

HURONIA HAND GUN CLUB COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

Shooters Handbook

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MK 1

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SELECTING AN ALIAS

Every SAS member is required to select a shooting alias representative of a character or profession from the Old West or the western film genre.

CLOTHING AND ACCOUTREMENTS

Cowboy Action Shooting is a combination of historical reenactment and Saturday morning at the matinee. Participants may choose the style of costume they wish to wear, but all clothing must be typical of the late 19th century, a B-western movie, or Western television series.

SAS puts a great deal of emphasis on costuming because it adds so much to the uniqueness of our game and helps create a festive, informal atmosphere that supports the friendly, fraternal feeling we encourage in our competitors.

All shooters must be in costume, and we encourage invited guests and family also to be costumed. Shooters must remain in costume at all match events: dinners, award ceremonies, dances, etcetera.

ALL clothing and equipment **MUST** be worn appropriately, how it was intended and how it would have been worn in the OLD WEST or as seen on B-Western movies and television.

SAS FIREARMS COVENANTS

SAS Cowboy Action Shooting competitions are divided into three separate types of matches: main, team, and side matches. The rules regarding SAS approved firearms depend upon the type of competition in which you are participating.

Original and replicas may be used in competition provided they are in good, safe working order. In each of the respective sections, allowed modifications are listed. Just because a manufacturer designs a part or firearm for this sport or just because a firearm was available, does not necessarily mean it is legal for competition. Only the modifications referenced here as allowed are approved. All others are *illegal*. As any firearm related sport can be inherently dangerous, SAS does not recommend or suggest the modification of any firearm or the removal of any safety device. Participants in this sport must accept responsibility for the use and/or modifications of their firearms. Please consult with the firearm manufacturer prior to making any firearm modifications. Firearms must operate as intended by the original pre-1900 designs they depict. Firearms must function in a safe manner.

SAS recognizes the desire to enhance firearm performance. Firearm manufacturers, importers, gunsmiths, and the membership as a whole must use caution in any quest to develop mechanisms designed to enhance the operation of firearms for SAS Cowboy Action Shooting. Any firearm modification not referenced in this Handbook is *prohibited*. Unless referenced within these Covenants, any modifications, parts, or firearms used without this approval are illegal.

A stage disqualification is issued for each stage in which a non-SAS legal firearm is used.

ALL FIREARMS

- All firearms must be designed to fire by use of an impact mechanism such as required by centerfire primers, rimfire primers, percussion caps, or flintlock.
- Internal modifications not referenced here that cannot be seen while the firearm is at rest (action closed) are allowed provided they do not affect the external operation or directly conflict with one of the modifications listed here.
- Modifying the firing, cocking, chambering, or levering mechanism in any way that changes the process from an entirely manual operation to any other style operation (e.g., blowback operation, gas operation, or recoil operation) is expressly prohibited.
- All firearms may be repaired and/or restored to their original condition.
- Replacement parts may be made from materials other than the original unless such material is specifically prohibited.
- All parts may be smoothed, reprofiled, polished, deburred, or replaced provided they are not prohibited in these Covenants.

HAMMERS

- Hammers may be replaced or exchanged with hammers designed for the same frame size (e.g., small frame revolver hammers may not be installed on large frame revolvers or vice versa).
- Internal parts of the hammer may be changed (e.g., to allow for a half-cock notch on a revolver).
- Bisley style revolver hammers may only be used when mated with a Bisley style grip frame.
- Ruger Super Blackhawk/Montado style revolver hammers (i.e. lowered and widened hammers) are acceptable on both adjustable and fixed sight model revolvers.
- Hammer stops may be added.
- The hammer travel distance on any revolver may be adjusted.
- Rear sight notches cut into the revolver hammer may be widened.
- Hammer spur grooves may be recut.

BARRELS

- Barrels or chambers may be rebores, lined, or sleeved to any of the approved calibers or gauges for that particular firearm provided industry safe limits are maintained.
- Original barrels may be replaced with new barrels of correct styles (e.g., round, octagon, half-round) for that type of firearm.
- Barrels may be shortened and/or crowned.
- Rifle barrels may be altered to accept mounting hardware for an alternative tube magazine configuration and capacity appropriate to the model of firearm being altered.
- Barrels may be altered to accept period style sights as described within the Sights Section.
- Shotgun barrels may have internal choke tubes installed provided they do not extend beyond the muzzle.

TRIGGERS AND TRIGGER GUARDS

- Triggers may be profiled to narrow their width.
- Trigger position may be adjusted.
- Trigger stops may be added.
- Shotgun trigger guards may be wrapped with leather or other natural material.
- Bending the trigger guard on side by sides so triggers are more exposed is not allowed.

STOCKS AND GRIPS

- _The length or style of stock may be altered or replaced (e.g., a carbine style stock may be interchanged for a rifle stock and vice-versa).
- _Checkering, carving, or laser engraving is allowed on fore-stocks, buttstocks, and revolver grips.
- _A permanently fitted, non-adjustable, lace on, or slip on recoil pad is allowed on the buttstock of rifles and shotguns.
- _Buttplates may be changed to a buttplate style that was generally available from the original manufacturer.
- _A piece of leather or similar natural material may be attached to the buttplate or butt stock.
- _Grips or stocks of simulated or natural materials are acceptable provided they are not customized to constitute a “target” grip or stock. That is, they must be of the same basic shape as grips or stocks found on original firearms.
- _A slide on leather cover to protect the offhand from barrel heat is allowed on side by side shotguns.
- _Leather on a pump shotgun’s fore end or grip surface is not allowed.

SIGHTS

ALL FIREARMS

- _Sights must look like sights available during the cowboy era—bead, blade, simple post, or otherwise approved front sights (such as the XS Cowboy Express) made of materials such as steel, iron, ivory, faux ivory, brass, gold, pewter, copper, or silver are allowed.
- _Rear and front sights may be “blacked” painted, or plated in the colors of the previously listed materials. If blacking, paint, or plating is applied to a revolver front sight, it must cover the entire rear surface of the sight to give the appearance of a solid material.
- _All rear sights may have their openings adjusted.
- _The front sight may be raised or lowered to bring point-of-aim and point-of-impact into alignment.
- _The back of the front sight may be serrated.

