

SASS[®]

Presents



The Pony Express
Cowboy Action Shooting[™]
Postal Match
Championship

Sponsored by

The Doily Gang[™]

(to benefit the SASS[®] Scholarship Fund)

Sanctioned by

The Single Action Shooting Society[®]

The SASS® Pony Express Postal Match

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What is a Postal Match?

Postal matches originated as early as the 1900's with gun clubs in different parts of the country holding standardized NRA Bullseye matches (pistol and rifle). The shooter's scores will be mailed to a person responsible for tabulating the scores (hence the term, Postal Match). All of the scores from the participating clubs will be compiled and the results mailed back to every participating gun club. Each competitor will therefore be competing against all of the contestants in the participating gun clubs, making it a world-wide match.

Postal Match Survey

The purpose of the survey to the match directors was to determine how many clubs would be willing to participate in a Cowboy Action Shooting™ Postal match. The Doily Gang™ presented the concept of the Cowboy Action Shooting™ postal match to the CEO of the Single Action Shooting Society®, Misty Moonshine. The response was that SASS® would fully support the match. We didn't want to put a tremendous burden on the match directors when participating in this match, so we requested their feedback via the postal match survey. The survey was sent to the match directors April 19 – May 20, 2013 (a 5 week time-period). The results of the survey helped determine how many stages would be shot in the postal match, over how many months, suggestions for awards, etc. Due to the responses received from the survey and other input outside of the survey, it was decided to go ahead and pull the trigger, so to speak, to have the postal match. This was announced at the 2013 EOT opening ceremonies.

The postal match of course will not be like other postal matches that cowboy shooters are familiar with. It is expected that not all clubs will have exactly the same target sizes, table sizes, props, running surface, etc. It is also expected that not all clubs will want to participate. Due to the nature of this match being shot at different times, different places, placement of props, etc., there will inevitably be minor differences. However, the stage layout will be designed to minimize these differences.

SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship

The SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship is conducted in much the same way as it started with the exception of shooting **8 stages** instead of 4 and with the exception of using computer-based scoring and email instead of the US Postal Service. The 8 stages will be relatively simple and precisely diagramed so that all of the SASS® clubs participating can set up and administer the match in exactly the same manner.

The postal match stages will be shot at the club's monthly matches **over a period of 6 months** (or as an extra match...decision by the match director). The Match Director will have the option to shoot the stages on one weekend or shoot them over a specified number of months. For example, the Match Director could set up 4 of the stages one month and the other 4 stages the next month. Another option would be to shoot 2 stages per month over the 4 months with two months used as a "rain date" in case weather causes a match cancellation for one of the match dates. No matter the number of stages, the Match Director will decide when to shoot the stages (of course with all the scores turned in by a specified date).

The SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship is sanctioned by SASS® and sponsored by the Doily Gang™. All SASS® rules will apply. Awards will be mailed to winners (to include SASS® Championship Belt Buckles for overall Top Male, Top Female, and Top Junior winners). This match will not be a for-profit match for the Doily Gang™, but instead, a portion of the fees (all profit) will benefit the SASS® Scholarship Fund.

Note: Due to the nature of this match, being shot at different times and different places, there will inevitably be minor differences between target sizes, distance, and placements. This is true for placement of props as well. However, the stage layout will be designed to minimize these differences.

So why have a Postal Match?

To benefit the SASS® Scholarship Fund. This match is not a for-profit match for the Doily Gang but instead, a portion of the fees (all profit) will benefit the SASS® Scholarship Fund. The registration fee for the match is \$25. The normal \$5 fee per shooter for SASS® is included in the fee as well as an extra \$5 per shooter towards the scholarship fund. The remaining \$15 goes towards other expenses (awards, cost of mailing awards, PO Box, and checking account costs). Funds from the remaining \$15 less the listed expenses will also go towards the SASS® Scholarship Fund.

Benefits of a Postal Match

There are several benefits to competing in the SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship.

