

Questions & Answers for Gong Shoots

1. What type of Cartridge Rifle?

A. Sporting or Military style rifle, single shot, originally made for black powder cartridges, of United States manufacture prior to 1896 and being typical of the era. Replicas thereof, regardless of origin of manufacture, are permitted. Hammer must be exposed. No Schuetzen-style rifles permitted. Examples of permissible rifles are: Ballard, Buck, Bullard, Cole, Farrow, Maynard, Peabody, Redfield, Remington Hepburn, Remington Rolling Block, Sharps, Springfield Trapdoor, Stevens Tip-up, Stevens No. 44, Wesson Falling Block, Wesson (hinged barrel) Whitney Phoenix, Whitney Rolling Block, Winchester 1885 and Wurfflein.

While the following single shot actions may not conform to the exact criteria, they are allowed because they conform to the spirit of the competition in form and function, provided the firearms conform to all other configurations: Browning Model 1878, Browning Model 1885, C. Sharps '75, Falling Block Works, Stevens 44 1/2 and Wickliff '76. Replicas other than exact reproductions of pre-1896 Black Powder actions as described above, must be passed by the Rules Committee. Examples of this are the current productions of Wesson and Harrington Buffalo Classic Model 1871 in 45-70 and the H & R Model 1871 Target Rifle in 45-70 or 38- 55. These two rifles seem to fall within the Spirit of the Game. Sights must be original or reproductions of the same vintage. It shall be the competitor's responsibility to provide any documentation which may be required to establish that all Black Powder Cartridge Rifle / equipment conforms to the rules. We try to follow very closely the NRA Black Powder Rifle Rules for Silhouette shooting with our Gong Shooting Rifles.

2. What is the difference between Sporting and Military?

A. Many of the above listed makers produced certain models for military use. A trapdoor Springfield is a good example of a military rifle if all external parts are (as issued) and using black powder or an approved substitute. If not, it would have to go into the Sporting Rifle class.

3. What caliber?

A. Most American black powder cartridge rifles have a cal. / powder load designation such as 38-55, 40-65, 45-70 and 50-90 are some examples. For BPCR, we require a minimum lead bullet diameter of .375. Cowboy Rifles, it's 25-20 WCF min.Cal. For muzzleloading rifles and cap & ball revolvers, it's 36 Cal. min. and for Cowboy Action type cartridge revolvers, it's 32 through 45 caliber and must be commonly available for the gun.

4. Can I use metal jacketed lead bullets?

A. No metal jackets. No metal gas checks. Paper patched lead bullets are ok. Veg. fiber, poly, plastic, felt, paper and cardboard wads are all ok.

5. Can I use smokeless powder or a duplex loading?

A. Smokeless powder may be used in the "Smokeless Sporting Rifle Class", the "Cowboy Action Cartridge Revolver Class" and in the "Cowboy Action Rifle Class". No Duplex loadings allowed in any class.

6. What type of black powder ?

A. Real Black powder or one of the recognized black powder substitutes like Clean Shot (Pioneer), Clear Shot, Triple Seven or Pyrodex are good examples.

7. Can I use my single shot Ruger No 1 or No 3 if it is in an appropriate caliber? A. No, for two reasons. First, it's a modern design, first introduced in 1966, 70 years after our 1896 deadline. (Although externally it looks similar to the early British falling blocks by Alex Henry and Farquharsen, it's mechanism is quite different and more modern). Second, and most important, it is a hammerless action and for range safety reasons, we have excluded all hammerless actions (including the Sharps Borchardt of 1878 – 81) from the competition.

8. What about scopes?

A. No. If we had a couple of folks or more that have the old time, long buffalo or target type scopes on their cartridge rifles, we would consider a class.

9. Can two or more people share one gun? A. Certainly.

10. Can I use more than one rifle or revolver per class?

A. No, you may only use another rifle or revolver in another class. There could be an exception if a competitor had a malfunction, but it would be up to the Match Director.

