

EASTERN COLORADO SECTION SAFETY TRAINING POLICY

Date: August 5, 2020

1. PURPOSE

This policy codifies the process used by the Eastern Colorado (ECO) Section of the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) for a standardized Safety Training Policy for new USPSA shooters.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 Participants in an ECO Section match must meet one of the requirements below to compete in section matches:
 - 2.1.1 Possess a current USPSA/IPSC/SCSA membership card with a classification of G, M, A, B, C, or D, a USPSA/IPSC website query showing the competitor is a current USPSA/IPSC member and with a classification of other than "U", or a competitor listed in a current USPSA/IPSC classification download meets the requirement to compete.
 - 2.1.2 A USPSA/IPSC/SCSA member with a classification of U who successfully completed at least one USPSA/IPSC match. The competitor must provide date(s) of USPSA/IPSC matches, club name and location where matches were held.
 - 2.1.3 Possess ECO Safety Class card showing safety training requires were fulfilled.
 - 2.1.4 Membership and classification in other action shooting sports requires Match Director (MD) approval. See para. 2.3 and 3.5.
- 2.2 The host club MDs are final authority for allowing a person to compete in their club's match. MDs must comply with USPSA Competition Rules, paragraphs 6.4.4 and 6.4.5. Should a MD need to enforce 6.4.4, notify the USPSA President, the NROI Director, the Area 2 Director, and the ECO Section Coordinator.
- 2.3 Failing to meet the requirements in paragraph 2.1, a competitor must successfully complete the training requirements outlined below.

3. SAFETY CLASS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Attachment 1 contains the current safety training outline and the minimum training requirements for those who fail to meet the requirements in paragraph 2.
- 3.2 Successful completion of the safety training class allows participation in match at the club where the training occurred. If unable to participate at the training location, with prior coordination and approval between another club, the person may shoot a match at a different club to fulfill the match performance training requirement.
- 3.3 Successfully completing the match allows the trainer with RM input to sign the safety card validating the completion of all training requirements.
- 3.4 The Safety Class Card must be presented during registration at subsequent matches until paragraph 2 requirements are met.
- 3.5 Reference 2.1.4. If the person will participate in section matches on an ongoing basis, provide participant with a completed safety training card after the first match. A DQ would require the participant to complete the safety training requirements outlined here.

ATTACHMENT 1: SAFETY CLASS OUTLINE

You elected to learn more about using a firearm in training and for competition. It's a chance to combine accuracy and speed in exciting courses of fire. And, the opportunity to meet and share with other like minded shooters.

Shooting sports are very exciting and fun, but a mistake can be fatal. Therefore, the safety training focuses on your safety and the safety of those around you. Please keep safety at the forefront of your mind and fun, and competition success will follow quickly. Ask your Range Officer (RO) for assistance at any time.

Coming to the Range for your Safety Session

Your trainer will conduct the safety session under the rules governed by a match, and as such, conforms to more stringent requirements than a casual day at a range.

Your firearm must be unloaded and holstered or bagged. If you have any questions about your equipment, please come with your firearm unloaded and bagged and then ask your safety instructor how to proceed.

Rules of Gun Safety

Every shooter, whether they shoot once in their lifetime or compete on a regular basis MUST know the 4 Rules of Guns Safety.

1. All guns are always loaded.
2. Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

In a match, these rules are enhanced:

1. COLD RANGE: Unless you are actually in the course of fire and under the direction of a Range Office, your gun must be in its holster or bagged with the hammer (or striker) down on an empty chamber and the magazine well or cylinder must be empty. **The only places you may handle your gun off the line is in the designated safety area and no ammunition (dummy and empty cases, loaded magazines, loaded speed loading devices and live rounds) must not be handled in a Safety Area under any circumstances.** If you are new to a range, ask for the location of the safety area(s) and where the concealed carry holster or un-holster area is located. If you are legally allowed to carry a firearm, disarm yourself before entering the premises of a match, or in a designated concealed carry unholster/hostler area.

