

## **PENALTY OVERVIEW - 2016**

### **5-SECOND PENALTIES**

Rifle, revolver, and shotgun targets must be engaged with the appropriate type of firearm. A “miss” is defined as the failure to hit the appropriate target type using the appropriate type firearm. Target placement should always allow a shooter the opportunity for a clean miss to be scored without argument. Overlapping targets of the same type should be avoided if at all possible and should not cause a Procedural “trap” by making it difficult to determine the shooter’s intent when engaging the targets.

- Each missed target.
- Each unfired round.
- Inadvertently leaving unfired rounds in a revolver are misses unless there is an unfired round under the hammer, then it is a stage disqualification.
- Each target hit with an incorrect firearm, either intentionally or by mistake.
- Each target hit with “illegally acquired” ammunition.

To help understand this concept, a “MISS FLOW CHART” is found in Appendix C. It is also good to understand “**A MISS CANNOT CAUSE A PROCEDURAL.**”

### **10- SECOND PENALTIES**

#### **Procedural Penalties**

Any unintentional procedural errors caused by “brain fade,” confusion, ignorance, or mistakes (not to exceed one for any given stage).

- Failure to attempt to fire a firearm.
- Failure to attempt a prop or stage maneuver.
- Shooting targets in an order other than as required by stage description.
- Engaging the stage (firearms, targets, or maneuvers) in an order other than as required by the stage description.
- **First offence, in the same match, for failure to adhere to the guidelines of the category in which the shooter is competing.**
- Firing any firearm from a position or location other than as required by the stage description.
- Use of “illegally acquired” ammunition (i.e. NOT carried to the line/staged **by the shooter** in an approved manner) \* Reference “Shooters Handbook” page 11.
- **Not returning revolvers to leather unless otherwise specified**  
Each of these penalties **is** stand alone and not to be added one on top of the other.

Accommodations are always allowed for those unable to comply with specific stage procedures due to physical limitations with no procedural penalties assessed.

#### **Minor Safety Penalties**

- Leaving empty or live rounds in magazine or carrier of the long gun in which it was loaded.
- Open, empty long guns that slip and fall but do not break 170° safety rule or sweep anyone.
- Cocking a revolver before it reaches 45 degrees downrange.

### **STAGE DISQUALIFICATION**

- Shooting on the move (e.g., shooting multiple shots during continuous movement).
- Any dropped unloaded firearm on the firing line (from the loading table to the unloading table).
- Long guns that slip and fall and break the 170° safety rule.
- A discharge striking anything five to ten feet from the shooter. *Note: Exception under item 13 Appendix A.*
- Violation of the 170° safety rule/ Failure to manage appropriate muzzle control.
- Returning a revolver to leather with hammer not fully down on spent round or empty chamber.
- A cocked revolver leaving the shooter’s hand **(as soon as it leaves the shooter’s hand).**
- A live round left in the chamber of a long gun (as soon as it leaves the shooter’s hands).

- Second offence, in the same match, for failure to adhere to the guidelines of the category in which the shooter is competing.
- Changing location with a live round under a cocked hammer or a firearm with the hammer down on a live round. Changing location with a long gun with action closed and hammer cocked.
- Unsafe firearm handling, such as fanning.
- Loading at other than the designated loading position or firing line.
- Use of an illegal or illegally modified firearm.
- Use **or presence** of illegal items.
- Holstering or staging a revolver with the hammer down on a live round.
- Sweeping anyone with an unloaded firearm.
- Failure to adhere to loading and unloading procedures.  
*The point at which the "failure to adhere to loading/unloading procedure" Stage Disqualification for bypassing the Unloading Table applies is as follows: Once control of the firearm(s) is relinquished, be it in a rack on the stage or at the shooter's gun cart. (i.e. leaves the shooter's hand(s)).*
- Leaving the line once the stage has begun to retrieve ammo or firearms before all firearms brought to the line are verified as clear.
- Dry firing at the loading table.
- De-cocking a revolver, rifle or hammered shotgun **without positive indication/ acknowledgement from the Timer Operator.**
- Arriving at the designated loading area with uncleared firearms after completing a stage within the same day (assessed on the previously completed stage).

### **MATCH DISQUALIFICATION**

- Two accumulated Stage Disqualification Penalties or Two Spirit of the Game assessments.
- Belligerent attitude / Unsportsman-like conduct.
- **Willful failure to comply with a "cease fire" or "Stop" command given by, and while under the positive control of, the CRO/TO.**
- Shooting under the influence of alcohol, prescription, or other medication that may impair the shooter's physical or mental abilities.
- Shooting illegal ammunition. This includes ammunition that exceeds the maximum velocity and shotgun shells that have been bottle-neck resized or ringed. This does not include ammunition that does not meet the power factor. Please refer to the SASS Shooters Handbook for a definition of legal ammunition. (they need to know, it's in the test)
- Dropping a loaded firearm.
- Any discharge that hits the ground or stage prop less than five feet from the shooter, any discharge at the loading or unloading areas, or discharge that is deemed unsafe . *Note: Exception for declared expendable props.*
- Sweeping anyone with a loaded firearm.
- Third offence, in the same match, for failure to adhere to the guidelines of the category in which the shooter is competing.
- Interpersonal conflicts.

**A Match Disqualification means the shooter puts his/her firearms away and is done shooting for the duration of the match.**

### **FAILURE TO ENGAGE/SPIRIT OF THE GAME**

#### **30-Second Penalty**

- Willfully shooting a stage other than the way it was intended in order to gain a competitive advantage.
- Shooting ammunition that does not meet the power factor, minimum velocity. The penalty is applied for each stage a competitor is checked and their ammunition is found not to meet the power factor or minimum velocity.

- Willfully refusing to rope a steer, throw a stick of dynamite or otherwise make an attempt to complete any other non-shooting procedure written within the stage instructions.
- Note: Two Spirit of the Game or Failure to Engage penalties will result in a Match Disqualification.

### **ILLEGAL ITEMS**

The following are examples of SASS “illegal” items. The current version of the SASS Handbook should always be used as an additional reference for illegal items. The use or presence of any outlawed item is a Stage Disqualification.

- Holsters departing from the vertical by more than 30 degrees when worn
- Two main match revolvers worn on the same side of the body
- Modern shooting gloves
- Short sleeve shirts (Male competitors only)
- Short sleeved tee shirts, long sleeved tee shirts, and tank tops for all competitors. (Long sleeved Henley type shirts with buttons are allowed.)
- Modern feathered cowboy hats
- Designer jeans
- Ball caps
- Tennis, running, jogging, aerobic or other modern athletic shoes, combat boots
- Apparel displaying manufacturer’s, sponsor’s or team logos. Manufacturer’s labels on such apparel or equipment are acceptable.
- Nylon, plastic, or Velcro accouterments.