checking into the events, so that event officials may make appropriate accommodations.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is looking forward to this year's event. The competitors and coaches each year make this event a continuing success. We look forward to seeing you at the Challenge, and wish each competitor the best possible outdoors experience!

The 'HEC ENTRY FORM' must be completed in its entirety. The Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center Reservation Forms and Hold Harmless/Code of Conduct Forms must be completed in their entirety. **All forms for competitors under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian's signature.** Please do not write in the margins of the forms. Attach check(s) in the appropriate amounts. The check(s) should be payable to Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. **Fifty percent of this fee is non-refundable after April 18, 2008. All of this fee is non-refundable after April 25, 2008, but can be transferred to another person.**

Please use the **attached 'HEC ENTRY FORM' only**. This form has changed from previous years.

Completed HEC Entry Forms must be received in the Hunter Education Office not later than April 4, 2008. Upon receipt, your confirmation will be sent along with an agenda.

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center Reservation Forms must be received in their office not later than April 4, 2008. Upon receipt, you will receive confirmation.

Every team must have at least one certified Hunter Education Instructor or 4-H Shooting Education Instructor as a coach.

REGISTRATION CHECK LIST

1. COMPLETED HEC ENTRY FORMS TO HUNTER EDUCATION OFFICE.
2. HOLD HARMLESS/CODE CONDUCT FORM FOR EACH COMPETITOR & COACH TO HOLIDAY LAKE 4-H EDUCATIONAL CENTER, SIGNED BY PARENT (IF APPLICABLE).
3. **\$62.00** PER COMPETITOR (**\$38** COMMUTING COMPETITORS), **\$32.00** PER COACH TO HOLIDAY LAKE 4-H EDUCATIONAL CENTER - CHECK(S) PAYABLE TO HOLIDAY LAKE 4-H EDUCATIONAL CENTER.
4. HOLIDAY LAKE RESERVATION FORM TO 4-H CENTER (IF APPLICABLE).
5. PARENT/GUEST RESERVATIONS TO 4-H CENTER (IF APPLICABLE).
6. **DEADLINE APRIL 4, 2008.**

In the past, we have had to deny youngsters the opportunity to participate because the event was full, only to have registered teams fail to show up. If there is a problem with your registration, you will be notified, but **we cannot reserve your space until all of the requirements are met.**

CONTACT NUMBERS

Richmond	Dee Buchanan	(804) 367-1147
Region I – Charles City	Sgt. Jon Ober	(804) 829-6580
Region II – Forest	Officer Chris Weidman	(434) 525-7522
Region III – Marion	Officer Bob Riggs	(276) 783-4860
Region IV – Verona	Officer Kris Dougherty	(540) 248-9360
Region V – Fredericksburg	Officer Phil Townley	(540) 899-4169
State Coordinator	Sgt. David Dodson	(540) 899-4169

ELIGIBILITY

1. All competitors must have successfully completed the basic Virginia Hunter Education Course. Team members are not required to have taken the same hunter education course, nor to have taken the class from the sponsoring instructor.
2. Each team attending the VAHEC must have at least one sponsoring adult who is a certified Virginia Hunter Education Instructor or 4-H Shooting Education Instructor. The sponsoring instructor will chaperone and coach for the duration of the activities.
3. Teams will consist of four to six members (male and/or female).
4. All team members must participate in every event of the challenge.
5. Competitors must be no older than 19 years of age on May 1, 2008.
6. Individual participation will be allowed, provided that a certified Virginia Hunter Education Instructor or 4-H Shooting Education Instructor sponsors and accompanies the competitor to the VAHEC. Individual participants may be assigned to a team for event management purposes.
7. Alternates are allowed and will be registered at check in.
8. Once a competitor is registered at the check-in point, an alternate cannot replace him or her.
9. All individual competitors who live in the same county as other individual competitors will be grouped together as a team (Exceptions will be approved by the State Hunter Education Coordinator). The coaches for that team will be comprised of the Hunter Education Instructor or 4-H Shooting Education Instructor coaches who are sponsoring the first two individuals who submit a completed entry packet.

ENTRIES

Each team must be pre-registered by April 4, 2008. ENTRIES WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 230 COMPETITORS SUBMITTING COMPLETED FORMS.