RIFLE

- _Tang mounted rear sights may utilize changeable “peep” apertures and eyecups.
- _Dovetails may be milled in the barrel for sight replacement.
- _Beech style front sights and sight hoods are allowed.
- _Front sights may include a bead or insert of steel, iron, ivory, faux ivory, brass, gold, pewter, copper, or silver. The bead or insert shall be the color of the material.
- _Rear sights may utilize an insert of the same color as the rear sight to allow easy sight adjustment.
- _Ramp style front sights are allowed if original to the firearm.
- _Modern style click adjustable barrel or receiver sights are not allowed.

REVOLVER – FIXED SIGHT MODELS

- _Fixed sight revolvers may only use traditional style, barrel mounted, fixed metallic foresights of a simple blade, bead, or post configuration.
- _A simple open notched rear sight cut into the frame, hammer, or latch mechanism is the

only rear sight allowed.

- Allowed Exceptions: Original open-top cartridge revolvers, cap and ball revolvers, cartridge conversion revolvers, and their modern made replicas may have either a dovetail front or rear sight, and they must conform to the types commonly found on the originals. Barrel mounted rear sights are allowed on open-top revolvers. The Beretta “Laramie” rear latch with the adjustable rear sight may be replaced with the rear latch (with fixed sight) from the “Russian” Model to be allowed as a fixed sight model revolver. Any other revolver by whatever manufacturer or model that has either a dovetailed or screw adjustable front or rear sight, whether movable or adjustable, is an adjustable sight revolver.

REVOLVER – ADJUSTABLE SIGHT MODELS

- Adjustable sight revolvers may have dovetailed or adjustable rear sights and/or dovetailed front sights.
- The rear of adjustable sight revolver front sights may be reshaped (such as rounded).
- Ramp style front sights are allowed if original to the firearm.
- Adjustable sight revolver REAR sights may be replaced with commonly available sights of the same size and type. Modern replacement target sights such as the Bomar and Millett type sights are not allowed.
- Rear sights may utilize an insert of the same color as the rear sight to allow easy sight adjustment.

SHOTGUN

- Front sights may be bead or simple post types.

COSMETIC EMBELLISHMENT

- Period style tacks, carving, engraving, checkering, inlays, and other such embellishments are allowed on stocks and grips provided they do not constitute any kind of radical or target type grip enhancement.
- Receiver, frame, grip frame, cylinder, or barrel engraving is permitted provided it does not constitute a grip enhancement.
- Metal surfaces may retain their natural color or be blued, browned, plated (such as nickel, gold, or silver), blacked, color case hardened, aged to a patina type finish, or jeweled.

FRAMES AND RECEIVERS

- Frames and receivers may be drilled and tapped (e.g., to accept approved type sights).
- Ruger Blackhawk and Ruger Old Army adjustable sight frames may be modified by removing the rear sight assembly, welding up the sight cutout, recontouring the frame top strap, and cutting a new sight notch to replicate Colt SAA or Vaquero frames. The reconfigured frame must be mated with a conventional Ruger Vaquero type barrel, hammer, and the original grip frame assembly in order to be allowed as a fixed sight model revolver.
- Percussion revolvers may be converted to accommodate cartridge-firing mechanisms common to the period. They may also be modified by adding a narrow cap guard to the recoil shield and undercut the hammer (i.e., Manhattan modification). Reproduction percussion revolvers may have the frame contoured to approximate original type designs.

LEVERS

- “John Wayne” style levers may be substituted on rifles for the standard factory lever.

- _Levers may be wrapped or padded with leather or other natural material.
- _Filler “blocks” or other such mechanisms designed to prevent all or drastically limit movement of the fingers within the lever loop are not allowed.
- _With the exception of the “John Wayne” levers, any replacement lever must maintain the same basic contour and size as the original lever.
- _The lever may be cut and welded provided the basic exterior contour and size is not changed.
- _The exchange of an 1873 rifle lever with an 1866 rifle lever is allowed.
- _All lever action rifles must have a lever travel distance of not less than 4-1/8 inches when measured as follows:

With the action closed, measure three inches back from the back edge of the trigger at the point where it enters the frame. Mark this point on both the bottom of the buttstock and the lever opposite the buttstock mark. Open the lever to its maximum extension and measure the distance between the two marks.

Exception: The Browning BL-22 in .22 caliber, is a legal rifle for the Buckaroo Category and is a legal rifle for .22 caliber rifle side matches.

FEED / LOADING MECHANISMS

- _The carrier and/or lifter mechanisms in rifles may be lightened, welded, modified, or replaced.
- _A “two-shot” drop type system for lever action shotguns may be added.
- _Loading lever mechanisms on percussion revolvers may be removed or modified to accommodate barrel length changes.
- _The seating mechanism on percussion revolvers may be removed or may be modified to adjust seating depth.

FIRING PINS

- _The length of the firing pin may be extended.
- _The visible contour of the rear portion of firing pins or firing pin extensions may not be altered.
- _Friction reducing devices such as roller bearings are not allowed on the rear portion of firing pins or firing pin extensions.

RECOIL REDUCERS

- _Internal recoil reducing devices may be added.

REVOLVER EJECTOR RODS

- _Colt style bullseye or crescent ejector rods may be installed.

REVOLVER GRIP FRAMES

- _Birdshead grip frames and grips may be installed on any SAA or its modern replicas but may not be used with Bisley style hammers.
- _Grip frames may be replaced, “rounded,” or extended (e.g., the exchange of a Single Action Army grip frame with an 1860 Army grip frame and vice versa).
- _Brass or aluminum grip frames are allowed.

REVOLVER CYLINDER PINS

- _The cylinder pin may be shortened.
- _A screw may be used to secure the cylinder pin.

REVOLVER CYLINDERS

- _The front of the cylinder may be beveled.
- _Unfluted cylinders may be fluted.
- _Lead in grooves may be cut or extended.
- _The revolver may be altered to allow the cylinder to spin in either direction.
- _Cylinders may be rebored, lined, or sleeved to any of the approved revolver calibers provided industry safe limits are maintained.
- _Cylinders must be made of steel or iron only.

SHOTGUN BREAK ACTION

- _Internal mechanisms to guarantee break action shotguns do not close accidentally may be added or modified.
- _The open angle for break action shotguns may be increased.
- _The top opening lever on break action shotguns may be bent (reprofiled) by no more than ½" from the center of the tang to the outside edge of the lever.

