

Marshals' Muster Minutes

CFDA September 30th, 2015

CFDA Representatives

Quick Cal
Alotta Lead
Dead Eye Kid
Hannah Calder

Club Representatives

Mongo	Wench	Cool Hand Suz
Windmill Kid	Smokin gun	Scorpio
Dag Nabit	Deacon	Ringo
Von Zipper	Chisum	Texas Boer
Gentleman George	Wildshot	Little Kazzy
Shane	Boss	Dangerous Dave
Fumbles	Kansas Belle	Muletrain
Colt McCoy	Old West	Thirsty
Two Bit Pat	Nitro Kid	Stanislaus
Cody	Marshal Cooper	Short Keg
Rossow	Rooster Cogburn	Talk A Lot Bob
Shenandoah	Shady Mike	

Total Representatives at table 35

Visitors

Hell on Wheels	Kurley Kue	Red Ryder
Angel Lady	Bonnie Ringo	Honcho
Texas Rose	Star of Africa	Lavender Lady
Ricochet Rose	Skagway Sam	Corkey
Winnie DeBeer	Grannie Annie	Moon Shadow
No Name	Desert Gator	Noah Chance
The Irishman	Miss Betty	Curley Calhoun

Total Visitors 21

Cool Hand Suz, Recording Secretary - Assisted By: Wench

1. Introduction - All Club Representatives & CFDA Management

2. Opening Statements by Quick Cal & Alotta Lead

Dag Nabit read the CFDA Founder's letter & The CFDA Goals, to remind us why we are here and what we need to preserve.

Short Break for Pizza & Socializing

#3 - Should there be a time limit for a recorded hit?

Here are some of the comments:

- No change at all
- No change except when a purposeful wait to draw is done or comments are made
- No change except people need to stop asking if their opponent is going to take recovery shots.
- Any shot should be good as long as the timer is still running to record it
- A time limit would only benefit faster shooters since someone who shoots slower would probably not be able to recover faster than the time limit. This would mean faster shooters could recover and slower shooters would not be able to.
- Most people thought a time limit would seriously limit recruiting.
- Most people knew someone who would not be able to continue to shoot if the time limit was under 1.500.
- Slow shooters keep fast shooters honest.
- **1st Straw Pole Vote concerning whether to establish a time limit resulted in 35 votes (Unanimous) not to establish a time limit.**
- *Upon the Director hearing many conflicting statements regarding hesitations, Quick Cal called for one more Straw Pole Vote, "How many agree that an "Obvious Hesitation" is not in the Spirit of the Game?"*
- **2nd Straw Pole Vote Results: 32 out of 35 U.S. Marshals felt that an obvious hesitation on the draw is not in the spirit of the game, however, the problem is how do you apply different interpretations of "obvious hesitation".**

Topic Closing Comments:

- The spirit of the game needs to be preserved. The ultimate prize is the respect of your fellow competitors.
- Quick Cal needs to re-publish and draw attention to his article, 'Is there a Gut Shot?'
- Non-adoption of the rules is a leadership issue.
- We need to step up and respectfully address people who heckle from the crowd.
- Club leaders need to expect their club members to adopt and follow the rules
- The unsportsmanlike conduct needs to be enforced when negative behavior is unquestionably obvious.

CFDA Director's Comments:

As Director, I must look at what is good for the sport on an overall basis. I can tell you that this subject is still a constant cause of divisiveness within our sport and has been so since taking over the reigns of CFDA in 2006. This controversy has gotten even worse over the past 5 years. It's extremely important to move CFDA past this controversial subject, as it is hindering our growth and increasing our membership turnover rate. I realize that many people feel like everything is fine and there should be no changes, but from the sides we hear in the CFDA office, something needs to be done.

We count on the U.S. Marshals input in most cases before making competitive rule changes. I am confused by the U.S. Marshal's mixed comments and opinions regarding Spirit of the Game. On one hand, they unanimously voted that they don't want a time limit, but on the other hand they voted 32 of 35 (over 90%) that an "obvious hesitation" is not in the Spirit of the Game. Several of them told me that they had confidence in me to write a rule that would cover this issue.

