

Dixie Desperados By-Laws

These By-Laws shall take effect January 1, 2004, after being approved by the membership, and remain in effect until amended as shown in the amendments section of this document.

(ARTICLE XVII)

All Officers elected to two (2) year terms in December 2002 will remain in office until their term expires. This includes President, Secretary and Range Master.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the club shall be the Dixie Desperados, Cowboy Action Shooting Club.

ARTICLE II

Objectives

1. To encourage and promote Cowboy Action Shooting in a safe and organized competitive manner for the benefit of all members and the public at large.
2. To inform and train members and the public in the safe and responsible handling of firearms and the social and recreational value of shooting sports. This information and training shall include adults and youths with an emphasis on family participation.
3. To organize and hold regular competitive shooting events in compliance with current SASS rules and guidelines.
4. To develop personal characteristics of honesty, self-discipline, truthfulness, team cooperation, good sportsmanship, national patriotism and pride in our community, our club and especially ourselves.
5. To encourage and promote good fellowship, companionship, camaraderie, lasting friendship and mutual patience and understanding between all members and other organizations interested in the safe, lawful use of firearms.
6. To oppose vigorously any proposed legislation designed to limit or deprive law abiding citizens of the lawful use of any legal firearm.
7. To sponsor intelligent firearms legislation before legislative committees, public bodies and other organizations.
8. To sponsor, encourage and actively fight for local shooting facilities that are in compliance with our beliefs that benefit our club and the shooting public.
9. To promote and encourage the "Cowboy Way" of behavior as listed in Article XI of these By-Laws.
10. To be law abiding citizens with love and respect for each other and assets to our community.
11. To be of benefit to each other. To watch out for the safety, well-being, welfare, health and happiness of our fellow club members and shooters.
12. And lastly: **"BE SAFE, HAVE FUN!"**

ARTICLE III

Membership

ELIGIBILITY:

Membership in this club is open to all residents of the United States who are of good character and are able to legally purchase a firearm in their state of residence. No person who is or has been a member of any organization opposed to the principles of the Government of the United States of America or the Government of the State of Utah shall be eligible for membership.

MEMBERSHIP:

All Memberships, except Junior Memberships, are for adults 18 years of age and older. Individual memberships shall be in the following categories:

1. Annual Membership
 - a. Primary Member
 - b. Spouse Member
2. Life Membership
3. Honorary Life Membership
4. Junior Membership for youths under age 18.

TERM OF MEMBERSHIP:

All memberships, except life, shall be for the remainder of the calendar year in which enrolled. Membership dates thereafter shall be from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st of each calendar year.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

An honorary life membership may be conferred on a Club member by a two-thirds vote of the membership at a regularly scheduled Club meeting as a reward for extraordinary and outstanding service to the Club. Recipients shall pay no membership fees and will be presented with an appropriate brassard or badge showing Life Membership in the Club. All past Presidents of the Club shall be granted Life Membership. They shall be relieved of paying membership fees and will be presented with a Life Membership brassard or badge.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP:

A Junior membership is for any person who has reached their 12th birthday and not reached their 18th birthday and is sponsored by a parent or guardian who is a Club member. Junior members shall enjoy all of the benefits and privileges offered by the Club except voting or holding any office in the Club and must shoot under the adult supervision of their parent or guardian.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS:

Membership lists of the Club are confidential to Club members for the express purpose of conducting Club business. Such lists of members will not be made public except by legal court order.

ARTICLE IV

Dues

1. Annual membership dues for a Primary Member are \$24.00 a year, due and payable on January 1 of each year.
2. Annual Spouse membership dues are \$12.00 a year, due and payable on January 1 of each year. The Primary Member/Life Primary must have dues current for a Spouse membership to apply. The Spouse member has full voting and membership privileges as the Primary Member.
3. Junior member dues are \$6.00 a year. One of the Junior members parents must be a Primary member and at the range when the Junior member shoots.
4. Life Primary Members dues are \$250.00. The dues can be made in payments of \$50.00 per calendar quarter after an initial payment of \$100.00, until the total amount is paid. For a Spouse to become a Life member an additional \$250.00 fee would apply.
5. Primary Member dues will be pro-rated according to the schedule below:

