

There were **99 TG's in attendance and 246 clubs were represented**. There are almost **650 SASS Clubs**. If your club was not represented, you certainly cannot complain about the results. In the future, your club can send another TG with your proxy or you can mail your votes to Slipnoose (as many did) and your votes will be cast as you requested.

Below are the minutes of the TG Summit, the Regional Match Directors meeting and the State Match Directors meeting. And finally the voting results. Feel free to pass this information on to your clubs.

Chuckaroo

Report From The SASS Convention Territorial Governors Voting Result

SASS Territorial Governor Summit Minutes

DAY 1 12-5-13

Call to Order by Hipshot 11:00 AM

Pledge to the flag. Moment of silence for troops.

Announcements: gun drawing for Coyote Cap gun.

Slipnoose (SASS club administrator) introduced herself to the TG's and thanked them for their work and offered her assistance to the TG's whenever needed.

Introduction of the RO Committee, and thanked them for their service.

A new draft of the RO1, RO2 and handbooks was available on line and any items that were not consistent should be brought to the attention for future updates.

Hipshot cautioned voters to review the items after they are presented and be aware that with modifications the intent may change.

State and regional matches can now use stage point scoring as well as rank point scoring.

It was asked if clubs were using the minimum number per category when giving out of awards. It appeared that many were still awarding categories with one participant.

It is still optional to limit awards in SASS Official Categories with low numbers (3).

Agenda items;

ITEM #1

If the lever closes on a long gun after it is set down open, should there be a "no call" if it is, in fact empty, or a penalty if a spent case or round is ejected? If the gun closes, the shooter will be the ONLY one to touch the gun until it is shown clear or otherwise.

Discussion:

Some people believed that if we loosen up his rule the problem could get worse. It was suggested that the RO committee give their opinion on this rule change. The legal liability could possibly be an issue whenever we make a safety rule modification.

The RO committee responded that they placed the item on the agenda to get opinions and vote. Blackjack Zak explained that it was an aid to assist the T/O on making a quick decision on whether a lever is open or closed. It is still a requirement to open the lever. **If a lever is closed when it makes contact with the rest or prop, after being opened, there is no safety issue.**

There were also some folks that were in favor of leaving it as it is, making sure the shooter is still responsible for an open action when they are finished using it.

Hipshot reminded everyone that **if a round is in the gun, spent or live, is still a penalty.**

The analogy was discussed that all handguns are holstered with a round down and under the hammer. There really is no difference with a rifle as far as safety is concerned.

It was suggested that no one other than the shooter should handle any shooters guns except the shooter.

This would mirror the Wild bunch rules for handling firearms.

It was clarified that the rule would include shotguns as well.

It was suggested to modify the wording to include **“in the process of putting the gun down”** in order to include closing the lever by accidentally bumping an arm, prop wall etc. It was also suggested to **change rifle to long guns so that it included shotguns as well.**

Suggested rewrite.

Rewrite will be presented on ballot with clarifications added.

ITEM #2

Should the Minor Safety penalty for picking up retrieving a dropped or ejected round be removed if it can be done safely? i.e.:

24. Ammunition dropped by a shooter in the course of loading or reloading any firearm during a stage or "ejected" from any firearm may be SAFELY recovered or replaced from the shooter's person or other area as required by stage description. If the round is not fired it is counted as a missed shot.

SHB p.23 / RO1 p.19

Discussion

Some felt that allowing the rule change would eventually create a safety issue.

Others saw no problem in not penalizing someone for doing something that was not unsafe.

Some wanted “not picking up a round from the ground” to the wording.

A straw pole indication that more people would be for removing this penalty if it was still a penalty if they bent over and picked the round off of the ground.

The wording will be modified to exclude picking up a round from the ground.

Later, the RO committee decided to not add the exception of picking it off the ground because there was a lot of TG discussion on what the “ground” will be. The RO Committee made the decision to not change that wording.

ITEM #3

3) Recently, the issue of modifying rifle triggers from a curved profile to a straight profile has been discussed. This modification sets the trigger closer to the lever so it is less likely to wound the shooter's trigger finger.

The RO Committee has determined that this modification is an illegal modification according to the SASS Firearms Covenants, but requires a rule change to allow it.

