

COLOADO SHAKETAILED' BOTTOM FEEDER ACTION SHOOTING (BFAS)

(revision as of 6 May 2025)

QUESTION: What's the difference between a flounder and a Colorado Shaketail who shoots a 1911 at cowboy matches?

ANSWER: One's a scum-sucking bottom feeder; the other's a fish.

1. INTRODUCTION. While Bottom Feeder Action Shooting (BFAS) borrows much from Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Wild Bunch Action Shooting (WBAS), it is important to note that it is NOT WBAS, nor is it intended to be. It originated from a small number of Shaketails members' interest in WBAS. Our challenges include the Shaketails being a small club without the membership, the interest, or the experience to conduct our own WBAS matches. And while fortunate in having other clubs nearby, none offer WBAS. In order to make this type of shooting (tho' admittedly much watered down) accessible to interested club members we developed BFAS. We believe this nests nicely with SASS's recent changes to WBAS (see Misty Moonshine's (SASS #83232, CEO) editorial ("Wild Bunch Action Shooting Evolves in 2024")) in the January 2024 *Cowboy Chronical*.

2. GOVERNING DOCUMENTS. Two basic SASS documents are extensively used for BFAS, with only a few exceptions, which will be explained later in this document. They are:

a. SASS Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS) Shooter's Handbook (as of the time of this writing the most current is: Version 27.8, 10 April 2025). The most current version will take precedence.

b. SASS WBAS Shooter's Handbook (as of the time of this writing the most current is: Version 17.5, January 2025). The most current version will take precedence.

3. GENERAL

a. In short, the only real change to CAS as described in the CAS Shooter's Handbook is that the shooter in front of you or behind you at the loading table, instead of having two revolvers, each loaded with 5 rounds, may have a 1911 with two magazines, each loaded with 5 rounds. This allows BFAS shooters to easily and safely integrate into CAS matches. Courses of fire DO NOT CHANGE. Essentially BFAS is nothing more than another CAS category (like Classic Cowboy / Cowgirl, Duelist, Frontier Cartridge, etc.).

b. WBAS Categories. Modern and Traditional Categories (shown during Shaketails matches as "BFM" and "BFT" respectively on the posse sheet) as described in the WBAS Shooter's Handbook remain unchanged. NOTE: The Match Director (MD) reserves the right to dispense with categories and have all 1911 shooters compete as BFAS (shown during Shaketails matches as "BF" on the posse sheet) as he / she feels is appropriate.

4. FIREARMS

a. 1911 Pistol. The most obvious change is that instead of two CAS-legal revolvers, each loaded with 5 rounds, one M1911 pistol with two magazines, each loaded with 5 rounds is allowed.

(1) 1911 Common Parameters and Category-Allowed Modifications. The 1911 Common Parameters, and the allowed 1911 modifications for both Traditional and Modern Categories as described in the WBAS Shooter's Handbook remain unchanged. NOTE: The MD reserves the right to waive any and / or all common parameters and any and / or all category modifications restrictions / requirements as he / she feels is appropriate.

(2) 1911 Range Operations. 1911 Range Operations used during Colorado Shaketails BFAS matches differ from the most current WBAS Shooter's Handbook and in all instances, the Range Operations described here TAKE PRECEDENCE over Range Operations in any version of the WBAS Shooter's Handbook.

(3) 1911 Safety & Handling. Unless actually engaging targets, the shooter's trigger finger must be outside the trigger guard. Typically, shooter is given a verbal warning, "FINGER!" the first time. A repeat violation results in a Minor Safety Violation (MSV) penalty.

(a) Magazines may be loaded with NO MORE THAN FIVE (5) rounds at any time. Overloaded rounds are penalized as "Illegally Acquired Ammunition" (Procedural). If fired, any unhit targets in that stage hit using "Illegally Acquired Ammunition" are scored as MISSES.

(b) Movement is allowed with the 1911 in hand with the slide closed on an empty chamber with no magazine or a loaded / empty magazine **until the pistol is first charged during the stage**. Charging means the act of placing a live round in the chamber of a pistol.