11. Can I use a rifle sling? A. No.

12. Can I use my own cross sticks? A. Yes

13. Can I use my own shooting mat? A. Yes

14. Can I use my range finder to check the distance? A. Yes

15. Instead of shooting the sitting with the cross sticks stage, can I shoot it standing with my long cross sticks?

A. Only if you have some physical handicap which prevents you from sitting for shooting. The decision will be made by the Match Director.

16. Do I have to wear safety glasses and ear plugs? A. Yes (Club rules)

17. Can I use my lever action CAS rifle?

A. Only in the Cowboy Action Rifle Class. Must be original pistol caliber.

18. When the match is over, do I have to stay to collect my certificate?

A. No, we can mail you your Certificate to you if you must leave early. We may also decide to wait and present it to you at the next shoot.

19. Is lunch provided? A. No. Soda and water are available for \$1.

20. How about a campsite?

A. The limited space next to the clubhouse is used on a first come first served basis.

21. How many classes can I enter?

A. As many as you can comfortably shoot. Each additional class costs \$5.

22. Will the shoot results be posted?

A. We will try to get them e-mailed to all the contestants.

23. What will the targets be like?

A. Metal targets. A hit any place on the target scores the point.

24. Will there be an entry fee?

A. Yes, it is \$15 for one class, and \$5 for each additional class.

25. How far away will the targets be?

A. 75, 100 and 125 yards. The distances are measured.

26. Do I get fouling shots or sighting shots?

A. On each stage, you will be allowed up to two such shots before shooting for score.

27. How many shots for score? A. 5 shots for score at each of the four stages.

28. Will I be timed? A. No.

29. What about tied scores?

A. A shoot off may or may not occur. The distance and target will be up to the Match Director. You must use the same rifle that you used in that class. In the event that we may be pressed for time, the NRA method of comparing score cards row by row starting with the greatest target distance may be used.

30. I have a Sharps, breech loading, rifle that shoots paper cartridges. Can I enter and in what class?

A. Yes, using black powder it would fit into the Military Rifle class.

31. Can I use my in-line muzzleloader? A. No.

32. Can I enter my Schuetzen rifle? A. No.

33. Can I use a peep sight on my muzzleloader? A. Yes

34. If my cartridge rifle is otherwise legal, can I use a breech-seated bullet? A. No.

35. Am I allowed to use a fiber-optic sight?

A. No, sights must typical of the era. You may paint the back of the blade if your eyes demand it in order to see it.

36. If I miss my first shot for score and did not take any sighter shots or only took one, can I take one or two then?

A. No, once you have told your spotter that you are going for score, there is no going back.

37. If I am shooting in two classes, either with the same gun or a separate gun, can I shoot the two classes back to back at the same stage?

A. No, you may only shoot one class, at any one stage, at any one time. An exception might be granted if the Match Director were to determine that all others were done shooting at this stage or nobody waiting to shoot next.

38. If I don't like my score, can I re-enter and re-shoot the same class? A. No.

39. In a Revolver Class, are other types of pistols allowed?

A. Not in a revolver class, but a Single Shot Muzzleloading Pistol might be allowed to enter under "Other" on the shoot application.

40. Can I use black powder in the Cowboy Action Rifle Class? A. yes.

41. In the Quigley side-shoot event, do I have to use one of the guns I used in today's Gong Shoot?

A. Yes.

42. On the shoot application, what does "Other" mean under class?

A. It's up to the Match Director, but it could be used for a Scope Class or for a class made up that day to accommodate someone showing up with a non-complying gun and that person was not aware of the rules. This would allow them to shoot in the Gong Shoot for that day only, in a special class, rather than being sent home. He would not be allowed to enter a side-shoot. Another person who is deemed to "know better" would not be allowed in any event with the non-compliant gun.

43. What are the rules for the Quigley side shoot?

A. You may use any accepted rifle or handgun that was used in one of the day's events.

44. Can muzzleloaders be allowed to shoot less than the normal 20 rounds for total Match Score?

A. Yes, if all of the contestants shooting in any one muzzleloading class agree, they may drop back to 3 shots per stage which would result in a 12 shot match. They would still be allowed their (up to) two sighting / fouling shots. This would require the approval of the Match Director.