RIFLE REQUIREMENTS

Rifles or carbines used in the main and team matches must be original or replicas of lever or slide action rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899, incorporating a tubular magazine and exposed hammer. Rifles with box magazines may not be used. Certain shooting categories require a specific type of rifle and ammunition to be used. Please see the shooting categories for further information

RIFLE CALIBERS

- _Must be centerfire of at least .32 caliber and not larger than .45 caliber.
- _Must be in a caliber commonly available in revolvers. Examples include, but are not limited to, .32-20, .32 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .38 Special, .38-40, .44-40, .44 Special, .44 Magnum, and .45 Colt. The only allowed exceptions are the .25-20 and .56-50. No rifle calibers such as .30-30 or .38-55 are allowed.
- _Buckaroo/Buckarett Category competitors choosing to utilize .22 caliber firearms must use standard velocity .22 caliber rimfire ammunition only.

IDEAL REVOLVER REQUIREMENTS

Original single action revolvers manufactured prior to 1899, their approved replicas, and the SAS approved single action adjustable sight revolvers are the only revolvers approved for use in SAS main match competition. The rules relative to SAS approved revolvers depend upon the competition category in which one participates. Sights are a major factor for determining in which category a revolver may be used. Certain shooting categories require a specific type of revolver and ammunition be used. Please see the shooting categories for further information.

No more than two main match revolvers may be carried to the firing line.

REVOLVER CALIBERS

- Must be centerfire calibers of at least .32 caliber and no larger than .45 caliber or percussion calibers of at least .36 caliber and no larger than .45 caliber.
- Must be in a caliber commonly available in revolvers. Examples include, but are not limited to, .32-20, .32 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .38 Special, .44 Magnum, .44-40, and .45 Colt.
- Standard velocity .22 caliber rimfire ammunition is allowed within the Buckaroo Category only.
- Although the .32 caliber revolvers and .36 caliber cap and ball revolvers are legal, they may not be powerful enough to handle all reactive targets.

CLUB REVOLVER EXCEPTIONS

Any double-action revolver in an approved caliber can be used as long as it is shot single-action.

SHOTGUN REQUIREMENTS

Any side-by-side or single shot shotgun typical of the period from approximately 1860 until 1899 with or without external hammers, having single or double triggers is allowed. Automatic ejectors are allowed on single shot break action, lever, and pump action shotguns **ONLY**. Side-by-side shotguns may not use automatic ejectors. Lever action, tubular feed, exposed hammer shotguns of the period are allowed, whether original or replicas. The only slide action shotgun allowed is the Model 1897 Winchester shotgun, whether original or replica. Certain shooting categories require a specific type of shotgun and ammunition to be used. Military configurations are not allowed (i.e., trench guns). Please see the shooting categories for further information.

SHOTGUN GAUGES

- Side-by-side, single shot, and lever action shotguns must be centerfire of at least 20 gauge and no larger than 10 gauge.
- Slide action shotguns must be centerfire of at least 16 gauge and no larger than 12 gauge.
- Side-by-side, single shot, and lever action centerfire shotguns in .410 are allowed within the Buckaroo Category only.

ANY EXTERNAL MODIFICATION TO ANY FIREARM NOT SPECIFICALLY REFERENCED IN THIS HANDBOOK IS EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED!

OTHER APPROVED FIREARMS

The following additional firearms have been approved for use:

- Small frame Model P revolvers such as the Cimarron Firearms Lightning, Uberti Stallion, and Ruger Single Six .32 H & R Magnum.
- Henry Big Boy Rifle (not legal in Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl Categories).
- US Firearms Omni Potent Revolver.
- Marlin 1894 Tube Feed Rifle—.32 H&R Magnum.
- Original or replica Nagant Single Action Revolver.

- Any double-action revolver can be used as long as it is shot single-action.

HOLSTERS, CARTRIDGE BELTS, AND BANDOLEERS

- All handguns must be carried in a safe holster capable of retaining the firearm throughout a normal range of motion.
- Main match holsters must be located one on each side of the belly button and separated by at least the width of two fists at the belt. (Note: Pocket pistol and Derringer holsters are not “main-match” holsters.)
- Holsters may not depart from the vertical by more than 30 degrees when worn.
- No shoulder holsters are allowed. All holsters must be located on a waist belt.
- Ammunition required for reloads during the course of any stage must be carried on the shooter’s person in a bandoleer, cartridge/shotshell belt loop, pouch, holster, or pocket or be safely staged as required by stage instructions. Leather belt slide ammo loops are acceptable; however, shotgun shell slides may not be worn over shotgun loops on an ammo belt. Shotgun loops must be in a single row. Rifle and revolver ammunition may not be carried in a shotshell loop. No ammunition may be carried in the mouth, ears, nose, cleavage, or any other bodily orifice.
- Bandoleers, cartridge belts, and pouches must be of traditional design (e.g., bandoleers must be loose and not secured in any way to prevent movement). Modern drop pouches, combat style shotgun loops, wrist or forearm bandoleers, and such are not allowed. Pouches shall have a flap and must carry their contents loose, with no special provisions to organize the contents for rapid retrieval. .
- Cartridge loops must not have a metal or plastic liner. However, the entire loop may be made of metal.
- Shotgun ammo loops may not accommodate more than two rounds per loop, and rifle/revolver ammo loops shall accommodate only one round per loop.
- Ammo belts must be worn so all ammo is positioned at or below the belly button.
- Shotgun ammo loops must conform to the shooters contour (i.e., not tilt out from the belt).

AMMUNITION

The minimum standard for center-fire ammunition used in all smokeless categories in all SAS matches State, Regional, National, International, and World Championship Competitions is not less than a minimum power factor of 60 and no velocity may be less than 400 fps. The maximum velocity standard for revolvers is 1000 fps. The maximum velocity standard for rifles is 1400 fps. Pocket pistols, derringers, and long-range rifles are exempt from the power factor and velocity requirements.

