

Police Pistol



Combat

Reference

Material found in this manual was researched through the following Associations.

1. National Rifle Association - United States of America
2. Ontario Handgun Association - Canada
3. Police Revolver Clubs Of Ontario - Canada
4. Canadian Police Combat Association - Canada

Objectives

Given lectures, demonstration, handouts and practical exercises, the shooter will be able to:

1. explain the rules of Police Pistol Combat;
2. explain the courses of fire for the 600 and 1500 matches;
3. demonstrate safe handling of firearms;
4. demonstrate their knowledge of the 600 course of fire by shooting a match with only the safety commands being given;
5. meet the Ontario Handgun Association/Police Revolver Clubs Of Ontario standard for the written exam

as evaluated by the instructor.

POLICE PISTOL COMBAT

P.P.C. COURSE INFORMATION

1) This is a "club level" P.P.C. course designed to qualify the shooter in Police Pistol Combat shooting. This outline is a guide for instructors and shooters alike.

2) The course teaches a combination of safety and proficiency. The shooter has to be safe at the normal speeds required for Police Pistol Combat competition. The course is designed to develop safety and proficiency in a progression. The shooter has to learn by doing while being supervised by the instructor, and through practice.

3) Knowing what is safe is not enough. Without instruction and supervision the shooter will not realise the things s/he is doing which might be unsafe. The instructor must catch unsafe actions at the earliest stage and drill the appropriate responses into the shooter so that all his/her actions will be reflexive. At the end of this course the shooter will be safe and proficient enough to have fun competing.

4) New shooters are those who have gone through a club level safety course, have been approved by the club for target shooting, have been shooting for a minimum of one year, and have been approved for a P.P.C. course.

5) When the new shooters finish the course, they will be qualified to shoot P.P.C. matches at their club only. For competition certification the shooter must then complete both the written and the practical O.H.A. P.P.C. certification tests.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

There are three basic principles in successful P.P.C. shooting:

- Safety (muzzle control, trigger finger, use of various safety devices);
- The fundamentals of shooting;
- The draw.

SAFETY RULES

There are four basic safety rules:

- Treat all guns as loaded;
- Never point the firearm at anything the shooter is not willing to shoot at;
- Keep the trigger finger off the trigger until the shooter is on the target and ready to shoot the target;
- Be sure of where the bullet is going to end up.

In addition to the four basic safety rules, there are other rules for safety. These safety rules also involve safe gun handling, the shooter's personal protection, and the protection of others on the range. The following are areas which will be discussed in this manual and on the course.

- The unboxing or uncasing of the firearm.
- The carry of the firearm behind the active line.
- The carry and use of the firearm on the active line.
- The boxing or casing of the firearm.
- Eye and ear protection.

Notes:

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

HOLSTERS:¹

1) A conventional right or left hand holster must be used.. Under N.R.A. rules, the following holsters are not allowed:

- a) shoulder holsters;
- b) cross-draw holsters;
- c) any holster which requires releasing by insertion of finger within the trigger guard.

2) The holster should be such that the shooter can get a firm grip on the firearm with the strong hand without moving the gun in the holster. Ideally the shooter should not have to change his/her grip after the gun has started to move.

3) The holster must sit on the belt so that once the hand is dropped onto the gun, a firm grip can be obtained.

4) The firearm should fit snugly into the holster so that no movement within the holster occurs.

5) There is a tendency for a shooter with a backward draw holster to try to treat them as a forward draw holster wearing it ahead of the hip line. If they want to wear the holster ahead of the hip line it should be either a forward draw holster, or a holster which is positioned straight up and down.

N.B. Holsters used for the self loading pistols are required to cover the trigger guard as per NRA rules.

Notes:

¹ The instructor should have a of several types of holsters along with speed loader/magazine pouches. A variety of speed loaders should also be on hand with an explanation on the differences between them which would include the pros and cons.

SPEED LOADER AND MAGAZINE POUCHES

- 1) Speed loader pouches should be of a design that holds the loader firmly yet allows the shooter to get a proper grip and remove them easily.
- 2) Magazine pouches should be cut low enough to ensure that the shooter gets a proper grip on the magazine. The pouch can be worn either in the vertical or horizontal position. When in the vertical position, the front of the magazine should be pointing towards the centre of the body. In the horizontal position, the front of the magazine should be pointing up.
- 3) If the shooter intends to use speed loaders for the revolver, will be required to have a minimum of 3 speed loaders and pouches. The self loader will require a minimum of 4 magazines, along with the pouch to carry them. More of each will make the job easier.

