

2017 CFDA MARSHAL'S MUSTER AGENDA

The Fastest Gun Alive – World Championship (Fallon, NV)

Wednesday – October 4th – 5:30 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Bldg. (Fairgrounds)

Note: *The following are prepared using a combination of the original Agenda Items (blue text), initial comments that were part of the original agenda (black text), minutes of discussions (green text), and final decisions by CFDA Management (red text).*

1. Introduction - All Club Representatives & CFDA Management

Quick Cal welcomed all attending U.S. Marshals, and asked them to go around the table and while introducing themselves to answer a simple question, “Why are you part of CFDA?”

Here are some of the comments: “CFDA is like being part of one big family.”, “It’s a sport in which our entire family can participate together.”, “The people involved with CFDA are helpful and welcoming.”, “The overall environment is fun.”

2. Opening Statements by Quick Cal (Muster Chairman) & Alotta Lead

Quick Cal began by thanking the U.S. Marshals for all of the wonderful and positive comments during the introductions. Then, he recognized CFDA Founder Brad Hemmah a.k.a. Kemosabi - CFDA #L1, who was seated at the table as a U.S. Marshal (At Large), a permanent appointment dating back to 2006. He also welcomed Honcho (Switzerland), our CFDA European Regulator, and Black Eagle Montana (France), who is forming a CFDA club in his country.

Quick Cal then gave a report on the general status of CFDA, and that while it continues to grow, we all need to continue with efforts to build our clubs, help new clubs form, and find new ways to promote Cowboy Fast Draw and our membership in general.

Alotta Lead welcomed and thanked all of those in attendance. She also stressed using the CFDA Logo and said she was looking forward to that discussion.

Quick Cal then made the point that according to CFDA Guidelines that their jobs as U.S. Marshals are three-fold:
1. Represent their club to CFDA. 2. Represent CFDA to their club. 3. Act as an Advisory Committee to CFDA Management. Please consider all three of these important duties.

CFDA wants to hear from you, we run a very small office, mainly Alotta Lead and Quick Cal is there often. If we are not able to answer, please leave a message and we will return your call.

CFDA provided some pizza and refreshments, and we took a 20 minute-break.

After the break, Kemosabi demonstrated of a vintage 1950’s Fast Draw Timer, and an inspirational speech on keeping the Integrity of our Game, intact and always in mind when considering rule changes and enforcing our rules.

3. Unserviceable Gun On Firing Line Procedure - Discussion (CFDA)

Discussion on and codifying procedures on how Match Officials should deal with a six-gun that becomes unserviceable on the firing line that still contains ammunition. (See: Page 33., #7. Standard Safety Violations) and determine a standard procedure for how Match Officials can assist the shooter in these circumstances.

Discussion- The U.S. Marshals generally agreed that there needs to be a procedure for one way to handle this situation. And that any person that removes an unserviceable gun from the firing line needs to be, or appointed by, a Range Official.

CFDA Management Decision- CFDA will prepare a procedure and distribute it for comments to U.S. Marshals & Regulators, before final posting.

4. Timer Malfunction (When one Start Light on a Firing Line fails to illuminate) - Discussion (CFDA)

It has happened at contests where Start Lights for an entire firing line illuminate and one or more of the Start Lights do not. Is it reasonable to penalize a shooter who reacts with all of the other shooters on the firing line, when their individual Start Light does not illuminate? It has been called both ways in the past and needs to be clarified and published.

Discussion- The U.S. Marshals agreed that there should be one way to handle this situation also. A straw pole was taken and the U.S. Marshals also agreed that unless an individual’s actual start light illuminates they should not begin the drawing action and anticipation penalties should apply.

CFDA Management Decision- CFDA will prepare a procedure and distribute it for comments to U.S. Marshals & Regulators, before final posting.

5. Timer Malfunction Procedure (Page 21., #4) Discussion (Cool Hand Suz & Curley Calhoun - Sawtooth Shootist)

#4. If both targets are clearly hit and there is only one recorded time and two judges cannot clearly identify the first hit, the shooter with no time will be awarded a re-shoot. The opponent will be given a choice to re-shoot the shot or keep their hit. If the opponent chooses to keep their hit, the shooter awarded the re-shoot will be given one shot to win, tie, or lose the round. The opponent's choice is final.

