

**2009 SASS Territorial Governor's Summit Results:**

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Result</b>
1	Should we adopt the circle of safety concept for the drawing and holstering of handguns from all types of holsters? Holsters must still comply with the 30 degree maximum cant from vertical requirement and handgun muzzles must remain within the four foot circle of safety while drawing and holstering.	<b>50</b> (15.06%)	<b>278</b> (83.73% (	<b>4</b> (1.2%)	FAIL
2	Should we allow Bisley Style Hammers mated with non Bisley Style Grips and Bisley Style Grips mated with non Bisley Style Hammers?	<b>204</b> (61.45%)	<b>125</b> (37.65% )	<b>3</b> (0.9%)	FAIL
3	Should we allow the use on adjustable sighted revolvers in all categories except Classic Cowboy and Black Powder Categories? That would be to allow them in the Duelist and Gunfighter category. They are already legal in all age based categories and B Western.	<b>168</b> (50.60%)	<b>160</b> (48.19% )	<b>4</b> (1.2%)	FAIL
4	Should we eliminate the minor safety penalty for overloading a RIFLE? This will do away with the double jeopardy penalty for overloading a rifle. Penalties for leaving rounds in the rifle would still apply but if a shooter over loaded the rifle they could clear within our rules and not be charged a penalty. (The only problem I see would be a rifle reload stage - state all reloads must come from the body.) Note this only applies to a rifle and NOT to a revolver or shotgun.	<b>181</b> (54.52%)	<b>148</b> (44.58% )	<b>3</b> (0.9%)	FAIL
5	Should we create the new sanctioned shooting category "Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter." The category would follow the equipment and ammo guidelines of the current "Frontier Cartridge" category and follow the shooting style requirements of the current "Gunfighter" Category.	<b>195</b> (58.73%)	<b>133</b> (40.06%)	<b>4</b> (1.2%)	FAIL

Notes from the Summit:

There was record attendance by TG's and/or proxies carried by them, with 118 present at the convention and apparently another 214 proxies received by post.

Agenda item #1. There were surprisingly few comments on this agenda. The majority of those that did comment explained that their clubs would not adhere to the ruling if passed. Most cited the potential for a ricochet in the case of an AD that occurred while drawing or holstering, and the muzzle was up range. A few cited the potential dangers to a Chief Range Officer (CRO) who would likely be at the margin of, or within the "cone of safety." All of these arguments have been on the TG wire, and doubtless the SASS wire for weeks. Because some IPSC or IDPA organizations do recognize a circle around the shooter, there was one attempt to change the wording of the agenda item to make it more acceptable. However, the amendment attempt was voted down almost unanimously. The attempted amendment would have read "... and handgun muzzles must enter the downrange area via the closest way possible." It is no wonder it was not accepted.

Agenda item #2 – There was again an attempt to change the verbiage of the agenda item. The proposed amendment would have read "Should we remove all handgun hammer restrictions from the handgun requirements?" Thankfully that was also voted down. However, most of the comments about accepting the Bisley hammer were positive, usually citing the fact the door was opened when the Montado, with lowered, widened hammer was accepted last year. It surprised me that this item failed to win 2/3 majority vote, but it was extremely close. The rule states that any agenda item not receiving 2/3 majority vote may not be reintroduced onto the agenda for 3 years.

Agenda item #3 – There was absolutely no discussion on this item, and as you can see from the vote, opinions were equally for or against.

Agenda item #4 – This was essentially an end run attempt to remove the "double jeopardy" penalty of loading an improper number of rounds in a rifle (minor safety for not adhering to loading requirements) and then appearing at the unloading table with a live round on the carrier (minor safety). That item was defeated two years, and could not be re-introduced, but the current item, simply removing the minor safety for overloading, would have accomplished the same thing. The only concern I had, and brought to the discussion, as did Chuckaroo from Maryland, was the possibility that some might deliberately overload to mitigate against an inadvertently jacked out round. Such an action would not be illegal, and could be corrected before engaging the next gun by jacking all extra rounds out. To do so, however, would risk two possible penalties; a procedural if the shooter continued to shoot when he or she should have stopped, and failing to clear the rifle before engaging the next gun. Most thought very few would be tempted to try such a thing, and I thought most of the discussion was positive. I am surprised that it failed and was not closer. JT Wild did point out that we need to enforce the current ruling more vigorously, however, so we will have double penalties to be aware of for the foreseeable future.