The only rules that we currently have that could be applied to "obvious hesitation" is our Spirit of the Game Conduct Violation Penalty, which has many aspects which depend on severity and no clear penalties that could be applied. This rule should only be applied in extreme cases of misconduct. In the article I wrote over 2 years ago, "Is There a Gut Shot?" I described the threshold for when a late shot would reach the point of a spirit of the game call. But I pointed out that the Spirit of the Game Penalty should be applied to the extremes on both sides of this issue, including those who demean their fellow competitors on the firing line for firing a late shot.

We would have to create a new "Obvious Hesitation Rule", with defined penalties that could be applied. But there is a huge problem! Since the term "obvious hesitation" spawns a wide variety of opinions,

there is simply no way to define "obvious hesitation" that would be consistent for everyone. Such a rule would create too much of a judgment on the part of our Hand Judges and/or Range Masters. In my opinion, such a rule would unleash a much larger problem upon our sport. It would create uneven enforcement and undoubtedly cause inter-personal conflicts, in the form of accusations of favoritism and reprisals amongst fellow competitors.

In my opinion, there is not a rule on the subject of "obvious hesitation" that can be written that can pass Test #4 - Enforceability. Therefore, I cannot attempt to write such a rule.

CFDA Director's Opinion:

Our existing rules state, "Under no scenario will a shooter ever fire a shot without an opponent or a time to compete against." If an opponent misses, that automatically creates this scenario since there has been no time limit. I know of no competitive sport, including shooting sports, that do not have time limits. Even NRA Bullseye or Long Range have appropriate time limits. We have no time limit in Cowboy Fast Draw, NONE!

We have ALL been there, we have missed our shot, our opponent doesn't fire initially, and then extends their arm and carefully aims at their target and casually takes their shot. We ALL know it's our fault, we missed our target, we deserve what we get, but we must stand there while they wait and take their sweet time to target shoot their target, it just kind of rubs people the wrong way, but that is just the way it is. The only good thing is that it is only one shot of three needed to win, but it is especially sensitive when it occurs during the final shot of a bout.

I have no issues with someone taking their shot. As Wyatt Earp was quoted as saying, "Take your time in a hurry." That's definitely within in the spirit of our game, although there are some that disagree with that. I do believe that CFDA needs a time limit whether it is 1.500 or even 2.000, as at least it would define what the limits of a Cowboy "Fast Draw" is.

I am not going to go against 35 unanimous U.S. Marshals, even if I don't agree with them in this case. But, we also simply cannot have it both ways. There should either be a time limit that doesn't allow for an arbitrary judgment call, OR, we as a sport will continue to operate in a method in which over 90% of our current U.S. Marshals believe is not within the Spirit of the Game.

Note: When I receive any further complaints regarding this subject, I will refer them to their U.S. Marshal, because in our guidelines U.S. Marshals have two responsibilities: To represent their clubs to CFDA, and to represent CFDA to their clubs. If we (CFDA Management) continues to receive complaints, this issue will be re-opened and dealt with.

CFDA Director's Decision:

No New Rule Regarding Time Limit or Obvious Hesitation (Without Prejudice).

#4 – CFDA Bracket Matches

- Quick Cal explained the difference between Bracket and Classified matches. Bracket matches are the preferred.
- Read/re-read Quick Cal's article 'The CFDA Bracket Match' on pages 20 – 21 in the Spring 2015 edition Gunslinger's Gazette. Request made to post the bracket match article on the CFDA Website.
- Write your own article to explain how you run bracket matches in your club
- The consensus was that most people enjoy the bracket matches
- Easiest way to create the brackets – Use the second fastest recorded time for each shooter and then split your list of shooters into quarters (25% in each bracket, if using 4 brackets).

