

# **HOW TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL CFDA CLUB**

## **(UPDATED 2025)**

Howdy!

We would like to welcome you to CFDA as a person interested in forming and building a New CFDA Affiliated Club. CFDA Affiliated Clubs are the very foundation of the entire sport of Cowboy Fast Draw! It usually all starts with one person that has the vision and desire to see a CFDA club formed in their area. You are in for a treat in that you will find that CFDA members and other clubs are more than helpful in helping you along your journey. If you haven't already attended a contest or another club's activities, we suggest that you do as soon as possible. You'll find contact names and numbers in the Gunslinger's Gazette. You should call them and let them know that you would like to visit, and you will find that they'll roll out the Red Carpet for you. The fact is, we have so much fun in Cowboy Fast Draw that we want to share it with everyone possible; it's almost like joining an extended family. The following should help you get going in the right direction.

### **AFFILIATING A CFDA CLUB**

(Please See: Forming a CFDA Affiliated Club) Just follow the instructions and learn about the benefits and cost of affiliating your new club, if you have done so already.

### **IT TAKES SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE FUSE...**

You can be that person, the "spark-plug" that drives the engine, the "founder" of a Cowboy Fast Draw Club, but you can't do it alone. You'll need a good core group of folks to make a real club. There are many advantages to having a Cowboy Fast Draw Club. Just think of all the new friends you are going to make for the rest of your life. **So, where do you start?**

### **ADVERTISE THAT A COWBOY FAST DRAW CLUB IS FORMING...**

Advertise in local gun shops and newspapers, with posters provided by CFDA, that a Cowboy Fast Draw Club is starting in your area. Make sure your advertising includes the date, time, and place for organizational meetings. If there are other shooting sports in your area like (SASS) Cowboy Action Shooting, Trap, Action Pistol, etc. let them know what you are doing, a lot of shooters enjoy more than one shooting sport. However, most CFDA Clubs report they have their best recruiting at events such City or County Fairs and other general public gatherings. Since the upfront costs to get into CFDA are smaller than many other shooting sports, we provide a great place for someone new to shooting sports a great place to start.

### **CLUB ORGANIZATION IDEAS...**

All shooting clubs are really community service organizations, since they teach people the safe and proper use of firearms. Your club can take many forms, from a non-structured club with no bank accounts, an LLC, corporation, or non-profit corporation. CFDA does not require information regarding how a club is formed. Smaller clubs generally don't handle enough funds to warrant the Non-Profit IRS Status, but several have gone down this path. The idea here is that *Cowboy Fast Draw*® is supposed to be fun with everyone working together for the mutual benefit of each other. You will need officers of the club, just to make sure that someone is responsible for things that are necessary for any organization. Beware of politics beyond the fact that someone needs to do the required jobs. Politics has been the undoing of many clubs and organizations that were started with the best intentions. If you are starting a club on your property, you might consider placing yourself as the "Host" of the club and therefore above politics and establishing a permanent un-elected position on the B.O.D. This person should have the authority and ability to settle disputes and bring things back to center, by any means necessary. Quick Cal will be glad to email By-Laws as an example of a club he and Alotta Lead are the Hosts of, the Great Basin Gun Hawks.

### **FINDING A PLACE TO SHOOT...**

Finding the right place to shoot is the most important step in forming a CFDA affiliated club. If you do not have the means or facilities to start a club, this is your first priority. Many clubs start in someone's garage with a 2-Lane Range, which will accommodate up to a dozen or so people, but you will soon outgrow it. Outdoor locations can work, but weather may affect it too much for a consistent schedule. Some folks are fortunate enough to have large indoor

areas such as barns, riding arenas, shops, etc. If someone in your club has that kind of location you've hit pay dirt! If not, you and your club will have to keep searching to find a place. Some clubs meet weekly on weeknights, some monthly on weekends, it's really up to the members. But, having a regular schedule for practice and club contests is extremely important!

### **RAISING CLUB START-UP FUNDS...**

One of the best systems that we know of to raise the necessary funds to get the club started is instituting a Founding Life Member program. Folks like being in on the ground floor of something exciting, like your club. Offer Founding Life Memberships for \$200 each for a predetermined period (such as 90 days). This will raise funds very quickly so that you may fund the necessary items that you will need. The main expenses are paying the CFDA Affiliation Fee and Insurance Fee and acquiring a Cowboy Fast Draw timing system. Two lanes can accommodate up to about 10 – 12 shooters, anymore than that we recommend 4 lanes. The Gunslinger Emporium has affordable options for 2, 4 and 6 lanes, they have a sponsor's link on our website. You can raise these funds with as little as 12 members. You should also charge an entry fee for every club contest, have annual & life membership fees to cover monthly expenses such range expense charges, communication tools, a laptop computer for scoring, etc.

### **KEEP IT FUN!**

We try to make our home club the "Happiest Place on Earth". We smile, have fun, and kid each other all of the time. The members look forward to walking through the door to our club house because they are always greeted by other members of our club. There is a special bond between us, that for many goes way beyond just shooting in a club. You will find our members socializing, meeting for dinner, hosting BBQ's, and many help each other in many ways.

We shoot a very inclusive format called the No "X" Out Format, and have match structures where everyone has a competitive opportunity no matter what skill level they are at. We have all levels of shooters in our club, from beginners to National and World Champions. The more advanced shooters are always available to coach the beginning and intermediate members.

We follow CFDA Rules and train all that we can to be Approved CFDA Range Officers and Range Masters. Safety is Always First, Fun Second, and Competition Third. As the CFDA Motto says!

### **HOW TO RECRUIT MEMBERS**

Recruiting Members is the key to any successful club. Once you have a core group of people, it becomes mainly a friend of a friend or family members getting involved. It's a good idea to make business cards and acquire CFA Brochures to hand out. Just begin inviting people to club practice sessions. It's wise for a club to invest in some extra holsters, including belts of various sizes and loaner six-guns.

Check out the Clubs Download Section on the CFDA Website and check out the "Invitation to a Gunfighter" Program that has worked well to recruit New Members.

### **PROMOTE & TRAIN CLUB MEMBERS TO SUPPORT & COMPETE BIGGER EVENTS**

A Primary Goal of all clubs is to promote and train their members to compete and support in State & Territorial CFDA Championships. Some may also travel to our National & World Championships. Once your members experience the great people in what we called our CFDA Family that is spread across our nation, they will become hooked on Cowboy Fast Draw! Try to run club events to practice shooting in big events, learn and follow CFDA Rules and Procedures!

### **SUPPORT NEARBY CFDA CLUBS**

When there are multiple clubs within a few hours drive, it really creates more growth for all clubs in that region. Members often join and support multiple clubs, as long as the clubs coordinate and support each other.

Hit'em Fast!

*Alotta Lead & Quick Cal*