



Try Cowboy Fast Draw - Guidelines

Safety, First, Last, and Always

When hosting a CFDA Try Cowboy Fast Draw, many issues must be considered. Try Cowboy Fast Draw was specifically designed by CFDA to offer the general public a chance to try Cowboy Fast Draw and is a valuable tool for building CFD clubs. When allowing the public a chance to try Cowboy Fast Draw for the first time, the same consideration for safety must be applied as at your club range or a match; with the added responsibilities of public safety, public education, and increased liability. In many cases, this could be the participant's first experience with firearms and one of the stated goals of CFDA is to educate as many people as possible on the safe and proper use of firearms. CFDA is in the best position to bring a shooting sport into public view, since Cowboy Fast Draw can be held just about anywhere. Because of the almost endless venues where we are welcomed it is of the highest priority for those conducting a CFDA Try Cowboy Fast Draw event to do so professionally and safely. Only CFDA Affiliated Clubs and Representatives may host a Try Cowboy Fast Draw event. Any Event Director of a Town Folk Alley must provide the following:

- Only CFDA Affiliated Clubs that participate in the CFDA Insurance Program may be issued an insurance certificate to add an Additionally Insured Location for a CFDA Town Folk Alley.
- Everyone participating in a Try Cowboy Fast Draw must sign the Standard CFDA Liability Release Form, which can be downloaded from the CFDA website, anyone under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign the release.
- Adequate backstops and side walls must be installed according to CFDA requirements.
- A CFDA Logo Banner should be displayed in the area. Club banners are very useful also.
- CFDA has a poster with NRA - Basic Gun Safety Rules, this can be downloaded on the website and should be posted in all shooting areas. One of our primary goals is to educate as many people as possible in the safe and proper use of firearms.
- A CFDA Currently Certified Range Officer must be on site at all times. All CFDA safety rules apply to a Try Cowboy Fast Draw as well, i.e. muzzle control, loading and unloading etc.
- All participants and Range Officers must wear adequate eye protection and hearing protection will be provided upon request and is mandatory for minors.
- All holsters used in Try Cowboy Fast Draw must have a deflector shield at the toe of the holster pouch in case of an accidental discharge of the firearm.
- When children under 8 years of age are participating, they must not be allowed to draw the six-gun from the holster, but may be assisted to fire the six-guns at the targets by a Range Officer. Children under the age of 12 must use the youth two-gun style of shooting with hands-on assistance from a Range Officer.
- No adults that are consuming alcohol or appear intoxicated will be allowed to participate.
- Only pistol primers, or shotgun primers with CFDA approved wax bullets may be used. When using only pistol primers it is advisable to cant the targets to a downward angle of about 10 degrees to reduce the chance of wax bullets bouncing backs off the targets.
- Backstops will be also made of material that will reduce bounce backs, i.e. archery netting, ballistic nylon, or carpet that is hung loosely. Card board can also be used when spaced off of a hard backstop by at least 3”.
- Use flagging to keep spectators out of the shooting area. If you are using rebar for flagging posts make sure that you install caps on to top of them. Make sure you control movements into and out of your area with defined entrance and exits.
- All staff conducting a CFDA Try Cowboy Fast Draw shall be dressed appropriately and in western themed attire.

Try Cowboy Fast Draw Events – Hand Book & Requirements

We have found through experience that it is necessary to have enough personnel to efficiently run a Try Cowboy Fast Draw Event, this will vary depending on the number of lanes and anticipated number of participants, which we will explain in the Procedure Section. But first, here are the job descriptions and basic duties for each member of the staff.