Reason for Submittal:

If both hand-judges can't determine who hit the target first, then with the intent of being fair to both shooter's, the procedure allows for the shooter without a time to re-shoot. It also allows for the shooter with a time to keep their time or re-shoot along with their opponent.

The reason this is being submitted is because the thought is that although the intent of this procedure is to be fair to both shooters, it is not actually fair to both shooters since the shooter who doesn't have a time, through no fault of their own, has lost a clear and obvious hit and is made to shoot again.

In our opinion, the only way for it to be truly fair is for both shooters to be able to keep their hits or for both shooters to have to re-shoot. Since one of the shooters doesn't have a time, keeping their hit would not allow for scoring so this option is not realistic. The other option then would be to have both shooters re-shoot. In comparison, if you refer to CFDA Elimination Procedures on page 20, item #2, you'll see that all ties must be re-shot. If both shooters have an obvious hit on the target, and both hand-judges can't tell who hit first, then in essence, what you have is a tie.

Discussion- There was quite a bit of discussion on this, it was clear that no matter how ever it is handled that it is never completely fair to both shooters. Timer Malfunctions are just a fact of life, although measures should be taken by Host Clubs to try to minimize them as much as possible.

CFDA Management Decision- The Chair called for a vote of the U.S. Marshals, declaring it a binding vote.

(Yes) Meant, keep the existing rule as it is. (NO) Meant, changing the rule, with further discussion.

(Yes = 25) (No = 13) Result: The current rule will remain in effect.

6. CFDA Logo - Discussion (CFDA)

We wish to discuss and define how and when the CFDA Logo is used. Also that the CFDA Logo, or "Cowboy Fast Draw", or both should appear on all awards presented by CFDA Affiliated Clubs and especially all CFDA Titled Championships. It is recommended that CFDA Affiliated Club Officials also use the CFDA Logo on official club business cards and stationary.

Discussion- Alotta Lead wanted everyone to be clear on policies regarding CFDA Logos, Copyrights, and Trademarks. We get a lot of calls in the CFDA Office from clubs that don't seem to understand that they indeed have the right to use the CFDA Logos and Trademarks in most cases.

CFDA Affiliated Clubs – Special & Limited Exclusive Rights

Any CFDA affiliated club may use CFDA's Trademarked or Copyright protected properties in the promotion of their club and events. This includes literature, advertising, trophies, backstops, trailers, etc.

Any CFDA member may display the logo on personal property such as shirts, hats, gun cases, automobiles, RV's, etc.

Affiliated Clubs may use the CFDA Logo on club shooting shirts and T-shirts, as long as it is for the specific use of their club members and is not being marketed to other CFDA clubs, members, or being sold to the public.

7. Invitation to Be a Gunfighter Program - Discussion (CFDA)

Why this could be the most important recruiting tool we have ever found.

Please see *Gunslinger's Gazette* (April-May) Article on Page 18.

Discussion- While our past Town Folk Alleys and now called Try Cowboy Fast Draw events have produced positive images, promotional value, and some members for our clubs and sport in general. We have found that these events have fallen far short of recruitment expectations. Please see the article on our website, or in the *Gunslinger's Gazette* stated above for details of why this program works so well.

8. Clarifying the Shootoff 30-Second Time Limit to return to the firing line - Clarification (CFDA)

Note: This rule only applies to Championship Shootoffs, not regular rounds.

There has been a misconception that shooters have a total of only 30 seconds to go to a cleaning table, rod out their barrel and return to the firing line, when it is actually, 30 seconds after being called to the firing line, once all of the times have been recorded and the targets have been tended to. Further clarification is necessary to indicate that once everything is in place and ready to go, and one or more of the shooters are not in place, that is when a final call is made for the shooters to report to their assigned lane, and the 30 second time limit begins then.

9. Address Rules & Enforcement Policies on Holster Angles - Discussion (CFDA)

Director's Statement: *Folks, I have dreaded this subject and it has been brewing beneath the surface of our sport for several years. I've had to do my best to referee several conflicts with strong opinions on both sides of this issue, and it has gotten worse in the past few years. The problem is that our holster angle rule is in conflict with our enforcement policies. To change the enforcement policies of a rule is the same as changing the rule itself.*

As Director of CFDA, I receive constant complaints at both contests and over the phone regarding extreme holster angles being used by shooters on the firing line.