Power factors are simply calculated by multiplying the bullet weight times the velocity and then the resulting number is divided by 1000. Some examples are as follows:

100 gr bullet traveling at 600 fps has a power factor of 60: $(100 \times 600) / 1000 = 60.00$

77 gr bullet traveling at 800 fps has a power factor of 61.6 $(77 \times 800) / 1000 = 61.60$

200 gr bullet traveling at 400 fps has a power factor of 80 $(200 \times 400) / 1000 = 80.00$

- _Shooters may be held responsible for damage caused to a target or injury to personnel due to “bounce back” because of inappropriate ammunition. This major safety violation is grounds for “instant disqualification” and ejection from the match.
- _Revolver and rifle ammunition may not be jacketed, semi-jacketed, plated, gas checked, or

copper washed. It must be all lead. Molydisulfide coated bullets or equivalent are acceptable.

- _Revolver and rifle ammunition must be of “single projectile” design. “Multiple projectile” bullets are illegal.

- _Ammunition with bullets recessed below the case mouth is disallowed.
- _Throughout this manual, blackpowder means blackpowder, or a blackpowder substitute such as Pyrodex, 777, APP, or comparable propellants intended for muzzle loading firearms. Propellants containing nitrocellulose are prohibited as blackpowder substitutes. Any combination of smokeless and blackpowder (so called duplex loads) is specifically prohibited.
- _Shotgun shot size must be number 4 lead birdshot or smaller for all events (no steel or plated shot).
- _Magnum and high velocity shotgun shell loads are not allowed.
- _Shotgun shells shall not be sized down by the use of any die not manufactured for the specific gauge.
- _Shotgun Shell shall not be scored (ringed) as to cause the shot-shell case, wad, and shot column to be shot from the firearm as one projectile.
- _Pump and lever action shotguns are allowed to load no more than two live rounds at a time in the main match stages unless specified in the stage description. In team events, shotguns may be loaded to their maximum magazine capacity.
- _All centerfire or rimfire ammunition must be designed to package the bullet, gunpowder, and primer into a single metallic case precisely made to fit the firing chamber of the firearm. The primer must be of the type that uses only a small charge of impact sensitive chemical that may be located at the center of the case head or at its rim.

POCKET PISTOLS AND DERRINGERS

Pocket pistols and Derringers are popular for use in side matches and are occasionally introduced as an additional firearm in main match stages.

- _A pocket pistol is a small frame, fixed sight, pre-1900 design revolver having a barrel length of four inches or less. Pocket pistols must be .31 caliber or larger. Model “P” Colts and clones and revolvers with swing out cylinders are specifically not allowed regardless of caliber, frame size, or barrel length. Pocket pistols may not be used as or converted to main match revolvers.
- _A Derringer is defined as an external hammer, fixed sight, breech loading or percussion ignition, small frame pre-1900 design firearm having one to four barrels up to three and one-half inches long. Derringers must be .22 caliber or larger. The Remington style over/under barrel configuration and the Sharps four-barreled Pepperbox are typical SAS–legal Derringers.
- _ .22 Magnum ammunition is not allowed.

LONG RANGE (OR PRECISION) RIFLE

SAS long range or precision rifle competition is different than main match rifle competition with more emphasis placed on precision shooting at longer ranges, with time being a secondary scoring factor. Scoring for these matches is determined by the number of hits, with either of two methods used to break ties. At the match director’s option, either total time used to shoot the required number of shots or a shoot-off may be used to break ties.

There are five categories in long range or precision rifle competition, plus one optional category:

- _Lever action, revolver caliber

- Lever action, rifle caliber
- Single Shot
- Buffalo Single Shot
- Optical
- Open Category (may be used at the match director's option to include those firearms not covered by other official Long Range Categories).

Blackpowder categories can be added to any or all of the basic categories at the option of the match director. Each category competes within itself.

BASIC RULES FOR THE LONG RANGE COMPETITIONS

- Front barrel sights may vary from simple blades to period hooded wind gauge designs using interchangeable sight inserts and having a spirit level mounted integral with the sight or sight base.
- Rear sights must either be open iron sights mounted on the barrel or original style tang or stock wrist mounted peep sights. Long range rear barrel mounted sights of the flip-up ladder type may use a peephole drilled through the sliding sight leaf. An example of this is the various ladder type sights used on the Springfield trapdoors.
- Bolt or receiver mounted sights are not allowed.
- Rifle Caliber" competition rifles must use traditional, period, rimmed cartridges. No cartridge chambered for use in any SAS approved main match revolver or rifle may be used in the "Rifle Caliber" competition, except the .56-50. Thus, .30-30 (.30 WCF), .38-55 Marlin & Ballard, .43 Spanish, or .45-70 Government cartridges are legal, while a .375 Winchester, .444 Marlin, .32-20, or .44-40 are not legal. Shotguns using slugs are not allowed
- Any propellant powder may be used (with the exception smokeless powder is not allowed in the Buffalo Single Shot competition).
- Regardless of category or caliber, bullets used in long range and precision rifle matches must be made of pure lead or lead alloy having a plain base, gas checked, or paper patched configuration.
- Range finders, or any other devices for calculating distances or sight adjustments are not allowed. Their use constitutes a side match disqualification.

Lever Action Rifles used in long-range matches, whether revolver or rifle calibers, must be originals or replicas of rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899. Lever or slide action, tubular feed, exposed hammer rifles or carbines are allowed, providing they are in safe working condition.

Single Shot and Buffalo Single Shot firearms must be originals or replicas of single shot rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899. All rifles **MUST** have exposed hammers. The caliber and cartridge rules for the "Rifle Caliber" firearms noted above under basic rules also apply to Single Shot and Buffalo Single Shot rifles with the exception Buffalo Single Shot rifles must be .375" bore size or larger.

Buffalo Single Shot competition has further restrictions requiring original or replica rifles to be a design of US manufacture. Spring-loaded ejectors are also prohibited, except for Springfield Trapdoor Rifles.

The Optical Category firearms must meet the above restrictions with the following optical rules:

- No length or power limitation on the scope.

- _Scope tube body to be ¾" or less in diameter and any ocular or objective lenses and adjusting or assembly rings to be less than 1" in diameter.
- _No internal scope adjustments for windage or elevation.
- _Mounts are to be of a traditional style of the period and contain the windage and elevation adjustments for the scope in either, or both, the front or rear mounts. No click adjustments in the mount. Either dove tail mounting or scope block mounting is allowed.
- _Original scope mounts of either the Cataract or Malcom style or variations thereof or replicas or derivative scope mounts conform to the criteria of paragraph above.

(Note: These rules are identical to the NRA BPCS Rules on optical sights.)

