



UNITED MOUNTED SHOOTERS GUIDELINES

The United Mounted Shooters (UMS) was founded to advance and support the sport of mounted shooting. Our goal is to meet the needs of the affiliates and participants. These rules were created to help maintain a safe atmosphere and uniform procedures.

CLUB AFFILIATION:

Affiliation Fee \$150.00 per year

Affiliation runs a full year from the date of affiliation

BENEFITS:

- ⊖ Affiliate book and thumb drive which includes: Guidelines, coursebook, producer's guide, match software/ instructions, event sanctioning forms, and membership forms
- ⊖ Point tracking for all UMS members on a club, state and national level
- ⊖ Event promotion in an e-newsletter and on the website
- ⊖ Outstanding support available 7 days a week
- ⊖ General liability insurance for UMS sanctioned events.

AFFILIATE GUIDLINES

- 1) Anyone who would like to hold UMS sanctioned matches may affiliate as a match producer. You do not have to have a formal club.
- 2) We reserve the right to approve an affiliate application. We may deny approval for any reason that we feel would be harmful to the United Mounted Shooters.
- 3) We encourage multiple UMS affiliates within any state/region. We expect affiliates to respect each other's schedules and to work together when scheduling events.
- 4) In order to be covered under the UMS insurance, an event application must be submitted and approved by the UMS for each event. This includes all matches, demonstrations, clinics, practices and other events. The United Mounted Shooters reserves the right to deny the approval of an event.
- 5) UMS affiliates who are dual affiliated are expected to promote the United Mounted Shooters at any United Mounted Shooters sanctioned event.
- 6) Affiliates should hold at least 1 match year. Affiliates that do not may be non-renewed as an affiliate.
- 7) It is the responsibility of all participants to adhere to any and all federal and state firearm regulations.



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MEMBERSHIP:

Membership runs a full year from the date of joining for all membership levels. You must have a current membership to participate in any UMS sanctioned events including, but not limited to, practices, clinics, demonstrations, matches and jackpots. Only members will be covered under the United Mounted Shooters insurance policy.

Yearly Fees:

Individual - \$25.00

Family - \$45.00 (A family membership shall consist of up to 2 adults and their dependent children living in the same household.)

Buckaroos -\$10.00 (if not included in a family registration)

All Buckaroos that have participated in at least 3 matches will receive year-end recognition from United Mounted Shooters

Benefits:

- Membership Card
- Point tracking on a club, state and national level (based on a calendar year-Jan-Dec)
- Eligible to win State and National high point awards.

DIVISIONS

There will be an open and a senior division. All competitors will ride in the open division unless they choose and fit the conditions for the senior division.

Senior Division – Any UMS member who is age 50 or older as of January 1 of the current year is eligible to compete in the senior division. The senior division is optional and once a member chooses it, they must remain in that division for the entire year. Anyone wishing to compete in the senior division must notify the UMS before their first competition of the season. A competitor wishing to move back into the open divisions after competing in the senior division for a season must notify the UMS before their first competition of the season. Levels included in the senior division include 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

The United Mounted Shooters offers levels for competitors of all ages and experience levels.

Buckaroos -are competitors who use lead line assistance or are not able to shoot a firearm due to age or other reasons. There is no minimum or maximum age. Buckaroos may use lead line assistance or ride the course independently. Buckaroos do not fire any rounds and times are not recorded. Buckaroos receive 1 point for each match they participate in.



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Recruit -The UMS wants to encourage new members to try the activity of mounted shooting. This level is NOT age based. A Recruit rides the course without assistance and may use cap guns or dry fire real pistols. They may shoot 5 rounds from the ground with the assistance of the match director or parent/guardian if under 18. Recruit shooters are timed for their ride. When shooting from the ground, there will be a 5 second penalty for each missed balloon. If they choose to not shoot from the ground, 25 seconds will be added to their time, 5 seconds for each missed balloon. When a Recruit shooter is competent in riding the course and firing from the ground, they may move into the 1 level of competition. The choice to move up is decided by the competitor or the parent/guardian if under 18. As with all new competitors, a qualifying run must be made prior to competition with the Rangemaster approving the competitor.

