

# **SASKATCHEWAN COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING ASSOCIATION**



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **THE SASKATCHEWAN COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING ASSOCIATION (SCMSA)**

**SCMSA is the recognized association for the equestrian sport of Cowboy Mounted Shooting in Saskatchewan that sets the official rules and guidelines of the sport for the province of Saskatchewan.**

- a. Cowboy Mounted Shooting® is a multi-faceted timed equestrian sporting event in which mounted contestants compete using two single action revolvers, loaded with blank ammunition to shoot 10 reactionary targets while negotiating a specified course of fire on horseback.
- b. This rulebook contains the specific rules and guidelines adopted by the SASKATCHEWAN COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING ASSOCIATION, INC.

### **A. COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING ASSOCIATION DEFINITIONS.**

- c. Class; CMSA has seven (7) Classes;
  - Men's
  - Ladies
  - Senior Men's
  - Senior Ladies
  - Day Members are not a class, and do not receive points, but do count toward points, move-up wins and will receive prizes/ payback.
  - Non-Competition Card Holders (NCC) are not a class, and do not receive points, count toward points, move-up wins and shall receive no prizes/payback.
- d. Levels: CMSA has levels within each class to assure fairness of competition.
  - Six Levels (1-6) within the Men's, Ladies, Senior Men's, Senior Ladies classes.
  - MENS: M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M6
  - LADIES: L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6
  - SENIOR MENS: SM1, SM2, SM3, SM4, SM5, SM6
  - SENIOR LADIES: SL1, SL2, SL3, SL4, SL5, SL6
- e. A contestant's official age for all age relevant Classes will be the age he/she is on the last day of the SCMSA Championship through the last day of the next SCMSA Championship.
- f. A year, season or competition year shall be defined as running from the last day of the SCMSA Championship through the last day of the next SCMSA Championship.
- g. Men's and Ladies are competitors 18 years of age or older.

- h. Match Director is the single representative of a hosting club or association, responsible for all facets of a SCMSA match.
- i. Range Master is responsible for maintaining a safe environment for both shooters and spectators, assessing any penalties incurred when a contestant engages the course of fire and keeping the match moving in a timely fashion.

## **B. OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCMSA CARDHOLDER**

- a. Whereas being a Cardholder in the SCMSA is a privilege and not a right, SCMSA has the authority to direct disciplinary action or sanctions against cardholders or affiliated clubs, who by virtue of being affiliated with SCMSA, come under the jurisdiction of SCMSA's Rules and Regulations.
- b. A cardholder or affiliated club may be disciplined, suspended or expelled for the SCMSA for actions that are determined to be detrimental to the overall welfare and/or financial well being of the association.
- c. All contestants are responsible for their own personal safety and that of their horse. They should also remain alert for other unsafe conditions and/or unsafe conduct by others.
- d. Cowboy mounted shooting requires equestrian and shooting skills of an intermediate to advanced level. Persons unsure as to their own skill level should contact the SCMSA about qualifications, practice and pre-match training clinics held in their area.
- e. The SCMSA Board of Directors is the forum that initially and ultimately hears and reviews evidence of alleged violations. Subsequently, the SCMSA Board of Directors will determine what actions are appropriate based on the severity of the violation.
- f. Examples of actions that could be considered detrimental to the SCMSA include, but are not limited to the following:
  - i. Threatening and/or aggressive behaviour toward others during or after a match.
  - ii. Inhumane treatment of animals.
  - iii. Non-payment of debts to SCMSA or affiliated/charter clubs shall result in the cancellation of points and suspension of SCMSA card until appropriate settlement has been reached.
  - iv. Competing under the influence of non-prescription drugs or alcohol.
  - v. Failure to follow SCMSA Rules.

