



Cowboy Fast Draw Association

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Regarding COVID-19 Policies For 2020 CFDA Titled Championships & Top Gun Points

Dear CFDA Members,

March 31st, 2020

This is an official interpretation that will apply to State Championships and how Top Gun Points will be applied. The health, safety, and economic challenges facing nations around the world caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, causes all organizations to assess their unique positions to both fight our common enemy, and to also preserve all that we hold dear.

The Cowboy Fast Draw Association is more than just a sport and passion we all share. We are also commonly referred to as the CFDA Family for a good reason. What we have built together has become a lifestyle for so many of our members.

We have built lifelong friendships, helped each other through tough times with prayers and generous donations. I cannot begin to tell you how much it means to Alotta Lead, Jackie Daniels, and myself when we receive the hundreds of phone calls we do telling us how Cowboy Fast Draw has literally changed their lives for the better.

We should also understand what a significant contribution that we have made in the development of our youth members. We all play a part in setting a strong example of sportsmanship, friendly and fair competition, and that a person's word is their bond. Our young competitors learn respect, discipline, responsibility and firearm safety. We have all generously supported our Shoot for The Stars Scholarship Program, with which we have also provided over \$150,000 in scholarships for both college and trade schools for our young CFDA members.

I share the frustration with all of our members as we watched the first few months of our 2020 Season being cancelled or rescheduled. I also share with you the commitment of pulling our nation together to fight an "invisible enemy", because the price of ignoring it is terrible and not invisible at all.

After communicating with our Host Clubs and finding the need to cancel or postpone all of our CFDA Titled Championships in both April and May, and listening to President Trumps recommendations, I felt a need to assess CFDA's current position.

I've had quite a few discussions regarding canceling, postponing, and rescheduling of our championship matches, and there have been numerous questions regarding our Top Gun Points System. Plus, the clubs are concerned about attendance and the prospect of having lower than expected turnouts, which can heavily impact their budgets. The following is my interpretations on some of these subjects, using not only our written rules, but reasonable adjustments due to the common challenges we face together. I have broken it up into four main topics.

Part 1 - Multi-State Championships

On Page 45 of the Gunslinger's Rules, Guidelines & Handbook, "CFDA Titled Championships", within the first paragraph, you will see the term "Multi-State Championships", this is an original CFDA rule, which pre-dated

Territorial Championships. It was written for areas developing in the U.S. to allow state championships held in neighboring states to be held in conjunction and at the same location with each other.

Interestingly, there has been precedence set for a State Championship in our "sister" shooting sport SASS to be held within the borders of a neighboring state. The 2003 Idaho State SASS Championship was held in Jackpot, NV. That's when I first met our friend PG Taylor, he was the Match Director. Granted the state line bordered the actual range, but we were definitely in the State of Nevada.

Interpretation #1 (Multi-State Championships)

Therefore, due to the challenges of our 2020 Season, if a CFDA State Championship needs to be postponed to a date later in the year, perhaps working with another state championship sharing a common border might make very good sense. As long as they are coordinated, our rules provide that they can be held on the same weekend. Shooters can make one trip and attend two separate CFDA titled Championships. Just like we have discovered that holding State & Territorial Championships together can increase the attendance at both events.

Part 2 - Top Gun of the Year Point System

Page 47. Top Gun of the Year Point System. The Top Gun Point Season, according to our rules begins at the conclusion of each year's World Championship, and concludes at the end of the following year's World Championship. Any CFDA Titled Championship held within that time period is entitled to have Top Gun Points count towards that season's Top Gun of the Year Points. Since CFDA Titled Championships can be held in warmer climates or indoors after but within the same calendar year as the World Championship, those Top Gun Points apply to the following season.

Interpretation #2 (Top Gun Points)

A CFDA Title Championship must be held within the same calendar-year represented in that title. However, Top Gun Points are applied to the CFDA Top Gun Point Season when the championship was actually held. For instance, the 2020 Arizona State Championship has now been postponed until October 30th-Nov. 1st, but its Top Gun Points will be applied to the 2021 Top Gun Season.