The RO Committee is looking into setting limits on how much re-profiling can be done. Further discussion ensued about modifying triggers for guns other than lever action rifles, and a suggestion was made for ONLY allowing re-profiling triggers on lever action rifles.

Enforcement of this particular rule will be at the discretion of each match director until such time as it comes before the TGs for a vote.

Discussion:

The modification does not affect measurements for short stroke measurements. Philosophically, Hipshot asked "How far do we really want to go with modifications?" Does this modification leave the door open for additional modifications? Some felt that there was no tactical advantage to using the modification.

ITEM # 4

4) Should the Bisley hammer/grip frame restrictions from the Shooters Handbook "Firearms Covenants" be removed.

Discussion:

Statement was made that we allow Montado and Super Blackhawk hammers and this really is no different. There was little support for not passing this item.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) Minimum rowel size for B-Western.

Comparison was made with Classic Cowboy spur rules and B-Western. Cavalry spurs without a rowel are the issue because the rowel is very small and to some, non-existent.

Some felt that a spur is a spur no size is required, some applause was made in support of that.

It was pointed out that rowel size has no bearing on how spurs are used while riding horses.

The statement was made that B-Western was designed to be "Over the top" and large rowels help define "Over the top."

A straw poll taken to see how many would be in favor of a rowel size for B-Western's required spurs. There was little support.

In the end, Hipshot stated that the 2014 handbook will show Classic Cowboy can use any spurs with straps, and B-Western must have Western Spurs with straps and rowels are required (no cavalry spurs).

Adjourn; 1:15 PM

Day 2

12-6-13

Call To Order; 9:00 AM

Ballot Re-Wording,

1) If the action of a long gun closes after being opened and emptied, should there be a "no call" if in fact, the firearm is empty, or a penalty if a spent case or live round is ejected? If the gun closes, the shooter will be the ONLY one to touch the gun until it is shown clear or otherwise, at the end of the stage.

2) Should the Minor Safety penalty for retrieving a dropped or ejected round be removed.

Dropped or ejected rounds will not be considered illegally acquired.

3) Should the straightened trigger be allowed?

4) Should the Bisley hammer/grip frame restrictions from the Shooters Handbook "Firearms Covenants" be removed?

Some discussion was had explaining the modifications.

General Discussion items

Dress Code

Are there some problems with minimum dress code items. Specifically, the use of jeans.

Hipshot asked the TG's, "Is there any interest in trying to elevate the dress code?"

Logos were brought up. Apparel logos are different than advertising logo. It was suggested that apparel logos be removed. There was no support.

Comment was made the "period" clothing was not what we are requesting. Cowboys wore the minimum like coveralls and or jeans. They generally did not wear fancy clothing.

Lengthy discussion on both sides. "You can't legislate taste." "If more stringent minimum standards were issued, most clubs would not enforce them."

A passage from the 2004 handbook stated that jeans were permitted. For some reason it was omitted in 2006. **The majority seemed to prefer keeping jeans and current minimum standards.**

A straw poll was taken to see if current minimum standards were acceptable. **The overwhelming number felt there was no need to make any changes.**

Some mentioned that current dress codes were not being monitored.

Clarifications

Single shot shotguns are allowed in SASS action matches if they have an exposed hammer and they can have an ejector.

Concern was made that having an internal hammer should be allowed.

Straw poll was taken and the majority agreed that it may have an exposed hammer or an unexposed hammer. This will be the final decision.

Barrels.

Changing barrels on handguns is permitted. An octagon barrel will be allowed as a replacement barrel on a handgun.

Shooter Only touching their guns.

Should the shooter be the only person to stage and receive their guns?

One person suggested that it should be a recommendation only, not a requirement.

Some stages would have a time issue if it was a rule that only the shooters touches their guns.

Some felt it should be a clubs decision. (Applause).

Consensus was leaving it up to the match director.

Categories and Sub Categories.

Is Senior Gunfighter an age based or shooting style category?

With new club specific multi sub-categories, which have determines the fall back for proper firearm usage. Adjustable sights may be used in one half but not the other.

Although these are not SASS official categories, we need to establish a way to get all sub-categories on the same page.

The issue is some categories permit adjustable sighted guns and others do not.

Straw poll as to who could support using the shooting / equipment style as the driving force for rules interpretation. **In other words a Senior Gunfighter would have to follow Gunfighter rules for shooting style and the equipment used. The majority indicated that they would support that.**

OPEN DISCUSSION

Does anyone care if a watch fob OK instead of a chain for Classic Cowboy?

