

**Carolina Practical Shooting League**  
Greenville, SC

**Official Rules**  
**Revisions**

November 24, 2009

These Rules shall become effective become effective upon approval by the Board of Directors of Greenville Gun Club by majority vote.

## **Goal of CPSL**

The goal of the Carolina Practical Shooting League is to promote competitive shooting with an emphasis on the role of the firearm in self-defense. Through this competition, it is hoped that participants will develop safe gun handling skills, sportsmanship, and friendship.

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## **The Basic Rules of Firearm Safety – Expanded**

### **1) Treat All Firearms As Though They Are Loaded.**

Greenville Gun Club is a COLD range. Guns are to be brought to a Safe Area in a case or bag. Facing in a Safe Direction, remove the magazine, rack and lock the slide, insure that the gun is unloaded, drop the slide, drop the hammer, and holster with magazine removed and hammer down. The gun will remain holstered except in a Safe Area or instructed by the Range Officer to Load and Make Ready.

No ammunition is to be handled in the Safe Area. You may have loaded magazines in pouches or pockets, but may not handle loaded magazines or ammo. Handling of ammunition in a Safe Area will result in Disqualification (DQ).

The unintentional or negligent discharge (ND) of a firearm anywhere on the range will result in DQ regardless of where the bullet impacts.

In the case of a DQ, you must case your gun at the Safe Area and place it in your vehicle.

### **2) Keep the Gun Pointed in a Safe Direction.**

We enforce the “180 Rule”. If the muzzle goes beyond the 180 plane for any reason, it will result in DQ. Be careful of where the gun points during reloads. Many people turn the gun to the side when reloading. When using long guns, unloaded guns will be pointed up with the Action open.

### **3) Keep your Finger Off of the Trigger and Outside the Trigger Guard until On Target and Ready to Fire.**

The finger will remain outside the trigger guard while loading, reloading, moving, and when holstering the gun. Slamming the magazine with your finger on the trigger can result in an ND and DQ.

### **4) Know Your Target and What is Down Range.**

If for any reason you have a safety concern, bring it to the attention of the Range Officer. Look downrange before loading.

### **5) Maintain Control of Your Gun.**

Loss of control of the gun (i.e. Dropping) will result in DQ.

## Definitions

**Cease Fire:** Alert given to the shooter to stop all shooting and movement.

**Cold Range:** A range that does NOT allow loaded firearms in the holster or to be handled except while on the firing line and under the supervision of a Safety Officer.

**Concealment:** Using a garment to conceal the gun, holster and ammunition container carriers.

**Cover:** An object which hides the competitor from the target.

**Disqualification:** The removal of a competitor from a match for a safety violation.

**Match Director:** See “Roles of CPSL Participants”

**Safe Area:** A designated area to handle UNLOADED guns. NO AMMUNITION can be handled in a safe area.

**Safety Officer:** See “Roles of CPSL Participants”

**Scorer:** See “Roles of CPSL Participants”

**Score Keeper:** See “Roles of CPSL Participants”

**Stop:** Alert given to the shooter to stop all shooting and movement.

**Strong Hand:** The hand the shooter holds the gun in normally while shooting.

## The Roles of CPSL Participants

**Competitor:** Competitors are to compete safely and fairly, observing all rules, and keeping in mind that CPSL competition is a test of skill and ability, not gamesmanship. Competitors are expected to assist in pasting targets and policing spent shell cases.

**Match Director:** The Match Director is responsible for the design and set up of stages and oversees the match. The Match Director will conduct a walk-through for competitors and announce any match or stage specific rules. At the end of the match, he will announce the overall and class winners. The Match Director has overall authority for the match, and his decision on any match related issues is final.