Level 1 Shooter - A new competitor to mounted shooting who can ride the course and fire at targets safely. Anyone starting out without prior experience or as a level 1 will start as a Level 1 shooter. To move up to the next level, a competitor must win this level 3 times with at least 4 entries in the class

Level 2 Shooter - A Level 2 shooter will move up to the next level after winning their class 4 times with 5 or more entries in the level.

Level 3 Shooter - To move up to the next level, a competitor must win 4 times with at least 6 entries in the class.

Level 4 Shooter –To move up to the next level, a competitor must win 4 times with at least 6 entries in the class.

Level 5 Shooter –A Level 5 Shooter is at the top level. Wins against at least 5 other competitors will count towards a counted win. Counted wins will be tracked for possible future use.

Riders coming from another association will be assigned in a level as follows:

- 1/ Rookie/Novice/ **Level 1**
- 2 /Non-Pro/Amateur / **Level 2**
- 3 /Semi-Pro /Limited /**Level 3**
- 4 /Semi-Pro/ Limited / **Level 4**
- 5 & 6 /Pro /Open / **Level 5**

Anyone that has advanced a level in another mounted shooting association must notify the United Mounted Shooters before their next UMS match. You will be moved up in the UMS and a new membership card will be issued. The UMS does not recognize move-downs.

SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Each affiliate has the capacity to add reasonable additional safety rules if necessary. All additional safety rules must be explained at the riders meeting before the match begins. Added safety rules must be followed, but cannot add additional penalties.



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- 1) All firearms must be treated as if they are loaded.
- 2) All firearms must remain unloaded until arrival in the loading area.
- 3) Do not cock your firearm prior to engaging the target.
- 4) New shooter/horse qualification rides must be conducted BEFORE the competition starts.
- 5) All competitors must be qualified and proficient in the safe use of firearms.
- 6) Competitors are expected to compete safely within their abilities and control their firearm's muzzle direction at all times.
- 7) The Rangemaster must be over the age of 18, at all United Mounted Shooters sanctioned events.
- 8) The competitor assumes all responsibility for participation in these events and enters all competitions at their own risk.
- 9) The use of ear and eye protection is recommended at all UMS sanctioned events.
- 10) Only 5 blanks may be loaded in any one revolver. All revolving firearms must be indexed so the hammer rests upon an empty chamber. Rangemasters and/or Match directors have the right to inspect any firearm used in a match or jackpot.

RANGEMASTER

A Rangemaster is the person in charge of safety and allocating penalties.

- 1) The Rangemaster is chosen by the match director and should be an experienced person, familiar with the rules and guidelines.
- 2) The Rangemaster must hold a safety meeting before the match begins.
- 3) Before the match begins, all new riders and/or horses must be pre-qualified by the Rangemaster. This includes any competitor moving up from the Recruit level.
- 4) Before the first rider starts, the Rangemaster inspects the course with the match director, verifying there are no safety hazards for shooters or bystanders
- 5) The Rangemaster must be on the lookout for any unsafe conditions and correct them.
- 6) Targets must be at least 30 feet from the arena fence. Barrels must be a minimum of 25 ft from the sides of the arena and 25 ft from the ends.
- 7) As a rider comes into the arena, the Rangemaster must be going through a checklist, including:
 - a) Check gates to make sure all are closed or baffled entrance is safe.



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- b) Balloon setters and bystanders are on the outside of the arena and in a safe location.
- c) The course is set with 10 inflated balloons of the correct color.
- d) Timer is ready.

8) The Rangemaster is in charge of notifying the competitor when it is safe to engage the course. This signal should be clarified during the rider's safety meeting.

9) It is best if the Rangemaster is fair, experienced and clear on all rules of the United Mounted Shooters.

Unhappy competitors will not return.

DISPUTES OF RANGEMASTERS RULINGS

- 1) Prior to a match, the Match Director will form an Appeals Board made up of a minimum of three experienced mounted shooters.
- 2) To file a dispute, a competitor shall file with a \$50 cash dispute fee, directly to the match director.
- 3) If an appeal is granted the \$50 shall be returned to the contestant that filed and the call corrected. If the appeal is rejected the \$50 shall go to the club or the match director.
- 4) All disputes are to be filed within 30 minutes.