### **C. SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES**

- 1) All firearms shall be treated as if they are loaded.**
- 2) All firearms shall remain unloaded until the rider arrives in the loading area.**
- 3) No firearm should be cocked until immediately prior to engaging a target.**
- 4) Riders have final responsibility to make sure their firearms are loaded and functioning properly prior to stage engagement.**
- 5) Competitors are expected to compete safely within their individual capabilities and controlling their firearm's muzzle direction at all times.**
- 6) All contestants shall be knowledgeable and proficient in the safe use of firearms.**
- 7) All contestants must have a valid restricted Possession and acquisition Firearms Licence.**
- 8) All members must possess individual valid memberships with the Saskatchewan Horse Federation.**
- 9) Mandatory New Shooter orientation and qualification rides shall be conducted PRIOR to competition.**
- 10) SCMSA recommends the use of eye protection and ear protection at all SCMSA sanctioned matches.**
- 11) SCMSA requires the use of a Range Master, and an ammunition supervisor over the age of 18, either on foot, seated or mounted, at all CMSA sanctioned events.**
- 12) The rider assumes all responsibility for participation in these events.**

## **D. SCMSA DRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITORS**

### **1. Male Competitors:**

- a) Male competitors shall be required to wear “Traditional, Classic, Recognizable Western Cowboy” style clothing as described below, in order to compete in SCMSA matches.
- b) Minimum SCMSA Dress Requirements for Males Competitors consists of:
  - i. *A traditional western cowboy style long sleeved shirt. Sleeve must be wrist length, and buttoned at the cuff while competing.*
  - ii. *A traditional western cowboy style hat.*
  - iii. *Traditional western cowboy style boots.*
  - iv. *Modern western cowboy style five pocket jeans may only be worn with chaps or chinks.*
- c) Male competitors are encouraged, but not required, to exceed “The minimum SCMSA dress requirements for male competitors” by electing to dress in Traditional western cowboy style apparel which portrays the overall look of the west in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century through the Silver Screen era.
- d) The minimum SCMSA dress requirements for male competitors does not allow for modern clothing such as T-shirts, knit tank tops, ball caps, men’s short-sleeved shirts, or sleeveless shirts to be worn at any CMSA event.

### **2. Female Competitors:**

- I. Female competitors shall be required to dress in “Traditional, Classic, Recognizable Western Cowgirl” style clothing as described below, in order to compete in SCMSA matches.
- II. The minimum SCMSA dress requirements for female competitors consists of:
  - *A traditional western cowgirl style long sleeved shirt or blouse. Sleeve must be wrist length, and buttoned at the cuff while competing.*
  - *A traditional western cowgirl style hat.*
  - *Traditional western cowgirl style boots or high-topped Victorian-style lace-up shoes.*
  - *Modern western cowgirl style five pocket jeans may only be worn with chaps or chinks.*
- III. Female competitors are allowed and encouraged, but not required, to exceed the minimum SCMSA dress requirements for female competitors by electing to dress in Traditional western cowgirl style apparel that

portrays the overall look of the west in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century through the Silver Screen era.

- IV. In order to celebrate and enjoy the flavour of the Wild West, female competitors may wear 19<sup>th</sup> century-styled short-sleeved tops only when worn with a full-length, full skirt of the 19<sup>th</sup> century style, or any full-length dress, such as a Victorian styled long formal dress.
  - i. Since split riding skirts were originally designed to allow ladies to ride astride in a more socially restrictive era, they are considered as trousers and as such are outdoor riding apparel; therefore a hat and long sleeves must be worn with a split riding skirt.
  - ii. Short-sleeved blouses are acceptable with any of the above stated garments.
  - iii. Sleeveless camisole tops may only be worn with Victorian-styled undergarments, such as when portraying the “soiled dove” or “saloon girl” look of the Old West era. Otherwise, such attire would not have been worn in public during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- V. Minimum SCMSA dress requirements for female competitors does not allow for modern clothing of any kind. Spandex or other modern body-hugging, fitted tops are not permissible under any circumstances.

3. **Competitors should remain in SCMSA Required Dress at all match events:** dinners, award ceremonies, dances, etc. It is also recommended that invited guests and family wear western clothing.

4. **Promotional logos** on tack or clothing shall not be allowed in SCMSA sanctioned matches.

5. **The only exclusion for Promotional Logos are:**

- I. “Makers Marks” are allowed on clothing, but shall not exceed one inch square in size.
- II. Pro Cardholders may wear sponsored logos on their long-sleeved shirts only in the Pro event and during the showcase/finals performances of Rifle, Pro and Eliminator. Each contestant wearing logo’s shirts shall include an approved SCMSA logo on either breast, left or right. Other logos may be applied:
  - i. Breast – two (2) logos of nine (9) square-inch maximum.
  - ii. Participants may wear one (1) cantle/yoke Patch (top back of shirt) Thirty (30) square-inch maximum.
  - iii. Participants may wear two (2) sleeve patches (one per sleeve-the patches are not required to represent same sponsor. Sixteen (16) square-inch maximum.