One TG's people wanted to know more about target distances closer than the recommended guidelines.

Hipshot - **the guidelines are just that guidelines, they are not actual requirements.**

Comment was made that if someone is injured and the target was placed closer than a guideline recommends, the insurance company would not be required to cover the injury.

Much discussion was held on the safety of targets and target distances and the legality of placing targets closer than the SASS recommended guidelines.

Most felt that the SASS guidelines were fine as they were and no changes should be made. Clubs would make their own decisions on target distances, close and far away.

Voting on agenda items took place.

adjourn 11:45 AM

VOTING RESULTS (Released Saturday 12-7-13)

To pass, an item must get 2/3rds of the vote.

1) If the action of a long gun closes after being opened and emptied, should there be a "no call" if in fact, the firearm is empty, or a penalty if a spent case or live round is ejected? If the gun closes, the shooter will be the ONLY one to touch the gun until it is shown clear or otherwise, at the end of the stage.

For 80.08% Against 19.11% Abstain 0.81% **PASS**

2) Should the Minor Safety penalty for retrieving a dropped or ejected round be removed.

Dropped or ejected rounds will not be considered illegally acquired.

For 58.54% Against 41.46% Abstain 0.00% **FAIL**

3) Should the straightened trigger be allowed?

For 76.02% Against 23.98% Abstain 0.00% **PASS**

4) Should the Bisley hammer/grip frame restrictions from the Shooters Handbook "Firearms Covenants" be removed?

For 89.43% Against 10.57% Abstain 0.00% **PASS**

Regional Match Directors Meeting

12-5-13

Call to Order 1:45 PM

Titles for black powder matches are a little confusing. Terms Regional and Territorial matches are being used. We need to standardize the match titles.

There has been a need for a big stand alone match on the East Coast. Currently, there is no club on the West side that can handle another major match. So what do we do?

Much discussion was held on the potential of an Eastern match that was above the level of a regional. With no front runner in the west that was capable of holding the match there was concern as to how to promote a single level match with no rival or counterpart.

Argument was made for Sparta being the host of this match for the East. But it does not address the concerns of shooters on the East coast.

For the time being the idea of a "Divisional" type match is still under advisement and the effort will be to do it right the first time, including a West Coast counterpart.

All regionals were happy with their current matches.

Regional make ups will remain the same for the time being.

Adjourn:

2:25 PM

SASS State Match Directors Meeting

12-06-13 Branson, Missouri

2:15 PM

State MD's introduced them.

Slipnoose, SASS Club Administrator introduced herself and offered help whenever needed. SASS promotional items are available for free, from SASS. Contact Slipnoose for ordering.

The deadline for submitting an application for the 2014 State Match was August in 2013. This gives some states, that shoot in January, little time to plan ahead, should another club applies to have the state shoot. It also delays work on the match and forces all planning into a short window.

There will be a change in the process date for application for the 2015 state matches. All clubs that want the state shoot in 2015, can get the application on January 1st, 2014, on line, or you can call the SASS office. The completed application for 2015 must be in SASS hands by April 1st.

What this means is if a club want to hold the state match in 2015, they must submit an application before April 1st of 2014. Should more than one club submit an application, the clubs will be notified and the TG's in that state will decide which club would get the match. This time frame will be used from year to year.

In the state contract, SASS will include a form to be used when returning the \$5 fee per paid shooter.

The \$5 is not required for Black Powder or Wild Bunch State matches.

Scoring can now be done in Total Time, Rank Point or Stage Point Scoring.

State Prize packages include gift certificates which you can order in any denomination in advance of the match date. As always, the prize package and belt buckles are not sent until the initial shooters list is sent to SASS (Slipnoose) for SASS membership verification. Certificates can be used toward the SASS Patriot badge.

Tex requested that MD's assign a photographer to take action pictures, and a person to write the article long before the match takes place. Include captions with all of the pictures.

Slipnoose requested that you give her the dates for your match in 2014 so the web site and Chronicle can be updated.

The question about local gun laws was brought up, was it an issue in certain states to the point that it affects your matches. It was suggested to get the Travelers Guide to Traveling with Firearms from the Blue Press.

Adjourn:
3:00 PM