Scoring & Points

- 1) A match must have at least 4 stages to be considered official. In the event of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances, an event may be shortened to three stages with approval from UMS. UMS scoring software must be used.
- 2) A match must have a minimum of 4 competitors to be included in points accrual. This includes pistol, rifle and shotgun. The match may continue with less than 4 contestants, but no points will be awarded.
- 3) A competitor receives one point for each competitor he/she places above in the overall results, excluding Buckaroos, Recruits and No Points, plus one point for themselves. If there is more than one competitor with the maximum time (240 seconds on a 4 stage shoot), they will all receive the same points. If 2 contestants both have 240 seconds, they would each receive 2 points.
- 4) Each competitor may enter one horse as their match horse, counting towards points. Additional horses may be entered for time only and will be tracked on the scoring spreadsheet with No Points listed as the level. When multiple horses are entered by a competitor the match horse (the one points will count on) must be in the go order prior to the competitors' No Points horses.
- 5) Buckaroos receive one point for each match they compete in.



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6) Points accumulate through the calendar year.

7) Results should be emailed to the UMS shortly after completion of the competition. The spreadsheet must be emailed complete. A \$1.00 rider's fee for each competitor per stage, including No Points riders, Recruits and Buckaroos can be mailed or paid online. Points will not be posted until fees are received. Any new member applications and fees may be mailed or scanned and emailed. Points will not be updated until every competitor has a membership number.

8) UMS high point competitors will be recognized in each state and nationally by The United Mounted Shooters. Competitors do not have to be a resident of the state to receive points towards high point awards in that state. You must have a current UMS membership at the end of the year to receive a year end high point award. You must have competed in at least 3 UMS events with a minimum of 4 competitors, in that division (pistol, rifle, and shotgun) to receive a high point award for that division.

Penalties

Penalties are added on to raw times after the completion of a course. Additional penalties may not be added by anyone, including a match director or Rangemaster. The Rangemaster decides if a penalty is being called or not. Any disagreements can be discussed with the match director, who shall form an appeals board prior to the start of an event, for the purpose of reviewing and deciding on any dispute made by a competitor during a match.

a) Missed target: 5 seconds

b) Knocked over barrel: 5 seconds

c) Knocked over gate cone or automated target inflator: 5 seconds

d) Failure to follow course of fire: 10 seconds (Procedural) Only one procedural per stage will be assessed.

e) Dropped gun while engaging the course: 5 seconds

f) Failure to holster first gun: 5 seconds

g) Non-Qualified run or maximum time on any run: 60 seconds

h) Unsafe Gun Handling: 5 seconds per occurrence

i) Engaging the course without the Rangemasters go signal: 60 seconds

j) Firing 6 rounds from one gun: 60 seconds

CLARIFICATIONS



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- 1) In the event that a firearm comes into contact with the ground, once the course has been engaged, that firearm becomes a dead gun. The competitor receives a 5 second penalty for the dropped gun plus 5 seconds for each missed target. The Rangemaster or an experienced adult member must be the only one to pick it up. No penalty shall be assessed for a firearm dropped after crossing the finish line at the completion of the run.
- 2) A competitor who falls off their horse during the course of fire receives a non-qualified (60 second) run.
- 3) All balloons shall be broken by gunfire, with the exception of:
 - Targets broken by nature prior to the competitor engaging that target shall be shot to be considered a hit.
 - Any target that has been engaged and is broken by nature or unknown source shall be considered a hit if broken prior to crossing the timeline.
 - If it is unknown what broke a target and the competitor has shot it, it shall be considered a hit.
- 4) No penalty will be given to any competitor for knocking over a target pole unless it is designated as a gate. If a competitor knocks over either target cone or automated target inflator making up a "gate" at any time during stage it will be a 5 second penalty.
- 5) A competitor shall have been determined to have engaged the course once they have crossed the time line and are on the clock. At that point, he/she accepts the stage as it is. Once they are on the clock any mechanical malfunctions of firearm or gear, including the horse, shall not qualify you for a re-ride.
- 6) If a contestant passes behind the timer, they are deemed to be dangerous and out of control and will receive a non-qualified run (60 seconds).
- 7) If a contestant re-crosses the time line after completing their run and restarts the timer, they will NOT be granted a re-ride. If the timing equipment has the ability to retrieve the previous time there will be no penalty. If the time is unavailable the rider shall receive a non-qualified run (60 seconds).
- 8) If a competitor crosses the timing line prior to completing the course of fire, they will receive a non-qualified run (60 seconds).
- 9) If a competitor is notified during or after the completion of a stage that a timekeeping error or a timing malfunction occurred the competitor shall be granted a re-ride by the Rangemaster.
- 10) The Rangemaster shall grant re-rides as soon as possible after the completion of that run. Re-rides are given as a new stage. The competitor does not carry forward any misses or a clean stage.
- 11) If a run is interrupted, the call for a re-ride is made by the Rangemaster.



