



Mounted Shooting

To Prepare for clinic, introduce your mule to Highway Cones with PVC pole and balloons on top. Often this is harder to get over than the gun shots.

For any help shooters might need, please feel free to contact the Range Master: John Cipollone 307.254.0445



The following rules will be followed. Many of the following rules have been taken from the mounted Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA).

SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES:

- A. All firearms shall be treated as if they are loaded.**
- B. All loading and unloading of firearms should be done under the supervision of the designated armorer or line judge.
- C. All firearms shall remain unloaded until the rider is called to the loading area.**
- D. No firearm shall be cocked until immediately prior to engaging a target.**
- E. Riders have final responsibility to make sure their firearms are loaded, check for missing or dented primers, cylinders rotate freely and to be certain they are properly indexed prior to stage engagement. The armorer is not responsible.
- F. Competitors are expected to compete safely within their individual capabilities at all times. Do not try to "over ride" your own horsemanship skills. Control your firearm's muzzle direction at all times.
- G. All contestants shall be knowledgeable and proficient in the safe use of firearms.**
- H. Mandatory New Shooter orientation and qualification rides shall be conducted PRIOR to competition.**
- I. CMSA recommends the use of eye protection and ear protection at all CMSA sanctioned matches.
- J. As the national sanctioning body CMSA recommends that Cardholders support the NRA.
- K. CMSA recommends the use of a Range Master and a Line Judge, either on foot or mounted, at all CMSA sanctioned events.
- L. CMSA further recommends Range Master and Line Judge should be over 18-years of age and a CMSA Certified Range Master.
- M. Parents or guardians of minors or their designate may be in the arena when they compete.
- N. The rider assumes all responsibility for participation in these events
- O. Deliberate gun twirling in an arena shall be a 5 second penalty.**

P. After completing the stage, the contestant shall immediately report to the armorer and unload both revolvers.

NO SPECIFIC DRESS IS REQUIRED FOR COMPETITORS. Feel free to dress in CMSA custom dress.

FIREARMS—Jake has purchased a set of firearms that he will have for use by clinic or competition entrants that can be rented for \$3 per shoot.

A. Only fixed sight single action revolvers of .45 Colt caliber, designed prior to 1898, or reproductions thereof, shall be allowed in CMSA competitions.

B. Examples: Colt Single Action Army or Bisley Model, Smith & Wesson Schofield, Russian, or Remington Models 1875 & 1890, their reproductions and Ruger Vaqueros.

C. All holsters shall be of leather construction and shall retain the contestants' firearms throughout the strenuous range of motion required in mounted competition.

D. Holsters shall conform to the historic Old West design. A holster is defined as a leather pouch formed in the shape of a gun. A feedbag or saddlebag does not qualify and is considered by CMSA to be unsafe. Pistols shall be returned to holsters, which would be limited to belted holsters, pommel, cantle, and/or shoulder holsters.

E. Note: Old time high riding holsters work much better on horseback than the modern Hollywood type Buscadero rigs.

F. All firearms shall be maintained in the same external condition as originally manufactured from the factory. Allowed modifications shall be limited to engraving, hammer knurling or turned down hammers as long as there is no lateral movement or welded add-ons. Custom grips are allowed including Birds head grips (like the Cimarron Thunderer). No rubber grips allowed. **The original external profile shall be maintained. All external parts shall be of the type manufactured for that particular model of firearm. Stock parts may be swapped from gun to gun. Ejector rods shall be maintained. Site modifications shall be limited to the filing of the front site. Triggers shall be operational; "slip hammer" revolvers are unsafe.**

G. "Bird's Head" type grip frames on single action revolvers are legal for CMSA World Point Competition. Included are standard factory production Bird's Head Grip Frame guns and guns equipped with aftermarket Bird's Head Grip Frames. **Aftermarket grip frames shall be a production type product. No one of a kind custom made grip frames shall be allowed.** The side profile for grip frames cannot be altered on any revolver. This includes Standard, Factory Bird's Head and guns equipped with aftermarket Bird's Head Grip Frames.

H. The use of tape or vet wrap on guns, grips, or hammers is not allowed.

I. "Bisley Style Hammers" are legal on single action revolvers for CMSA World Point Competition. A Bisley Style Hammer may replace a standard hammer so long as it is of the same manufacturer. Example: It is legal to replace a standard Ruger Vaquero hammer with a Ruger Bisley Hammer.

AMMUNITION

A. All ammunition used in CMSA WPQ matches shall be CMSA approved. Ammunition shall be CMSA approved and will be provided with cost being included in fee.

