

TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS SUMMIT – DECEMBER 2015

MINUTES COMPILED BY CHUCKAROO – Edited by PWB

Changes will become effective on Monday, December 7, 2015

AGENDA VOTING ITEMS RESULTS:

To pass, an item must receive 66% of the votes "For". Less than 66% and more than 50% means the item failed but can be re-introduced and the next TG Summit as an agenda item.

1) Should the rules be changed to allow the inclusion of "sub-gauge" shotguns such as 28 and 32 gauge for Buckaroos/Buckarettes?

PASSED - For 99.63% Against .037 Abstain 00.0%

2) Should the MSV for retrieval of dropped/ejected ammo be deleted?

PASSED - For 88.56% Against 11.07% Abstain .37%

3) Should the equipment regulations for GUNFIGHTER-style shooters be changed to allow the "butt forward" carry/Cavalry "twist" draw?

PASSED - For 83.76% Against 16.24% Abstain 00.0%

4) Should the penalty for not holstering revolvers at the end of the revolver shooting string be changed from a MSV to a Procedural penalty?

PASSED - For 85.61% Against 14.39% Abstain 00.00%

5) The Stage/Match DQ for failure to adhere to the command of "cease fire" was removed from the agenda. It was universally accepted that when a shooter willfully continues to shoot after the command "cease fire" they should be done for the day. Wording, in a clarification, will add verbiage to that effect. There is no change in the match DQ, but the additional verbiage will describe willful or a deliberate refusal to cease fire.

(SEE BELOW)

MINUTES

SASS December 2015 TG Summit Agenda

Thursday December 3, 2015

11:00 AM Welcome by Hipshot

Hipshot welcomed Blackjack Zak as the moderator for the 2015 TG meeting.

Opening comments from Blackjack Zak.

New TG's were welcomed and asked to stand and introduce themselves.

Today we will run through the voting items.

Next will be the discussion items today and Friday.

Saturday will be the votes. If there is an issue for the meeting on Saturday we will try to work around. This is plan A and if needed we will make a plan B.

RO Committee was introduced.

Agenda Item 1

Should the rules be changed to allow the inclusion of "sub-gauge" shotguns such as 28 and 32 gauge for Buckaroos/Buckarettes? The ROC recommends a "YES" vote.

TG Discussion: There was no discussion and it appears everyone was in agreement.

Agenda Item 2

Should the MSV for retrieval of dropped/ejected ammo be deleted? Discussion points: Under the current rules, a shooter may stage ammo (including ON THE GROUND) for later retrieval during the stage. There is NO DIFFERENCE between reaching for rounds that have been staged purposely and rounds that land on a table after having been dropped or ejected? One still has to maintain muzzle control while reaching for the rounds in either case. As a side note, WBAS rules have allowed retrieval of dropped ammo/magazines for the past 6+ years with NO SAFETY violations for muzzle break or dropped firearms while doing so. The ROC believes that retrieval of dropped ejected rounds can be done safely, and if the muzzle breaks the 170 degree, we already have rules in place to assess a penalty. The ROC recommends a "yes" vote. A "yes" vote would remove ALL REFERENCES to "dropped/ejected ammo" from the rule books and associated clarifications (also the Lazarus Rule).

TG Discussion: There was concern with picking up rounds "off the ground."

It was suggested that the only people that would pick up a round from the ground would be a new shooter, or a shooter that was out of ammo. There are rules already in place for violating the 170.

It is safe to stage shotshells on the table so why is it illegal or unsafe to pick up a round that is dropped onto the table.

There are already sufficient rules to cover the safety aspects when picking up a dropped round.

Additional discussion on making the rule stipulate that you cannot pick up rounds that are on the ground (are where you are standing).

It was brought up that dropped rounds can be retrieved safely no matter where they are.

"Clubs need to follow SASS rules, unless they have a range or a parent club that has more restrictive rules, in which case those more restrictive rules shall apply"

Agenda Item 3

Should the equipment regulations for GUNFIGHTER-style shooters be changed to allow the "butt forward" carry/Cavalry "twist" draw? The butt forward drawing/holstering method is currently allowed for all other shooting styles in SASS. The primary objection has been that the T/O cannot see both revolvers at the same time. This is true whether carrying/drawing butt-forward or from "two standard holsters" (current rule). Spotters are assigned to watch for any safety issues that the T/O might not be in position to observe. If a shooter is unable to SAFELY use this method, they WILL BE penalized by the safety rules currently in place.