CHALLENGE REGULATIONS

1. Safety is the first and foremost consideration during all activities and events.
2. Competitors and spectators assume all risk of personal injury or property damage.
3. Competitors violating any safety rule will be counseled. Any subsequent violations may result in disqualification. If the safety violation is severe, the competitor may be immediately disqualified.
4. Competitors are required to provide their own firearms, bows and arrows, compasses, hearing and eye protection.
5. All firearms and other equipment must be well maintained and in proper working condition to ensure safe and efficient operation.
6. Competitors will have one opportunity to participate in each activity.
7. Competitors are expected to exhibit behavior which is safe and above reproach at all times.
8. Coaches cannot participate as competitors.
9. The use of portable radios is not permitted while competing in any event. The use of FRS frequencies 1-5 are not permitted at any time during Saturday's events. These channels are reserved for event management.
10. **Deadline for coaches to check-in all teams to the HEC is 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 2.** Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon.
11. No team member or coach is permitted on any event site prior to participation in that event. "Scouting" or any other such activity by any team member or coach will result in the disqualification of the entire team for that event.

CHALLENGES

Challenges concerning the value of shots as scored will be resolved as detailed in the rules of each event. All challenges must be made during the challenge period. Event officials' decisions will be final.

PROTESTS

A protest committee, consisting of Hunter Education staff members, will handle all disputes except those regarding the value of shots as scored. These officials will decide any questions about equipment, behavior, score, or interpretation of any rule. All decisions made by the protest committee will be final.

CATEGORIES

JUNIOR - Maximum age 14

SENIOR - Ages 15 - 19

All members of a team must be eligible as juniors for them to compete as a junior team. A competitor who is eligible to compete as a junior may compete either in the junior or senior category, but not both. The senior category will consist of competitors' ages 15 - 19. All competitors must be currently enrolled in a public, private, or home school, grades 1-12.

MOVEMENT THROUGH THE EVENT

1. Each team will be assigned an event at which they must begin the competition.
2. The coach must check in with the event coordinator upon arrival at an event.
3. When all team members have completed the event, the coach must check in with the event coordinator. The event coordinator will assign the team to the next available event, and provide the coach with a pass to that event.
4. No team will be admitted to an event without the appropriate pass. Teams are expected to move through events as efficiently as possible. If a break or other delay is anticipated, this must be communicated to the event coordinator assigning the next event.
5. All teams must check out with the event coordinator upon leaving, even if it is the final station. We need to ensure safety and complete team movement.

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, competitors may borrow a firearm or bow and continue the relay. No practice or sighting-in will be allowed for borrowed firearms once the VAHEC events have started.

EVENTS AND SCORING

There will be five events, each of which will count equally in determining the top team and individual awards. Each event will have a maximum score of 300 points. Awards will be given in Senior & Junior categories.

Competitors are eligible for individual awards for high scores for each event and overall. Individual overall scores are calculated by adding the scores for all five events.

Overall team scores are calculated by adding the overall scores for each competitor on a team. If a team consists of more than four competitors, the score for overall team awards will be determined by the four members with the highest overall scores. Team scores for individual events are calculated by adding a team's four highest scores in that event.

22 Caliber Rimfire Rifle Event

1. The rifle-shooting event will be conducted in three stages:

a) Long range 60-75 yards, any shooting position, a single vertical or horizontal support may be used on the front half of the rifle. Groundhog target with scoring rings superimposed on vital area.

b) Medium range 30-60 yards, any shooting position excluding prone, a single vertical support (not attached to the rifle) may be used on the front half of the rifle. Rabbit target with two scoring vital areas.

c) Short range 10-30 yards, unsupported standing position only (use of sling allowed). Squirrel target with two scoring vital areas.

2. Competitors will fire 10 rounds for each stage. At each stage the competitor will be given 10 rounds of ammunition and upon command will have five minutes to complete the course of fire for that stage. The cease fire command may be given in less than 5 minutes if all rounds have been fired by all shooters. Any rifle fired after the cease fire command will result in a 10-point penalty per shot.

