

# **SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration**



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## Costume Contest Committee

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## Mission Statement

Costuming is what makes Cowboy Action Shooting™ unique among all the shooting sports, and dressing in costume is as important to many SASS members as the shooting events. Therefore, it is recommended a set of rules and guidelines, i.e., standards, be established for the organization and administration of Costume Contests at all SASS State Championships, SASS Regionals, SASS Divisionals, the National Championship – Winter Range, the SASS Convention, and the World Championship – END of TRAIL.

*The SASS Costume Committee  
November 13, 2005*

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## Introduction

Costuming has been as important to the growth of Cowboy Action Shooting™ over the past years as the shooting. However, there is no set criteria for judging costumes, rules for entrants, guidelines for organizing and putting on costume contests, establishing awards, or giving recognition in *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

This “Costume Contest Management and Administration” Handbook has been developed and revised by the SASS Costume Committee to establish rules and set standards for organizing costume contests. This handbook provides match organizers and costume contest participants with a consistent set of rules and standards, ensuring uniform costume contests at all SASS costume contests including State Championships, Regionals, Divisionals, the National Championship – Winter Range, the SASS Convention, and the World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting – END of TRAIL.

## Costume Contest Organization

All SASS State, Regional, Divisional Championships, National Championship-Winter Range, and the World Championship-END of TRAIL are required to hold a costume contest utilizing the SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Handbook. SASS annual matches are encouraged to hold a costume contest.

In addition, **optional** costume contests can be held, such as Soiled Dove or Saloon Girls, Gun Cart contests, Mounted Shooting Costumes, and B-Western/Silver Screen costume contests.

The B-Western and Soiled Dove costume categories can either be included in the daytime Shooting Costume Contest, the Best Dressed Contest, or held as a separate event in the evening.

## Costume Chairperson and Committee

Match Directors are not responsible for organizing and running match costume contests. The Match Director appoints someone to be the Costume Contest Chairperson, and that Chairperson develops a committee to organize, structure, and run the match’s costume contests. The Match Director and the Costume Contest Chairperson need to coordinate the number and type of awards that will be given to contestants – plaques, buckles, certificates, free match entries, and the like.

## Structuring Costume Contests

Announce your contest(s) in the match flyer published in *The Cowboy Chronicle* and/or on your club’s website. Tell people when and where the contests will be held and what kind of contests are provided – e.g., Best Dressed, Shooting Costumes, B-Western, and so forth.

## Costume Contest Form or Flyer

This is where you spell out rules, costume categories, judging criteria, times for judging, and any other pertinent information, such as no

zippers, no Velcro, no designer jeans. Zippers and blue jeans are permitted for B-Western. The costume contest form or flyer should be posted on the club's web site and included in each shooter's and conventioneer's registration packet.

## Categories and Rules

Decide how many costume categories you will have and how many places to award the winners - first through third place or some other combination. Best Dressed Costume Contests usually have four to six categories - Gentlemen, Ladies, Couples, Military, and Juniors. You may want to add B- Western/Silver Screen and Soiled Dove to your Best Dressed evening event, or keep them with the day Shooting Costume Contest.

Shooting Costume categories can be as varied as you want - Classic Cowgirl or Cowboy, Townsperson, B-Western Cowboy and Cowgirl, Indian Wars, Native American, Best Conventioneer, Best Waddie, and so forth. At large matches, it is difficult for roaming judges to seek out shooters, looking at their shooting costumes, and/or taking photographs to decide winners. A much better system for conducting a Shooting Costume Contest is to designate a time and place (Example: 10:00 am-noon, and 2:30-4:30 pm in the Big Tent on Friday or Saturday or both days) and require the contestants come to the judges for judging. Spell out the costume contest rules in the costume contest flyer. For example: Contestants must be SASS Members in Good Standing, Conventioneers, or Waddies, i.e.;shooters.

Contestants have 60 seconds to describe their outfit or make their presentation.

Soiled Dove costumes must be "appropriate" to the era.

## Judging Criteria and Judges

Costume contests should not be popularity contests determined by "democratic" vote. They need to be judged using established, proven criteria with a panel of judges. The Costume Committee recommends the following criteria be used with all SASS costume contests held at State, Regional, Divisional Championships, the National Championship, the World Championship, and the SASS Convention: Contestants should be judged on **Costume Authenticity (40%), Originality (20%), Detail (20%),** (including hats, gloves, shoes, jewelry, and other appropriate accessories) and **Knowledge of Costume (20%)**. (See sample scoring sheets in the Appendix.) For Mounted Contestants, the horse's tack must be considered as well as the contestant's costume.