RANGE OPERATIONS

Cowboy Action Shooting is not intended to be a precision shooting competition. Small targets and long distances take the "action" out of the game and make it more discouraging for newer shooters.

Both experienced and inexperienced shooters want hits on their targets. Some folks just hit (or miss) a little faster than others. Too many misses, or the perception the targets are too difficult to hit, discourage folks from continuing to play, especially the less proficient shooters.

Ask any experienced Cowboy Action Shooter, and she or he will tell you there is no such thing as a target too big or too close to miss!

A more detailed guide to match design is available in the SAS Match Directors Guide. Metal and paper targets of generous size are used. Reactive targets such as pepper poppers and falling plates are used when practical to enhance shooter feedback and spectator appeal. Targets are set at close to medium range. There are no absolute rules, but we suggest the following distances, by firearm, if using a target approximately 16" X 16":
 Revolver – 7 to 10 yards Shotgun – 8 to 16 yards Rifle – 13 to 50 yards
 Derringer/Pocket Pistol – point blank to three yards, shooting paper, cardboard, or balloons only. It's too close to safely shoot steel.

To the extent possible, reactive targets are set to fall when squarely hit with no more than a standard .38 Special 158 gr. factory load.

SAS matches above the club level are "no alibi" matches. Once the first round goes down range, the competitor is committed to the stage and must finish the stage to the best of his or her ability. Reshoots/restarts are not awarded for ammunition or firearm malfunctions. However, if there is a range failure (failure of props, timer, or the range officers) beyond the competitor's control, a restart may be granted. On a reshoot/restart, the competitor starts over clean, carrying only accrued safety penalties forward. Restarts shall be allowed for a competitor to achieve a "clean" start up to the point at which the first round goes down range. Multiple restarts by the same shooter, that in the judgment of the R.O. are seen to be taking advantage, will not be entertained as they are not in the spirit of the game.

The role of the Range Officer is to safely assist the shooter through the course of fire. Coaching and constraining the shooter from unsafe acts are expected when appropriate,

minimizing procedural and safety penalties whenever possible. Proper coaching or no coaching at all is not considered RO Interference and therefore will never be grounds for a re-shoot. Failure to stage guns or ammunition at the designated position(s)/location(s) is the fault of the competitor and scored as a procedural unless the competitor is able to correct the situation, unassisted, while in the process of completing the stage under time. The penalty for using "illegally acquired" ammunition (i.e., NOT carried to the line/staged by the shooter in an approved manner) is a PROCEDURAL. Any targets hit using that ammo are scored as MISSES. **NO adjustments will be made to the stage raw time.**

It is expected the Range Officers will be the responsible parties for observing and resolving all safety related matters occurring in the loading, unloading, and firing line areas. However, any shooter who observes a safety infraction not seen by the Range Officer(s) should call the infraction to a Range Officer's attention, at which time the matter will be resolved.

STAGE CONVENTIONS

Stage Conventions, or standard range behaviors, are a list of practices every shooter is expected to know and follow on every stage. These stage conventions should be followed in all SAS matches unless otherwise directed in stage descriptions.

1. All knockdown shotgun targets may be reengaged until down.
2. All knockdown targets (shotgun, rifle, or revolver) must go down to count. Any knockdown target still standing once the shooter has engaged the next sequence of the stage will be counted as a miss.
3. All staged guns shall have their barrels pointed safely down range. All long guns initially staged on a horizontal flat surface shall be staged lying flat where at least the rear of the trigger guard is on the staging area. All handguns initially staged on a horizontal flat surface must be staged with the entire handgun lying flat on the staging surface.
4. Staged shotguns shall be open and empty.
5. Shooters may not start a stage with ammunition in hand.
6. Long guns will be discarded open and empty with their barrels pointed safely down range.
7. Revolvers are returned to leather after the shooting string.
8. Revolvers are drawn and used in accordance with the shooter's category.
9. Safe gun handling is the shooter's responsibility. The 170-degree safety rule is in effect.
10. If no starting position is given, the shooter shall stand fully erect with revolvers holstered and hands at the side, not touching any firearm.
11. Cowboy port arms is defined as standing fully erect with the butt of the long gun at or below the waist of the shooter, the muzzle at or above the shoulder, and the long gun held with both hands.
12. Interpersonal Conflicts WILL NOT be tolerated.

SAFETY PRACTICES

FIRST, LAST, AND ALWAYS

Our sport, by its very nature, has the potential to be dangerous and a serious accident can occur. Every participant in a SAS match is expected to be a safety officer. Each shooter's first responsibility is for his or her own safe conduct, but all shooters are expected to remain alert for actions by others that are unsafe.

Any Range Officer or shooter may confront any participant about an observed unsafe situation, and it is expected the matter will quickly be corrected and not repeated. Any argument concerning the correction of a safety related matter can be expected to result in that shooter being ejected from the range.

Shooters shall adhere to the following safety rules:

1. Treat and respect every firearm at all times as if it were loaded.
2. Muzzle direction is important between, before, during, and after shooting a stage. A muzzle must not be allowed to “sweep” the other participants at any time. Long guns shall have their actions open with chambers and magazines empty and muzzles pointed in a safe direction when transported at a match. A holstered revolver (loaded or empty) with the hammer fully down on an empty chamber or expended case is considered safe and may not be interpreted as sweeping another shooter while safely secured in the holster. Failure to manage safe muzzle direction is grounds for disqualification from the stage, and for repeated offenses, from the match.
3. All firearms shall remain unloaded except when under the direct observation of a Range Officer on the firing line or in the loading area.
4. Six-guns are always loaded with only five rounds and the hammer lowered, fully down, and left resting on the empty chamber. “Five shooters” may load five rounds, but the hammer must rest on a dummy chamber, safety slot, or pin in the cylinder so the hammer does not rest on a live round/cap. If a particular stage requires a one shot reload, the sixth chamber of percussion revolvers may be charged at the bench and then capped “on the clock,” either before the first round is fired or after the last round is fired. A complete reload for percussion revolver shooters is handled by staging a loaded, uncapped revolver down range or switching uncapped cylinders and capping on the clock.
5. No cocked revolver may ever leave a shooter’s hand. (Stage Disqualification) This does NOT apply when loading or reloading on the firing line.
6. Revolvers are returned to leather (re-holstered) with hammer down on a spent case or empty chamber at the conclusion of the shooting string, unless the stage description specifically directs otherwise (e.g., “move to next position and set gun on table or prop”). A shooting string is defined as shots from one type of firearm prior to the next type of firearm engaged.
7. De-cocking may not be done to avoid a penalty if cocked at the wrong time, position or location once a round has gone down range. NO gun may be de-cocked on the firing line except by pointing it down range and pulling the trigger or while under the direct supervision of the Timer Operator (TO). (This requires a positive indication/acknowledgement from the TO to the shooter). The penalty for de-cocking is a Stage Disqualification.
8. Once a revolver is cocked, the round under the hammer must be expended in order for it to be returned to a safe condition. Once a rifle is cocked, either the round under the hammer must be expended or the action opened in order for the rifle to be returned to a safe condition. Shotgun shells may be removed, if necessary, without penalty in order to return the firearm to a safe condition.
9. If a firearm is shot out of sequence or from the wrong position or location, the shooter will be awarded a single procedural penalty. In this situation, if the shooter elects or is forced to miss an appropriate target due to unsafe angles or target availability, a round may be reloaded to avoid a miss penalty (the dreaded “Double Jeopardy” of a procedure and miss). This does