January: \$24.00 February: \$22.00 March: \$20.00 April: \$18.00
May: \$16.00 June: \$14.00 July: \$12.00 August: \$10.00
September: \$8.00 October: \$6.00 November: \$4.00 December: \$26.00

6. Spouse member dues will be pro-rated according to the schedule below:

January: \$12.00, February: \$11.00, March: \$ 10.00, April: \$9.00, May: \$8.00,
June: \$7.00, July: \$6.00, August: \$5.00, September: \$4.00, October: \$3.00,
November: \$2.00, December: \$13.00

7. Junior member dues will be pro-rated according to the schedule below:

January: \$6.00, February: \$5.50, March: \$5.00, April: \$4.50, May: \$4.00,
June: \$3.50, July: \$3.00, August: \$2.50, September: \$2.00, October: \$1.50,
November: \$1.00, December: \$6.50

ARTICLE V

Meetings

The club shall have a regular monthly meeting available to all members. The schedule of the meeting shall be announced at the previous monthly meeting including time, date and place. The members present in person or represented by written proxy shall constitute a quorum at a meeting. Meeting schedule shall also be announced in Club newsletters and e-mails. The Club President or an assigned Club officer shall chair the meeting. The Club secretary shall take minutes of the meeting, which will be made available to all Club members 15 days prior to the next meeting. Each meeting shall include a current financial report prepared by the Club Treasurer. Each meeting shall also include a reading of the minutes of the previous Club meeting and the reading from any committee meeting that occurred since the last general membership meeting. All voting on Club business shall take place at the regularly scheduled monthly Club meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Call to order.
2. Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Reading of the Treasurer's report.
4. Communications.
5. Old Business.
6. Reports of standing committees.
7. Reports of special committees.
8. New Business.
9. For the good of the Club.
10. Establish date, time and place of next meeting.
11. Adjournment.

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern procedures not covered in these By-laws.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

Club officers, Board of Directors, (hereafter referred to as BOD) include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Range Master, Territorial Governor for SASS, and one Member-at-Large. All Club Officers must have their dues current and portray an image conducive to that of an Officer of a SASS affiliated club. All Club Officers shall be elected for a term of One, (1), year, the year shall be from January 1 to December 31 of the same year. There are no restrictions as to how many terms an Officer may serve, as long as he/she remains a member with dues current and is elected by majority vote at the December meeting. The Board of Directors shall consist of the same Club Officers described above.

1. The BOD shall meet no less than once a calendar quarter and discuss the club as a whole, including financial strength, any pending major activities such as shoots, special appearances, etc. Recommendations for the betterment of the Club are to be made to the general membership for approval.
2. A written record must be kept of all meetings of the BOD, this includes polls and votes taken by telephone, and read by the Secretary at the next general membership meeting. Telephone polls and votes must include ALL board members.
3. The Office of President and Vice President must be filled with persons who have been a member of the club for a minimum of one (1) year and that have shown an interest in the club and have participated in at least 8 club meetings and 60% of other club activities other than meetings during the past year. These activities include meetings, club shoots, parties, social events and volunteer events. The remainder of the Officers should have a minimum of one (1) year with the Club. * *See ARTICLE XVII – Amendments.*
4. Nominations for annual elections are to be made at the November general membership meeting. The election of officers shall be made at the December general membership meeting. Nominations from the floor can be made at the December meeting. The majority vote of those in attendance at the December meeting shall prevail.
5. All members shall be notified of the December election and the slate of officers in the November Club Bulletin.
6. In the case of an Officer vacancy, a special election shall be held to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the original term. The same member requirements prevail concerning the replacement.
7. The election shall be held at the general membership meeting following the vacancy. In the case of a resignation the election shall be held at the meeting where the resignation is accepted. The majority vote at the meeting shall prevail.
8. When votes are taken involving a person, the vote shall be taken by secret ballot, or the person in question shall be asked to leave the room until the final results are formulated.
9. All Board members, while representing the club and conducting club business in the community, are encouraged to uphold the dress code of SASS and live by “The Spirit of the Game” as outlined in the SASS handbook. This does not apply to club meetings and BOD meetings.
10. The Territorial Governor is an elected position and must be a Life Member of SASS in addition to fulfilling any other requirements as set forth by SASS in the future for this position. This position is designed to carry recommendations and communications from the Dixie Desperados to SASS.