Clubs must provide an area separate from a safety area for LEO or concealed carry permit holders to safely remove their LE or concealed carry firearm prior to the match and to gun up prior to leaving the range.

2. 90 DEGREE RULE (aka "180" VIOLATION): Your muzzle must never cover more than 90 degrees from the median intercept of the backstop (including up or down) during a course of fire. Range officers might warn a new shooter if they see you getting close to violating this rule. However, you are responsible for knowing your location, orientation, and ensuring the muzzle does not break the "180" rule.

3. SWEEPING: Ensure your muzzle does not cover your own hands or body while moving, re-loading, reaching for a door, re-holstering, etc. A match disqualification is not applicable for sweeping of the lower extremities (below the belt) while drawing or re- holstering a handgun, provided that the competitor's fingers are clearly outside of the trigger guard. This exception is only for holstered handguns. Sweeping does not apply to a handgun holstered in compliance with Rules

4. FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER: Your finger must be off the trigger and clearly outside the trigger guard unless you are engaging a target. This includes moving, reloading, drawing, re-holstering, and clearing malfunctions.

5. KNOW YOUR TARGET AND WHATS BEYOND: Take your time and make every shot count. You are responsible for every shot you send down range. If a course appears unsafe to you, contact a match official immediately.

Safety Violations & Disqualifications

Violating one safety rule will get you disqualified (DQed) from a match. Violating two rules could cause significant damage, or worse, i.e., pointing a firearm uprange ("180" violation) coupled with an accidental discharge is mostly like a worst case two rule violation. Even very seasoned shooters can get DQed. If it happens to you, please remember the Range Officer works for everyone's safety so treat it as a "course correction" on a long journey of safe shooting.

MATCH DISQUALIFICATION: A competitor who commits a safety infraction or any other prohibited activity during a match will be disqualified from the match, and will be prohibited from attempting any remaining course of fire in the match regardless of the schedule or physical layout of the match. You are expected to remain with your squad, help with tapping targets, tear down equipment storage. You can still learn even if not shooting.

ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE (aka NEGLIGENCE DISCHARGE): A competitor who causes a negligent discharge (Accidental Discharge in USPSA parlance) must be stopped by a Range Officer immediately and DQed from the match. This includes

- 1) A shot which travels over a backstop, a berm or in any other direction specified in the written stage briefing by the match organizer as being unsafe;
- 2) A shot which strikes the ground within 10 feet of the competitor, except when shooting a target closer than 10 feet;
- 3) A shot which occurs while loading, reloading, unloading, remedial action, while transferring a firearm between hands;
- 4) A shot which occurs during movement, except while actually engaging a target; and
- 5) A shot which occurs while retrieving a staged handgun, when the competitor is not engaging targets, and the shot does not strike a target.

UNSAFE GUN HANDLING: A competitor can be DQ'd for any of the following:

- 1) Handling a firearm at any time except when in a designated safety area or under the direction of a Range Officer;
- 2) If at any time during a course of fire, a competitor allows the muzzle of their firearm to point rearward, that is further than 90 degrees from the median intercept of the backstop, or in the case of no backstop allows the muzzle to point up range, whether the firearm is loaded or not ("180" VIOLATION);
- 3) If at any time during the course of fire, a competitor drops their firearm or causes it to fall, loaded or not;
- 4) Drawing or holster within the confines of a tunnel;
- 5) Allowing the muzzle of a firearm to point at any part of the competitor's body during a course of fire (SWEEPING);
- 6) While facing downrange, allowing the muzzle of a loaded firearm to point uprange beyond a radius of 3 feet from a competitor's feet while drawing or re-holstering;