- Shooters of different skill levels can shoot the stages at their local range (or another range) without the cost of traveling great distances to a competition.
- Some shooters do not feel comfortable shooting at large matches due to the pressure of a formal competition, especially the newer shooters. A postal match is an ideal venue for these shooters to participate in a “large” match, but shoot with a club and shooters in which they are comfortable.
- A postal match also allows shooters to build their competitive skills before transitioning into formal matches where there is travel.
- Shooters of all ages will be able to participate in a large match against shooters from other locations without taking time off from work, school, or other activities.

Sponsoring Organization

The Doily Gang™ is the sponsoring organization for the SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship. The Doily Gang™ was formed in January 2012, as a not for profit organization with the primary objective being to support and encourage lady shooters in the game of Cowboy/girl Action Shooting. The Doily Gang™ is about cowgirls helping cowgirls (no matter your age or skill level). The only membership requirement is to follow the cowgirl way (see the Doily Gang™ website for more information: www.doilygang.com).

Most importantly, the Postal Match is a venue to raise funds for the SASS® Scholarship Fund. The Doily Gang™ also saw there was a need for shooters of all skill levels to participate in a major match without the burden of cost for travel or the pressure of a major match. Shooters are reluctant to participate in major matches for many reasons. Some shooters do not want participate in major competitions without feeling they “are ready” to compete at a high level. However, we all know that anyone can compete at major matches, because it is all about the experience and having fun at the matches. The Postal Match will provide the perfect venue to compete and see how shooters match up to other competitors, without the expenses involved with travel.

Time Frame

The SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship will take place over a period of **6 months (April 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014)**, shooting **8 stages**. The time frame would give match directors time to fit in a certain number of stages (at their choosing) during their monthly matches. The time frame would also give participants

the opportunity to locate a participating club to shoot the stages. The participating clubs will be posted on the Doily Gang website (along with the dates the clubs will be shooting the stages; as well as other pertinent information).

Fees

There will be a minimal match fee of \$25 to cover the cost of awards, mailing of the awards, PO Box, etc. A portion of the fees will also go towards the SASS® Scholarship Fund. This one-time fee will be mailed by the shooter to the Doily Gang for participation in the match. The burden will not be put on the match directors, for they have their own fees to collect for their club's monthly match. *Note:* Some clubs may require a fee for their monthly match.

Participating Club Responsibilities

We will go to great efforts to minimize the tasks by the participating club Match Directors for assisting with this match. The below list describes the responsibilities of the participating club Match Director:

- Register and submit the dates of stages to be shot (*by March 18, 2014*). This is to ensure the dates can be posted on the Doily Gang website for shooters to find clubs that are participating. Note that due to weather and other circumstances, the match directors can change the dates of the stages to be shot, but will need to give ample notification (such as 3 weeks) so that potential shooters can adjust their travel schedule. To *CHANGE* the stage dates (*after the club has registered*), the match directors will need to email the stage date changes to info@doilygang.com
- Sign a SASS Participating Club Agreement; be able to provide proof of insurance for the affiliated host club (U.S. clubs only).
 - **Note:** There is no need to submit proof of liability insurance for the Postal Match. However, if you have not provided the required certificate of liability from you insurance company to the SASS office for the coming year, please do so in a timely manner. You must be a SASS affiliated club to participate, which requires proof of liability insurance.
- Ensure their range is able to comply with all SASS® rules (such as the SASS® rules for moving with guns to include pistols, rifles, and shotguns). For instance, SASS® rules state:
 - “The shooter *with firearm in hand* shall never be allowed to move with a live round under a cocked hammer. Movement is defined the same as “traveling” in basketball. Once the firearm is cocked, one foot must remain in place on the ground until the firearm is made safe. *This means, on revolvers, you may move, restage, or re-holster when the hammer is down on an empty chamber or expended case. You may move with a rifle or shotgun when the action is open, hammer(s) down on empty chamber(s) or on expended case(s)*”...
 - **Note:** Some clubs do not allow for movement with pistols in hand (even if the hammer is on an empty chamber or expended round). The above SASS® rule allows for movement with pistols in hand (of course with safety in mind: on empty of expended round, and not breaking the 170 rule). So the club will have to comply with this SASS® rule in order to participate.
- Set up stages according to the stage specifications.
- Collect fees for **only** their club's monthly match (no fees will be collected by Match Directors from participants for the Postal Match).
- Submit a list of *ALL* shooters who participated in the match, regardless of who is or is not participating in the Postal Match. *Submit Scores (of all shooters) within 7 days of stages being shot. All scores must be received no later than October 5, 2014.*