**Safety Officer (or Range Officer):** Safety Officers are responsible for ensuring all safety rules are obeyed. Safety Officers assist the Match Director as directed. Safety Officers:

- Give commands to and oversee the Competitor through each stage
- Operate the shot timer in conjunction with the Range Commands
- Ensure Competitor complies with all CPSL Rules
- Assess scoring penalties.
- Disqualify competitors for safety violations
- Must be certified as an NRA Range Safety Officer or trained and approved as a Safety Officer by IDPA or USPSA and familiar with CPSL rules.

**Scorer:** The Scorer is responsible for:

- Checking each target for hits and misses
- Noting penalties on the score sheet
- Noting the Competitor's Raw Time on the score sheet.
- Announcing the Competitor's Raw Time when it is recorded.

The Scorer follows the Safety Officer and Competitor downrange, but must remain safely behind the Safety Officer.

**Scorekeeper:** The Scorekeeper is responsible for:

- Tabulating Competitors' Raw Scores, misses, and penalties
- Preparing the match results for the Match Director.

## **Safety - Disqualifying**

Safety being of the highest importance in any activity, and particularly in the shooting sports, a violation of any rule in this section shall result in the Disqualification of the participant. Upon seeing a disqualifying offence, the Safety Officer shall command the participant committing the offence to Stop and Cease Fire. With the gun pointed safely down range, it shall be unloaded, verified unloaded by both the participant and the Safety Officer, the slide or cylinder closed, hammer dropped, and holstered. The participant shall immediately go to a Safe Area, case the gun, and place it inside the vehicle that the participant arrived in. The Safety Officer may ask that another Safety Officer or other designee accompany the disqualified participant until the gun is safely placed in the vehicle.

A disqualified participant shall receive no score for the match and no refund of match fees is given.

If any person has been disqualified from two or more matches in a six month time period, the Match Director or the GGC Board of Directors may refuse to allow that person to compete in a CPSL match.

CPSL operates a Cold Range. Except when directed by the Safety Officer to Load and Make Ready, all handguns shall be unloaded, magazine removed, hammer down, and remain holstered. Except when directed by the Safety Officer to Load and Make Ready, long guns shall be unloaded, action open, and pointed in a safe direction. When possible, long guns should be placed in a rack when not in use. The carrying of a gun by means of a sling that permits the muzzle to swing freely is prohibited.

Safe Areas are designated by a yellow sign stating "Safe Area, No Ammo Allowed". Shooters may case, uncase, check, and handle guns in this area only. Guns shall remain pointed in a safe direction and handling minimized. The handling of ammunition in a Safe Area is prohibited.

CPSL utilizes the 180 degree rule. When shooting a stage of a match, the muzzle of the gun shall remain pointed safely down range of the 180 degree plane. The 180 degree plane is a vertical plane running through the shooter from one side of the range to the other, perpendicular to an imaginary line from the center of the down range end to the center of the up range end.

A Negligent Discharge (also known as an Accidental Discharge) is the unintentional firing of a round of ammunition. A Negligent Discharge shall result

in an immediate Cease Fire and Disqualification of the participant. Any round that leaves the range over a berm is a Negligent Discharge.

Safe gun handling being of utmost importance, the dropping of a gun or other loss of control of a gun and it's muzzle direction, whether the gun is loaded or not, shall result in immediate Disqualification of the participant.

## **Safety – General**

### **Eye and Ear Protection Must Be Properly Worn.**

Anyone inside a bay during shooting will wear eye and ear protection. If you can see a shooter or target while outside the bays, eye protection will be worn. Eye and ear protection will be worn as intended, not on top of the head or hanging around the neck. Shatter resistant prescription eyeglasses are acceptable eye protection.

**The use of alcohol or other intoxicants before or during the handling of firearms is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

### **All Guns Must Function Safely and Correctly.**

Any gun that appears to be in unsafe operating condition or that regularly fails to function properly may be removed from the Match at the sole discretion of the Match Director.

**A minimum distance of 11 yards must be maintained from metallic targets.** (pepper poppers and plates).

**Only strong side holsters will be allowed.** No cross draws, shoulder or small of the back holsters will be allowed due to muzzle direction concerns. Strong side holsters may be canted.

