

ONSP Match Considerations

The following thoughts around match activities are offered to those that are new to SASS or may not have previously shot with Old North State Posse (ONSP). Old North State Posse is a SASS affiliated club and as such all matches adhere to all SASS rules and regulations with a couple of minor exceptions noted below. So if you want to know how ONSP matches are operated then make sure you are familiar with the SASS rules and regulations. All ONSP matches are held at Rowan County Wildlife Association (RCWA) in Salisbury, NC. Match registration occurs at the RCWA club house prior to the match. Post match scoring and awards also take place at the RCWA club house.

The stages for a normal monthly match (the first Sat.) are typically set up on the preceding Friday afternoon. There are always opportunities for those that are in the area on Friday afternoon to provide some assistance. Check with one of the ONSP board members if you are interested in helping. Some of the final stage preparations (painting targets, putting out carpet, final target alignment, etc) are usually finished up early on Sat. morning before the match, So feel free to wander down to the range and offer to help if these activities still need to be finished up.

ONSP does operate their matches with two or three rules that are more restrictive than the SASS rules and regulations. So when shooting ONSP matches you need to be aware of the following variations in the rules:

- Loading of shotguns while moving is not allowed. The basketball rule (also known by some as the poke and plant rule) is in effect – when a shell goes in the shotgun, you have one step. This is an RCWA range rule so it is not open for discussion.
- A round over a berm is a match DQ. This infraction is not taken lightly by RCWA since they have to fill out paperwork when this occurs.
- Calvary draws (pistols carried butt forward when holstered) are now allowed. Yes, we know this can be done correctly but it is so rarely seen that we do not feel that all ONSP match personnel would be accustomed to the proper procedures.

Remember : Although this is a standard SASS rule, all matches operate under a cold range policy – loaded guns are only allowed on the firing line (from the loading table to the unloading table).

All ONSP matches will have a designated Posse Marshall (PM). The PM has typically had a walk through of the match stages prior to the match to go over how the stage is shot. If you have questions about how a particular stage should be shot, it is your PM that has the final ruling (this may involve checking them consulting with whoever wrote the matches). Your PM is responsible for keeping the operation of your posse flowing – making sure that all of the posse duties are properly manned. Your PM may or may not perform RO duties during a match – it is their call.

For ONSP monthly matches, the Range Officer (RO) is the designated posse member who is currently running the timer. (The full range of RO duties are cover in the RO I manual.) We try to make sure that all RO positions are manned by experienced SASS shooters who have had RO training – typically both RO I and RO II. The RO may or may not be the PM. The RO has control of the firing line and its operation. The firing line includes the space from when you leave the loading table until you arrive at the unloading table. The RO makes the final call on scoring issues – this may include consultation with the designated spotters and/or other posse members with a detailed understanding of the SASS rules to issue a final ruling. If you do not agree with a ruling, let the RO know and it can be discussed in more detail outside of the operation of the stage. The scoring can be adjusted if the initial ruling is changed. It is not fair to the other shooters to get held up in lengthy discussions. Hopefully we keep these situations few and far between.

If you are shooting ONSP matches, it is expected that all participants contribute to the posse duties in some manner. This keeps from all of the work falling on just a few posse members. Even if you have some physical limitations, there are posse duties that you can help with during a stage. The following are posse duties that need to be manned:

- Posse Marshall (PM) – these are assigned when the posses are put together.
- Range Officer (RO) – these are assigned by the PM when he is getting the posse organized. You will typically see 2 or 3 during a stage since the RO has to shoot as well. The RO runs the timer and has control of the firing line.
- Score Keeper – records the results from each shooter on the score sheets. This can be one of the posse members or a non-shooting volunteer that is familiar with SASS shooting and scoring.
- Spotters – there are 3 required to be observing each shooter as they go through the course of fire. They count misses and identify any shooting procedure violations. The RO will keep 3 spotters identified for each shooter. This is typically performed with a minimum of movement.
- Target Setters – they help reset any targets and/or props that must be made ready for the next shooter. Some times the spotters handle this duty between shooters.
- Brass Pickers – they pick up the brass and shotgun hulls between each shooter and return them to the shooter at the unloading table.
- Loading Table Officer (LTO) – this person watches all shooters as they load at the loading table. They help make sure the right number of rounds are loaded and verify the pistol hammer is on an empty cylinder after they are loaded. They keep the loading areas safe. This is a key safety position. Very little movement required.
- Unloading Table Officer (UTO) – this person verifies that all guns coming off the firing line are empty and safe before they leave the unloading table. This is a mandatory safety position. Very little movement required.

So find one of these duties during each stage that you can help accomplish when you are not going through your turn shooting and your fellow posse members would be most appreciative.

When an ONSP match is over all of the berms must be cleared of all props and targets. Typically when a posse finishes their last stage, they are expected to tear down and move the equipment back to the target shed. So if you are able to assist with this effort, it is much appreciated.