1. **Event Director** is in overall charge of making sure that all details are carried out, equipment and backstops are properly installed, and competent personnel are in the various staff positions. If the Event Director leaves the shooting area, they should appoint an assistant to be in charge of the area until they return. Safety is Always their First Consideration, as it is with all Staff Members!
 - A. Event Directors should always be aware that not everyone is suited and trained to be effective at all positions that are required to run an effective and efficient Town Folk Alley. Try to find the appropriate personnel for the positions that they are best suited for. However, this is also a good opportunity to train new personnel as well.
 - B. Pay especially close attention to who are the appointed Line Coaches, these should be your most experienced members and CFDA Certified Range Officers are preferred in these positions.
 - C. It is important that Event Directors hold a short training session before a Try Cowboy Fast Draw begins each day or if there are a number of new staff members that show up during the event. It is important for everyone to understand what the responsibility and job that is required for each position. Everyone needs to work together as a team.
2. **Range Master** is the person who is in charge of running a firing line, in a Try Cowboy Fast Draw with up to 4 Lanes a Range Master can also be one of the Line Coaches. It is important to have only one person in charge of declaring the line ready, clear and give down range commands. It should be clear who is in charge of the firing line. They must be a CFDA Certified Range Officer.
3. **Line Coach** is the person who is in charge of assisting individual participants on each lane. They must be experienced and trained and able to react quickly if necessary.
 - A. Only the Line Coach shall perform loading, unloading and reloading.
 - B. The Line Coach will wear a holster that is used to keep guns in until they are ready to load and then after the participants are finished they will holster the guns in their own holster to be ready for the next participant or to delivery to the gun cleaning/inspection table and pick up a clean replacement gun. They should not walk around with guns in hands at any time, which is consistent with CFDA rules.
 - C. It is **ABSOLUTELY IMPERITIVE** for a Line Coach to never be more than an arms length from a participant.
 - D. Make sure that their muzzle always stays downrange and not even close to the 170 Rule.
 - E. **Never take your eyes off a participant once they have control of a firearm**, they have been known to turn around with no warning. Most of them have no training in basic shooting range safety rules and may not consider that these are real firearms.
 - F. It is important to profile each participant and give them all the help that they need, some will need it more than others. Be very cautious with emotional participants, some of them lose awareness that they are holding a real firearm and if they do well on a shot they may become very excited, you must be prepared to safely control them and their muzzle.

- G. Once again, be aware that this may be the very first encounter that the participant has ever had with a firearm and are generally not aware of basic firearm safety rules.
 - H. Do not spend too much time trying to teach each participant all the basics of firearm knowledge. But, do explain to each one to keep the guns pointed downrange at all times. If they ask questions answer them. In most cases, you will have other folks waiting their turn to shoot and it is important to keep the event flowing efficiently. If they are interested in learning more they will make inquiries and you will probably have a potential member at that point.
 - I. For participants under 8, they should not be fitted with a holster in the first place. The Line Coach can assist the child to whatever level they need, even if the child needs help to hold the gun and safely operate the action. The thrill for them is firing a real gun for the first time in their lives, make it memorable for them!
 - J. After the participant has fired the appropriate number of rounds, have them hand the six-gun to you, so that you may unload it and prepare for the next participant. This is also the best time to ask them to take off the holster and return it to the Holster Fitting Area.
 - K. After all six-guns are unloaded and the Range Master has given the command “Holster Your Guns, Downrange”, then one of the Line Coaches can move down range to tend to the white lithium grease on the targets.
4. **Timer Operator/Announcer** is the voice of our sport at a Try Cowboy Fast Draw. They not only operate the timer and call the times, but it is a perfect opportunity to explain the Sport of Cowboy Fast Draw to the spectators and participants. They should explain the type of guns, holsters, ammunition, and timing equipment that are used in Cowboy Fast Draw on a continuous basis. Even if it sounds repetitive to the immediate staff running the event, it is new information to those that come by and watch.
 - A. Keep it light and create a fun atmosphere.
 - B. Take a personal interest and have fun with the participants.
 - C. Use a Public Address System that is easily heard and understood by passers by.
 - D. Keep it moving, set the pace and stay in constant visual or audible contact with the Range Master.
 - E. See the CFDA Range Officer Course for more information.
 5. **Scorekeepers and Registration** can be handled at the main announcer table with light crowds, but we have found with heavy crowds it is best to have a separate table to register each participant and make sure that they sign the release. It is also very helpful to have a space for the participant’s phone number or email, follow up contacts can be made that way. It is also important to record the actual times that each participant fires and present it to them for a keepsake. See Recommended Procedure Section for more information.
 6. **Holster Fitters** are important to keeping the flow going on a busy Try Cowboy Fast Draw. Once participants have registered have them go to get fitted with holsters. It is important to have many sizes available and have both right- and left-handed holsters. Some holster makers offer special belts made especially for CFDA Town Folk Alleys that have an extra long belt with a lot more holes sizes than usually so that they will fit a wider range of participants. It is also advisable to have extender belts and holsters that will fit our youth participants. We recommend about 3 holsters for each lane in your Town Folk Alley, 4 lanes = 12 holsters.
 7. **Dry-Fire Instructors** are there to help the participants learn basic drawing techniques after they have been fitted with a holster. These coaches should also wear their own holster so that they can keep control of the six-gun when it is not directly being used for instruction with a participant. Teach only basic draws in this area that the beginner has the best

