

Professionals Class

Amended: January 2019

HANDGUNS

Any auto loading pistol manufactured prior to 1912. This includes any variations of that pistol and or its clones, so long as they conform to the original appearance of that firearm. Changes in caliber from the original is acceptable. *(An example would be a Mauser C96 broom handle, which was chambered originally for the 7.63 Mauser cartridge. Models which were later chambered for 9mm Parabellum and .45 ACP would be acceptable).*

The use of a double action revolver designed and manufactured prior to 1922 is allowed. Revolvers may be reloaded with the use of half-moon clips. Double action revolvers must be fired using the double action mode only. Auto pistols will have the magazine loaded at the loading table with the hammer down *(if applicable)* on an empty chamber and holstered going to the firing line. One handgun only is allowed in this category.

RIFLES

Any SASS legal rifle; however, they may be of design/manufacture up to 1922. Rifles must still be of pistol caliber. The use of automatic pistols with a shoulder stock is allowed. An automatic pistol used in such a manner as a rifle may be loaded with a round in the chamber and the safety on *(must have a functioning safety)* at the firing line and staged correctly. Maintaining absolute muzzle control is mandatory and will be strictly adhered to. Further, semi-automatic versions of submachine guns of that era are allowed and will follow the same guidelines as the pistol with shoulder stock used as a rifle. The semi-automatic Thompson SMG is allowed.

SHOTGUNS

The 1897 Winchester shotgun and its clones is still allowed, and the 1887 Winchester shotgun and its clones will also be allowed. Both shotguns may be stoked to capacity or to the number of rounds called for in the stage whichever is lesser. Shotguns will be staged empty with the action open or the magazine stoked with the proper number of rounds with the hammer down on an empty chamber with the action closed (magazine loaded at the loading table).

LONG RANGE RIFLE

Military style rifles pre-1922 will be allowed in a **Professionals** Category for long range rifle. Lead bullets are required, but may utilize gas checks. It is highly recommended to load ammunition for these rifles at the bottom of the recommended loading guidelines for their respective cartridges, 2000fps maximum muzzle velocity. Must be shot from the standard military positions, ie. standing, kneeling, sitting or prone. **Any round over the berm is an automatic match DQ.**

RULES

All ammunition will be of pistol caliber (*with the exception of long range rifle*) and ammunition must be composed of lead. No jacketed ammunition is allowed. Automatic pistols may be loaded with a round in the chamber with the safety on (*must have a functioning safety*) at the firing line under the direction of the Timer Operator, and then holstered or staged as directed. Both the shooter and the Timer Operator must verify that the firearm has the safety engaged once the firearm is loaded prior to the beginning of the stage. Auto pistols will be returned to the holster or the stage position with either the slide locked back or the slide forward with the hammer down (*trigger pulled on striker fire firearms*) on an empty chamber.

During a reload, the shooter may opt to either shoot the gun dry and then reload, or do a tactical reload, ie. change magazines with a round in the chamber while maintaining strict muzzle control. It is the shooter's obligation to be sure that they have fired all of the correct number of rounds; however, spotters need to count the number of rounds fired as well. If there is a split between pistols in the stage (*another firearm being engaged between the pistols*), the shooter must shoot the pistol dry and holster it after the first pistol sequence is fired. When moving with a pistol, it must either have the safety engaged or action open slide locked back.

Shotguns will still be staged empty with the action open or may have the magazine stoked with the correct number of rounds at the loading table with the action closed and the hammer down on an empty chamber.

The course of fire will be the same as all other categories, with the exception that only one pistol is used, and a reload of that pistol will be involved in place of a second pistol. Rifles are staged loaded with the chamber empty and with the hammer down; the same as all SASS rifles. An automatic pistol with a shoulder stock used as a rifle, or a semi-auto SMG may be loaded with a round in the chamber with the safety on (*must have a functioning safety*) at the firing line under the direction of the Timer Operator, and staged as directed loaded with a round in the chamber and the safety on (*must have a functioning safety*). Maintaining absolute muzzle control is mandatory and will be strictly adhered to.

Striker fire rifles will be discarded with either the action open or with the trigger pulled on an empty chamber. Shotguns are staged empty with the action open or may have the magazine stoked with the correct number of rounds with the action closed and the hammer down on an empty chamber. Magazines that are dropped any time during the course of fire are dead rounds, they and may not be picked up by the shooter. That also includes empty magazines. A range official will retrieve the magazine following the course of fire just as a dropped loaded round would be.

Upon leaving the unloading table, the pistol must be carried in the holster with the action closed and hammer down on an empty chamber. A pistol that is being used as a rifle with a shoulder stock cannot be used as a pistol on that given stage. Period correct leather and or web gear must be used. No nylon, plastic or other modern type of holster, belt or magazine pouch may be used. Normal SASS clothing is permissible; however, period correct clothing of the early 1900's is also encouraged.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW SHOOTERS TO PROFESSIONALS CATEGORY:

Due to procedures that are different from regular cowboy action shooting, a higher level of safety of these firearms is required. Any shooter who has **not** participated in shooting a **Wild Bunch / Professionals** category in a match must take and pass a practical orientation class with either the Range Master. Furthermore, any shooter who is deemed to not be safe and/or sufficiently proficient in the use of **Professionals** firearms must take and pass a practical orientation class for shooting Professionals prior to shooting that category again.

Any range officer (*this includes loading table officers*) who experiences a shooter who demonstrates unsafe and/or poor handling of Professionals firearms will immediately stop the shooter from continuing the stage. The shooter has the option to finish the match using standard main match SASS firearms, and they will then be placed in the appropriate category.

A practical orientation will include the shooter demonstrating the proper safe and proficient use of the firearms to be used in the Professionals category.