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12) The "no alibi" blank rule shall be in place for all UMS sanctioned matches. There are no squibs, high primers, or misfires accepted. There shall be no re-rides or scoring adjustments for problems with mounted shooting blanks.

13) If a competitor hits two targets with one shot they may use the remaining round to pick up any legal target they may have missed. This is referred to as the Two Target Rule or TTR.

14) Gun twirling, shooting behind the back or other unsafe gun handling in the arena shall be a 5 second penalty assessed per occurrence.

15) Competitors may holster and re-holster, but may not have more than one revolver in hand at any time. This will be a 5 second penalty. If a firearm is holstered, then comes out of the holster and into the competitors lap, there will be no penalty as long as the firearm does not touch the ground AND it is holstered before leaving the arena.

16) If there is doubt on a call the outcome shall favor the competitor.

17) The total final time for any ride will not exceed 60 seconds. The total time for any competitor that does not complete a course shall be 60 seconds for that course.

The following violations will result in a non-qualified (60 second) run:

a) Discharge of a round outside the course of fire at any time or place prior to or after engaging the course. The penalty will be given for the course immediately following the discharge, unless the match has ended, then it will be given for the previous course run.

b) Engaging the course without the consent of the Rangemaster.

c) Breaking the timer, without engaging the course, before the Rangemaster has given the "go signal" to the competitor shall have no penalty the first time during an event. The second time during the same event there will be a non-qualified (60 second) run.

d) If a competitor loads or shoots 6 rounds from the same gun in a stage.

Violation of the following will result in disqualification from the match:

a) Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the staging and shooting areas. This includes all people, competitors, officials, guests or anyone else in these areas.

b) Competitors must not consume any alcohol until they have completed all of their shooting for the day and have unloaded and stored all of their firearms.

c) Competitors must not ingest anything that may affect their ability to participate in a completely safe manner. Both prescription and nonprescription medications that may cause physical or mental impairment are to be avoided.



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d) Abusive language or behavior will not be tolerated. At the discretion of the Rangemaster the competitor will be given a warning or disqualification.

e) Competitors will have no live ammunition on their person or in their cartridge belts or saddlebags. Only replica ammunition with inert or fired primers can be used in cartridge belts. No personal ammunition of any type is allowed at competitions.

Firearms

1) Only fixed sight single action revolvers of .45 Colt caliber, designed prior to 1898, or reproductions, will be allowed in United Mounted Shooters competitions.

2) All firearms must be maintained in the same external condition as originally manufactured from the factory. Modifications are limited to custom grips, engraving, and hammer knurling. Turned down hammers are allowed, as long as there is no lateral movement or welded add-ons. Custom grips are allowed. No rubber grips allowed. The original external profile shall be retained. All external parts shall be of the type manufactured for that particular model of firearm. Site modifications are limited to the filing of the front site. Triggers must be operational. Slip hammer revolvers are not allowed. Modifications that can jeopardize safety or give an unfair advantage are not allowed and will constitute a disqualification from the event. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that all firearms used by them in competition are safe and operable.

3) No one of a kind custom made grip frames are allowed. The side profile for grip frames cannot be altered on any revolver. This includes standard, factory Bird's Head and aftermarket Bird's Head grip frames.

4) The use of tape or vet wrap on guns, grips, or hammers is not allowed. This will result in a 60 second penalty.

5) A holster is defined as a pouch formed in the shape of a gun. A feedbag or saddlebag does not qualify and is considered to be unsafe. All holsters must retain the firearms throughout the motions required in mounted competition.