3. Targets and Scoring:

- a) The targets will be life-sized animal targets with scoring rings superimposed over the vital areas.
- b) Cross fires will be counted as misses. Only shots on a shooter's own target will count. If the shooter has too many hits on the target, that shooter will have the option of re-shooting the target or accepting the score of the lowest 10 shots.
- c) Targets will be scored at the rifle range.
- d) Shooters will not be allowed downrange.

4. Tied scores for individual and team rifle event winners will be broken by the highest score at the long-range target first, and then the highest score at the mid-range target, followed by the highest score at the short-range target. If a tie still exists, it will be broken by counting the highest number of shots of the highest value on the target.

5. Rifles: Only standard type .22 caliber rifles designed primarily for hunting will be permitted. All action types except fully automatic will be permissible. The rifle weight may not exceed 7 1/2 pounds (without sling) and must have a minimum trigger pull of 2 pounds (907 grams). Rifles may be equipped with a hunting sling not to exceed 1 1/2 inches (3.81 cm) in width. Sights will be open or peep or hunting scopes four power or less. Variable scopes may be used if they are fixed in a fashion that would prevent their adjustment above 4X during the event. Shooters may not change rifles after firing begins, except in the event of a rifle malfunction. Bipods are permissible at the long-range stage. The maximum weight of the rifle with the bipod may not exceed 7 1/2 pounds.

6. Prohibited equipment:

- a) Clothing with added padding or stiffness designed to assist competitive shooters to remain steady.
- b) Shooting mats. (Except mats provided)
- c) Adjustable competition sling swivel.
- d) Hook butt plate.
- e) Adjustable or thumbhole stocks. (Crossman .22 will be allowed)
- f) Palm rests or forearm of stocks exceeding 2 1/4 inches (5.72 cm) deep as measured from the center line of the bore.

g) Scopes or optics greater than four power (see rifles above).

h) Spotting scopes.

i) Range finders.

7. Certain attachments, modifications or types of rifles may be approved for physically challenged individuals. This approval must come from the Hunter Education Office and the event director fourteen days before the event. Before approval actual field demonstrations may be required.

8. Federal Classic .22 caliber long rifle rimfire ammunition will be supplied by the event officials. Participants may use their own ammunition during the competition. Coaches must maintain control of all ammunition while at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. **The ammunition must be turned over to event officials when checking into each event. No competitor will bring ammunition onto the firing line.**

9. Challenges may be made after the targets are made available to the coaches and competitors.

10. Practicing on the rifle range prior to the event is prohibited.

Shotgun (Sporting Clays)

1. The shotgun event will consist of **25** targets, worth **12** points each, shot from various hunting simulated situations. The shooting stations will make use of available cover to depict authentic hunting situations and shooting obstacles.

2. When ready for a target the competitor will call "PULL!" A delay of up to five seconds may occur before the target is released. SENIOR competitors will be required to use the standard, two hand, "low-ready" carry, and may not mount the firearm until they see the clay target flying. JUNIOR competitors may mount the gun while waiting for the clay target if they choose.

3. For a target to be scored as a hit, competitors must hit the target and a visible piece must break off. The scorer will call out "HIT" for a hit clay. Only shots fired at whole targets will be scored. The point value of a legal hit is twelve.

4. All whole targets released must be shot at or will be counted lost; only shotgun, ammunition or trap malfunction will enable a new target. Continued malfunction will require the use of another shotgun as directed by the range officer.

5. Only the competitor may challenge the call of an individual shot. Challenges must be made immediately and will be determined by the trap operator, scorer and range

officer.

6. Tie scores for individual shotgun event winners will be broken based on target difficulty. The event director will determine the order of difficulty.

7. Ammunition will be furnished for 12 and 20 gauge shotguns. Participants may use their own ammunition during the competition. Coaches must maintain control of all ammunition while at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. **The ammunition must be turned over to event officials when checking into each event. No competitor will bring ammunition onto the firing line.**

8. Shotguns may not be larger than 12 gauge. All action types except fully automatic will be permissible. There are no restrictions on shotgun grade, design or intended use. Shotguns are not to be equipped with any lenses, optic or illuminated type sighting fixture for this event. Competitors may not change firearms after beginning the course except in the event of a malfunction.

Bowhunting Event

1. The bowhunting event will be conducted in several stages; competitors will take shots at various distances from 5-40 yards.

