

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

Cowboy Action Shooting is a multifaceted amateur shooting sport in which contestants compete with firearms typical of those used in the taming of the Old West: single action revolvers; lever action rifles; and side by side double barreled, pre-1899 pump, or lever action shotguns. The shooting competition is staged in a unique, characterized, Old West style. Contestants shoot in several four gun (two single action revolvers, lever rifle, and period shotgun) stages (courses of fire) in which they engage steel and/or cardboard targets. Scoring is based on accuracy and speed.

The truly unique aspect of Cowboy Action Shooting™ is the requirement placed on authentic period or western screen dress. Each participant is required to adopt a shooting alias appropriate to a character or profession of the late 19th century, or a Hollywood western star, and develop a costume accordingly.

Typical Monthly Match

- 6 stages (courses of fire)
- 60 rounds of revolver ammunition
- 60 rounds of rifle ammunition
- 24 – 30 shotgun shells
- Usually 3 to 4 hours depending on the number of competitors (competitors are broken into posses ranging from 12 to 18 participants so that everyone isn't on the same stage at the same time causing a slow down).

Firearms Requirements

Firearms must operate as intended by the original pre-1900 designs they depict. Firearms must function in a safe manner.

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.

Revolver Requirements

Original single action revolvers manufactured prior to 1899, their approved replicas, and the SASS approved single action adjustable sight revolvers are the only revolvers approved for use in SASS main match competition. The rules relative to SASS 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.

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. Sideby- 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 the 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.

Ammunition

The minimum standard for center-fire ammunition used in all smokeless categories in all SASS 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 $(200 \times 400) / 1000 = 80.00$

Revolvers 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.

Greenhorn (New Shooter) Exceptions

Typically local monthly matches will provide a category for "greenhorn" or new shooters. This category tends to have more relaxed requirements allowing flexibility for those starting out. For example, you may only have one revolver, so you shoot 5 rounds instead of 10. Or you don't have a shotgun yet, so you don't shoot the shotgun targets. Or the lever rifle and revolvers you have are in .22 (standard velocity lead) but you are allowed to shoot the match anyway. You would not be considered against shooters not in your category but you get to shoot the match.

It is also permissible (and quite often happens) for new cowboy shooters to share guns with others. This is perfectly acceptable. Just be sure your ammo meets the requirements listed here.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.SASSNET.COM OR GO DIRECTLY TO THE HANDBOOK AT: <http://www.sassnet.com/Downloads/SASSHandbook-18-2012.pdf>