SADDLES & Tack

A. There are no restrictions to tack and saddles.

HORSES

- A. CMSA competitions are open to all breeds of horses and mules, registered and unregistered. Riders are expected to compete with mounts that are healthy and in good physical condition. Horses should be introduced and conditioned to the sound of gunfire prior to competing in a CMSA match. A mounted shooting competition is not the appropriate forum to introduce your horse to the sound of gunfire for the first time. **New riders and/or mounts shall demonstrate that they can safely control or be controlled during the completion of a course of fire prior to entering a competition.** Basically, you need a well-trained horse that you can keep under control while negotiating a course of fire with one hand on the reins while shooting with the other.
- B. Due to the harsher sounds of smokeless gunpowder, you should avoid using blanks loaded with smokeless powder. All mounted shooting ammunition is loaded with black powder or a substitute like Pyrodex.
- C. No more than two riders per CLASS on the same horse with the exception of the Wrangler Class. However, there is no limit on the number of horses that a contestant may use in a CMSA match. In other words, a rider can change horses for each stage. Like roping and team penning events, CMSA matches score contestants, not horses.
- D. No abuse of animals shall be allowed. This is a Match Director call, done with a warning first. If disregarded, expulsion from the match shall follow.**

STAGE DESIGN

- A. The "course of fire" or pattern of riding is commonly referred to as a "stage" and should be designed for maximum enjoyment of competitors and spectators, while testing horsemanship and shooting skills. The safety of riders, spectators and horses is a principle concern.
- B. The primary purpose of a stage is to provide a scoring grid that is fair for all contestants. A standard CMSA stage is to have ten targets. A contestant is to shoot the course of fire with two single action revolvers loaded with not more than 5 approved cartridges. Revolvers are used one at a time. With the first revolver, a contestant shoots a random course of fire (the first half of the stage). **This random course shall be set in a safe manner. Upon completing the random course, the contestant shall holster the now empty revolver and draw the second revolver and ride to shoot the second half of the stage called the "rundown". Pistols shall be returned to holsters, which would be limited to belted holsters, pommel, cantle, and/or shoulder holsters.** The rundown is standardized in all CMSA World Qualifying Matches. The rundown is to have five targets to be completed in a fast, forward motion. **The final five targets shall be staged in such a way that horse and rider are challenged to shoot them at a maximum rate of speed, according to their ability.** It is specifically not the intention of the CMSA rules to penalize a fast horse and rider.
- C. **The Range Master shall have the responsibility of making final inspection of the course before rider gets their go.** Course of fire as set in riders meeting takes precedent over all other possibilities.
- D. No running starts into the arena
- E. All riders shall start with the gate closed or use of a baffled alley/gate.**
- F. Barrel shall not be closer than 25 feet to the side rails of the arena and 25 feet to the end rail and targets shall be a minimum of 30 feet from side rails.** Try to set course so contestants shoot towards the center of the arena.
- G. All Arena barrels used in CMSA matches should be plastic and should be closed on both ends.

TIMING

- A. Electronic beam "barrel racing" timer will be used. The rider and horse shall start the course of fire from behind a predetermined start/finish line.**

SCORING

- A. CMSA matches are scored according to elapsed time plus the total of any applicable penalties. The total sum of all of the stages determines the overall match winners.
- B. The decision of the Range Master is final, based on the rulebook. **If a contestant wishes to protest the Range Master's decision he/she shall do so by filing a \$50 cash protest fee with the Match Director. The Appeals Board for any CMSA sanctioned match shall be made up of 3 experienced CMSA Cardholders and one alternate who shall hear the appeal. This Appeals Board shall be set up confidentially by the Match Director prior to the shooters meeting. No appeal shall be heard, discussed or pre-vote opinion taken of the Appeals Board until the \$50 is paid in CASH to the Match Director. The Appeals Board shall immediately convene and listen to the riders' case. They shall then discuss and vote in private on whether to accept or deny the protest.** If the appeal is granted the \$50 is returned; if the appeal is rejected the \$50 goes to the club sponsoring the event.

- C. The board of a sponsoring club has sovereignty if no rule or penalty exists in the CMSA rulebook.
- D. **Points shall not be retroactive.** Club Presidents are to enforce that riders either have their current competition card or have joined CMSA at the World Point Qualifying match in which they wish to compete.

PENALTIES

A. **Discretionary penalties have no place in timed events and penalties shall be restricted to the following:**

1. **Missed target: 5 seconds**
2. **Knocked over barrel: 5 seconds**
3. **Failure to follow course of fire: 10 seconds**
4. **Dropped gun: 5 seconds**
5. **Failure to holster first gun: 5 seconds**
6. **Non Qualified run: 60 seconds**

B. A firearm that is dropped once the course has been engaged is a dead firearm and the rider incurs a 5-second penalty plus any missed targets. A rider who drops a firearm before crossing the timing beam is removed from his place in line until the firearm has been cleaned and inspected by a match official. **No consequences shall be received for a firearm dropped after crossing the finish line, but the match official shall still inspect the firearm.**

C. A rider who becomes dismounted during the course of fire receives a 60 second penalty and the ride is over.

D. **In the event that a firearm comes into contact with the arena floor, that firearm becomes a dead gun. Only an arena official shall pick it up.**

E. **Total final time for a fall or a ride shall equal no more than 60 seconds. Total time for a rider that does not complete any stage shall be 60 seconds for that stage.**

F. No penalty will be given to any contestant for knocking over a target pole. **However, the targets shall be broken by direct gunfire. All targets (whether standing or lying down) shall be broken by gunfire to be considered a hit. All targets broken accidentally or by nature shall be shot. If a missed target is broken accidentally by an act of nature after the miss occurred it shall still be a miss.**

G. If a contestant hits two targets with one shot they may use the remaining round to pick up a target they may have missed. If round is not needed to pick up missed target, it should be fired before holstering or crossing the finish line.