ARTICLE VII

Duties of Officers

President

1. The President shall preside at all general membership meetings and Board of Director meetings.
2. He/she shall represent the Club at local community functions, as necessary, or arrange for representation if it is impossible for him/her to attend.

3. The President is responsible to the Club, and its members to communicate on proposed projects that will require monies to be spent.
4. The President is authorized to approve expenditures, reimbursements up to and including \$100.00 as long as it is not a reimbursement to him/her self. No one shall approve reimbursement of his/her own expenses. Expenditures of over \$100.00 must be approved by the membership. The BOD shall make recommendations on projects and/or any expenditure of over \$500.00.

Vice President

1. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence. This includes the approval of reimbursements up to \$100.00.

Secretary

1. The Secretary shall author all official correspondence, including recording and reading of the general membership minutes and those of the BOD.
2. The Secretary will keep an orderly record of all minutes and correspondence.
3. Application for membership in the Dixie Desperados can be made through any member and the completed application must be turned over to the Secretary as soon as possible. Funds and other information will be turned over to the Treasurer by the Secretary.

Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall retain an accounting of all monies that pass through the Club. Such monies shall be deposited in a financial institution for safe keeping and disbursement.
2. The Treasurer shall maintain all funds and records according to articles of incorporation and the By-Laws of the Dixie Desperados.
3. The Treasurer shall hand over all records to the BOD should they wish to hold an audit of Club finances.

Range Master

1. The Range Master is responsible for reading all the safety material prior to each match, during the safety meeting.
2. The Range Master is obligated to report any unsafe condition, at the range, or at the last match, to the BOD and the general membership, at the next meeting. A recommendation for improvement or correction should also accompany the report.
3. The Range Master is responsible to assure that all shooters and spectators present at the Clubs range for organized club shooting activities have eye and hearing protection.
4. The Range Master must maintain a First Aid Kit at all organized club shooting activities and be diligent and alert to any injuries.

Territorial Governor

1. The Territorial Governor shall collect input from the BOD and the general membership as to things that should be discussed and changed at the SASS TG conference.
2. The Territorial Governor shall attend, if possible, the SASS Territorial Governor Conference and convey the concerns and/or recommendations made by the Club.
3. The Territorial Governor is responsible for reporting to the BOD and the general membership the minutes of the most recent SASS Territorial Governor meeting and items on the agenda of any conference.

Member-at-Large

1. The Member-at-Large will be a voting member of the BOD and will assist Club Officers as needed.

ARTICLE VIII **Committees**

1. Committees shall be made up of odd numbers of members.
2. Committee membership should not be excessive in size. Three to five members is normally adequate.
3. Committee membership should rotate so that the same members do not serve on continual committees.
4. Committees shall be approved by the membership at regular club meetings or by the BOD.

ARTICLE IX **Duties of committees**

1. Committees should be established to plan and oversee club functions such as annual shoots, social functions and other events, as recommended by the BOD.
2. Committees cannot dispense club funds or assets without prior authority by the membership or the BOD.
3. Written minutes of all committee meetings are to be kept and read at the next general membership meeting. Committee minutes will be recorded in the minutes of the general membership meeting for a permanent record. The committee minutes shall include all aspects of the committee's functions.

ARTICLE X

Audit Committee

The Audit committee shall be comprised of a minimum of Three (3) members of the BOD and someone from outside the Club, if deemed necessary by the Board.

1. An annual audit of the books shall be done each year prior to a new BOD taking office.

ARTICLE XI

Conduct of Members

Any member, who is not personally eligible to purchase a firearm in the state of their residence, cannot become a member of the Dixie Desperados. If any current member is convicted of any felony crime, the Board of Directors must review the circumstances and shall have the authority to suspend or revoke the person's membership.

Any member consuming alcohol or drugs affecting his/her ability to function in a safe and reasonable manner, while at the Club range or at any shooting event, shall be terminated from membership.

No member shall allow any person to discharge a weapon that is of a configuration or caliber that isn't SASS legal at the Club range.