## Competition Rules

**Competitors:** Any individual who may lawfully possess a firearm may compete in a CPSL Match. An individual between 16 and 18 years of age may compete provided a parent or legal guardian accompanies him and that parent or legal guardian is present for the duration of the Match.

All individuals competing in a Match shall sign a Greenville Gun Club Release Waiver at the time of registration at each Match.

Competitors will refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct, unfair actions, or the use of illegal equipment. The Match Director is the final authority on such violations.

The Competitor may not change position between the “Stand By” command and the starting buzzer.

Individual rehearsals of a Course of Fire and Airgunning are prohibited. (Airgunning is the act of going through the motions of firing all or portions of the Course of Fire with a hand or pointed finger instead of a firearm.)

Competitors may reload any time during a Course of Fire. Magazines, with or without ammunition, may be kept by the Competitor or discarded. Discarded magazines may be recovered and reused during the Course of Fire. It is the Competitor’s responsibility to recover his discarded magazines after he has completed the Course of Fire, and the Safety Officer has declared the range safe.

Competitors must engage threat targets in the order in which the Competitor becomes exposed to them (Competitor must “slice the pie”). Failure to engage threat targets in this order will result in a procedural penalty.

Competitors will use cover to prevent their exposure to threat targets that have not yet been engaged. Failure to adequately use cover will result in a procedural penalty.

It is the responsibility of each Competitor to keep account of his score along with the Scorekeeper. In the event that a disagreement arises in the scoring of a target, the Safety Officer’s determination shall be final.



No shooter can re-shoot a Course of Fire, or any portion thereof, as a result of a Competitor's equipment malfunction or Competitor error. Re-shoots are allowed for stage equipment malfunctions, Safety Officer interference with the shooter, or shot timer failure or incorrect use.

If a Competitor's firearm becomes unusable or unsafe, the Competitor may continue the match with another firearm. He may not reshoot the Course of Fire during which the firearm became unusable.

No Competitor may wear or use more than one firearm unless dictated by the Course of Fire.

On cardboard targets, if the outside diameter of the bullet hole's grease ring touches any part of a scoring line perforation, it will count for the value of the highest scoring zone. Elongated bullet holes in the paper exceeding four bullet diameters will not count. This normally applies to moving targets (such as drop turners) engaged at extreme angles. It can also apply to targets in which a metal target stand has been hit. When scoring, the benefit of the doubt goes to the Competitor. Scorers should keep in mind this adage: If three or more people are examining a bullet hole trying to determine if it is a Hit or a Miss, it is a Hit.

## **Equipment Rules**

**Firearms:** A CPSL Match may include the use of a variety of guns. Firearms used in CPSL matches must be in sound and safe operating condition. Fully automatic firearms or firearms equipped with devices that simulate fully automatic fire (HellFire triggers, e.g.) are prohibited.

Guns used shall comply with the following guidelines unless otherwise announced by the Match Director prior to the Match.

- **Handgun for normal competition.**

Handguns must be suitable for carrying on the person for defensive purposes. Handguns must comply with South Carolina statute 23-31-210 (6), definition of a concealable weapon, i.e., "...a firearm having a length of less than 12 inches measured along its greatest dimension..." The 12 inch dimension includes the magazine used at the start of the Course of Fire.

Handguns may be modified, however, no factory installed safety device or safety feature may be functionally modified. For example, if a pistol was originally

supplied by the factory with a magazine disconnect safety, the safety must be operational for the pistol to be used in a CPSL match.

The minimum caliber for revolvers shall be .38 Special. The minimum caliber for semi-auto handguns shall be 9mm Parabellum (Luger).

Sights shall be of the post and notch (iron or open) type. Tritium, fiber optic, and similar sights are allowed as long as they maintain a post and notch configuration. Red dot sights, holographic sights, and telescopic sights are prohibited. Laser aiming devices that project a light beam onto the target may be present on the handgun, but must be inactive (turned off).