not mean a shooter may reload a rifle or revolver at any other time to make up a miss. Unfired ejected rifle rounds may be replaced.

10. Inadvertently leaving unfired rounds in a revolver is a miss unless the round is under the hammer, then it is a Stage Disqualification.

11. Safe conditions of firearms for movement or leaving a shooters hand vary with each type of firearm. **Please see the SAS Range Operations Basic Safety Course for a detailed description of what constitutes a safe firearm condition for movement.**

12. A shooter with firearm in hand shall never be allowed to move with a live round under a cocked hammer. Movement is defined the same as “traveling” in basketball. Once the firearm is cocked, one foot must remain in place on the ground until the firearm is made safe.

13. A shooter shall not cock any revolver until the firearm is pointed safely down range. While on the firing line, any discharge of any firearm impacting within ten-feet of the shooter is unsafe and will result in disqualification from the stage or, if less than five feet, from the match. Any discharge away from the actual firing line shall result in a Match Disqualification.

14. A round over the berm is always a bad idea but is worse on some ranges than others. Local match regulations establish the appropriate penalty, up to and including a Match Disqualification.

15. Rifles may be staged down range from the shooter with the magazine loaded, action closed, hammer down and chamber empty.

16. Shotguns are always staged open with magazine and chambers empty and are loaded on the clock unless the stage begins with the shotgun in the shooter’s hands. Mule eared shotguns can be cocked at the beginning of a scenario, whether staged or in the shooter’s hands. Long guns are never staged with their muzzles on the ground.

17. Long guns will have their actions left open and the magazines/barrels empty at the conclusion of each shooting string. A 10 second minor safety penalty will be assessed if the firearm is not cleared or opened. This condition may be corrected prior to the next round being fired. If the long gun is the last firearm used, it must be cleared prior to it leaving the shooters hand(s) at the unloading table. This does not apply to guns shot out of sequence, made “safe” and then restaged.

18. A live round left in the chamber of a long gun constitutes a stage disqualification. Any other rounds, live or empty, left anywhere in a long gun in which it was loaded is a ten-second minor safety violation. Broken guns still containing rounds do not warrant penalties, except for misses, so long as the malfunction is declared and the gun made safe.

19. All shooters must demonstrate rudimentary familiarity and proficiency with the firearms being used. Shooters are expected to perform within their capabilities at all times. SAS matches are not the forums in which to learn basic firearms handling.

20. SAS matches are not fast draw competitions. Any unsafe gun handling in the course of a draw from the holster or any “fanning” will result in the shooter’s disqualification from that stage. “Slip-hammering” is not the same as fanning and is legal.

21. Extreme care must be exercised when drawing a revolver from a cross-draw or shoulder holster or returning the revolver to leather. The user must “twist” their body, if necessary, to ensure the muzzle never breaks the 170-degree safety rule during the process. Failure to ensure the muzzle is always down range is grounds for an immediate stage disqualification. A second infraction during the same match is grounds for match disqualification.

170-degree safety rule means the muzzle of the firearm must always be straight down range +/- 85 degrees in any direction. If a competitor "comes close" to breaking the 180-degree safety plane, the 170-degree safety rule has been violated, and the competitor is at fault.) It is also necessary to note that during the course of fire, the shooter must be given the ability to draw and holster revolvers from "straight hang" holsters and the ability to retrieve and return vertically staged double-barreled shotguns without penalty.

22. Movement is not allowed with a loaded, cocked firearm. Movement is defined by the basketball "traveling" rule. Whenever a shooter has a loaded, cocked firearm in hand, at least one foot must remain in place on the ground. 1st violation will result in a Stage Disqualification; 2nd violation will result in a Match Disqualification. This includes leaving the loading table with a cocked loaded firearm.

23. A dropped unloaded gun on the firing line (from the loading table to the unloading table) results in the shooter's disqualification from the stage. A dropped loaded firearm results in a match disqualification. A shooter may not pick up a dropped gun. The Range Officer will recover the gun, examine it, clear it, and return it to the shooter.

24. Ammunition dropped by a shooter in the course of reloading any firearm during a stage or "ejected" from any firearm is considered "dead" and may not be recovered until the shooter completes the course of fire. The round must be replaced from the shooter's person or other area as required by stage description or if the round is not fired it is counted as a missed shot. Staged ammunition dropped back where it was staged is not considered "dead."

25. The unloading officer or Range Officer MUST inspect all firearms before they leave the shooting stage. All rifles and pump or lever action shotguns must have their action cycled for the inspecting official. All revolvers, whether used or not in the stage, must also be inspected.

26. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the range area for all shooters, guests, range officers, and others, until shooting is done for the day. No shooter may consume any alcoholic beverage until he or she has completed all of their shooting for the day and stored their firearms.

27. No shooter may ingest any substance that will affect his or her ability to participate with a maximum state of awareness and in a completely safe manner. Both prescription and non-prescription pharmaceuticals that may cause drowsiness or any other physical or mental impairment must be avoided.