Agenda item #5 – Most of the discussion on this item was curt, i.e. "No New Categories!" However, there was one interesting comments from Palewolf Brunelle to the effect that if Gunfighter shooting style was passed, with the current wording, the equipment (read leather) was not addressed, and could lead to shooters wanting to shoot Gunfighter style wearing two cross draw or butt-forward holsters. While Palewolf has demonstrated that this can be done safely, (although probably not competitively) current rules prevent the wearing of two butt-forward holsters. Allie Moe proposed a wording change, "'Frontier Cartridge' category and follow the shooting style and holster requirements of the current "Gunfighter" Category." This amendment was passed, and once again I was surprised that this item did not get more positive votes.

Open Discussion and Current Rule Clarification:

There were three items that the RO Committee had worked on to bring clarification to existing rules

1. What is the penalty when a shooter fails to bring sufficient ammunition to the line and obtains some illegally? The shooter who obtains ammo from a friend, the CRO, or other person has obtained ammo illegally. This is basically failure to stage ammo or guns appropriately, and has always been ruled as a procedural. However, the clarification includes the fact that if a shooter obtains ammo illegally, he or she shall be awarded a “P” plus any targets hit with that ammo will be considered a miss!
2. Safety rule #7, “NO gun may be de-cocked on the firing line except by pointing it down range and pulling the trigger or while under the direct supervision of a stage officer.” As people are apparently still unsure of this ruling, three scenarios in which de-cocking would be allowed were discussed:
  - a. In the case of a squib round or suspected squib round when the gun is cocked, but may have to be carried to a safe position to be cleared, it may be de-cocked under the supervision of the CRO
  - b. In case of a general CEASE FIRE command.
  - c. Before any round has gone down range, i.e. shooter draws/picks up incorrect gun and cocks it before being stopped by CRO. Shooter may either fire down range, and return to the loading table to prepare the gun with appropriate rounds for the stage, or may de-cock the gun under the direct supervision of the CRO and make the gun safe by rotating the chamber to empty, or by clearing the chamber of a rifle or shotgun.
3. Clarification on drawing and re-holstering from a “straight hang holster.” There is no precise definition of what a “straight hang holster” is, and opinions vary from not deviating more than 1 degree from vertical to perhaps as much as 10 degrees. Because this is difficult to enforce or determine, no precise definition was attempted. However, there is still apparently some confusion as to what is an appropriate action for drawing and re-holstering. BlackJack Zack demonstrated by turning 90 degrees to the audience (by definition the stage area and beyond was “down range” and the audience was “up range”). In this position, facing to the right of the audience, so his right holster was toward the audience, he drew his gun (cylinder removed for demonstration purpose), from the holster, straight up, and with the muzzle poised above the pouch of the holster, moved across the stage from left to right, turned left, and pointed the gun down range. You could tell by the gasps around the room that many thought this was an illegal move, and that he had broken the 170 degree cone. He then poised the gun directly over the pouch of the holster, turned right again, so his strong side was toward the audience, and re-holstered as he moved further to the right.

Both these moves were legal under the current rules, and the 170 was not considered to be broken, as long as the gun remained vertical over the pouch of the holster. He then demonstrated several examples where such a move would not be legal, including missing the holster, with muzzle canted backwards, drawing or re-holstering with a so-called straight hang holster with a forward cant, while leaning forward (muzzle directed backward).

The purpose of these demonstrations was simply to point out what is legal under the current rules, and to emphasize that abuses of these rules should be enforced.