chance to fire a shot consistently downrange with. It is not recommended to teach them a competition speed draw or even show them how fast that you might happen to be. If they want to learn advanced techniques they are very likely a future member of your club and invite them to learn. Of course, if they come back and shoot multiple times and want to learn more, then it is advisable to show them more. Also, six-gun with transfer bars like Rugers and Berettas can be dry-fired without damaging the guns. If colt-clones with the firing pin in the hammer are being used, it is wise to have snap caps in them for dry-firing. NEVER allow a participant to leave the dry-fire area with a six-gun in their holster.

8. **Gun Master** is in charge of seeing that guns are kept clean and that the screws stay tightened. Cylinders should be removed and cleaned thoroughly before the beginning of each day. On a busy day, cylinders should be cleaned after about 150 rounds. Otherwise, it is not necessary to remove the cylinder and clean them between participants. After about 20 – 30 rounds (depending on wax bullet brand) all that is needed is a shot of de-waxing agent, gun oil or WD-40 into the barrel, then use a .45 caliber brush (we prefer nylon) back and forth a few times, and then finally a .45 caliber brush with a patch on it (these can also be used several times). What is needed is only to prevent wax buildup in the lands of the barrel rather than trying to clean the gun perfectly every time during a Town Folk Alley. Of Course, at the end of each day it is time to thoroughly clean the gun. It is recommended that 2.5 six-guns are in service for every lane, i.e. 4 lanes (10 guns), this formula will provide enough guns for shooting, cleaning, and dry-firing.
9. **Total Number of Staff Required** is assessed by the Event Director depending on a number of factors.
 - A. How busy do you expect the Town Folk Alley to be is one of the main considerations. A Two-Lane Range is very popular in smaller venues and can be manned with the least number of staff members. However, you can easily be undersized and overworked by a moderate crowd and they will get impatient waiting their turn for too long of a period of time.
 - B. 4 lanes is the most effective number of lanes. If participation is not that large, you can always run it down to 2 lanes, with room to expand during peek periods.
 - C. To run 4 lanes at full capacity --- Staff Members are needed in the following numbers and positions.
 1. 1 Range Master
 2. 4 Line Coaches
 3. 1 Timer Operator
 4. 1 Scorekeeper
 5. 1 Registration Person
 6. 1 Holster Fitters
 7. 2 Dry-Fire Instructors

4 Lanes = 11 Total + (2 to 4) Relief Personnel for a Total of 13 to 15 Staff Members
2 Lanes = 5 to 7 Staff Members
6 Lanes = 16 to 20 Staff Members

Any less than the recommended number of Staff Members, especially if you have a busy day, will lead to very tired staff members at the end of each day. Having relief staff is very important so that everyone can have breaks from time to time. It is important that your club members, including club leaders, have fun putting on a Try Cowboy Fast Draw or any other CFDA event. Being understaffed is not fun and will lead to burn out and less volunteers at future events. Even if you have a big crowd waiting, it is better to cut it down to two lanes if you are short handed. Safety is always our main concern.

Try Cowboy Fast Draw Card

This is a business sized card that has the CFDA Logo, the CFDA website and local Affiliated CFDA Club contact information on the front of the card. On the back of the card are places to record the ten shots that the participant has fired. There is a high probability that they will keep this card as a keepsake and may contact your club using the information provided. You can produce these cards quickly with a computer, printer, card stock and a paper cutter, or you can order them from any card printing company. We have a PDF version of the back of the Town Folk Alley Card in the download section at our website www.cowboyfastdraw.com, plus a sample of the card that three clubs in Northern Nevada use when conducting joint Town Folk Alleys. You can also download the same blank template in Word Format from the Office Depot Website by typing OD 388-302 into your search engine. You may also request a blank template be emailed to you from the CFDA Office along with an electronic version of the CFDA Logo. A copy of this CFDA Try Cowboy Fast Draw Handbook can also be downloaded from the CFDA website.