Ammunition

1) No blank shall have an effective range of less than 10 feet and no further than 20 feet for competitor and spectator safety.

2) Contestants must use the ammunition supplied by the match director at all UMS sanctioned events.

3) Only ammunition produced by United Mounted Shooters approved ammunition producers may be used at sanctioned competitions, jackpots, practices, demonstrations, clinics and any other event covered by the UMS general liability policy.



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Course Design

- 1) No running starts into the arena.
- 2) All competitors must start with the gate closed or use of a baffled gate.
- 3) Barrels must not be closer than 25 feet to the sides of the arena and 25 feet to the ends. Targets must be a minimum of 30 feet from sides of the arena.
- 4) The Rangemaster has the responsibility of making final inspection of the course before the first competitor begins their stage. Once a rider engages the course they have accepted the course as it is set.
- 5) A standard course is to have ten targets. A competitor is to engage the course of fire with two single action revolvers, which must be loaded with 5 blanks each. With the first revolver, a competitor engages the course of fire. After engaging the first 5 targets, the competitor shall holster the first revolver and draw the second revolver and engage the second half of the stage. Pistols shall be returned to holsters.

Targets

- 1) The standard targets used in mounted shooting are helium quality balloons. When inflated, a target should measure 6 to 9 inches in diameter.
- 2) Target stands should be made of a flexible material like PVC or polyethylene pipe no larger than 1 inch in diameter.
- 3) The standard height of a target pole should be 48 inches but may vary between 24 to 72 inches.
- 4) Two different color balloons must be used to differentiate the course layout.

Horses

- 1) Only one horse per entry may be used by a competitor throughout a competition. You may enter on more than one horse, but additional horses do not count for points and will be designated as No Points.
- 2) In the case of an injury or other act of nature involving the horse, the Rangemaster or Match Director may allow the competitor to finish the competition on another horse. This is at their sole discretion and must be reported to the United Mounted Shooters when the results are submitted. Once a horse is scratched from competition, it may not re-enter, including multiple day competitions. Points will be counted. The United Mounted Shooters reserves the right to suspend a competitor if this becomes a continuous issue.
- 3) A horse may be used by up to two riders in a match plus Buckaroos or Recruit competitors.



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- 4) Horses and mules of any breed or combination of breeds (grade horses) may be used in competition.
- 5) No abuse of horses will be allowed at any time. The Match director has the right to expel the competitor from the match if animal abuse has occurred.

Rifle Rules

- 1) Mounted Rifle Shooting is an event within the sport of Mounted Shooting. Competitors should be experienced mounted shooters prior to attempting the rifle competition and shall follow UMS rules plus the following additions or changes.
- 2) Mounted Rifle competition shall be accomplished with the first five targets being engaged with a revolver (UMS revolver rules apply) and the second five targets being engaged with a rifle.
- 3) The competitor shall not have a round in the chamber of the pump or lever action rifle prior to crossing the starting line and shall lever or pump the action prior to engaging the first rundown target.
- 4) Firearms:
 - a) The rifle used shall be one manufactured prior to 1900 or a reproduction thereof. It shall be a production weapon, not a one of a kind or a home-made weapon. It shall be a pump action, lever action, or revolving rifle. The pump action and lever action shall be .45 Colt, .44-40 or .44 Magnum calibers. The revolving rifle shall be .45 Colt. Rifle barrel minimum length shall be 16 inches and overall rifle minimum length shall be 30 inches.
- 5) Mounted Shooting Rifle Blanks:
 - a) The Mounted Shooting Rifle Blanks for the pump and lever action rifles should be the 5 in 1 or 3 in 1 blank cartridge.
 - b) The revolving rifle shall use Mounted Shooting Blanks designed for use in revolvers with a sealant (bore butter, Crisco or like substance) applied to the crimped end. This sealant should be available at the armorer's table, but competitors should insure that they have the proper sealant in their possession. Do not use any type of adhesive as it could provide a projectile or clog the gun.
 - c) All Mounted Shooting Blanks must be UMS certified and supplied by the match producer.
- 6) Rifle competition may be divided into two classes of rifle at the discretion of the host affiliate. Lever and pump action making up one class and revolving rifle making up the other. If the affiliate elects to offer the Rifle competition divided, a separate scoresheet should be kept for each.
- 7) The rifle scabbard shall be of leather construction and shall be attached to the saddle.
- 8) Each stage shall be started with the rifle in the scabbard.