Any member, or guest of a member, who destroys club property makes the member liable for such damage and could result in disciplinary action by the BOD.

Club members are encouraged to remember Gene Autry's Cowboy Code as a model to their behavior:

“He must not take unfair advantage of his enemy. He must never go back on his word. He must always tell the truth. He must always be gently with children, the elderly and with animals. He must not possess racially or religiously intolerant ideas. He must help people in distress. He must be a good worker. He must respect women, his parents and his nation's laws. He must not drink or smoke. He must be a patriot.” Gene Autry.

We should also consider the Lone Ranger Creed:

“I believe that to have a friend, a man must be one. All men are created equal and everyone has within themselves the power to help make this a better world. God put the firewood here but every man must gather and light it himself. I believe in being prepared physically, mentally and morally and to fight, when necessary, for that which is right. A man should make the most of what equipment he has. This Government of the people, by the people and for the people shall live always. Men should live by the rule of what is best for the greatest number. Sooner or later, somewhere, somehow, we must settle with the world and make payment for what we have taken. All things change except truth. That truth alone lives on forever, in my creator, my country and my fellow man.”

The Lone Ranger.

Roy Rogers Riders Rules:

1. Be neat and clean.
2. Be courteous and polite.
3. Always respect your parents.
4. Protect the weak and help them.
5. Be brave but never take chances.
6. Study hard and learn all you can.
7. Be kind to animals and take care of them.
8. Eat all your food and never waste any.
9. Love God and go to Sunday school regularly.
10. Always respect our flag and our country.

ARTICLE XII

Suspension, Expulsion, or Probation

1. Action. Any officer, or member of the club is subject to suspension, expulsion, probation, or disciplinary reprimand by the Board of Directors, for un-sportsmanlike or other conduct that does not comply with articles IX, XI, XIII and XIV of these by laws, but not without a fair and full hearing. Charges must be filed with the Board of Directors and heard as hereinafter specified.
2. Procedure. Any member may prefer charges against any officer or member. They shall be in writing, clearly stating the facts, and accompanied by all affidavits and exhibits which are to be used at the hearing. Such charges shall be filed with the Secretary, who will immediately notify the President. The President will call a meeting of the Board of Directors to hear the charges. The Secretary will give at least 15 days written notice of the meeting to each member of the Board of Directors and to the accuser and the accused. The notice to the accused shall be in writing and shall include duplicate copies of the charge and of any supporting affidavits and exhibits. The hearing by the Board of Directors must be attended by at least five of the seven board members. The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote, discipline the accused by admonition or reprimand, either verbal or in writing, or suspend the accused. The Board may also expel the accused from the Club or place the accused on probation.
3. Appeal. Any officer or member disciplined by the Board of Directors may appeal to the full membership of the Club. Such appeal shall be in writing to the Secretary, who shall notify the President. The President shall call a special meeting of the Club for the purpose of acting on the appeal. The Secretary shall give at least fifteen (15) days notice in writing to all members in good standing, stating the date, time, place and reason for the meeting. This notice may be given by the Club Newsletter or by special mailing at the expense of the disciplined member. The Secretary shall read the original charges, with supporting affidavits and exhibits. The Secretary shall also read the minutes of the meeting of the disciplinary Board meeting. Full hearing will be given the accuser and the accused. A vote will be taken by secret ballot of the members in good standing who are present. A two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required to reverse the action of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII

Match Rules

All Club shooting events shall be governed and regulated by current SASS rules and guidelines.