CFDA Director's Comments:

I believe that CFDA Bracket Matches are the salvation of our sport. For 60 years the sport of Fast Draw has struggled with how to provide a sport that gives our members an opportunity to win at every level. We must explore how to do Bracket Matches better and blend them into as many competitive scenarios as possible.

CFDA Director's Decision:

The Article "The CFDA Bracket Match" is now posted on CowboyFastDraw.com. The next Edition of the Gunslinger's Guidelines will have a section on Bracket Matches.

Note: #5 and #10 were combined into the same discussion concerning Youth.

#5 – Buckles for Youth at National and Worlds

- Everyone was in agreement that we would like to do more to recognize the Youth.
- Many events already provide buckles and trophies, BB Guns, etc for the Youth at their events
- Most events do not charge for Youth to compete
- Hosts can't afford to buy prizes that no one is there to claim. Those funds could have been used elsewhere for the event

What can you do to help match hosts?:

- Let them know well in advance that your Youth is coming (For example, for the Colorado matches this year, they had two pre-registered Youth, but then had 10 show up. At other matches, they have purchased Youth awards, and then had one or two show up).

#10 – Youth Program

- The Marshal's were in agreement with the CFDA comment in the agenda.
- Hosts can split one-handed and two-handed Youth if they have enough Youth for each. It's completely up to the Host.
- Moving a highly competent youth into Juniors is also the Hosts call. (For example, Texas Marshal, who is a very advanced Youth and shoots at a highly competitive time of .3 was moved into the Juniors by the CFDA Director at the Colorado matches and then again at the Fastest Gun Alive.

CFDA Director's Comments:

It's very challenging for hosts to determine how many youth shooters that they will draw to matches. It depends on location, time of the year, and size of the contest. The cost of awards is very significant, and providing awards that go un-awarded is very counter-productive. Hosts must continue to do their best to find ways to honor our youth shooters, on a case by case basis.

CFDA Director's Decision:

No New Rule Regarding Mandatory Youth Awards.

#6 – Are we a spectator sport?

We are and we aren't. Titled Matches – Yes, Townfolk Alley – Yes, Monthly Matches – No

Typically, venues for CFDA Titled Championships are great opportunities for spectators, and some are not. But, at almost all contests there are often interested folks watching that may be interested in joining the fun. ALL spectators are potential members.

- Work the crowd. They need to know what is happening.
- Announcers need to repeat details throughout the day to inform people who are new to the crowd, even if it sounds repetitive for the shooters.
- Try to get your events held where they can be seen
- Use the 'How to Watch Cowboy Fast Draw Spectator's Guide'. You can download these from the CFDA Website.

- Think like promoters! Step back and try to look at your set up through the spectators' eyes.
- When in a public venue direct your attention to announcing to the public, not just the shooters. Practice this skill at smaller matches.
- Promote the CFDA Champions, especially your own local champions.
- Use sign-ups for Townfolk Alleys that capture contact details for the participants and then follow-up shortly after the event. One good way is to use a ticket that they put their details on and then use the tickets for drawings.

CFDA Director's Comments:

It is very easy for we shooters to think only from the standpoint of a shooter. We must all try our best to look at our sport from the standpoint of spectators when we are in public venues, and from the standpoint of new members at any location. When in public venues we must have quality sound systems, audience displays are a real plus, and we should keep our shooting lines free of unnecessary personnel. When watching a shoot in public venues, i.e. shootoff finals, the shooters should blend in with the spectators, not block their view.

#7 – Balloon disc or 18” targets, 15’ distance at 47” height

Why? –

- Screen tests better – TV can't capture how difficult the sport is when the 24” target is used due to the size of the target in comparison to the size of the shooter. The smaller target gives the perception of greater difficulty.
- Standing closer to the target increases the confidence of the shooter even though this set up is just as challenging as the 24” target, 21’. The 50” height to the center of the target, should be lowered to 47” to account for 6’ less bullet rise.
- Balloon Disc – No grease goes on the target. You hit the target anywhere and the balloon breaks. Issue: Clean-up of the balloons is very difficult. It's also difficult to keep adding balloons to the targets throughout the match. Solution: Only use the balloons during the shoot-offs to add the excitement of the balloon popping while reducing the balloons needed.