Part 3 - Prize Package Requirements

When we read the first pages of our Gunslinger's Rules, Guidelines and Handbook, particularly pages 4 & 5, we find the true meaning of Cowboy Fast Draw. Nowhere on those pages will you find any reference to "prize money". We all appreciate winning some prize money from time to time, but if you shoot just to win money, I'm afraid you'll be very disappointed. I'm sure many of you have heard me say, "If you are going to leave a CFDA Championship in a brand-new luxury automobile, you better have arrived in one." What we actually shoot for in Cowboy Fast Draw is, Pride, Honor, and Recognition of Accomplishment. Because of the nature of our game, our tournaments are as much a social occasion as they are a competition.

CFDA does have minimum Prize Package Requirements for Titled Championships, as stated on Page 46. There already is no cash prize money requirement for State Championships. Clubs should expect to at least cover expenses, plus raise some funds for their clubs, which is usually spent on upgrading equipment to help improve their clubs. After all, our CFDA Titled Championships happen only through the generous volunteerism of our Host Clubs and their members. However, Host Clubs also understand that they must do their best to give what they can back to the shooters in the forms of awards, merchandise, and/or cash, because the shooters appreciate it and will promote your contest and bring friends to next year's event. We must respect the balance of the relationship between our championship matches, our Host Clubs, and our shooters who spend their hard-earned money and vacation time to support them. Our network of affiliated clubs are the very foundation of CFDA.

There is, however, cash prize money required for Territorial (\$2,500) and the National Championship (\$5,000), which I believe is very affordable for Host Clubs, and most exceed those requirements in typical years. The 2019 FGA, awarded \$22,000 in cash, plus over \$20,000 in other awards. As we all know, 2020 is not a typical year.

All Host Clubs normally prepare budgets which account for both expenses and income, and then estimate a break-even point based upon the number of shooters expected. Since shooter entry fees are usually the basis for the needed income, we normally advise our clubs to make a conservative estimate of shooters.

There are numerous expenses involved with putting on a championship match, things the average shooter might not consider. The cost of awards, ammunition, backstops, timing equipment, facilities, shade, restrooms, etc.. This all comes before one penny of cash prize money is paid. For 2020, we are advising our Host Clubs to be extra conservative while estimating their shooter break-even point. In fact, we recommend that you do not publish actual prize money until after shooter check-in. You can always sweeten the pot if your attendance is a pleasant surprise.

Interpretation #3 (Prize Package Requirements)

For the remainder of the 2020 CFDA Championship Season, Host Clubs shall try to meet Prize Package Requirements, but are authorized to make adjustments and are hereby exempt for meeting minimum cash prize money requirements, which depends heavily upon the attendance of shooters. When we resume our 2020 Season, we must not financially harm our clubs that make a commitment to keep our sport strong and active.

Part 4 - Salvaging our 2020 CFDA Season & the Future

To CFDA, this has become about safely salvaging what we can of our 2020 CFDA Season the best we can, we must hope for the best, but plan for the worst. We must stick together, keep in touch, and take measures as needed. Safety is Always First, but we should also resist jumping to conclusions and overreacting by staying informed. Our CFDA Family and sport will get past COVID-19, but opinions of our members will swing widely. We will emerge from this Pandemic in at least the following four stages.

1. We must all do our part in following CDC recommendations of social distancing which will bring a decline of infections. Most of our clubs across the country have done so already, of course, this can vary from state to state. *(This can happen within just a few weeks)*
2. We must also maintain hope that better treatments are on the way as they are being approved by the FDA, for those who do test positive. *(This can also happen within a few weeks)*
3. Development of an actual vaccine against COVID-19. *(About one-year).*
4. Once the vaccine is developed, the public must trust it. *(Could be 2-years or more.)*

We must be prepared to cancel even more events, if needed, until Stages 1 & 2 are completed. Some of our members will be willing to travel to contests after Stage 2, some will not travel until there is a COVID-19 Vaccine (Stage 3), and some will not travel until they trust the COVID-19 Vaccine (Stage 4). We must all measure these decisions and make them for ourselves. But, whatever the case, we should stay informed, make the best decisions we can, and respect each other for the decisions that we personally make. For, WE ARE THE CFDA FAMILY!

Thank You,