Participating Club – Info on Website

Those clubs who are participating in the SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship will have their club listed on the Doily Gang™ website (<http://doilygang.com/postal-match-details/>). The following information will be posted:

- Club Address where the stages will be shot
- Email and Phone Number for the club contact
- Website Address (if available)
- Dates of specific stages to be shot
- Safety briefing start time
- Match start time

Being that there will be 8 stages, clubs would determine how many of the stages would be shot on a particular day. As an example, the match director may decide to shoot 4 stages in one month and the others the following month; or the stages could be spread over the 6 month time frame.

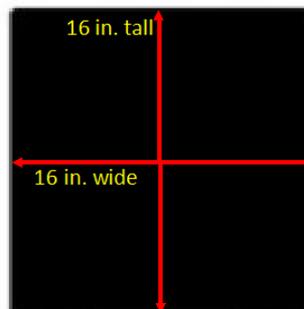
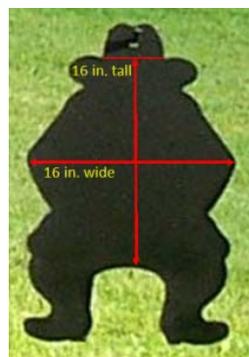
Stages

The stage specifications are available on the website (in PDF form). The stages will be shot over a 6 month time frame. If a shooter is unable to shoot certain stages, then a DNF would be scored. Participants will have the choice to shoot some stages at one club and the other stages at other clubs.

As stated previously, due to the nature of this match being shot at different times and different places, there will inevitably be minor differences between target sizes, distance, and placements, etc. However, the stage layout will be designed to minimize these differences.

Targets

Targets will be of the same size at each range (with the exception of shotgun targets). A survey was sent to the match directors to find out the most commonly used target sizes. Based on the survey, the pistol/rifle target size will be the SASS® recommended size of 16 x 16. The SASS cowboy targets are also allowed as shown in the picture, but the main target shooting area may not be larger than 16 x 16 between the top of the cowboy legs to the rim of the hat (see picture). The color of the pistol/rifle targets will be painted black or red, as designed on the stage setup specifications.



The shotgun target specification will be of different sizes due to their being uncommon shotgun targets at the clubs that responded to the survey. Swinging shotgun targets will not be used; only knock-downs. Recommended calibration for shotgun targets: To be taken down with a pistol round with a power factor of 60 from 8 yards.

Registration

Shooters desiring to participate in the SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship must be a SASS® member. Registration for the Postal Match will be from the Doily Gang website by a specified date. The match fee will be paid to The Doily Gang. The only fees collected by Match Directors would be the fee of their regular monthly match. By registering, the shooter agrees that the following information can be posted on the website as a shooter and/or a winner:

- Alias
- SASS #
- Category
- Location (State or Province; and Country)

Note: Shooters will not be able to shoot the Postal Match scenarios at one club without them being submitted to the Postal Match Scoring Official. This is to keep shooters from trying to have their best times submitted. Match Directors will turn in the scores for all who participated in shooting the Postal Match stages, not just those shooters who state they are registered for the postal match.