- **Pocket Pistol or Back-up Gun.** Pocket Pistols may be rim-fire or center-fire. The maximum barrel length for a revolver is 3". The maximum barrel length for a semi-auto is 3.5". The safety and sight requirements of Handgun for normal competition shall apply.

- **Long Guns (Rifles and Shotguns)**

Long guns may be specified for a particular Course of Fire. The CPSL Monthly Newsletter for the match will contain long gun requirements. Competitors may use their choice of long gun as long as it complies with:

- All relevant requirements of these Rules
- All requirements in the Monthly Newsletter
- All Federal and State laws.

Long guns may be modified, however, no factory installed safety device or safety feature may be modified.

The Match Director is the final authority on whether a particular long gun is acceptable for the match.

**Ammunition:** Handgun and rifle ammunition is to be full power target or defensive type ammunition firing a single projectile. Factory ammunition other than “Cowboy” or other low velocity configuration is acceptable. Reloaded handgun ammunition should meet a ‘power factor’ of 125,000 for a Minor caliber (9mm, .40S&W, etc.) and 175,000 for a Major caliber.

‘Power Factor’ is defined as the Bullet Weight (grains) multiplied by Velocity (fps).

Shotgun ammunition shall be target loads of a shot size not larger than 7 ½ or slugs as specified by the Match Director.

**Holsters:** Any holster used during a Match shall be a concealment type holster worn on the strong side hip. Belt holsters are to worn on the trouser belt except law enforcement officers who wish to compete with their duty belt including flashlight and handcuffs. Holsters shall hold the handgun at belt level and close to the body. Paddle and Inside the Waistband holsters are acceptable. Shoulder, cross draw, and small of the back holsters are not permitted.

Straps, flaps, and other retention devices that are part of a holster or magazine pouch are to be secured at the start of each stage.

## **Procedures**

At the beginning of a stage, a shooting order will be called out 3 or 4 at a time. When your name is called as “on deck” please be ready to step up to the firing line when the shooter before you is finished. New shooters will not be asked to go first.

At the firing line, insure that no one is downrange and the Range Officer will do the same. You will be asked if you understand the “Course of Fire”. If you have a question, ask the RO at this time. You will then be given the command to “Load

and Make Ready”. DO NOT draw your gun until the command has been given. At the command, face downrange, draw and load the gun (to capacity unless otherwise instructed), chamber a round, and holster the gun. You will be asked if you are ready. If ready, respond by nodding. Within a few seconds, the RO will sound a beep from the timer and you may begin the stage.

When you are through shooting, remove the magazine, rack the slide and lock it open. Inspect the chamber and magazine well to insure the gun is unloaded. It is Your responsibility to be sure the gun is unloaded. Allow the RO to inspect the gun. He will then instruct you to drop the slide, drop the hammer, and holster the gun. Once holstered, the range will be declared safe.

If, while shooting, you have a safety issue, cannot clear a jam safely and quickly, or have any other equipment problems, STOP and inform the RO of the problem. If you suspect a bullet stuck in the barrel, a target does not activate as it should, or have any other problem, you will be allowed a re-shoot. We would rather stop and re-shoot the stage than risk any safety issue.

The Range Officer may call out to you while shooting. These calls may be “Reload” or “Bullets” if he sees you do not realize the gun is empty. “Jam” in case you don’t realize a malfunction, or “Finger” as a warning to keep your finger outside the trigger guard.

### Scoring

We utilize a rather simple scoring system. Shots in the A, B, or C zones are considered hits. Shots in the D zone are misses. Misses and all other penalties are ten (10) seconds. You may be penalized for not following the course of fire, failure to use cover, etc. Any penalty will be brought to your attention before the next shooter loads.

### Courtesy and Misc.

**We ask that you help pick up brass and return it to the shooter and help paste targets once they have been scored. We ask these things to help the Match run smoothly and quickly.**

**Remember that accuracy counts and speed will come with experience. Always be mindful of “Safety First”.**