FIREARM

- 1) The double action **revolver** must be chambered to fire centre-fire cartridges .32 cal. or larger, and have a barrel length not exceeding 6 inches. Sights may be fixed or adjustable. The front sight must not extend beyond the muzzle. The maximum sight radius is 8.5 inches. Sight guards may extend rearward no more than 2 inches. Hooded or telescopic sights are prohibited. The double action revolver that also has single action capability must have a minimum trigger pull of 2.5 pounds when tested in the single action mode
- 2) The centre-fire **self loading pistol** of 32 cal. or larger, and have a barrel length not exceeding 5 inches. Rear sights may be fixed or adjustable. Front sights must be open, fixed, and may not extend past the front of the slide. Trigger pull must be at least 3.5 pounds single action.
- 3) The **Service Revolver** requires a revolver capable of chambering and firing standard 158-grain lead, .38 special service load. The revolver must have single and double action capability. Fixed front sight and fixed or adjustable rear sight. Barrel length must not exceed 4 inches.
- 4) The **Snub Nose Revolver** requires a revolver capable of chambering and firing standard 158-grain, .38 special service load. Barrel length not to exceed 2 and 3/4 inches if the rear sight is adjustable. If the sights are fixed or "iron sights, the maximum barrel length is 3 inches.
- 5) Specifically prohibited are:
 - a) Trigger shoes;
 - b) Any system of recoil control to include compensators, barrel venting or barrel porting.

N.B. Shooters must check the individual match fliers for which firearm is allowed for that particular competition.

REVOLVER & PISTOL SAFETY CHECK

This section is directed to the instructor.

Revolver:

- 1) The transfer bar or hammer block should work. Have the shooter check this by cocking the revolver, pressing the trigger while holding the hammer, releasing the trigger and slowly lowering the hammer. When working properly, there is no firing pin protrusion. **Ensure the firearm is unloaded before conducting the check, still pointing it in a safe direction!**
- 2) The timing should be acceptable, i.e. the chambers should lock and line up with the barrel as the shooter rotates the cylinder by pressing the trigger double action. **First check for an unloaded firearm, remembering to point in a safe direction!**
- 3) The cylinder should not have excessive end shake. This is checked by first ensuring the revolver is unloaded. Then, with the cylinder closed and pointing the revolver in a safe direction, dry fire once, keeping the trigger pulled fully to the rear. While doing this, grasp the cylinder and attempt to move it forwards and backwards. Some movement is fine, but if there is a lot, the revolver requires some repair.

If the firearm fails any of the above checks, advise the shooter to take the firearm to a qualified armourer or gunsmith for repairs as soon as possible.

Self loader:

- 1) The safety must work so that the hammer does not drop when the trigger is firmly pressed with the safety on. **Ensure the firearm is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction!**
- 2) The hammer must not drop when the shooter firmly presses the trigger while the safety is on. **Ensure the firearm is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction!**
- 3) If equipped, the grip safety must work. **Ensure the firearm is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction!**
- 4) The disconnecter must work. Test this by pressing the trigger when the shooter has the slide back about 1/16". This will vary depending on the firearm being used. The hammer must not fall. **Ensure the firearm is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction!**
- 5) Safety checks on other types of pistols will have to be done according to the design of

Should the self loader fail any of the above checks, advise the shooter to take the firearm to a qualified armourer or gunsmith as soon as possible.

AMMUNITION - Centre Fire

1) **Revolver:** Either hand loaded or factory ammunition .32 calibre or larger may be used. No high speed or magnum ammunition will be allowed. All ammunition must be loaded to produce sufficient velocity to pass through the target **AND** the backer. Shots which do not pass through the backer will be scored as misses.

2) **Self loader:** Either hand loaded or factory ammunition .32 calibre or larger may be used.

Check the match flier for more information as to the allowed ammunition. Some ranges will allow jacketed ammo due to manufacturer recommendations for the self-loaders.

TARGETS

1) The **B27** and **B27E** targets are used for police pistol combat competitions at the standard distances; 7,15,25 and 50 yards.

2) The **B29** target is a reduced **B27** target for shooting the 25 and 50 yard stages at 50 feet.

3) The **B34** target is put at 25 yards, simulating a **B27** target at 50 yards.

BEHIND THE LINE

1) Unboxing:

1] The shooter comes onto the range with the firearm either boxed or cased. There should be a safety area on the range with a table and a specified safe direction. The shooter goes to this safety area and unboxes/uncases the firearm, checks it and holsters it. From then on the shooter does not touch it unless called to the active line and given commands by the range officer or unless s/he goes back to the safety area.

2] **NO** ammunition is to be handled in the safety area.