(c) **After being first charged**, the shooter may move with the 1911 in hand ONLY with the chamber empty, the slide locked open, and trigger finger out of the trigger guard. (Trigger finger, MSV; slide closed, Stage Disqualification (SDQ))

(d) A loaded pistol may leave the shooter's hands after a malfunction has been declared ONLY under the supervision of the R.O.

(e) After firing, a 1911 will be downed on a prop (as directed by stage instructions) with the chamber empty, slide locked open, with empty or no magazine. (Failure to comply, SDQ. The shooter has until firing the next firearm to comply with no penalty.)

(f) If staging a 1911 on a prop for later use in a stage, the slide will be forward and the hammer down on an EMPTY chamber. A magazine loaded with 5 rounds (unless stage instructions specify otherwise) will be inserted in the magazine well. The entire pistol will be on the prop with muzzle oriented downrange.

(g) Changing magazines on the move is allowed as long as chamber is empty, slide is

locked open, and the trigger finger remains outside the trigger guard. Once the slide moves into battery and a live round is in the chamber, the “basketball travelling rule” is in effect. (Trigger finger, MSV; slide closed, SDQ)

(h) At the end of the course of fire, the 1911 must be shown clear on the firing line. At the end of the course of fire and before holstering the pistol, the following R.O. commands shall be used:

- UNLOAD and SHOW CLEAR: Remove any live rounds and the magazine (if inserted) with the slide locked open. Hold 1911 so R.O. can see there is no magazine inserted, and the chamber is empty.
- SLIDE FORWARD: Allow the slide to go forward into battery. Riding the slide forward is allowed.
- HAMMER DOWN: With 1911 pointed in a safe direction (downrange), pull the trigger allowing the hammer to drop, unimpeded.
- HOLSTER: Place the cleared, safe pistol in the holster.

(4) 1911 Operations at the Loading Table. A magazine will be inserted in the 1911, with Slide forward, hammer down and chamber empty / clear. The action is NOT cycled. The pistol can remain holstered or will be re-holstered. (Magazine not inserted, NO CALL; slide cycled, SDQ unless corrected before leaving the shooter’s hands)

(5) 1911 Operations on the Firing Line

(a) Unless specifically instructed otherwise, a live round will be chambered in the 1911 ONLY on the clock when called for in the firing sequence. (SDQ unless corrected)

(b) Safe for re-holstering: If drawn at the wrong place or time, before the 1911 is charged, the slide must be closed and hammer down on an empty chamber, and is then re-holstered only after R.O. inspection at the firing line. After charging, the 1911 may be re-holstered only after the 1911 is returned to slide closed and hammer down on empty chamber condition, and then only after R.O. inspection at the firing line.

(6) 1911 Operations at the Unloading Table. The already cleared 1911 (cleared on the firing line by R.O. at the completion of the shooting stage) will remain holstered as clear while the long guns are cleared at the unloading table. It does NOT need to be cleared again as long as it remains holstered.

b. Shotgun

(1) Any CAS / WBAS-legal shotgun is allowed. Additional shotguns allowed by WBAS rules include both civilian and military versions of Winchester (or replica) 1897 and Model 12 as well as the IAC '93 / '97 replica.

(2) Shotgun range operations are strictly IAW the most current CAS Shooter's Handbook.

(a) All staged shotguns are empty and open.

(b) Shotguns are loaded ONLY on the clock when called for in the firing sequence, and with no more than two rounds.

5. BFAS Team Competitions. It is at the discretion of the MD if team competitions are included in the match as well as any and all parameters. Current Colorado Shaketails BFAS Team Competition rules are as follows:

a. Each team consists of two shooters, one CAS (shooting two CAS-legal revolvers) and one BFAS (shooting a BFAS-legal 1911).

b. Each shooter must comply with all rules and requirements within the category they are competing (i.e., CAS or BFAS).

c. Teams must be announced to the MD before the first round goes down range during the match.

d. After teams are announced / identified, each shooter shoots their normal match in their respective category (CAS or BFAS). Team members do not have to be on the same posse.

e. After the match is concluded and the scores are tallied (raw time adjusted to reflect misses, procedurals, bonuses, etc., to reach an adjusted total time) the respective team members' adjusted total times are combined to determine the team competition winner – lowest combined adjusted total time wins the team competition.