

## **General Participation Rules for Isle of Wight County 4-H Competitions**

All of the general rules for the Isle of Wight County 4-H Competitions that take place at the Isle of Wight County Fair are founded on policies taken directly from the 4-H Handbook. Below you will find excerpts from the handbook in addition to how these rules apply to participation in the Isle of Wight County 4-H Livestock Shows. All additional information included by the 4-H Agent is *italicized*.

### **4-H Membership Definitions (Section 3.4)**

*Any youth participating in the Isle of Wight 4-H Competitions must be a bona-fide 4-H member. Any adults serving as volunteers throughout the 4-H year, including at the county fair, must be a certified volunteer. According to the "4-H Member Definitions," 4-H members and volunteers meet the following criteria:*

A **4-H member** is any boy or girl, age 5-18, who enrolls and participates in a planned sequence of related learning experiences for a minimum of six (6) hours under the guidance of Extension-trained volunteers or Extension staff members.

A **4-H volunteer** is anyone beyond 4-H member age who:

- completes a *Volunteer Enrollment Form* (and associated screenings),
- is accepted into the program,
- is trained,
- performs without compensation (or expectation of compensation) beyond possible reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, and
- performs specific tasks on behalf of the Virginia 4-H program.

### **4-H Age Policy (Section 3.5)**

Youth membership in 4-H is based on the following age categories:

- Qualifying 4-H EFNEP programs may serve youth three (3) years and older.
- Cloverbud 4-H Members: 5-8 years old
- Junior members: 9-11 year olds
- Intermediate 4-H Members: 12-13 year olds
- Senior 4-H Members: 14-18 year olds

#### **4-H Age Policy (Section 3.5 continued)**

For each of the above categories youth must turn the entry age during the 4-H year, October 1 through September 30. That is, youth who turn 3, 5, 9, 12, and 14, between October 1 and September 30, participate in these respective categories.

- Eligibility for 4-H membership terminates on December 31 of the year the member has his/her 19th birthday.
- Senior 4-H age requirements for National contests are ages 14 to 18 prior to January 1 of the year the youth participates in a National event.

*Age divisions for the Isle of Wight County 4-H Livestock Shows are as follows:*

- *Cloverbud: 5-8 years old*
- *Novice: Any individual 14 or under as of September 30, 2014, showing in a Fitting and Showmanship class for the first time in the given species.*
- *Junior: 9-13 years old as of September 30, 2014*
- *Senior: 14-18 years old as of September 30, 2014*

#### **Individual Member Enrollment (Section 3.6.1)**

Any youth that meets the qualifications of membership as defined above must complete a 4-H enrollment form annually.

#### **Code of Conduct Form (Section 3.6.1.5)**

Each year, 4-H members must sign a **4-H Code of Conduct Form** indicating they understand and agree to follow appropriate conduct for the event/activity. A parent/guardian signature is also required.

*This form will be required of those individuals completing Short-Term and Long-Term Volunteer Forms.*

*If a youth is found not abiding by 4-H Code of Conduct at any 4-H event, they will not be allowed to participate in any Isle of Wight 4-H Livestock Show. If their show has already taken place, their premium will be forfeit.*

*If an adult is found not abiding by the 4-H Code of Conduct at any 4-H event, they will be asked to leave the event, and, as a result, will revoke their privilege to serve as a 4-H volunteer.*

### **Health History Form (Section 3.6.1.6)**

Each year, members must also complete a **4-H Health History Form**, Publication 388-906. Another alternative for existing members who have completed a form, is that parents/guardians can sign a statement – attached to the original Form – indicating that all information is updated and correct. This Health History form provides status of the member’s health, insurance information and contacts. The form for members must be signed by a parent or guardian... These forms should be updated regularly as the member’s health dictates. For major events outside of club meetings, an updated Health History Form should be completed, or parents/guardians can sign a statement – attached to the original Form – indicating that all information is updated and correct. The parent/guardian signature authorizes treatment in case such persons cannot be reached in case of emergency.

### **Adult Volunteer Leaders Enrollment (Section 3.6.2.1)**

*In Isle of Wight County, once every three years, all parents who typically accompany their youth(s) to 4-H activities and club volunteers who assist with occasional activities are required to complete a new “Short-Term/Occasional Volunteer Form” and “4-H Code of Conduct” in addition to attending a training session held within six (6) months of their application being received.*

*4-H club leaders must complete the “Long-Term Volunteer Form.”*

Adults interested in serving as 4-H volunteer leaders must complete a 4-H application/enrollment form (Long or Short Form depending upon the position).

Occasional or one time volunteers, collaborators, or donors (Short Form) when working in low-risk positions or performing their role along with and under constant supervision of the Extension staff or trained volunteer supervisor should complete the One Time/Occasional Volunteer Application/Enrollment Short Form VA 114S --- Publication 388-003. Examples of use of this form would be for a person who will be making a presentation to a group, assisting with a contest, or serving on Extension Leadership Councils.

Volunteers continuing in their same role from year to year need to complete a new enrollment form or update and sign previously completed forms yearly.

### **Standards of Behavior for Virginia 4-H Volunteers (Section 3.6.2.2)**

All enrolled volunteers must complete a “Standards of Behavior for Virginia 4-H Volunteers Form,” which outlines the behavioral/conduct expectations of serving in that role. Current volunteers must complete the form upon renewing their enrollment. New volunteers must complete the form upon their initial enrollment.