There should be at least three, and up to a maximum of seven, judges for all costume contests. Five judges is a good number for the Best Dressed Costume Contest. Judges should not be picked "on the fly" or at the last minute. Whom to ask? Past costume contest winners, out of state guests, vendors, SASS members who always look good, and local historical costume experts all potentially make excellent judges. If you have Military or Native American as a costume category, try to find a judge who is knowledgeable in those areas.

## Contest Mechanics

**Location** - Set aside a space designated solely for the purpose of judging the costume contests – e.g., a separate room or a separate tent. It needs to be away from the main event and evening entertainment.

Provide the judges with a table and chairs, pencils or pens, water, and the appropriate judging forms. One of the judges should be assigned responsibility to time the contestants. A minute timer helps keep participant's presentations to the required seconds. And a small courtesy sign saying "time's up" is also helpful.

**Costume staff** – you need one or two Waddies to sign up contestants in the correct category, give out entry numbers, answer questions, and assist contestants as necessary.

**Photographer** – this is most important at all your costume contests. All contestants, and especially the winners, should be photographed for inclusion in the match article for *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

**Awards** – At the Saturday banquet or event, there should be a costume promenade or recognition of some type for all entrants, followed by the announcement of the winners and awards presentation. The Best Dressed awards should be given at the time of the contest allowing the contestants to be photographed in their finest for the match article. This will help shorten any Sunday awards ceremony. Awards for other costume contests, such as Shooting costumes or Soiled Doves, can be distributed the evening they are held.

**Costume Winners Recognition** - **Always** include a list of the costume contests winners and photographs in your match article submitted to *The Cowboy Chronicle*. Also post the costume contest results on your website if you have one. Large matches, Regionals, Divisionals, the National Championship, and the World Championship are encouraged to submit a separate article on the costume events and winners, with photographs, to *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

## **Appendix – Sample Forms**

This appendix contains sample contest forms. Forms or flyers given to participants can be as fancy as you care to make them ... you want to create the best impression possible for your guests. For the forms used by the judging and reporting staff, these can be as plain and efficient as you care to make them. As you create your forms, remember to put the name and year of the event at the top and identify the category being addressed. These reports become your database for future reference and historical records. Also, don't forget to put a note at the bottom specifying where and when the forms are to be turned in. It's important to have the results in the right hands before the awards ceremony!



**Sample Flyer**

**Year & Name of Match**  
**SASS Championship**  
**Place - Dates**

***Costume Contest Information***

**Shooting Costume Contest - Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> during the main match:**

- No entry is necessary. Judges will circulate to determine the best shooting costumes.
- You will be judged on your costume appearance only.
- Shooting Costume Categories: Best Shooting Costumes Man and Lady
- Awards will be 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> places and will be presented at the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

**Best Dressed Costume Contest - Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> before the Banquet:**

- All contestants must be SASS members in good standing.
- Judging will start at 5:30 p.m. in the General Store.
- No pre-registration for the contest is required, just show up in your finest at the General Store before dinner.
- Each contestant is only allowed to enter one category.
- A "Presentation" is not required; however, you are welcome to simply describe your costume to demonstrate your knowledge and inspiration. If you choose to make a "Presentation" or talk about your costume, please limit your time to less than two minutes.
- Criteria used for judging will be: 40% for authenticity, 20% for originality, 20% for details/accessories, and 20% on knowledge of costume (either from telling the judges or answering questions from the judges). Any "Presentation" will be used only if needed as a tie breaker.
- Awards will be 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each category and will be presented Saturday evening during the Awards Banquet.

**Best Dressed Categories:**

Lady	Military
Gentleman	Soiled Dove/Parlor House Madam
Couple	B-Western/Silver Screen Man
Junior Girl (16 and Under)	B-Western/Silver Screen Lady
Junior Boy (16 and Under)	



***SAMPLE CONTESTANT NUMBERS***





Year/Name of Match: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST DRESSED COSTUME CONTEST**

**MASTER SIGN-IN LIST**

Category:                     **COUPLE**                    

<b>ENTRY #</b>	<b>SASS #</b>	<b>SASS ALIAS</b>

Year/Name of Match: \_\_\_\_\_

**COSTUME CONTEST RESULTS**

**BEST DRESSED CATEGORY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>RD</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>ST</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST DRESSED CATEGORY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>RD</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>ST</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to** \_\_\_\_\_ **Before the Awards Ceremony**

