

# Cowboy Action Shooting

## Standard Operating Procedures

Cowboy Action Shooting is a multi-faceted shooting sport in which contestants compete by shooting at steel targets for speed and accuracy, with firearms typical of those used in the taming of the Old West. Single – action revolvers, lever action rifles, double barrel shotguns (side-by-side) or pre 1899 pump or lever action shotguns *only* are to be used. This shooting competition is conducted in Stages, characterized as “Old West” style. Participants subscribe to the idea that Cowboy Action Shooters strive to preserve and promote the spirit and tradition of the Old West!

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

Cowboy Action Shooting is not intended to be a precision shooting competition. Small targets and long distances tend to take the “action” out of the game. Both experienced and inexperienced shooters want to hit their targets. Some just hit or miss a little faster than others. Therefore, targets are of ample size and reasonable distance to facilitate this. Too many misses or targets too difficult to hit discourage shooters.

Cowboy Action Shooting is open to the public, and one does not need to be a club member, although club membership is highly desirable. On that note, members must wear their badges at all times when at the Club.

New shooters, *especially young shooters*, are strongly encouraged.

Cowboy Action Shooting is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, April through December, starting at 10 AM. However, volunteers to help set up and tear down the props are always appreciated.

### **Equipment needed as follows:**

Revolver – percussion or cartridge, single – action .36 caliber or larger. Non – jacketed ammo loaded to a maximum velocity of 1000 fps.

Rifle – Lever or slide action, tube feed, exposed hammer, center fire rifle or carbine, in a pistol caliber. Lead bullets at a maximum of 1400 fps.

Shotgun – any side-by-side (without automatic ejectors) lever action or pump, with exposed hammer (i.e. Winchester Model 97 or Marlin Model 16 non-military configuration). #4 lead shot or smaller with a bore no larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge.

***Safety first, last and always!*** Every participant is expected to be a safety officer. While their first responsibility is to their own safe conduct, each participant is to remain alert for unsafe actions by others. Eye and ear protection is mandatory and required to be worn at all times.

A firing line is established prior to each shoot, and there are to be no loaded firearms behind the line.

Each Cowboy Shoot is conducted using the Posse System, with a Posse Leader in charge of his or her Posse, who will assign various duties to his or her Posse members.

Ammo – be aware that 1000 FPS or under is more than enough to shoot at the steel plates.

Model 97 shotguns – load 2 shells at a time.

Dropped ammo is dead ammo and cannot be picked – up and used. Always carry additional rounds just in case a round is dropped.

If a shooter brings a guest, that shooter is responsible for guiding their guest throughout the stages of the shoot, or ask for help, and is responsible for their safe conduct.

Unaccompanied new shooters should identify themselves to the Cowboy Action Chairman or other club members prior to beginning the shoot.

When showing a firearm, you must go to the side of the range and keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

Handguns must be holstered at all times when walking to and leaving the loading and unloading tables.

Rifles and shotguns must be carried with muzzles up, actions open.

Keep handguns safety strap on at all times prior to getting ready to shoot.

Please keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Cross draw shuffle – be sure to turn your body when reaching for, and returning your handgun to it's holster, so as not to “fan” participants. The goal here is to *always* keep the firearm muzzle pointed down-range.

The goal of Cowboy Action Shooting is to have fun, maintain a safe shoot and encourage others to participate!

Submitted by Paul Bowlby  
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