

## What is CMSA?

The Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association, Inc. (CMSA) is the corporation that was created to develop the rules and guidelines for the equestrian sport of Cowboy Mounted Shooting in 1994.

The CMSA now annually produces nine major championship competitions, including the World Championship in Amarillo, TX, and an additional World Series competition in Las Vegas, NV. Individual CMSA clubs across the country put on over 500 sanctioned events each year. Competitors accrue points at these events toward qualifying to compete in Amarillo.

Cowboy Mounted Shooting is the nation's fastest growing equestrian sport, and has been described as "equestrian NASCAR." Mounted contestants compete in this fast-action, timed event, using two .45 Colt caliber, Old West-style single-action revolvers, each loaded with five rounds of specially prepared (arena safe) blank ammunition.

Courses of fire are set in a variety of patterns. The first half (five balloon targets) of a course of fire will vary with each run and could require the horse and rider to stop, turn, change leads and/or accelerate rapidly. The second half (five targets), called the "rundown," is a straight, forward motion course, with targets set at 36-foot intervals.

Typically, a competitor crosses the timing beam at a full gallop and engages the first pattern of five targets. After a shooter fires the fifth shot, he or she returns the empty revolver to a holster—then, while drawing the second revolver, the competitor rides to a turn-around barrel, located at the far end of the arena. That barrel is rounded, then the five remaining targets of the rundown are engaged at full speed.

Scoring is based on the elapsed time, plus a five-second penalty for each target missed, any barrel(s) knocked over, a gun dropped once the stage has been engaged, or failure to follow the prescribed course properly. An average course of fire normally takes a contestant between 15 and 25 seconds to complete.

There are various levels of competition. There is a Men's Division, a Women's Division, and a Senior's Division—with Classes 1-6 in each of those divisions. There is also a Wrangler Class for those 11 and under and a Junior Class for youths 12-15 years of age. All riders start at Class 1. When a rider wins Class 1 twice, they advance to Class 2. When they win Class 2 three times, they advance to Class 3. Four wins at Class 3, and on to Class 4, and so on. Currently, There are less than 50 people in the world that have made it to the elite Class 6.

The riders in the Wrangler class ride the same pattern that the grown-ups do, however they are not required to carry a revolver, however they may opt to shoot toy cap pistols, engaging each target as if they were shooting real blanks. They then shoot .45's with blanks at balloons, from the ground, while standing stationary with mom, dad, or a CMSA-approved adult at their side. There are also colorful specialty classes such as Cavalry (with authentic period uniforms, saddlery and other military equipment) and Rifle. The Saturday Night Showcase features the best shooters in the sport in the Wrangler Pro Class competition and the Colt Eliminator competition.

Awards—including cash, buckles, saddles, guns and other valuable trophies—are presented to the top cowboys and cowgirls in each class.