



## Muzzle Loading Rifle Event Rules

Please be sure to review General Mail-In Match Rules in addition to these Event Rules.  
All Match rules are available at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/shooting\\_sports/tournaments](https://www.canr.msu.edu/shooting_sports/tournaments).

Number of Individual Entrants per County: No limit.  
Number of Team Entrants per County: Individual only.  
Age Division Determination: Age on January 1, 2021.

### **Muzzle Loading Rifle Contest Divisions:**

Traditional Muzzle Loading Rifle Age 12-19  
Open Class Muzzle Loading Rifle Age 12-19

### **Traditional Muzzle Loading Rifle Equipment**

1. Any caliber Traditional Flintlock or Caplock muzzle loading rifle with metallic sights may be used. Rifle weight must not exceed 10 lbs. **(No telescopic sights will be allowed.)**
2. Set triggers and double triggers will be allowed.
3. The following are prohibited: Schutzen type butt plate, adjustable butt plates, palms, slings, and **electronic ignition devices**.
4. All contestants will shoot “**patched round ball**” only (no conical or Sabot bullets).
5. Maximum powder charge shall not exceed 60 grains.
6. Contestants will provide their own powder, patches, round balls, percussion caps and cleaning supplies. These items should be brought to the loading bench in a range box, shooting bag or pouch.
7. Contestants may use spotting scopes or binoculars as long as they do not interfere with other participants.

### **Open Class Muzzle Loading Rifle Equipment**

1. Any caliber In-line muzzle loading rifle with or without a scope or any caliber Traditional Flintlock or Caplock muzzle loading rifle with a scope may be used. Rifle must not exceed 10 lbs.
2. Set triggers and double triggers will be allowed.
3. The following are prohibited: Schutzen type butt plate, adjustable butt plates, palms, slings, and **electronic ignition devices**.
4. Contestants may use “patched round ball,” Conical or Sabot bullets.
5. Maximum powder charge shall not exceed 60 grains.
6. Contestants will provide their own powder, patches, round balls, (Conical or Sabot bullets), (percussion caps or primers) and cleaning supplies. These items should be brought to the loading bench in a range box, shooting bag or pouch.
7. The actions of all muzzle loading firearms equipped with a, bolt, falling-block or break action priming/firing system shall be open when brought to the loading bench to ensure



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8. that the firearm is not capped or primed. The action must remain open until at the firing line preparing to fire the shot.
9. **Break action firearms:** Once verified as safe by a range official at the loading bench, the action may be closed to allow for proper support during the loading procedure. Once the firearm has been loaded the action must be opened, and remain open until at the firing line preparing to fire the shot.

### Range Safety Rules

\*\*\*\*\***NO SMOKING ALLOWED IN THE VICINITY OF THIS EVENT**\*\*\*\*\*

*(Speak with county staff for additional information on **no smoking** policy at all Michigan 4-H events.)*

1. **Only Black Powder, Pyrodex or other commercially available black powder substitute may be used.** All bulk powder must be in the original container clearly identifying the manufacturer and powder type. Powder cans may be equipped with a pour spout. **No smokeless powder will be allowed on the range.**
2. **Powder flasks or powder horns** may be used, provided they are filled at the loading line under the supervision of a range official. No unmarked containers (speed loaders, plastic or glass condiment containers, etc.) will be allowed.
3. **The spectator line** will be established well behind the loading line. All spectators and coaches will be required to stay behind the spectator line.
4. **The loading line** will be established well behind the firing line. All loading will be done at a loading bench located along the loading line.
5. **Range rods** with palm savers will be required for loading. All range rods will have an inscribed line to show when the firearm is unloaded and a second line to indicate when the firearm is loaded with a properly seated charge. When the firearm is not in use, the range rod must be inserted down the barrel of the firearm to verify that the firearm is not loaded.
6. **Powder measure** must be used to measure each powder charge prior to dropping the charge down the barrel of the firearm. (No Pyrodex pellets)
7. **The firing line** will be established well down range of the loading line. No firearm will be capped or primed until the shooter is at the firing line. No powder will be allowed on the firing line (except as needed for priming flintlock firearms).
8. **Procedures for misfires or hang-fires:** The range officer and/or assistants will handle all misfires. A shooter with a misfire should call the range officer at once while keeping the muzzle pointed down range at all times. The range officer will make three attempts to clear a misfire. If not successful, the range officer will use a CO2 unit to clear the barrel.

### Equipment, Targets, Rules, and Course of Fire

1. Standard NMLRA Targets will be used: Bottle target #TG2427, Haffner combination target # TG0901 and single bull buffalo target # TG2410. Standard range rules will be followed.
2. Scoring of targets will be based on highest line broken by the ball or bullet hole.



## MICHIGAN 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS MAIL-IN MATCH

### Muzzle Loading Rifle Event Rules

3. Twenty (20) shots per contestant in standing position—on 3 targets—40 minutes per target—10 shots total at 25 yards and 10 shots at 50 yards.
4. Ten shots will be taken at 25 yards – Five (5) shots each on the Bottle target #TG2427 and Haffner combination target #TG0901. Ten (10) shots will be taken at 50 yards on Single Bull Buffalo target #TG2410.

Unless specified above, [current rules of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association](#), P.O. Box 67, Friendship, Indiana 47021, will apply.

*All firearms must be transported to the range in a proper gun case. No firearm will be removed from the case until directed to do so by the range officer. Participants who violate this rule will be disqualified. This rule has been established to promote and maintain a safe environment for everyone at the tournament site.*

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