Recommended Procedures

The following procedures are recommended for a typical 4 Lane Try Cowboy Fast Draw with strong participation. Please also refer to the diagram of a typical 4 lane Try Cowboy Fast Draw Range below, which shows a typical arrangement of backstops, targets, timing/score table, registration table, gun cleaning/inspection table, holster fitting area and instructional dry-fire area. This procedure should keep participants flowing quickly through the Town Folk Alley to maximize the amount of shooters being run through the event.

When a participant arrives to the Try Cowboy Fast Draw and has indicated they wish to try Cowboy Fast Draw, have them report to the registration table where they will sign the release, pay the fee and be given a Try Cowboy Fast Draw Card. These cards can also be used as their receipt since sometimes there is a waiting line for getting fitted in a holster. If the line is long you can tell them to enjoy the other attractions and come back a little later when the line is shorter since they have their card they can bi-pass the registration table.

At the Holster Fitting Table staff will find the right sized holster for each participant. It is helpful to have holsters that can be changed from belt to belt to make the right combination for each participant. It is important that they use tie-downs and deflector shields are mandatory. Once they are fitted with the holster they can wait for the Dry-Fire Instructors.

At the Dry-Fire Area they will be shown basics of drawing, cocking and firing the six-gun. They can take a number of practice draws and dry-fires until they are comfortable. Some people will be uncomfortable using one hand, so they can be taught to fan, but it is highly recommended that they be supplied with leather gloves for the fanning hand if colt-clones with firing pins in the hammers are being used. When they are ready send them to the firing range to the awaiting Line Coaches and have them turn in their Try Cowboy Fast Draw Cards to the score table.

The Line Coaches will keep control of the six-guns in their own holsters. When the participants are on the line and the Range Master has given the "Load and Make Ready" command, the Line Coach will load the six-gun and place it in the participant's holster. After the participant has fired the first five shots, the Line Coach will then reload the six-gun and then return it to the participant's holster. When the participant has finished their ten shots the Line Coach will take control of the six-gun, unload it, and holster the gun in their own holster and indicate to the Range Master that their lane is clear. The Line Coach will then ask for the holster back. The Range Master will then appoint a Line Coach to return the holsters to the Holster Fitting Table and another Line Coach downrange to tend to the target grease. When Line Coaches believe their pistol barrels need cleaning they should see the Gun Master to trade the pistol for a clean one.

The Announcer should congratulate the results of the participants, even if they didn't do as well as they had hoped, it took courage to try it. The scorekeeper should hand them their Try Cowboy Fast Draw Cards as they are leaving.

Note: The Event Director can use their best judgment and combine staff positions when the Try Cowboy Fast Draw is operating at a slower pace and be ready to fill the staff positions during peak times.

Some Other Helpful Suggestions

1. It is a good idea to post fastest times on a dry erase white board to raise interest.
2. There can also be a prize for the fastest time fired each hour and maybe a grand prize or two for the day or weekend.
3. Certificates can be downloaded from the website that can be used for fun challenges and awarded to both shooters no matter the outcome.
4. Have signs to post in the aisles directing participants to the Try Cowboy Fast Draw.
5. Try to dress up the backstop, especially the side walls with art work, banners and sponsor recognition.
6. Have a person dedicated to talk with folks and share information on the sport with them with the goal of recruiting members for your club.
7. Have hand outs like CFDA Brochures that can be downloaded from the CFDA Website, or Gunslinger Gazettes. Also have an information sheet for your club showing meeting dates and shooting dates, times and contact information.
8. A number of CFDA Clubs have built or are in the process of building Try Cowboy Fast Draw War Wagons, which are 4 to 6 lane ranges built into a trailer. The Powder Horn Ranch Regulators of Mitchell, SD were the first club to build one. War Wagons are very effective for cutting down the time and labor it takes to set up, tear down and manage equipment for Try Cowboy Fast Draw.

CFDA has compiled this information for the use of CFDA Affiliated Clubs. We thank those who have contributed much of this information through their dedicated experience. We hope that everyone enjoys working as a team to run successful Try Cowboy Fast Draw Events.

CFDA Management