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- 9) Rifle courses are designated on the courses underneath the course number.
- 10) A rifle match for rifle points must have at least 2 stages.
- 11) Penalties are the same as UMS revolver rules, plus the following:
 - a) Failure to cycle the lever on lever action rifles or cycle the pump on pump action rifles prior to engaging the first rundown target shall result in a 10 second procedural penalty.
 - b) Failure to hold the stock against the shoulder or under the arm while firing the rifle shall result in a 10 second procedural.
 - c) Waving or extending the arm while firing any rifle (like a revolver) shall result in a 10 second procedural.
- 12) UMS highly recommends following the manufactures instructions while firing the revolving rifle.
- 13) The UMS will track and recognize UMS member high point Rifle winners at the State and National levels. A competitor must have competed in at least 3 UMS rifle classes with a minimum of 4 competitors during the year to be eligible for year end awards.
- 14) Results must be sent in with a \$1.00 rider fee for each competitor per stage.

Mounted Shotgun Rules

- 1) Mounted shotgun shooting is a class within the sport of mounted shooting. Competitors should be experienced mounted shooters prior to attempting the shotgun competition and shall follow UMS rules plus the following additions or changes.
- 2) Mounted shotgun competition shall be accomplished with the first five targets being engaged with a revolver (UMS revolver rules apply) and the second two targets being engaged with a double barrel shotgun.
- 3) The 5 shotgun targets shall consist of two balloon clusters. The first cluster will consist of 3 balloons and the second will consist of two balloons. (Targets may be placed in position 1 and 3 or 2 and 4 in the rundown)
- 4) The Shotgun used shall be any legal shotgun with two barrels. The shotgun type shall be side by side "coach style" shotgun, and can either have external hammers or not. Federal regulations also apply; barrel length shall be no shorter than 18 inches with an overall length of at least 26 inches. Any gauge shotgun is legal. However, an adapter will be required on all except for a .410 Gauge. This shotgun requires no adaptation to fire pistol ammo.
- 5) Mounted shooting shotgun blanks shall be match supplied pistol blanks for all gauges of shotgun.



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- 6) The shotgun scabbard shall be of leather construction and shall be attached to the saddle.
- 7) Each stage shall be started with the shotgun in the scabbard.
- 8) Shotgun courses are designated on the courses underneath the course number
- 9) A Shotgun match for shotgun points must consist of two or more stages.
- 10) Penalties are the same as UMS revolver rules. Plus the following:
 - a) A hand must be on the forearm of the shotgun while in the act of firing the shotgun. (Hand is defined as below the wrist). 10-second procedural penalty
 - b) Failure to hold the stock against the shoulder or under the arm while firing the shotgun shall result in a 10 second penalty.
- 11) External hammers shall be at half cock prior to crossing the start line or the safety should be on prior to crossing the start line.
- 10) The UMS will track and recognize UMS member high point winners at the State and National levels. A competitor must have competed in at least 3 UMS shotgun classes with a minimum of 4 competitors during the year to be eligible for year end awards.
- 11) Results must be sent in with a \$1.00 rider fee for each competitor per stage.

State Championships

- 1) Each state may have 1 state championship per year.
- 2) The State Championship host will be approved by UMS. The affiliate that produced the highest count of competitors in the previous calendar year will be invited to hold the State Championship. If they do not wish to host the State Championship it will be offered to the affiliate with the next highest count of competitors and on down the line. If there were no UMS competitions in a state the previous year the affiliate with the most UMS members will be given the first chance to hold the state championship.
- 3) To qualify as a UMS State Championship, the event must have a minimum of four stages
- 4) State Championship events should be hosted within the borders of the respective state unless it is impossible due to arena availability.
- 5) The United Mounted Shooters will recognize the Top UMS Point earning Cowboy and Cowgirl in each state at the end of the year. You do not have to be a resident of the state to receive points towards high point awards in that state
- 6) State Championship buckles can be customized for each State Championship. Buckles may be awarded by overall and/or levels.



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National Championships

National and/or Regional Championships may be planned in the future.