H. **A rider shall have been determined to have engaged the course once he has crossed the start/finish line or is on the clock.** At that point, he/she accepts the stage as it is. **Thereafter, any mechanical malfunctions of your firearm or gear, including your horse, shall not constitute a re-ride.**

I. **If a rider is notified during or after the completion of a stage that a timekeeper error or a timing malfunction occurred the rider shall be granted a re-ride. The Timekeeper and the Range Master shall determine if a re-ride is granted.**

J. **If a rider crosses the timing line prior to completing the course of fire, he or she shall be given a total time of sixty seconds.**

K. **The Range Master shall grant re-rides as soon as possible after the completion of that run. Re-rides shall normally take place after the last rider has completed the stage.**

L. Re-rides are given as a new stage. This means the competitor does not carry forward any misses or a clean stage. (This is intended to make a rider decide whether he wants the re-ride and not wait to review the times of the other riders to decide if really needs to make up a re-ride)

M. If a run is interrupted, the call for a re-ride is made by the Range Master.

N. **The no alibi rule shall be put in place for all CMSA sanctioned matches.** There are no squibs, high primers, or misfires accepted. **There shall be no re-rides or scoring adjustments for ammo problems.**

O. **The two "Target Poles" that make up a designated gate on a course of fire shall be called "Gate Cones". If a rider knocks over a "Gate Cone" while going through the gate, it shall be considered a missed gate and shall receive a 5 second penalty.**

TARGETS

A. The standard targets used in CMSA competitions are helium quality balloons. When inflated, a balloon should measure 6 to 9 inches in diameter. Care should be taken to make sure that targets are of uniform size for all competitors. **Targets shall be of two distinctly different colors; it makes it easier for a contestant to define the first half from the second half of a stage.**

B. **For safety reasons target stands shall be made of a flexible material like PVC or polyethylene pipe no larger than 3/4 inch in diameter.** A simple 1 1/2-inch vertical hacksaw cut in the top of the pipe provides an excellent way to fasten the targets to the target pole. Simply tie off the neck of the balloon, stretch it, slip it into the saw cut, then when let loose the target is securely fastened to the target pole.

C. Standard target poles should be 48 inches high, but can be varied from ground level to 60 inches to increase the variety possible within each CMSA stage. Traffic cones make excellent, safe bases for target poles.

RULES THAT RESULT IN A PROCEDURAL, NON-QUALIFIED RUN, OR DISQUALIFICATION

Violation of these rules shall result in a 10 second Procedural:

A. Flagrant and deliberate bypassing of a target with intent to gain an unfair advantage shall be a procedural.

Violation of these rules shall result in a Non Qualified Run and time of 60 seconds for the stage:

A. Accidental discharge of a round outside the arena shall be a 60 second for the stage you were loaded for; if the competitor reloads and shoots the pattern he or she shall be disqualified from the match.

B. Engaging the course without the consent of the Range Master shall be a penalty of 60 seconds

C. Accidentally breaking the start timer during warm-up and before the Range Master has given the OK to engage the course, shall incur no penalty and the timer shall be reset. The rider shall be given a warning for that stage. A second breakage of the timer shall result in a 60 second penalty

D. If a rider loads or shoots 6 rounds from the same gun in a stage.

E. Failure to wear the appropriate headwear.

F. Failure to wear the minimum CMSA dress requirements

Violation of these rules shall result in disqualification from the match:

A. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the range, staging and shooting areas. This includes all persons, competitors, range officials, guests or any one else in these areas.

B. Competitors shall not consume any alcoholic beverage until they have completed all of their shooting for the day and have unloaded, inspected, and stored all of their firearms. "Shall result in DQ from the match"

C. Competitors shall not ingest any substance, which may affect their ability to participate in a completely safe manner. Both prescription and nonprescription pharmaceuticals that may cause drowsiness or other physical or mental impairment are to be avoided.

D. Abusive language or conduct shall not be tolerated and at discretion of Match Director shall be given a warning or disqualification.

E. Contestants shall have no live ammunition on their person or in their cartridge belts or saddlebags. Only dummy ammunition with inert or fired primers should be used in cartridge belts.

F. All contestants shall use "match supplied" .45 Colt blank ammunition. No personal ammunition of any type is to be allowed at CMSA competitions under penalty of disqualification. No blank shall have an effective range longer than 20 feet for rider and spectator safety. If the quality of the match-supplied ammunition is in question, any CMSA Competition Card Holder can purchase 50 rounds of said ammunition & submit it to CMSA for analysis.

G. No abuse of animals shall be allowed. This is a Match Director call, which shall result in expulsion from the match.

H. If a rider loads or shoots 6 rounds from the same gun in more than one stage in a match.