6. **To qualify to run a stage** you shall engage the course wearing a cowboy hat, protective headwear, or appropriate headwear.

## **E. FIREARMS**

1. Only fixed sight single action revolvers of .45 colt caliber, designed prior to 1898, or reproductions thereof, shall be allowed in CMSA competitions.
2. Examples are: Colt Single Action Army or Bisby Model, Smith & Wesson Schofield, Russian, or Remington Models 1875 & 1890, their reproductions and Ruger Vaqueros, Bisleys or Montados.
3. All holsters shall be of leather construction and shall retain the contestants 'firearms throughout the strenuous range of motion required in mounted competition.
4. Holsters shall conform to the historic OLD West design. A holster is defined as a leather pouch formed in the shape of a gun. A feedbag or saddlebag does not qualify and is considered by SCMSA to be unsafe. Pistols shall be returned to holsters, which would be limited to belted holsters, pommel, cantel, and/or shoulder holsters.
5. All firearms shall be maintained in the same external condition as originally manufactured from the factory. Allowed modifications shall be limited to engraving, hammer knurling or turned down hammers as long as there is no lateral movement or welded add-ons. Custom grips are allowed including Birds head grips (like the Cimmarron Thunderer). No rubber grips allowed. The original external profile shall be maintained. All external parts shall be of the type manufactured for that particular model of firearm. Stock parts may be swapped from gun to gun. Ejector rods shall be maintained. Site modifications shall be limited to the filing of the front site. Triggers shall be operational; "slip hammer" revolvers are unsafe.
6. "Bird's Head" type grip frames on single action revolvers are legal for SCMSA Competition. Included are 4 standard factory production Bird's Head Grip Frame guns and guns equipped with aftermarket Bird's Head Grip Frame. Aftermarket grip frames shall be a production type product. No one of a kind custom made grip frames shall be allowed. The side profile for grip frames cannot be altered on any revolver. This includes Standard, Factory Bird's Head and guns equipped with aftermarket Bird's Head Grip Frames.
7. The use of tape or vet wrap on guns, grips, or hammers is not allowed. Violation will result in a non-qualified run.
8. "Bisley Style Hammers" are legal on single action revolvers for SCMSA Competition. A Bisley Style Hammer may replace a standard hammer so long as it is of the same manufacturer. Example: It is legal to replace a standard Ruger Vaquero hammer with a Ruger Bisley Hammer.

## **F. AMMUNITION**

1. All mounted shooting blanks used in SCMSA matches, demonstrations; official practices sanctioned, approved or covered by the SCMSA's spectator liability policy shall be approved. All SCMSA approved mounted shooting blanks shall consistently burst properly inflated helium grade balloons from a distance of not less than 10 feet and not more than 20 feet.
2. No blank shall have an effective range longer than 20 feet for rider and spectator safety.

## **G. HORSES**

1. SCMSA completions are open to all breeds of horses and mules, registered and unregistered. Riders are expected to compete with mounts that are healthy and in good physical condition. A mounted shooting competition is not the appropriate forum to introduce your horse to the sound of gunfire for the first time. New riders and /or mounts shall demonstrate that they can safely control or be controlled during the completion of a course of fire prior to entering a competition.
2. No more than two riders per CLASS may compete on the same horse. However, there is no limit on the number of horses that a contestant may use in a SCMSA match, unless they are being tracked for specific prizes that are based upon the horse's performance. In other words, a rider can change horses for each stage.
3. No abuse of animals shall be allowed. This is a Match Director call, done with a warning first. If disregarded, expulsion from the match shall follow.

## **H. SADDLES**

1. Competitors shall use a saddle of western design that is constructed of leather and in safe condition. Traditional leather tack and equipment is more representative of the OLD West, and is an enhancement to the sport.