Year/Name of Match: \_\_\_\_\_

**COSTUME CONTEST RESULTS**

**BEST DRESSED CATEGORY:**                     **COUPLE**                    

**Costume Descriptions:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>RD</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>RD</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Descriptions:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Costume Descriptions:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>ST</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>ST</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASS#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to** \_\_\_\_\_ **Before the Awards Ceremony**

*SAMPLE SCRIPT*

SASS COSTUME AWARDS

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Best Dressed Costume Awards. I am ....., Costume Contest Chairman for the .....Match. Costuming is what gives our sport its uniqueness. To many of our members, costumes are as important as shooting categories.

First, I want to recognize the sponsors who have made this contest possible. They are .....of ..... Thank you so much for your support.

I also would like to thank my esteemed panel of costume judges for their participation. It's no easy task judging these fabulous costumes! Please stand as I call your names. .... has served as a Costume Contest Chairman, judged many contest including the SASS Convention, and won many costume contest. (Repeat for the rest of the judges)

I would like to thank all the contestants for entering the costume contest. Everyone who entered the costume contest please come forward for the costume promenade. (Or please stand and be recognized.) Please give them a big hand. All of the costumes were outstanding! Contestants please take your seats.

This year we had nine costume categories – Ladies, Gentlemen, Couples, Military, Soiled Dove, Junior Girl, Junior Boy, and B-Western/Silver Screen Male and Female. Each contestant was judged on the following criteria -originality, authenticity, detail, and knowledge of costume.

As I announce the three winners in each category, please hold your applause until after all three winners for the category are announced.

For the B-Western/Silver Screen Male 3<sup>rd</sup> place is awarded to.....2<sup>nd</sup> place is awarded to .....and the first place Costume Contest winner in the B-Western/Silver Screen Male Category is awarded to .....

(Winners can be called up one at a time starting with 3<sup>rd</sup> or all three can be called up and then announce the winners starting with 3<sup>rd</sup>.)

Let's have a round of applause for the B-Western/Silver Screen male category winners.

(Repeat for the rest of the categories)

I hope you enjoyed this year's Best Dressed Costume Awards. Good night, and remember- it's not how good you shoot- it's how good you look!

# Costume Contest Scoring Sheet

Contestants are Given a Number and Report to the Judges

## Best Dressed Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestants will be judged on the following criteria: Costume Authenticity 40% with a score of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest score. Originality 20%, Detail 20%, Knowledge of Costume 20%, with a score of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest score. Presentation is not required but can be given a score of 1 to 5 and used as a tie breaker, if needed.

Entry #	Judges Notes	Score Criteria				Total	Presentation 1 to 5	Place
		Authenticity 1 to 10	Originality 1 to 5	Detail 1 to 5	Knowledge of Costume 1 to 5			

# Costume Contest Scoring Sheet

No Numbers - Contestants Report to the Judges

**Best Dressed Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

Contestants will be judged on the following criteria: Costume Authenticity 40% with a score of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest score. Originality 20%, Detail 20%, Knowledge of Costume 20%, with a score of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest score. Presentation is not required but can be given a score of 1 to 5 and used as a tie breaker, if needed.

	Contestant's Alias	SASS #	Score Criteria				Total	Presentation 1 to 5	Notes	Place
			Authenticity 1 to 10	Originality 1 to 5	Detail 1 to 5	Knowledge of Costume 1 to 5				
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										



# Costume Contest Scoring Sheet

Roaming Judges - Contestants Can Describe Their Costume to the Judges

**Best Dressed Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

Contestants will be judged on the following criteria: Costume Authenticity 40% with a score of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest score. Originality 20%, Detail 20%, Knowledge of Costume 20%, with a score of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest score.

	Contestant's Alias	SASS #	Score Criteria				Total	Notes	Place
			Authenticity 1 to 10	Originality 1 to 5	Detail 1 to 5	Knowledge of Costume 1 to 5			
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

# Costume Contest Scoring Sheet

Roaming Judges - Contestants are Judged on Costume Appearance Only

**Best Dressed Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

Contestants will be judged on the following criteria: Costume Authenticity 40% with a score of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest score. Originality 20% and Detail 20% with a score of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest score.

	Contestant's Alias	SASS #	Score Criteria			Total	Notes	Place
			Authenticity 1 to 10	Originality 1 to 5	Detail 1 to 5			
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								