28. Hearing protection and eye protection are mandatory in and around the shooting areas. While small, period glasses look great, full protection, high impact glasses are strongly recommended. Such protection is recommended for everyone when in the range area, and eye protection is mandatory for spectators when within direct line of sight of steel targets.

29. All loading and unloading shall be conducted only in the designated areas.

NOTE: Percussion revolver shooters must exercise care to ensure they maintain safe muzzle direction during loading and have fired or cleared all capped chambers prior to leaving the unloading area. It is not permissible to seat percussion caps on a revolver's nipple using the gun's hammer. Percussion revolvers may only be capped at the loading area or on the firing line.

30. Dry firing at the loading table is not allowed and results in a stage disqualification. Dry firing is allowed only at designated safe areas. Dry firing is defined as the act of bringing the gun into a shooting position, cocking the hammer, and pulling the trigger as if to cause the gun to fire normally.

31. Only registered competitors may wear firearms.

32. If a competitor has a firearm malfunction that cannot be cleared during the course of fire, the shooter may not leave the firing line until the firearm has been cleared. A Match Disqualification will be awarded to the shooter if they leave the firing line with the malfunctioning firearm unless under the direct supervision of a Match Official.

33. Failure to stage guns or ammunition at the designated position(s) or location(s) is the fault of the competitor and scored as a procedural unless the competitor is able to correct the situation, unassisted, while in the process of completing the stage under time. The penalty for using "illegally acquired" ammunition (i.e. NOT carried to the line/staged by the shooter in an approved manner) will be a PROCEDURAL. Any targets hit using that ammo will be scored as MISSES. **NO adjustments will be made to the stage raw time.**

34. Competitors shall unload each of their firearms at the designated unloading area and have them visually inspected to make sure all chambers empty. Rifles and shotguns must be cycled to verify their magazines are empty. All revolvers taken to the firing line must be checked, whether or not they were used, and only two main match revolvers may be taken to the line.

35. Competitors arriving at the designated loading area with uncleared firearms after completing a stage within the same day will be assessed a Stage Disqualification penalty on the previously completed stage.

36. Competitors shall not leave the designated loading area with a loaded firearm unless they are proceeding to the stage as the next competitor to begin the stage.

OUTLAWED

The use or presence of any outlawed item is a Stage Disqualification.

- _Modern shooting gloves.
- _Short sleeve tee shirts, long sleeve tee shirts, and tank tops for all competitors. Long sleeved Henley type shirts with buttons are acceptable.
- _Ball caps
- _Nylon, plastic, or Velcro accoutrements.

SAS wants our participants to be safe, have fun, develop their competitive shooting skills, and enjoy the rich traditions of the Old West. We ask you join us in the friendly spirit of competition and preservation of our heritage.

SAS WILD BUNCH SHOOTING

SAS Wild Bunch Shooting is a separate shooting discipline within SAS. Although similar in many respects, it is not "Cowboy Action with a 1911!" Wild Bunch is a three-gun action competition using the 1911, a .40+ caliber rifle, and a '97 shotgun. Please see the SAS Wild Bunch Handbook for additional information.

**** WE DO NOT SHOOT WILD BUNCH AT THE HURONIA HAND GUN CLUB!**

CLUB RANGE SETUP

Setting up for Cowboy Action Shooting

The first thing to do when setting up for Cowboy is to decide on a course of fire. The course of fire will determine the locations of the tables and safety barriers. At the HHGC we have several approved ways of setting up the range.

The simplest way of setting up is what we call SOUTH ONLY SHOOTING. South Only Shooting involves the least amount of setup. We can also do EAST ONLY SHOOTING which requires a little more setup. Or we can shoot SOUTH AND EAST however South And East requires much more set up and is also more difficult to RO.

SOUTH ONLY SHOOTING

Setting up for SOUTH ONLY SHOOTING is quick and easy. With this setup we can use the permanently set up Loading, Unloading and Gear tables on the North East part of the action range. No safety barriers are needed with this setup so all we need to do is place a table or tables for staging rifles and shotguns. We can also add some shotgun targets against the South Burm if wanted.

EAST ONLY SHOOTING

EAST ONLY SHOOTING requires a little more set up as we can no longer use the Loading, Unloading and Gear tables on the North East part of the action range. We must set up new tables on the west side of the range. We also need a safety barrier to keep people from walking over towards the East side of the range.