## **I. STAGE DESIGN**

1. The “course of fire” or patterns as proscribed in the official course book of the SCMSA (American) are designed for maximum enjoyment of competitors and spectators, while testing horsemanship and shooting skills. The safety of riders, spectators and horses is a principle concern. Only courses drawn from the current course book shall be used in events unless specific exception is granted by the SCMSA board of directors.
2. The primary purpose of a stage is to provide a scoring grid that is fair for all contestants. A standard SCMSA stage is to have ten targets. A contestant is to shoot the course of fire with two single action revolvers which shall be loaded with not more than 5 approved cartridges. Revolvers are used one at a time. With the first revolver, a contestant shoots a random course of fire (the first half of the stage). This random course shall be set in a safe manner. Upon completing the random course, the contestant shall holster the now empty revolver and draw the second revolver and ride to shoot the second half of the stage commonly called “rundown”. Pistols shall be returned to holsters, which shall be limited to belted holsters, pommel, cantle, and/or shoulder holster. The rundown is standardized in most SCMSA Matches. The rundown is to have five targets to be completed in a fast, forward motion.
3. The Range Master shall have the responsibility of making final inspection of the course before the first rider gets their go.
4. No running starts into the arena.
5. All riders shall start with the gate closed of use of a baffled alley/gate.
6. Barrel shall not be closer than 25 feet to the side rails of the arena and 25 feet to the end rail and targets shall be a minimum of 30 feet from side rails.

## **J. TIMING**

1. Electronic beam “barrel racing” timers, such as Farm Tek timers, shall be used for all championship events. The rider and horse shall start the course of fire from behind the timing beam.

## **K. SCORING**

1. SCMSA matches are scored according to elapsed time plus the total of any applicable penalties. The total sum of all of the stages determines the overall match winners.
2. The decision of the Range Master is final, based on the rulebook. If a contestant wishes to protest the Range Master’s decision he/she shall do so by filing a \$50 cash protest fee with the Match Director. The member protesting the call must be entered in the event to be protested. The Appeals Board for any SCMSA sanctioned match

shall be made up of 3 experienced SCMSA Cardholders and one alternate who shall hear the appeal. This Appeals Board shall be set up confidentially by the Match Director prior to the shooters meeting. No appeal shall be heard, discussed or pre-vote opinion taken of the Appeals Board until the \$50 is paid in CASH to the Match Director. The Appeals Board shall immediately convene and listen to the riders' case. They shall then discuss and vote in private on whether to accept or deny the protest. If the appeal is granted the \$50 is returned; if the appeal is rejected the \$50 goes to the club sponsoring the event. A brief report shall be sent to the SCMSA with the match results on detailing any and all appeals filed at an event.

3. The board of a sponsoring club has sovereignty if no rule or penalty exists in the SCMSA rulebook.

## **L. PENALTIES**

1. Penalties shall be restricted to the following;
  - i. Missed target: 5 seconds
  - ii. Knocked over barrel: 5 seconds
  - iii. Failure to follow course of fire: 10 seconds
  - iv. Dropped gun: 5 seconds
  - v. Failure to holster first gun: 5 seconds
  - vi. Non Qualified run: 60 seconds
  - vii. Gun twirling: 5 seconds
2. A firearm that is dropped once the course has been engaged is a dead firearm and the rider incurs a 5-second penalty plus any missed targets. A rider who drops a firearm before crossing the timing beam is removed from his place in line until the firearm has been cleaned. No consequences shall be received for a firearm dropped after crossing the finish line.
3. A rider who becomes dismounted during the course of fire receives a 60 second penalty and the ride is over.
4. In the event that a firearm comes into contact with the arena floor, that firearm becomes a dead gun. Only a match official should pick it up.
5. Total final time for any ride shall equal no more than 60 seconds. Total time for a rider that does not complete any stage shall be 60 seconds for that stage.
6. No penalty will be given to any contestant for knocking over a target pole. However, the targets shall be broken by direct gunfire. All targets (whether standing or lying down) shall be broken by gunfire to be considered a hit. All targets broken accidentally or by nature shall be shot. If a missed target is broken accidentally by an act of nature after the miss occurred it shall still be a miss.
7. If a contestant hits two targets with one shot they may use the remaining round to pick up a target they have missed.