Moreover, canted holsters do NOT create an issue with this rule change, as the same restrictions against breaking the 180° apply to ALL HOLSTERS and METHODS of DRAW/REHOLSTER. We should reiterate that the "straight hang" allowance applies to ALL types/styles of holsters, from canted double strong side to X-draw, to shoulder/Huckleberry rigs. As long as the muzzle of a revolver goes from the straight down 180° as it clears leather; then immediately into the DOWNRANGE 170° (and vice versa on the return) the shooter is OK.

There are videos available showing other SAFE methods.

The ROC recommends a "YES" vote.

TG Discussion: It was felt that this was the same as number 2, a rule to prevent breaking a rule.

Straw poll showed about 30% against the rule.

A demo was given on how it is supposed to be done safely.

~~Cross draws would not be allowed with this rule. (edit for clarification)~~

A competitor shooting GF-STYLE in either GF or BW categories MAY NOT utilize a simultaneous "double cross-draw" method of drawing/holstering revolvers.

Cross-draw IS ALLOWED by any competitor shooting "DOUBLE-DUELIST STYLE" in any category.

It was also mentioned that all other categories can do this but only gunfighter has been banned from using this method.

The rule was instigated in the early days when those shooting gunfighter had little experience.

Agenda Item 4

Should the penalty for not holstering revolvers at the end of the revolver shooting string be changed from a MSV to a Procedural penalty? Discussion points: Currently the SASS Stage Convention is: Revolvers must be holstered at the end of the shooting string unless otherwise stated in the stage description. The ROC believes that failure to re-holster at the end of the revolver string is NOT SAFETY issue. Changing the penalty from a MSV to a "Procedural" penalty is far more appropriate and more in keeping with the "type" of penalty. There are some "unintended consequences" which need to be considered: A shooter could already have one "P" on the stage for some other reason, and then NOT re-holster to save time, knowing that only one "P" may be assessed. If it can be determined that the shooter did so on purpose for a competitive advantage (e.g. to make up some of the time penalty for the initial "P"), then a "Spirit of the Game" penalty could be assessed. This is a situation that is correctable on the clock before the next gun is fired. The ROC recommends a "YES" vote.

TG Discussion: The ROC believes this is not a safety procedural but a procedure issue.

The Spirit of the Game penalty could be used for someone that already had a procedural and did not holster to save time.

No other discussion.

Agenda Item 5

Should the penalty regarding a shooter NOT complying with the CRO/TO commands of "cease fire" or "stop" while on the firing line be changed from a Match DQ to a Stage DQ? Discussion points: Currently the rule for a shooter not complying with the commands of the CRO/TO is a MDQ. There is a perception that this rule is rather harsh for the first offense, and that a SDQ is more appropriate. The ROC recommends a "YES" vote.

TG Discussion: After much discussion it was felt that the whole concept on this item was not addressing the problem. The situation really describes a shooter that intentionally violates the cease fire command. Nobody would penalize a shooter who did not hear the command cease fire. So there is no need to make it a lesser DQ. It should be addressing the intentional failure to stop when a cease fire is called. It was universally felt that any shooter that willingly failed to respond to a cease fire call should be match DQ'd and sent home.

The RO Committee will review this after the meeting adjourns and will either reword the item, table it, or add verbiage to the clarifications to include "Willfully" failed to adhere to a cease fire call.

The rule will now read: **Willful failure to comply with a "cease fire" or "Stop" command given by, and while under the positive control of, the CRO/TO shall result in a Match DQ.**

We will also move the penalty to the penalty matrix and penalty description pages in the RO I.

ADDITIONAL (Non-Voting) DISCUSSION ITEMS:

These items may become agenda items at future TG Meetings.

1) Shall we consider a change to the maximum number of "P"s per stage to two...or one per gun/type of firearm. Also, should we reclassify "P"s for "stage/target engagement" issues vs "out of category" progressive penalties?

Discussion points: This might alleviate the problem of some shooters committing multiple "P" violations, knowing they can only receive one. Many times this would be an SOG situation, but proving intent can be problematic; besides the reluctance on the part of most T/Os in assessing the additional 30-second penalty.

TG Discussion: Views on both sides for and against multiple procedurals. It was felt if we enforced the Spirit of the Game penalty, when a shooter knows they have a P, dumps or shoots an easier target sequence because they will not get another procedural.

Some felt this would over penalize a shooter that just got confused.

Straw poll showed most felt that one P was adequate. It was also felt that an additional P could be received if shooting out of category.

2) NON-SASS matches sometimes allow NON-SASS legal firearms. Clubs advertising as "SASS-affiliated" need to follow SASS rules. Discussion points: Example would be a club that allows "new shooters" to compete in monthly match settings with DA revolvers, hammerless pump shotguns (e.g. 870) and other "illegal" equipment. Those wishing to "try out" the stages with other types of firearms should do so outside of the actual match environment.