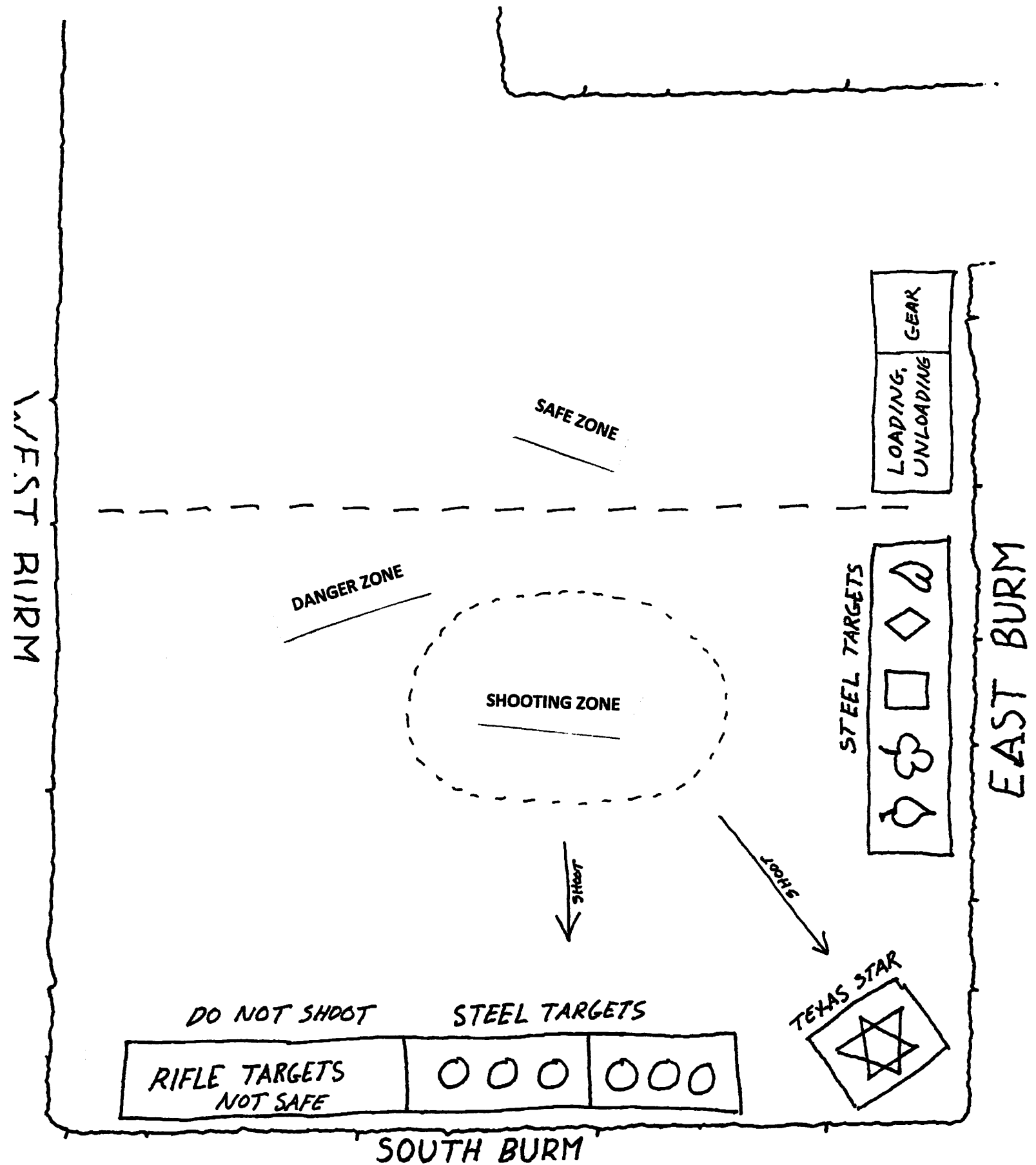
SOUTH AND EAST SHOOTING

SOUTH AND EAST SHOOTING is a similar set up to East Only Shooting but requires an additional safety barrier and is harder to RO. One must use extra care when shooting multiple directions as the safe area for spectators is much smaller.

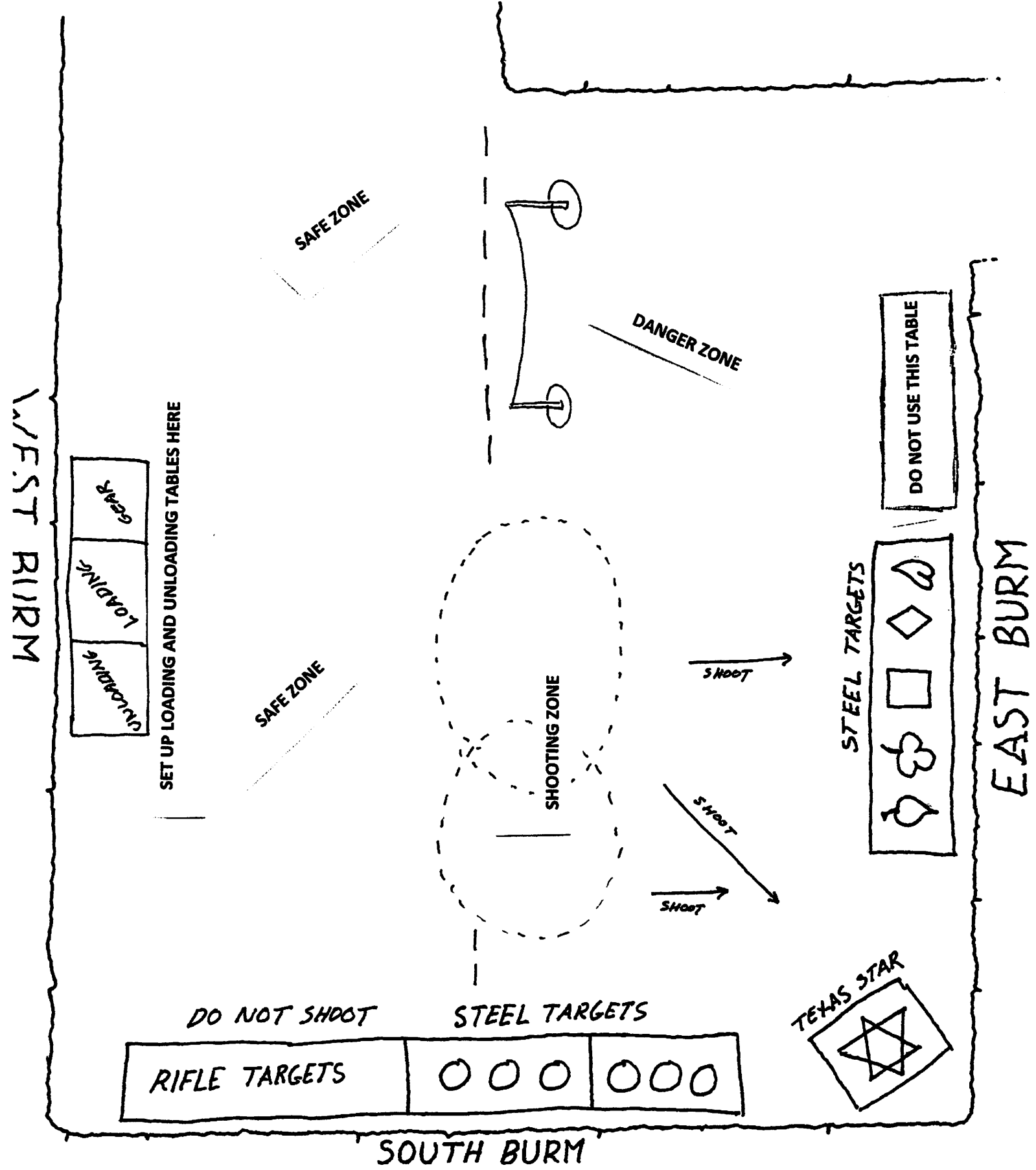
LOADING AND UN-LOADING TABLE SET UP

It is important that the tables for loading, un-loading, and extra gear be located up against the burm. It is vital that no one can find a way to stand on the wrong side of the table. If someone is on the wrong side of the table it negates the entire purpose of having the tables.

SOUTH SHOOTING



EAST SHOOTING



SOUTH SHOOTING

+
EAST