8. A rider shall have been determined to have engaged the course once he has crossed the start/finish line and is on the clock. At that point, he/she accepts the stage as it is. Thereafter, any mechanical malfunctions of your firearm or gear, including your horse, shall not constitute a re-ride.
9. If a rider is notified during or after the completion of a stage that a timekeeper error or a timing malfunction occurred the rider shall be granted a re-ride. The Timekeeper and the Range Master shall determine if a re-ride is granted.
10. If a rider crosses the timing line prior to completing the course of fire, he or she shall be given a total time of sixty seconds.
11. The Range Master shall grant re-rides as soon as possible after the completion of that run.
12. Re-rides are given as a new stage. This means the competitor does not carry forward any misses or a clean stage.
13. If a run is interrupted, the call for a re-ride is made by the Range Master.
14. The “no alibi” rule shall be put in place for all SCMSA sanctioned matches. There are no squibs, high primers, or misfires accepted. There shall be no; re-rides or scoring adjustments for problems with mounted shooting blanks.
15. The two “Target Cones” that make up a designated gate on a course of fire shall be called “Gate Cones”. If a rider knocks over a “Gate Cone” at any time during the completion of a stage it shall be considered a 5 second penalty.
16. Deliberate gun twirling in an arena shall be a 5 second penalty.

## **M. TARGETS**

1. The standard targets used in SCMSA competitions are helium quality balloons. When inflated, a balloon shall measure 6 to 9 inches in diameter. Care should be taken to insure balloon targets are of a uniform size for all competitors. Targets shall be of two distinctly different colors, unless otherwise specified in the current official course book.
2. For safety reasons target stands shall be made of a flexible material like PVC or polyethylene pipe no larger than 1” in diameter.
3. 48 inches shall be the standard height of a target pole, but may be varied from ground level to 60 inches to increase the variety possible within each SCMSA stage.

**N. RULES THAT RESULT IN A PROCEDURAL, NON-QUALIFIED RUN, OR DISQUALIFICATION**

***Violation of these rules shall result in a Procedural and shall result in a 10 second penalty:***

1. Failure to follow the prescribed course as set forth in the current official CMSA (American) course book.

***Violation of these rules shall result in a Non Qualified Run and time of 60 seconds for the stage:***

1. Accidental discharge of a round outside the arena shall be a 60 second for the stage you were loaded for; if the competitor reloads and shoots the pattern he or she shall be disqualified from the match.
2. Engaging the course without the consent of the Range Master shall be a penalty of 60 seconds. Although accidentally breaking the start timer during warm-up shall incur no penalty and the timer shall be reset. The rider shall be given a warning for that stage. A second breakage of the timer shall result in a 60 second penalty.
3. If a rider loads or shoots 6 rounds from the same gun in a stage. Match officials have the right to inspect all firearms before or following a contestants run.
4. Failure to wear the minimum SCMSA dress requirements.

***Violation of these rules shall result in disqualification (DQ) from the match:***

1. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the range, staging and shooting areas. This includes all persons, competitors, range officials, guests, or anyone else in these areas.
2. Competitors shall not consume any alcoholic beverage until they have completed all of their shooting for the day and have unloaded, inspected, and stored all of their firearms. "Violation shall result in DQ from the match".
3. Competitors shall not ingest any substance, which may affect their ability to participate in a completely safe manner. Both prescription and non-prescription pharmaceuticals that may cause drowsiness or other physical or mental impairment are to be avoided.
4. Abusive language or conduct shall not be tolerated and at the discretion of the Match Director shall be given a warning or disqualification.
5. Contestants shall have no live ammunition on their person or in their cartridge belts or saddlebags. Only dummy ammunition with inert or fired primers should be used in cartridge belts.
6. All contestants shall use "match supplied" .45 Colt blank ammunition. No personal ammunition of any type is to be allowed at SCMSA competitions under penalty of disqualification.
7. No abuse of animals shall be allowed. This is a Match Director call, which shall result in expulsion from the match.

**O. CONTESTANT CLASSIFICATION**

1. The CMSA (American) has established a classification system that is based on the competitor's riding and shooting abilities. The SCMSA will follow the CMSA classification system with the exception of wranglers and juniors who will not exist within the SCMSA. There will be no competitors under the age of 18.

**P. REGISTRATION**

1. Only SCMSA Competition Cardholders may enter a certified event.