Reason for Submittal

The problem is that our holster angle rule is in conflict with our enforcement policies. If we as a group do not bring our enforcement policies in compliance with our rules, and make a commitment to follow and enforce them, then this conflict will continue and gradually intensify into inter-personal conflicts.

We either need to re-word and re-define some of our existing rules, adjust and standardize our enforcement policies for our existing rules, or a combination of both to maintain the spirit and intent of this rule.

Here are the Existing Rules that Apply:

Page 16. Holster & Gun Belt Specifications:

2. There will be no more than a 20-degree (front or back) holster cant while the shooter is in a normal standing position.

Page 14. Equipment Rules and Violations

4. Equipment must be checked by the host or the host's appointed personnel at all CFDA Titled Championships and is highly recommended at all sanctioned events. This check should be conducted by CFDA Certified Range Officers. Shooters must report to have their equipment checked wearing their **guns and holsters**. Officials should check dimensions and **angles** with rulers and **angle gauges**, as needed. Guns should have their actions checked by operating the action to make sure that the exterior operation has not been altered. Safety, half-cock and full-cock notches must be able to withstand a reasonable jar.

6. Any equipment that has passed equipment check **can be re-checked at any time during a competition**, especially preceding championship shootoffs.

Page 30. Contestant Technical Rules (TV)

4. **CHANGING THE POSITION OR LIFTING THE GUN TO AN ILLEGAL POSITION IN THE HOLSTER** to gain a competitive advantage on your fellow competitor is not allowed.

Identifying the Conflicts:

Before every titled championship our equipment (Gun & Holsters) are required to be checked by an approved official. According to Rule #4 on Page 14, everyone is required to bring both their guns and holsters for this inspection. While guns normally have stickers attached to identify that they have been checked, holsters normally do not. During this inspection, holsters are to be worn and angles are supposed to be checked by officials "while the shooter is in a normal standing position". This means that the 20-degree angle is not checked in a competitor's shooting stance but rather while standing in a normal upright position. Much of the time our experienced officials can determine if a holster is compliant by just a visual inspection, especially with a straight hang holster. But, when a holster has a manufactured cant, they should **always** be checked with an angle gauge.

Conflict: Is it appropriate for a shooter to change their equipment (Gun or Holster), which includes how the holster is worn, or the position of the holster on the belt after the equipment has been checked by officials?

Page 30. #4. Applies, in that, the shooter is changing the position of their holster to gain a competitive advantage by sliding the back of a gun-belt way down on their backside, or actually bending the holster on the belt to increase the holster/gun angle while on the firing line, rather than doing it by a competitive stance, which is allowed.

Item #9 (Continued)

Reasons for Checking Holster Angles in a “Normal Standing Position” instead of a “Shooting Stance”

1. It is impossible during an equipment check to ever expect a shooter to duplicate their “heat of the moment” shooting stance that they may use in a highly competitive situation.
2. Both the Founder of CFDA, Brad Hemmah a.k.a. Kemosabi and I, both had extensive experience with the World Fast Draw Association (WFDA) during the 1990s dealing with holster angles. He, as the host of the Deadwood World Championships and I, as Chairman of the WFDA. When Kemosabi was writing the original rules of CFDA, he called me as an advisor and we had several conversations about guns and holsters, and specifically discussed angle rule enforcement. We both agreed, and still do, that attempting to enforce angle rules while shooters are on the firing line in competitive shooting stances would lead to the same results that were experienced when that was the enforcement policy of the WFDA, heated arguments and friction.
3. History of the Sport of Fast Draw has also taught us that individual competitive shooting stances cannot be regulated by rules and enforcement policies either. We had once attempted to define stances in a number of ways, from how much someone’s knees could be bent, to creating 2’ x 2’ boxes that shooters had to have their feet contained in. The reality is that shooters come in all sizes and body shapes. So, it was decided in the very beginning that CFDA will not attempt to regulate how far someone leans back or how wide they spread their feet.
4. **A continuous mission of CFDA is to avoid placing our competitors or officials (who are competitors too) into positions of competing under or officiating and enforcing arbitrary rules, that are not able to be clearly defined.**

Possible Solutions:

1. After a period of discussion, we will conduct a straw-vote of present U.S. Marshals to advise CFDA Management to keep the spirit of the 20-degree holster angle rule or remove it. This vote will not be binding, but will help management determine what the membership thinks and possible courses of action.
2. **Note:** That if the consensus is to keep the spirit and intent of the 20-Degree Rule, then we may need to adjust the wording to clarify the rule better.