Categories

The recognized shooting categories are based on official SASS categories (as of March 18, 2014) and the categories that were shot at EOT in 2013. This is determined by the categories that are listed in the SASS® Handbook. Official Categories will be posted on the Doily Gang website by March 18, 2014. Shooters may change their categories up until they shoot their first round down range. The first stage the shooter participates in will be the category for the entire match.

Shooters List

The list of shooters will be updated on a regular basis. Shooters are responsible for reviewing the list to ensure their information is correct and that they are on the list. If the shooter's information is not on the list or the information is incorrect, shooters must notify the Postal Match Scoring Official via email by the Score Verification/Dispute End Date.

Scoring

The SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship Scoring Official will use the SASS® Scoring program to input the shooter's scores. However, the match directors can use any scoring system they would like. Total time could produce ties, so the normal SASS® rank scoring will be used. Based on the survey responses and to help reduce the chances of ties, the decision was made to have 8 stages for the match to justify Rank points.

Match Directors (or a designee) will need to submit the scores of all shooters who participated in the match, regardless of who is or is not participating in the Postal Match. This is to ensure match participants are not shooting the Postal Match stages for practice, then shooting the match at another club. Match Directors must include the shooter's SASS# when submitting scores.

Scores must be submitted within 7 days after the stages are shot. There is a chance participants could shoot the same stages multiple times, but only scores for the initial time will be scored. This is why it is necessary for Match Directors to turn in the scores for all who participated in shooting the Postal Match stages, not just those shooters who state they are registered for the postal match. By doing it this way, it takes the burden of keeping track of postal match participants off of the Match Director.

There are *three* options a match director can use to submit the scores to the Postal Match Scoring Official (SASS Scoring Program, ACES Scoring Program, or the MS Excel Scoring Template). This is to accommodate those clubs who do not use the SASS® Scoring program. Each scoring option will include the following:

- Date the stages were shot
- Which stages were shot
- Club name
- Location
- Shooters (and SASS#'s) who participated in shooting the Postal Match stages (whether registered for the match or not)
- Detailed scoring data (to include Misses, Procedurals, Minor Safeties, etc.)

Match directors will keep a copy of the scores for record, preferably up to three months past the scoring submittal deadline. Below are the options for submitting scores:

1) From the SASS® Scoring program:

- a. From the File menu, Select **File**, then **Extract Info**. This will bring up a sub menu.
- b. Under “Extracts to Excel” (the 1st column), **Match stages to Excel**.
- c. Select the name of the match (i.e. Main Match).
- d. Select **Yes** to extract all Details.
- e. Select **Yes** to Sort by Match Final.
- f. Excel will open, showing the report. The file will also be located in the C:\cowboyextracts directory with name “Scoring Template MM/DD/YYYY.” The scoring program will load the template with all the scores from your match including misses, procedurals, minor safeties bonus, etc. The scoring template has calculated fields in it, so please do not modify any data within the spreadsheet.
- g. Locate the Excel spreadsheet in C:\cowboyextracts directory with name “Scoring Template MM/DD/YYYY.”
- h. Email the file to the Postal Match Scoring Official. This report will show misses and any procedures.

2) From the ACES scoring program:

- a. Within ACES, Select **Sync**.
- b. Go to **SASS® Premier Scoring System** and Select **Export Results**
- c. Select **Email Export Files**
- d. Email the file to the Postal Match Scoring Official.

3) Download the Scoring Template (a MS Excel spreadsheet)

- a. Enter the scoring data into the spreadsheet (Raw Time, Misses, Bonuses, Procedures, etc.)
- b. E-mail the file to the Postal Match Scoring Official.

What happens to the scores after submitted? All scores must be emailed to the Postal Match Scoring Official within 7 days after the stages are shot and by October 5, 2014. After the Postal Match Scoring Officer enters the scores into the SASS Scoring program, the shooter's stage scores will be emailed to the shooter for verification (verification of scores will NOT be sent via postal mail; only email). The shooter will have 3 days to respond to the Postal Match Scoring Officer for scoring disputes. The verification response date will be noted on the email to the shooter. After the last specified verification date has past, the final results will be posted and winners announced.