Quick Cal's Preliminary Comments at Marshal's Muster – The current target size distance and height is not going away, and will always be the CFDA Proportional Standard. However, it is time to start trying new options that will make our sport more promotable. The Host Must Advertise any target used that is not 24” prior to the event.

Director's Comments:

I strongly support finding ways to make our sport appear better to spectators, primarily on film. Cameras have a hard time determining how far the shooter is standing from the target. We have noticed while screen testing our sport that our targets appear to be much bigger and easier to hit than we as shooters know that they actually are.

I am personally committed to NOT doing what every action shooting sport I have been associated with for almost 50 years has done. They have made targets and distances easier under the pretense of helping the average shooters. This happened in the 60-year history of Fast Draw, then IPSC/USPSA, then SASS. As far as I am concerned it has harmed these sports and changed them from their original intent.

Cowboy Fast Draw is a very well balanced sport, where speed and accuracy are equally important and make no mistake about it, CFDA Management is committed to keeping it that way.

At the Marshal's Muster we discussed trying some new things, but 24” targets at 21’ will always be our "proportional standard". All hosts and clubs are entitled to use current targets and distances. We acknowledge that if acceptable options become popular, they may set a trend.

How To Calculate Proportional Target Sizes & Distances

To find the exact size that a target would need to be at 15 feet to be equally proportional to the historical championship target and distance of a 24 inch target at 21 feet, the following formula determines exactly what this target size would need to be "X". $21' / 24" = 15' / X"$

First we would need to convert the feet to inches $21' \times 12" = 252"$, and $15' \times 12" = 180"$.

So that modifies the formula to $252"/24" = 180"/X$.

The simplest method of calculating this formula is to multiply the two known opposite numbers and then to divide that answer, by the remaining known number.

$24" \times 180" = 4320"$ (divided by) $252" = 17.14"$

The Answer: A 17.14" target at 15' would require the same accuracy skill to hit, as a 24" target at 21'. Therefore, an 18" target is too large of a target to shoot at 15', as it would be about 4.7% larger than CFDA's current standard. The true size would be just a little over 17-1/8".

To find the right answer on what the proportional distance that an 18" target would be placed, here's the correct formula... Formula: $252"/24" = X / 18"$ Answer: 189" or 15' - 9"

Conclusions:

#1 An 18" target should be shot from 15' - 9"

#2 At 15' a target should be 17-3/16" (*Desired, since 15' is already a recognized CFDA distance.*)

CFDA DECISION:

ACCEPTABLE TARGET OPTIONS

A 17-3/16" Target at 15' should be considered proportional and interchangeable with a 24" Target at 21'.

The height at the center of a proportional target at 15', shall be set at 47" From the Ground.

Note: Balloon-Disc Specification to Follow

World Records / Anticipation Adjustment: Since there is 6 feet less distance for a wax bullet to travel at 15', then an adjustment is necessary. CFDA accepts that it takes .030 or 3 hundredths of a second for CFDA approved ammunition to travel 21 feet.

World Records are established at a standard of 21 feet. There shall be a conversion of .008 of a second to account for 6' less wax bullet travel time between 15' and 21'.

Current World Records - Men (.295) / Ladies (.359)

With .008 Factor: (.295 at 21') = (.287 at 15'), AND (.359 at 21') = (.351 at 15').

Each distance will have the appropriate time used to establish "Anticipation or New World Records.

No Club or Host will be required to change targets or distances from the standard 24" Target at 21'. Host must advertise in advance if they are using other than 24" targets.