TG Discussion: If you advertise SASS Rules used, that is what you should do. Some felt that it should be permissible to allow a new shooter some leeway with firearms if they do not have the proper firearms yet. Example, 870 shotgun or double action pistols.

Some felt that strict rules should be state level and above but monthly matches should be free to allow new shooters flexibility on firearms until they obtain the SASS firearms.

3) The wearing of "logo'd" outerwear during inclement weather (up to, but not ON the stage), particularly during cold/wet seasons.

TG Discussion: In severe weather, it was mentioned that a logo should not prevent a shooter from shooting the stage. Others shoot until they come to the firing line. Consensus was not while shooting, all other times are OK.

4) Suggestion from some TGs regarding attendance at the TG Summit. Should a TG be "present to vote"? Discussion points: Territorial Governors carrying proxy votes should either ask the clubs they're representing if and under what circumstances (e.g. specific amendments) they may change the club vote. TGs should also be given that same leeway by the clubs they represent directly if they can be convinced through additional information that an agenda item would be for the betterment of the sport.

TG Discussion: Most felt the TG need not be present to vote. There were 556 clubs that were not represented. We should not make it difficult for clubs to vote.

5) Should the RO1 Course materials be amended to disallow CRO/TOs running the timer for family members?

Considerations: Some family members, especially Buckaroo/ettes benefit from having a family member running the timer. Better able to coach through any problems due to familiarity with equipment. Same applies to spouses and offspring. Just as much, if not more, "buddy posse" cheating than among family members. Positives outweigh the negatives of having family members run the timer. Issues: "fortuitous interference" and "re-shoots" should be "peer pressure" regulating. Some smaller clubs have a limited number of qualified T/Os.

TG Discussion: **Overwhelming NO.**

6) Should the "B" Western rules be amended to allow "any SASS-legal rifle"? We need to hear from the BW shooters. ROC recommendation to "leave BW rules alone".

TG Discussion: Again **overwhelming NO.** However some felt it was preventing some others from shooting the B Western Category. Without the gun restriction, B western would just be a costume contest.

7) Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl: rifle (all firearms) cutoff change to 1880. Discussion points: This would allow the TTN 1878 Colt SxS hammer gun but NOT the 1887 Winchester lever action shotgun in the category. Would also disallow the Remington 1890 revolver, and other models of a later date. We need to hear from Classics on these issues?

TG Discussion: **Overwhelming NO.**

8) Should chaps and spurs be MANDATORY in the "Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl" category? Considerations: heat issues in some parts of the country. Also how do we apply this to Classic Cowgirls?

TG Discussion: Most felt it was OK like it was. Some felt real cowboys walked around with chaps, spurs, gloves and bandanna. There was no question the you "Looked Cowboy" when you wear chaps and spurs. There are different visions as to what a classic cowboy wore. Making chaps and spurs mandatory was not proper. The number of items required is sufficient to create the classic look. **Consensus was to leave it alone.**

9) Should Territorial Governors (TG's) be required to take a Mandatory RO I and/or RO II refresher at least every two (2) years? TG's are charged with providing up-to-date info on rule/policy changes & clarifications to their respective club members, as per the Description of Duties listed on the SASS website. As such, they should be knowledgeable in regard to all SASS rules and clarifications.

TG Discussion: Some wanted to add match directors to this requirement along with the TG's. It was mentioned that TG's should be ROI and Match Directors up to ROII refresher requirements. It was mentioned that we should consider getting more instructors because it is difficult in some areas to get the training.

Question, are we going to require ROII Instructors to be re-certified?

The overall concern was many, in charge of matches, do not know the rules.

10) Rank point scoring. Discussion about rank point or total time scoring. It was mentioned that the match directors should have the choice to select which type of scoring to use for all match levels.

Some felt that rank point scoring was a way to insure the fastest shooter does not win.

Rank point scoring was good in the early days to even out the differences with different firearms and different stage designs.

Some felt that rank point, by category, was OK. Rank point by category would eliminate an overall winner in a match.

Meeting adjourn; 02:10 PM

SATURDAY, 12-03-15

Voting ballots were handed out. Votes will be tabulated today with results available Saturday evening. Minutes of the summit and voting results will be placed on the TG Wire by 9:00 PM tonight.

Misty Moonshine addressed the group about future summits. She explained that attendance for Conventions has been down and SASS, from a business sense, cannot afford to lose money to hold the convention. Additional meetings with the Wild Bunch will decide what to do in the future. The question is what happens to the TG Summit if there is no convention. Some suggestions were to hold TG meetings at Winter Ranger or End of Trail matches.

Concerns were expressed that a meeting at a major match would lose the quality of a stand-alone meeting.

Matches have a lot of things going on and trying to squeeze a quality meeting in would be difficult.