Match Results

The Match Scores Proof list (for the shooter's times only) will be emailed to the shooter as soon as the scores are entered. The scores will be posted on the website when winners are announced. Shooters will be responsible for verifying their scores and contacting the Postal Match Scoring Official via e-mail by a Specified date (noted in the email to the shooter). If there is a discrepancy, the Postal Match Scoring Official will update the scores and notify the shooter of the update. Final scores will be posted October 15, 2014.

Awards

SASS® Championship Belt Buckles for overall Top Male, Top Female, and Top Junior winners will be awarded. The cost of awards is one of the biggest expenses of a match and the more awards given out, the higher the cost of the match. Therefore, to keep the cost of the match down, all participants will receive a certificate via email (with their category placement). All participants will also receive a high quality 3×6 bicycle tag with the Postal Match design imprinted upon it.

Additionally, SASS® has contributed \$500 in SASS® Merchandise Gift Certificates to use as prizes. These certificates will be in \$20 increments. All participants' names will be placed in a hat for a random drawing.

General Rules

The SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship is sanctioned by SASS®; following ALL SASS® rules. See the SASS® RO Level 1 and Level 2 handbooks at www.sassnet.com.

- Scoring will be based on Rank Scoring.
- Shooters desiring to participate in the Postal Match must be a SASS® member.
- Shooters are responsible for their own safety on the range and those around them, including eye and ear protection.
- Shooters may NOT shoot the match scenarios at one club without the scores being submitted to the Postal Match Scoring Official. This is to keep shooters from trying to have their best times submitted.
- The shooter's mailing address and other information will only be used specifically for the match. The shooter's email address or any other personal information will not be sold or given to vendors or other 3rd parties without explicit consent from the participant.
- By registering, the shooter agrees their information (Alias, SASS#, Category, and Location) may be posted on the website as a shooter and/or a winner.
- SASS® and the Doily Gang reserve the right to disqualify any shooter or club which does not comply with the specified stage scenario or the specified target placement. Typically, this will only be done for obvious violations.
- HAVE FUN (consider why we are doing this) ... to raise funds for the SASS® Scholarship Fund.

Appeals Procedure

In the event a call is challenged at the line, the Match Director and shooter must settle the dispute prior to the end of that day's match. All SASS® rules apply for reshoots/restarts, etc. See the SASS® RO Level 1 and Level 2 handbooks for SASS® rules.

Important Dates

Match Start Date: April 1, 2014

Match End Date: September 30, 2014

Club Registration Deadline: March 18, 2014

Shooter Registration Deadline: June 30, 2014

Official SASS® Category list finalized on Doily Gang website: March 18, 2014

Score Submittal Deadline: All scores must be received no later than October 5, 2014

Score Verification/Dispute from shooter: 3 days after email notification to shooter

Match Results Posted on Website: by October 15, 2014

Donation Amount for SASS® Scholarship Fund Announced: by October 15, 2014

Awards and Certificates of Participation Post-Marked (mailed): by October 30, 2014

Integrity

The SASS® Pony Express Postal Match Championship is conducted with the expectation that each participant will have the integrity to shoot the match according to SASS® rules. We are cowboys and cowgirls ... enough said.

Contract

All participating clubs must sign the SASS Pony Express Postal Match Participating Club Agreement. This agreement can be found on the website or by contacting the Doily Gang at info@doilygang.com. Participating club hosting facilities must also be able to provide proof of insurance. (**Note:** There is no need to submit proof of liability insurance for the Postal Match. However, if you have not provided the required certificate of liability from you insurance company to the SASS office for the coming year, please do so in a timely manner. You must be a SASS affiliated club to participate, which requires proof of liability insurance.)

Contacts

There are other details relating to the Postal Match, so if you have any questions regarding this match, please send an email to info@doilygang.com.

Website: www.doilygang.com

Contacts: info@doilygang.com

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The Doily Gang™