#8 – Open Tops & Colt Walkers – This agenda item was removed by the submitter. Read the article in Quick Cal's 'Inside the CFDA' section in the August/September 2015 edition of the Gunslinger's Gazette for more information addressing this topic. This article is posted on the CFDA Website in Rules & Clarification Section.

#9 – Prize Package Requirements

- If shooters complain to the CFDA, then the CFDA will request an accounting of what the host did to meet the requirements.
- Shooters need to **"Vote With Their Feet."** Only support those matches where the prize package requirements are clearly being met.

CFDA DECISION:

CFDA will not automatically audit contests. However, if complaints are received regarding the prize structure of any contest on the grounds that it does not meet CFDA minimums, then the Director of CFDA will require the host to submit a prize list, at which time a host decides to re-sanction the tournament in question.

#11 – Side Matches – Feel free to share how you conduct side matches so other clubs can get ideas.

#12 – How to build a new or already established CFDA affiliated club.

The CFDA's 2015 Golden Spike Club of the Year, Lone Star Gunslingers, "Texas Boer" shared a few things they did to recruit 34 members in two months. Their motto is: **"Helping Everyone Advance."**

- Splatter flyers everywhere
- Ensure new club members feel supported so they will be engaged
- Meet with the local 4H for youth
- Created an information list handout containing helpful advice on where to buy the appropriate clothes, rigs/holsters, wax, etc.
- At every Town Folk Alley they watched for people who really seemed interested/excited and add them to their HIPOT (High Potential) list and made sure to contact them quickly after the event.
- All range set-ups are done professionally and with a very enthusiastic and welcoming feel.

Director's Comments:

Thank You Texas Boer & Star of Africa for sharing your story on building a brand new club and winning the Golden Spike Award within the matter of months. This is very inspiring information for all of us to follow!

#13 – How to promote CFDA

- Get out in your community while dressed up and talk about the sport. Talk about what's going on in the area.
- Advertise to other clubs, e.g., motorcycle clubs
- Engage with inactive CFDA members in your area. Request a list of inactive members from Alotta Lead and then contact them. Talk to them about the growth of the sport and what's going on in the area. Invite them to a practice and/or next monthly match.

This was discussed in detail last year.


- To start a club it only takes one person who can provide leadership
- Get new shooters to the line at Town Folk Alley

- If more than one club in area, all need to ride for the brand: **CFDA ALL THE WAY!**
- Encourage all clubs in the same area to work together.
- Use "Challenge Certificates" at Town Folk Alley.
- Hand out Gazettes at functions with Town Folk Alley.
- Hand out Gazettes to local businesses.
- Set up Town Folk Alley to raise money for a charity.
- Ride for the "CFDA Brand" everywhere. We understand club pride, and having club logos and brands, it is your club's identity within the sport of Cowboy Fast Draw. CFDA has spent tens of thousands of dollars in national and international advertising. The CFDA Logo is the universal symbol of our sport, which the public can identify with.
- Positive energy of clubs and have fun
- Recommended for a "How to" packet to start and promote clubs and memberships

CFDA would like to acknowledge *Wench*, Recording Secretary and *Cool Hand Suz* for providing Minutes, Comments and notes from the meeting.

We are honored to have so many of our key members such as U.S. Marshals, Regulators, Holster Committee, Director's Council, and Club Leaders from across the country serving and contributing in so many ways. **THANK YOU!**

Prepared and Draft Submitted U.S. Marshals
November 9th, 2015



Quick Cal
Executive Director, CFDA

Minutes Review (7 Day Comment Period) Deadline:
November 16th, 2015

Decisions will take effect January 1st, 2016

Special Note: Due to the fact that there have been very few rule changes over the past few years, publication expense and current inventory of copies, we will not be issuing a new 9th Edition of the Gunslinger's Guidelines this year. Instead we will prepare a new addendum which we plan on combining with the past two addendums in one document. We will be inserting updated addendums into the 2015 Fall Gazette. The 9th Edition Gunslinger's Guidelines will be issued before the 2017 CFDA Season.