ARTICLE XIV

Safety

1. **Goal.** The primary goal in all shooting activities shall be the personal safety of all persons involved. All thinking and behavior must be directed towards the prevention of personal injury. Firearm safety violations must never be tolerated. Repeated firearms safety violations must be reviewed by a disciplinary meeting of the Board of Directors as outlined in Article XII of these by laws.
2. **Basics.** The four basic firearms safety rules shall always apply.
 - a. Muzzle control: Never point any firearm at any person.
 - b. Trigger control: Never touch the trigger until ready to shoot.
 - c. Mindset: Always treat guns as if they are loaded.
 - d. Backstop: Always know where your bullet will stop.
3. **Eyes and Ears.** Hearing and eye protection is mandatory at all shooting events.
4. **Alcohol:** Alcohol and drugs are not permitted at any shooting event.
5. **Children.** No persons shall be allowed to shoot until the age of twelve (12) years. A parent/legal guardian must accompany shooters under the age of eighteen (18) years.
6. **SASS.** All current SASS rules and guidelines shall be observed at all shooting events. These include, but are not limited to: Cold range, no loaded firearms allowed. All rifle and shotgun actions must remain open at all times until firing. Revolvers are to be loaded with five rounds only. No gun handling except at loading and unloading tables. All firearms must point downrange. No firearm may break the 170* rule. Obey all range commands from range officers. Always be alert to the Range Safety Officer and all surrounding conditions.
7. **Firearms.** Make sure your firearms are in safe working condition and that ammunition is safe and within SASS guidelines for velocity and bullet type (lead only). Only SASS legal firearms are allowed to be shot on the Club range. The use of firearms on the Club range is limited to those listed as legal in the SASS manual for side matches and regular competition.
8. **Never shoot alone:** It shall be a Club safety violation for any person to shoot alone at the Club range facility. This violation shall be subject to discipline by the Club Board of Directors as outlined in Article XII of these by laws. Club membership expulsion is strongly recommended to the Board for this violation.
9. **Range Safety Meetings.** A range safety meeting shall be conducted prior to all club shooting events. This meeting shall be conducted by the Range Master or a temporarily appointed Range Master for the shooting event. The purpose of the meeting shall be to educate and encourage all shooting participants in the safe operation of the shooting event. The meeting shall include general firearms safety rules, SASS guidelines and shooting rules and guidelines specific to the event. No persons shall be allowed to

participate in shooting events without attendance in the range safety meeting or without receiving prior instruction by the Range Master.

10. First Aid: It shall be required for medical first aid to be available at all Club shooting events. The Club shall purchase and maintain such supplies as reasonably deemed necessary to provide medical first aid to injury victims. Medical first aid shall be administered by the Range Master or temporarily appointed Range Master or safety first aid person otherwise appointed. The designated medical first aid person or Range Master shall be named and introduced at the Range Safety Meeting.

ARTICLE XV

Amendment Process

Any member may propose an amendment to the By-Laws. If approved, the amendment will appear in **ARTICLE XVII, Amendments** of these By-Laws. A proposed amendment must be approved, by majority vote at the meeting where it is presented. Then the proposal must be presented to the entire membership. The Club bulletin or a letter may be the vehicle to notify the membership of any proposed change to the By-Laws, the date the vote will be taken must also be included in the notification. A recommendation can be made by the BOD, and placed in the mailing, explaining the benefits or disadvantages of the proposed changes and the importance of each members vote. In the notification, a ballot will be placed for those members not able to attend the meeting where the final vote is conducted. At the prescribed regularly scheduled meeting a vote will be taken. The amendment must be approved by Two thirds, 2/3 of the total membership.

If a member is not able to attend the meeting where the final vote is to be taken, the member's ballot must be signed and returned for his/her vote to be counted. No proxy votes will be counted in a By-Laws change.

ARTICLE XVI

Deactivation

In the event of dissolution of the Dixie Desperados, all monies and assets will be distributed in a manner set forth in the Articles of Incorporation Article IV, h.

Upon dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax laws, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state and local government for a public purpose.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendments

Amendment 1.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Previous wording:

Section 3. The Office of President and Vice President must be filled with persons who have been a member of the club for a minimum of one (1) year and that have shown an interest in the club and have participated in at least 8 club activities during the past year. These activities include meetings, club shoots, parties, social events and volunteer events. The remainder of the Officers should have a minimum of one (1) year with the Club.

Current wording:

Section 3. The Office of President and Vice President must be filled with persons who have been a member of the club for a minimum of one (1) year and that have shown an interest in the club and have participated in at least *8 club meetings and 60% of other club activities other than meetings* during the past year. These activities include club shoots, parties, social events and volunteer events. The remainder of the Officers should have a minimum of one (1) year with the Club.

[Approved by over 2/3 of total membership at Jan. 11th, 2005 meeting.]