*This form will be discussed and completed at 4-H Volunteer Training and must be renewed every three years.*

### **Planning and Conducting 4-H Competitive Events (Section 3.12)**

All competitive events should be preceded by sufficient learning and practice to develop a feeling of competence and confidence. Training sessions and local contests should be modeled after the format for state/national events. The competitive element in 4-H is designed to complete the learning process described in Section 2.9. A competitive activity is not a "stand alone" event.

#### **Competition Eligibility Requirements (Section 3.12.1)**

*All of the following rules apply to the Isle of Wight County 4-H Livestock Shows:*

- All youth must be enrolled 4-H members working under the supervision of Virginia Cooperative Extension.
- 4-H members must have completed at least one year of 4-H club work, including the current year and may compete in the same contest until top honors are won.  
*“One year of 4-H club work” includes attending at least three (3) club meetings or events, which should total over six (6) hours of involvement.  
A 4-H member receives “top honors” when they are the overall state winner.*
- 4-H members entering a contest must be enrolled in the project for which the contest is planned. This may include a self-determined project.
- 4-H members must be sufficiently prepared, with evidence of adequate information, instruction and practice.  
*This includes having your animal well trained for the fair.*
- 4-H members participating in the Virginia 4-H Horse Show must have completed at least one year of 4-H horse project work.  
*“One year of 4-H club work” includes attending at least three (3) club meetings or events, which should total over six (6) hours of involvement.*
- 4-H members may compete in the same contest area until they are the overall state winner. State winners are not eligible to compete again in the same competitive category at any level (unit, district or state).
- 4-H members, volunteer leaders and agents must be familiar with the rules and eligibility requirements of contests. The Unit Extension office must certify that members are eligible to compete in the contest.
- Some contests which have national level events may have different age requirements. Be sure to check age requirements for each contest.
- Youth will normally enroll for all their 4-H work in the unit in which they reside. However, there may be a situation where it is advantageous for youth to be enrolled in the 4-H program outside their unit of residence. Youth are restricted from enrolling in the same project in more than one Extension Unit in the same year.

#### **4-H Animal Policies (Section 3.17)**

- Each 4-H animal project shall include learning experiences appropriate to the species of animal to assure that 4-H members understand and practice the standards of humane treatment of animals. Standards for humane animal care can be found in 4-H project books for the individual species.
- Educational materials will be reviewed periodically to assure that content reflects current knowledge of humane care practices.
- Events such as greased pig contests, calf scramble contests, and other events for entertainment or which enable youth to randomly capture animals from a group or in a prize-winning situation are not acceptable. Such contests and events will not be planned, supported, or approved for 4-H participation.
- Fairs, shows, exhibitions, and similar events involving 4-H members with animals shall be conducted according to humane animal care standards. Because these activities take place away from the animal's familiar environment, special attention is needed for transportation, safe housing, adequate feed and water, ample space, humane handling, and good management and showmanship.
- Any fair, show, exhibition or similar event using the 4-H name or emblem or including identifiable 4-H participation shall have in place a plan for dealing with animal rights activities. This plan shall respect the democratic rights of people of different views while minimizing the possibility of harm to people and animals.
- 4-H Cloverbud members cannot participate in 4-H activities and events, in which they are expected to control, care for, or otherwise manage large animals or any other animal which presents a safety risk. Large animals are defined as cattle, llamas, sheep, swine, horses, goats and ratites (ostrich, rheas, emus, etc.) (See section 3.7.4)
- Policies related to donations and leases of animals in the name of 4-H are listed in Section 3.20.7.
- Policies related to 4-H Equine projects and activities can be found on the VCE risk management web page: <http://intra.ext.vt.edu/policies/riskmgt.html#equine>

**Rules specific to the Isle of Wight County 4-H Competition participation**

*Based on the above rules, the following guidelines apply to those youth wanting to participate in the Isle of Wight 4-H Livestock and Poultry Contests:*

- *Those youth acting as 4-H members in Isle of Wight County must have attended at least three club meetings between October 1, 2013, and July 31, 2014.*
- *All youth must have 4-H enrollment forms (4-H Member Enrollment, Code of Conduct, and Health History) completed as soon as they begin attending Isle of Wight County 4-H Club meetings.  
(It is the responsibility of the club secretary to take attendance at every club meeting and communicate with the 4-H Agent what club members were in attendance. A 4-H member will not be added to the attendance list until enrollment forms have been received by the club leader and subsequently the 4-H Agent. Forms can be turned in directly to the Isle of Wight Extension Office, at which time the 4-H Agent will communicate this with the club leader.)*
- *Since the Isle of Wight 4-H Livestock and Poultry Contests Shows are open to 4-H and FFA members outside of Isle of Wight, the 4-H Agent or FFA instructor where the youth is a registered must produce necessary enrollment forms for the 4-H member, verify that the above qualifications have been met, and state that the 4-H member is in good standing with the club in which he/she is associated. The counties invited to participate varies by species. Please consult the species rules.*

**Failure to abide by the above rules, in addition to any other rules that may be introduced at a later date prior to the 2014 Isle of Wight County Fair, will make the 4-H and FFA youth ineligible to receive a fair premium.**