- 7) Wearing or using more than one firearm at any point in time during a course of fire;
- 8) Failure to keep the finger outside of the trigger guard while clearing a malfunction where the competitor clearly moves the firearm away from aiming at targets;
- 9) Failure to keep the finger outside of the trigger guard during loading, reloading, or unloading;
- 10) Failure to keep the finger outside of the trigger guard during movement unless aiming at a target;
- 11) Holstering or placing a loaded firearm a) single action without the safety on unless the firearm design prevents activating the safe and the hammer or trigger cannot be activated in the present gun condition then the safety is not regarded to be engaged, b) double action or selective action with hammer cocked and safety not engaged, and c) revolver with the hammer cocked;
- 12) Handling live or dummy ammunition, loaded magazines or speed loaders in a Safety Area;
- 13) Having a loaded firearm other than when specifically ordered to by the Range Officer;
- 14) Retrieving a dropped firearm;
- 15) Using metal piercing, steel-core, incendiary, tracer ammunition, and/or ammunition loaded with steel-jacketed projectiles;
- 16) Drawing a handgun, while facing or moving uprange, and the front of the holster is pointing uprange beyond 90 degrees from the median intercept of the backstop;
- 17) A shot fired at a metal target from a distance of less than 23 feet, measured from the face of the target to the nearest part of the competitor's body in contact with the ground;
- 18) Use of devices in full auto, burst, binary or bump fire mode, will result in a procedural penalty for the first occurrence, and a disqualification for any subsequent infractions.
- 19) Failing to point the muzzle of a PCC at a side berm or back stop during casing/uncasing or removing/replacing on a conveyance or sweeping any person with the muzzle of a PCC, whether loaded or not, even if a chamber flag is inserted; and
- 20) Attempting to clear a squib during a course of fire.

There are two other categories of disqualification which are self-explanatory: 1) Unsportsmanlike conduct and 2) prohibited substances.

Range Commands

The Range Officer is working for everyone's safety. Under their direction, you will hear these commands.

STOP: This is the most important command. At any time, any Range Officer assigned to a stage may issue this command. The competitor must immediately cease firing, stop moving and wait for further instruction from the Range Officer.

MAKE READY: This command signifies the start of "the course of fire". Under the direct supervision of the Range Officer, the competitor must face down range and prepare the firearm in accordance with the defined start condition for the stage and the start condition for firearm division. Except when in a designated safety area, you should NEVER handle your firearm without hearing this command.

ARE YOU READY? A positive response is not required and the lack of a negative response from the competitor indicates understanding of the course of fire thus allowing the Range Officer to proceed.

STAND BY: This command should be followed by the start signal within 1 to 4 seconds.

START SIGNAL (Beep from Timer, Visual Start, or Self Start): The signal for the competitor to begin their attempt at the course of fire. If a competitor fails to react to a start signal, for any reason, the Range Officer will confirm the competitor is ready to attempt the course of fire, and will resume the range commands from “Are You Ready?”.

IF YOU ARE FINISHED, UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR: If the competitor finished shooting, they must present the firearm for inspection by the Range Officer with the muzzle pointed down range, magazine removed, slide locked or held open, and chamber empty. Revolvers must be presented with the cylinder swung out and empty.

IF CLEAR, HAMMER DOWN, HOLSTER (See Note below): While continuing to point the firearm safely downrange, the competitor must perform a final safety check of the firearm as follows:

- Self-loaders – release the slide and pull the trigger (without touching the hammer or decocker, if any).
- Revolvers – close the empty cylinder (without touching the hammer, if any).

If the gun proves to be clear, the competitor must holster their firearm.

If the gun does not prove to be clear, the Range Officer will resume the commands from “IF Finished ...”

Note

- For Revolver, “**IF CLEAR, CYLINDER CLOSED, HOLSTER.**”
- For PCC, “**IF CLEAR, HAMMER DOWN, FLAG.**” Also see additional considerations below for PCC.
- For all others, “**IF CLEAR, HAMMER DOWN, HOLSTER.**”

RANGE IS CLEAR: This declaration signifies the end of the course of fire. Once the declaration is made, officials and competitors may move forward to score, patch, reset targets etc.