2. Targets and Scoring:

a) The targets will be 3-D foam game animals with superimposed scoring areas that correspond to the vital areas of the animal.

b) Targets will have three scoring areas for a total of 300 points. Shooters will have 45 seconds for each shot.

c) The targets will be scored as the arrows are pulled.

d) Challenges must be made on the range before the arrow is pulled.

3. Tied scores for individual and team bow shooting events will be broken based on target difficulty. The event coordinator will determine the order of difficulty.

4. Only hunting type compound, recurve or long bows will be permitted. Bows may be equipped with hunting type sights with no more than 5 sight positions. Shooters may use only one bow for this event, except in the event of a malfunction.

5. Only target or field point arrows will be allowed. All arrows must be carried in a quiver, not in hand or pocket. This may be a home made quiver, ex. cardboard mailing tube with string for belt.

6. Each shooter must have a minimum of 6 arrows.
7. No weight requirements on points.
8. Prohibited equipment:
 - a) Extended sight bars that measure more than 5 inches from the front of the bow to the front of the sight.
 - b) More than one stabilizer.
 - c) Stabilizer over 12 inches long.
 - d) Artificially illuminated sights of any type.
 - e) Range finders, or any magnification device on range.
 - f) No cameras or video equipment on range.**
9. Certain attachments, modification or types of bows or crossbows may be approved for physically challenged individuals. This approval must come from the Hunter Education Office and the event director fourteen days before the event. Before approval, actual field demonstrations may be required.

Outdoor Skills Trail Event

The Outdoor Skills Trail Event will consist of a field compass course and short hunter education trail:

On the compass course, each competitor must use a compass and pacing to locate predetermined points in the field. The distance between points and the compass bearings will vary.

The competitor will be accompanied by an event official who will score the competitor according to the accuracy of both the compass bearing and the distance paced to each point.

The trail portion will consist of a short hunter safety trail. As the competitor arrives at each station, he/she will be presented with a scenario that may include a safety/legal/ethical dilemma based on Virginia law and the Virginia Hunter Education Course. Competitors will be scored on how they respond to each situation.

The tiebreaker will be the top score on each leg of the compass course, progressing from the longest to the shortest leg. A distance judging exercise will break remaining ties.

Hunter Responsibility Examination

1. The 100-question hunter responsibility and wildlife identification test may include multiple choice, true/false questions and wildlife identification (slide, video, or specimen).
2. All questions are taken from the **NRA Basic Hunter's Guide**, the **IHEA On-Line Hunter Education Course** (located at www.ihea.com), and the **Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Hunter Education Student Manual**.
3. Competitors must answer questions individually with no assistance from other competitors, written material or instructors.
4. The testing period will be one hour.
5. Tie scores will be broken with additional hunter responsibility questions.

Coaches of competitors are strongly encouraged to alert staff if any competitor has learning difficulties, so that the staff can assist if necessary.

AWARDS

TEAM AWARDS

1st place junior team in each event
2nd place junior team in each event
3rd place junior team in each event

1st place senior team in each event
2nd place senior team in each event
3rd place senior team in each event

Junior Team Champions
2nd place junior team
3rd place junior team

Senior Team Champions
2nd place senior team
3rd place senior team

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

1st place junior in all individual events combined
2nd place junior in all individual events combined
3rd place junior in all individual events combined

1st place senior in all individual events combined
2nd place senior in all individual events combined
3rd place senior in all individual events combined

1st place junior in each event
1st place senior in each event

TIES

Ties for aggregate score will be broken. **The first tiebreaker will be whether or not the competitor/team has completed all events.** If there is still a tie, the competitor/team with the highest score on the hunter responsibility exam will be declared the winner. If a tie still remains, the competitor team with the highest combined score in the three shooting events will be declared the winner. The next tiebreaker will be a combined score on the shotgun event, then the rifle event, and then the score on the bow and arrow competition. This procedure will be applied to individual and team competitors.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

The following telephone numbers are provided should you need to be contacted while at the Challenge.

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center (434) 248-5444 or (434) 248-6308

EMERGENCY ONLY:

Appomattox Sheriff's Office (434) 352-8241

Virginia State Police Third Division HQ (434) 993-2226

State Police, Appomattox (434) 352-7128

DGIF Dispatch (804) 367-1258