Then, we need to apply our current rule on **Page 14, #6**. **“Any equipment that has passed equipment check can be re-checked at any time during a competition”**.

This may be the best solution, but it would require a change in our enforcement policies, which all competitors should have adequate time to adjust to and not have such a policy change sprung on them at a contest with out proper notice.

Equipment Rule #6, can be applied to holster angles using the following Enforcement Policies:

- A. An angle gauge will be stationed along with a copy of the Gunslinger’s Rules & Handbook on the scoring table at all CFDA Ranges.
- B. If in the opinion of a Hand Judge, Line Judge, or Range Master, a shooter has broken Technical Rule #4. by changing the position of their holster belt or holster on their belt to an angle that exceeds 20-degrees while in a normal standing position. The Range Master, before the first shot is fired or at anytime between shots during a round, will ask the shooter to stand in a normal standing position without re-adjusting their belt position or the holster position on the belt.
- C. The Range Master will then check the holster angle with the angle gauge, if found that the holster exceeds 20-degrees, Technical Violation Penalties will apply for that round. i.e. Warning, Loss of Shot, then Loss of Round.
- D. While Technical Penalties do not carry forward to other rounds, any shooter that repeatedly has to be warned or receives repetitive penalties in multiple rounds, a Conduct Penalty may be applied.

Special Note: Nothing decided at this meeting affects the 2017 Fastest Gun Alive, it will not go into effect until 2018.

Item #9 (Continued)

Discussion- After asking the U.S. Marshals, if they had read and understood this agenda item and all of the related research that was published with it, which they as a group acknowledged that they had. Quick Cal, stated that CFDA Management needed to know, before having a drawn out discussion where the body of U.S. Marshals stood on this item, and immediately called for a vote of the U.S. Marshals.

Should CFDA keep the current 20-Degree Holster Rule?

(Yes) Meant, keep the existing rule as it is. (NO) Meant, changing the rule, with further discussion.

Results: (Yes = 38) (No = 0) The current rule will remain in effect.

CFDA Management Decision- With a unanimous vote, it is obvious, that CFDA must draft an Enforcement Policy - Regarding the Holster Angle Rule, before the 2018 Season begins. This Enforcement Policy will prepared and distributed for comments to U.S. Marshals & Regulators, before final draft is posted.

10. Establishment of an Approved Six-Gun List Committee - Discussion (CFDA)

Reason for Submittal

The CFDA Office receives calls almost daily regarding what types of six-guns are allowed in CFDA, and which ones are not. The manufacturer's market has changed drastically in the past 5 years, due to all of the modifications that SASS and Cowboy Mounted Shooting allows. We are the last western based shooting sport that requires "faithful reproductions" based upon our time period. CFDA is going to have to establish and publish a more comprehensive and detailed list of exactly which brands and models are acceptable and which ones are not, based upon our rules.

CFDA Six-Gun Approval Committee

1. This special Six-Gun Approval Committee will be appointed by the Executive Director of CFDA.
2. Committee members will need to have a good general knowledge of six-guns from a historical and practical prospective.
3. Committee members must have online capability, as they will communicate through a dedicated/private Facebook Group.
4. The first goal, is to establish and vote on a list of currently approved six-guns.
5. Committee members will have standing to propose, research, and vote on any new additions to the list.
6. Any proposed six-gun brands or models must have an authored description, photos, and comments which contain qualifying or disqualifying recommendations.
7. Research and opinions may be published on the CFDA Website, to educate members, guests, and manufacturers can learn reasons why proposed six-guns are either approved or disapproved.

Discussion- There was very limited discussion on this topic, although the group did agree that such a list should exist. Quick Cal asked if there were any members present U.S. Marshals or otherwise that felt qualified in both the history of old west firearms and the reproductions thereof, that would volunteer their services for a Six-Gun Approval Committee? There were no volunteers.