Additional Considerations

EYE AND EAR PROTECTION must be worn at all times while competing or on the range. If during the course of fire, your protective gear inadvertently falls off, stop yourself and inform the range officer.

LISTEN TO THE RANGE OFFICERS AND OBEY THEIR COMMANDS. Their job is to keep it safe for all involved. Don’t anticipate commands, especially at the end of a course of fire. Wait for the RO to give you commands this prevents you from needing to perform the safety checks again. The RO will make sure the gun is clear and holstered before clearing the range.

EVERYONE MUST HELP OUT. This is a volunteer sport and without volunteers there is no sport. The match goes much smoother when everyone helps tape targets, set steel, set activators, pick up brass, score, etc.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: We are all here because we want to be surrounded by people with similar interests. Competitors can be disqualified from a match for conduct which a Range Officer deems to be unsportsmanlike such as cheating, dishonesty, or behavior likely to bring the sport into disrepute.

INDOOR vs. OUTDOOR RANGES: If this safety session is conducted at a range with only indoor shooting, the course setup will have very limited shooting angles. Be extra aware when you go to your first outdoor match that the shooting angles can approach 180 degrees. Always be cognizant of where the 90 degree violation would be. Likewise, if this is conducted outdoors-only, be extra

aware at your first indoor match as any muzzle angle outside the confines of the finite backstop, is likely unsafe.

PISTOL CALIBER CARBINE (PCC): All references to “handgun” in the current edition of the rulebook are deemed to apply to PCC as well, except where PCC is noted in the rules. Note: NO UPRANGE STARTS WHILE HOLDING THE CARBINE. Additionally, “If Clear, Hammer Down, Holster” is replaced by PCC 8.3.7.1 as:

“If clear, hammer down, flag”. While continuing to point the carbine safely downrange, the competitor must perform a final safety check of the carbine by closing the bolt on an empty chamber, pulling the trigger, and then inserting the chamber flag. The carbine must then be transported with the muzzle reasonably vertically up or down, while scoring is done, and then off the stage to a rack or case. Flagged carbines may also be cased at this time and transported off the stage in the case. When casing PCC’s, the muzzle must point at a side berm or backstop. Failure to point the muzzle at a side berm or back stop during casing will result in a DQ per PCC 10.5.2.1.

Shooter Comprehension

Competitors must demonstrate know of the following to successfully complete the safety class.

State the Four Rules of Gun Safety

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

State the most important Range Command: _____

Summarize the 90 degree rule: _____

Summarize what is meant by a “Cold Range”: _____

When is the only time your finger can be on the trigger? _____

Range Activities/Live Fire/Virtual Live Fire

The Range Officer will direct and assist the shooter in the following tasks to demonstrate comprehension.

Virtual live fire training fulfills the range activities/live fire training requirement.

Before handling any firearm, the Range Officer should ask the shooter to demonstrate they understand the direction of “downrange” and where the 90 degree rule would be violated. Under the direction of the RO using the Range Commands, the shooter will retrieve the firearm from their holster or bag and re-holster it in the appropriate condition.

Under the direction of the RO using the Range Commands, the shooter will Make Ready. Starting with the STOP command, the RO will ask you to unload and re-holster your firearm in the appropriate condition.

Under the direction of the RO using the Range Commands, the shooter will run through a very simple course of fire as defined by your RO.

At a minimum, the course of fire will test that the shooter can execute the following tasks safely:

- Making Ready
- Drawing and engaging targets
- Following ALL Range Commands, especially STOP!
- Engaging targets, reloading, engaging targets. Where should your finger be when reloading?
- Reloading when moving toward your Strong Side.
- Reloading when moving toward your Weak Side. Watch your muzzle angle!!!
- Following Range Commands to Unload, Show Clear and Holster thus making the Range Clear

Upon satisfactory demonstration of comprehension ~~through~~ these tasks along with successful completion of your first match, you will receive a Safety Card which will allow you to compete in the sports and at the clubs in Eastern Colorado as specified ~~on the card.~~ **in this policy.**