Other suggestions were to meet only every two years instead of annually.

A suggestion was made to make the TG group smaller. Possibly having a single TG representing a state.

Additional concerns were expressed about TG apathy. Many clubs were not represented and that leaves a lot of SASS members without representation.

The suggestion was made to hold a stand-alone TG meeting that was one or two days with not additional distractions. This could be held at various locations.

Misty welcomed suggestions for future meetings and TG's that are not present can contact her with their ideas and comments. She asked how many felt that life membership should remain a requirement to be a TG.

Approximately 65% felt that it should be a requirement. What additional requirements should be there?

Example a SASS member for a number of years etc. She asked the TG to let her know what criteria there should be to become a TG.

BLACK JACK ZAK CLARIFICATIONS FROM ROC :

1) Definition of "Designer Jeans" (Outlawed item) - "Designer Jeans" refers to those modern jeans that have slogans or logos embroidered, silk screened and such, saying things like "PINK" or "BABY". (Jeans with fancy or flashy adornments are acceptable)

2) Welding the firing pin in the bolt of a rifle so as to cause a "slam-fire" situation when levering the action (without the need to manipulate the trigger or hammer) is an **ILLEGAL MODIFICATION** subject to

DISQUALIFICATION PENALTIES. REF: SHB p.4

3) Definition of "short sleeve shirt" for men's clothing: A shirt with sleeves that do NOT extend to the wrist. Note: Rolling up a long sleeve shirt is acceptable, but fastening a rolled up shirt sleeve in place is the same as short sleeve; either of which are Outlawed/Prohibited and subject to DQ penalties. **AMENDED**

A shirt with the sleeves sewn/manufactured, or otherwise fastened, above the elbow. Does NOT apply to rolled up sleeves that are not secured in place.

4) Regarding the CRO/TO's command of "CEASE FIRE" or "STOP", and a failure of the shooter to comply with this command, the language will be changed to read **".....the shooter WILL receive a MDQ"**. Should the voting item be passed the shooter WILL receive a SDQ for not complying with the CRO/TO "cease fire" or "stop command". The Range Command of "Cease Fire" or "Stop" as given by the CRO/TO must be followed by the shooter, as it may have serious safety consequences. **(REF: Voting Agenda Item #5 as revised)**

5) The point at which the "failure to adhere to loading/unloading procedure" SDQ 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))"**

6) The only ammunition you can use on the stage is ammunition you initially bring to the line – you can't run to your cart for ammunition or even to get another firearm. In other words, you MAY NOT leave the "firing line" (as defined in the RO1 "Glossary of Terms") once you start the stage, and until all firearms have been verified as clear. **Penalty for violation is a SDQ for "failure to adhere to loading/unloading procedures".**

7) The action of a CRO/TO saving a long gun from falling over, still results in a penalty for the shooter. Basically if the CRO/TO had not been present to save the shooter from a penalty such as this, and the long gun would have fallen over regardless, then the penalty would still apply. The CRO/TO was just there to save the firearm from getting dirt on it!

Note: This is the only way to apply a penalty such as this, as some TOs may not be able to save the rifle from falling, and it would not be fair for those shooters who receive the penalty purely because of the action / inaction of their particular TO.

8) Revolvers (loaded or empty) that fall to the ground while holstered (e.g. gun belt buckle breaks) is a NO CALL, provided they remain holstered. The SHB and RO Manuals will be revised to read:

"A dropped unloaded firearm 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 firearm. The Range Officer will recover the firearm, examine it, clear it, and return it to the shooter. This does NOT apply to holstered revolvers that remain "in leather" in the event of an equipment failure (e.g. broken belt buckle) causing the gun/ammo belt to fall. Shooters may safely recover a fallen gun/ammo belt and continue finishing the stage without penalty."

SHB p.25/RO1 p.18

9) All rounds (live or empty) from a long gun MUST be cleared before the next gun of the stage is fired (or before leaving the shooter's hands if it's the last gun of the stage). This applies to all types of long guns. The language of the rule as written, "...of the gun in which it was loaded..." gives the clarification regarding a rifle round falling into the shotgun, which would be a NO CALL. In a different situation, if a shotgun hull comes out of a 97 but falls back in the port as the shotgun is put down and then not cleared before then next firearm is cleared, it IS still a MSV (this includes empty rifle case falling off hat into open rifle action after being set down).

10) Not bringing enough ammo to the line is NOT a "P" (just misses for un-fired rounds). The **Procedural** in this case would only apply to ammo (like firearms) when not correctly staged on the line (e.g. on/in a prop), and not corrected by the shooter on the clock. The definitions in the SHB and RO Manuals will be revised to clarify. **Voting results were read.**

adjourn 11:50 AM