

# RUTHLESS

THE FASTEST RULES IN THE WEST



BY MARK FASTOSO & BRIAN DEWITT

INSPIRED BY A TOWN CALLED MALICE

## SEQUENCE OF PLAY

At the beginning of a turn, each player is dealt five cards from a standard poker card deck. Each player chooses one card at the beginning of a turn and places it face down on the table. The cards are turned over and revealed simultaneously.

The highest card goes first, allowing that player to take actions with all of their models. Other players activate in sequence, ending with the lowest card. Ties are decided by suit: *Spades, Hearts, Diamonds*, and lastly, *Clubs*.

The turn ends when all models on the table have taken two actions. If a "3" was played for initiative, that player may choose to discard any number of cards remaining in his hand at the end of the turn. Players end the turn by each replenishing their hand back up to five cards.

In addition to determining initiative, cards can also be played throughout the turn to resolve Snap Shots, Get Your Courage Up, and brawling in Fisticuffs. Some cards have special bonuses when played:

### SPECIAL CARD ABILITIES

<b>A, K, Q, J</b>	Automatic "Get Your Courage Up!"
<b>7</b>	One character may take 3 actions
<b>A or 4</b>	Recover from Unconscious
<b>3</b>	May discard cards at the end of turn
<b>2</b>	"Low Blow" in Fisticuffs

## ACTIONS

When a player has the initiative, each character they control may take two actions. If a "7" card was played for initiative, one character can take three actions! Actions may be taken in any combination, including the same action twice.

**MOVE**

**GOT YOU COVERED!**

**MOUNT**

**DISMOUNT**

**AIM**

**SHOOT**

**RELOAD 3 SHOTS**

**GET YOUR COURAGE UP!**

## MOVING

**On FOOT** 6" or 3" (Open vs. Rough)

**On HORSE** 12" or 8" (Open vs. Rough)

Rough ground includes scrub, shallow rivers, fences, doorways, and any obstacles players predefine as such.

## GOT YOU COVERED!

This action allows a character to defer his shooting until later in the turn. Place any sort of marker or token on the model as a reminder. He may then take one un-aimed shot at any enemy using a Move action within line of sight. The marker is removed after the shot **or** if the character is wounded **or** a different action is performed.

"If there ain't going to be any rules, let's get the fight started." -Butch Cassidy

## SHOOTING

For each Shoot action, roll 1d10 + modifiers to hit. Cross off ammunition on the character's sheet.

**SHORT RANGE** 6+

**LONG RANGE** 8+



+1 **Firer is Aiming**

-1 **Firer is Lily Livered**

-1 **Target in partial or soft cover**

-2 **Target in hard cover (rocks, buildings)**

-2 **Firer is mounted on horseback**

If a hit is scored, roll on the "Darn, I Been Hit!" table for wound results. When shooting at a mounted target, roll again to determine if the horse or the rider is hit (1-5 is the horse, 6-10 is the rider).

## WEAPON TABLE

TYPE	SHORT	LONG	ROUNDS	SPECIAL
Derringer	6"	-	2	
Shotgun	8"	12"	2	+2 at Close, -1 at Long
Revolver	8"	12"	6	Fanfire
Buntline Special	8"	16"	6	Fanfire
Bow	-	16"	-	Free Reload
Repeating Rifle	10"	24"	10	
Sharps Carbine	18"	36"	1	

Fanfire allows up to 6 rounds to be fired in a single action at Short Range, but "10s" are needed to hit.

## SNAP SHOTS

If one of your characters is about to be fired upon or engaged in Fisticuffs by an enemy character, you can try to "get the draw on him" and shoot first or duck for cover. You succeed by playing any card from your hand that is higher than the one the opponent used for initiative at the start of the current turn. Opponents cannot play a card of their own to react. Snap Shots are a single shot, un-aimed shot. Ducking for cover allows you to move 3" toward nearby cover.

## DARN, I BEEN HIT!

For each hit on a target, roll 1d10 and cross off the corresponding wound hit on the character card. Hits from an Aimed shot can be adjusted +1/-1 by the firer.

ROLL	LOCATION	RESULT
1-2	Leg	Only one Move per turn
3-4	Arm	Only one Shoot per turn
5-6	Graze	No effect
7	Gut Punch	No Shooting effect, but Unconscious from Fisticuffs
8-9	Chest	Cannot Aim
10	Severe Wound	Knocked Unconscious!

A character is killed when he crosses off his last hit against any single wound location. Horses are killed when they suffer any combination of three total hits.

Tip over a model that is Unconscious. They will recover and stand up automatically if the controlling player uses an Ace or "4" for initiative on any subsequent turn. This card will revive all Unconscious models for that player.

## FISTICUFFS

Fisticuffs is not an action. It is resolved when two opposing characters are moved into base-to-base contact. Both players immediately select one card from their hand. The highest score wins. The loser is pushed back 2" and suffers **two wounds** on the "Darn, I Been Hit!" table.

If you cannot play a card or remain Unconscious from a prior Severe Wound, you lose automatically.

Some character traits may offer a bonus on combat, and being mounted adds +1 to the value of your Fisticuffs card. If a "2" is played, it's a "Low Blow," and the 2 card wins if it matches the opponent card's suit!



"Fast is fine, but accuracy is everything." -Wyatt Earp

## TOUGHNESS

Characters must check to see if they become Lily Livered when they or their horse are hit (including a Graze or Gut Punch), **or** if they see a friendly character killed.

In either circumstance, a character must roll their Toughness value or higher on 1d10. If they fail the test, they are marked with a Lily Livered token. Lily Livered characters immediately move toward cover and must remain in some form of cover until they recover.

### "GET YOUR COURAGE UP!"

Characters can recover from being Lily Livered by starting in cover and taking a "Get Your Courage Up!" action. Roll 1d10 + the value of any card in your hand. You are not required to expend a card and any decision to do so must be made before the roll. If the result is equal or higher than your Toughness, you are no longer Lily Livered. Any face card or Ace is a shot of whiskey and automatically passes the test!

"They said I killed six or seven men for snoring. It ain't true. I only killed one man for snoring."  
-John Wesley Hardin

## SKEDADDLE

At the end of each turn, both sides roll 1d10. If the roll is **less than or equal to** the number of your characters currently dead, Lily Livered, or Unconscious, the remaining men skedaddle and the scenario ends!