CFDA Management Decision- Quick Cal will begin a list, and then contact other experts both inside and outside of CFDA to form a committee. He will also ask various gun companies to provide lists of firearms that they feel should be included in such a list. This process will take some time to complete, and will have to be maintained with new additions as they come to our attention over time.

11. CFDA Titled Championships Page 37. & 38. Last Paragraph - Discussion (CFDA)

Rule: "A CFDA Affiliated Club that has hosted a Class B "Titled Championship" will have first right of refusal for the following year, providing that all CFDA rules and guidelines have been followed to the best of the club's ability. They must sanction the event for the following year at least six months prior to the match dates to retain first right of refusal."

Reason for Submittal:

The original intent of this rule was to create a process to reward and protect clubs that have invested time, money, and talent to conduct titled championships, so that other clubs cannot simply sanction the following year's event out from under the original host club. At the time this policy was created there were just a few clubs capable of hosting titled championships. As our sport has developed, many states and territories now have multiple clubs who have developed these skills, many who would appreciate the opportunity to host a titled championship in the future.

It has come the CFDA Management's attention that the "right of refusal" is being confused with actual rights

Item #11 (Continued)

to the CFDA Championship Title itself. These “assumed rights” are being assigned to other clubs without other state or territory clubs being notified or given the opportunity to host a CFDA Titled Championship.

Another Issue, is that sometimes existing host clubs wait the entire six months, after their titled championship, to announce whether they are going to host the event the following year or not. If the host club decides not to host the following year’s championship, then it may not allow another club enough time to plan and organize a titled championship. This can lead to years where no titled championships are held, when there could have been.

CFDA Hereby Proposes:

That a current host club must declare their intention to host the following year’s event within 60 days following a current championship. They must submit the CFDA Sanctioned Event Agreement and the minimum deposit, which will secure their date and titled championship rights for the following year.

If a club fails to submit the Event Agreement within that 60 days, then they shall relinquish their “first right of refusal” for the titled championship for the following year. CFDA will then publicly announce that the title is available for that state or territory, and declare a 60-day period, inviting all clubs in the subject area, including the prior host club, to submit a CFDA Sanctioned Event Agreement and deposit.

In the event that there is more than one club submitting the CFDA Sanctioned Event Agreement and deposit, then all CFDA Affiliated Clubs in that area will receive one vote to decide which club is awarded the title.

In the event that no club submits the CFDA Sanctioned Event Agreement and deposit within the 60-day time period. then CFDA will accept the CFDA Sanctioned Event Agreement and deposit from the first club submitting it.

Multiple Host Clubs can also enter into an agreement to alternate, rotate, or associate to host Class B Titled Championships from year to year, or multiple years. But, such an agreement shall be done in writing and signed by all cooperating affiliated clubs and submitted to CFDA for final approval and signatures, so that these agreements are recorded and binding. These agreements shall have a stated terms and have provision to allow newer clubs a chance to participate, when they are established and ready. CFDA may limit the number of years that such an agreement can remain in effect.

Discussion- The discussion held indicated that the U.S. Marshals generally agreed with the new policy. Additional discussion was that if a club with the “right of refusal” reserved for the following year in a timely manner, but later decides to not host the event, they would lose their deposit.

CFDA Management Decision- CFDA Management will go ahead and implement the above policy. However, in regards to the forfeit of deposits. CFDA has decided that clubs will be refunded their deposits unless buckles have been ordered, which cannot be used by another club that may decide in a timely manner to go forward with the subject event, or Gunslinger’s Gazette advertisements have been published.

12. Open Discussion

Question- Is the 1.25 Time Limit the same time limit for the 15’ distance?

Answer- Yes, it is the same.

Request from Recording Secretaries (Wench & Cool Hand Suz):

Before moving forward at the beginning of the Marshal’s Muster, prior to introductions, please ask all duplicate (non-voting representatives) that are in attendance to move away from the round table. Plus, we really need to be able to have those who will be voting to sign in. We need to know the total count and clearly see the voting hands.

CFDA Management- Thank You Wench and Cool Hand Suz for the great notes of the minutes! We will certainly follow your wishes next year!

THANK YOU TO ALL CFDA U.S. MARSHALS WHO COULD ATTEND THE MARSHAL’S MUSTER!

Respectfully Submitted,