3] When the shooter first uncases the firearm at the safety area s/he should check his/her firearm and then holster it. The check should be:

- a] Point the firearm in the specified safe direction at the safety table.
- b] Open the cylinder or remove the magazine.
- c] Rack the slide, then physically and visually inspect the chamber and magazine well.
- d] Check the bore visually for obstructions. (could use a barrel rod, etc. to perform this task.)
- e] In the case of a self-loader, drop the hammer in the approved manner, as explained by the manufacturer, while the firearm is pointed in the safe direction.
- f] Holster the empty firearm.

2) Carry behind the active line:

- 1] The **revolver** is carried in the holster with the hammer down, the cylinder closed and **unloaded**.
- 2] The **self loader** is carried in the holster with the slide forward, the magazine out and the firearm **unloaded**.
- 3] The shooter does not take his/her firearm out of the holster behind the line or otherwise handle it unless s/he goes to the safety area.
- 4] It should be stressed to the shooter that when behind or on the shooting line, the holster is one of the most effective safety devices available. Nothing can happen to a firearm while it is in the holster and the shooter is not handling it.

3) *Boxing*²

The shooter cannot leave the firing line until permission to do so has been given. That means the command to holster has been given and the line has been declared safe. The shooter returns to the safety table with the case, unholsters the firearm and cases it, all the while making sure the firearm is pointed only in the specified safe direction.

LOADING SPEED LOADERS/MAGAZINES

After the shooter has holstered his/her firearm at the safety table and has moved away, s/he can charge his/her speed loaders or magazines. S/he must not put rounds in the cylinder or a magazine in the pistol until ordered to do so on the firing line.

NO ammunition may be handled in the safety area.

COMMANDS

When the shooter comes to the active line, s/he will be given the command "With six rounds, load and holster". (All magazines for self loaders are loaded with only 6 rounds.)

The shooter must remember that safety is absolutely essential.

The shooter should know that an accidental discharge could put him/her on the sidelines for the rest of the match or result in a suspension for one or more matches or permanently, depending on the circumstances.

The shooter will be exposed to the following range commands:

- 1) Shooters to the line;
- 2) Greetings on behalf of the host, explanation of the rules;
- 3) Preparation time begins now (usually one minute);

² **Instructor note:** At this point set up a safety area with safety table and safe direction and review with each shooter the appropriate way to wear the holster. Have her/him holster the firearm. The shooters can wear their firearms for the rest of the session, using the safety area at the end of the session to box the firearms.

The shooter must never charge speed loaders or magazines or otherwise handle ammunition in the safety area.

- 4) With 6 rounds, load and holster;
- 5) Is the line ready? Three second pause;
- 6) The line is ready! Three second pause, the shooter is now in the ready position;
- 7) Whistle or signal to draw and fire;
- 8) Whistle or signal to stop firing;
- 9) Present the gun for inspection, unload, and holster an empty gun;
- 10) The range is clear (or safe);
- 11) Police the brass and prepare for the next stage or that completes the competition.

Notes:

TRIGGER FINGER

- 1) This is a very important safety device
- 2) The trigger finger is never on the trigger except when the firearm is on the target and the shooters are ready to shoot.
- 3) When the shooter lowers the firearm off the target, the finger comes out of the trigger guard.
- 4) A good point of reference for the trigger finger is on the frame just above the trigger guard.

MUZZLE DIRECTION

- 1) The shooter must not lower the firearm and let it dangle in his/her hands pointing down, or elevate the muzzle so that the firearm points upward except when emptying the cylinder.
- 2) It is absolutely necessary that the muzzle be pointed down range when shooting, when loading and unloading (see exception regarding the cylinder), when standing and holding the firearm for inspection and when clearing malfunctions.

THE SHOOTING LINE

- 1) The shooter must stand firm on the line. Movement on the line that is not in response to specific range commands could be dangerous. The shooter may turn around with the firearm in his/her hand to speak to or listen to the Range Officer or others on the line and in doing so may sweep the muzzle across the other shooters on the line. This is a **major breach of safety** and may result in removal from the shooting line.
- 2) After holstering the empty gun, the shooter must stand fast until further instructions are given. That will occur only when the range master gives the command "range is clear."

Notes:

MALFUNCTIONS

Malfunctions may occur from time to time while shooting. A shooter who properly prepares to go shooting will have less chance of a malfunction occurring. Before shooting, check to see that all ammunition is clean and properly assembled. When cleaning the firearm, check to see if any parts are getting worn or cracked and if such is the case, take it to a qualified armourer or gunsmith for repairs.

- 1) On the **revolver**, check the cylinder release, the extractor rod, the star of the ejector, and the screws holding the side plate.
- 2) On the **self-loader**, parts to inspect include; the slide lock, the firing pin and the firing pin stop, the extractor, the ejector and the magazine release button.

Revolver³

- 1) A loose extractor rod can be a time costing type of problem because it will prevent the cylinder from being opened. This problem is corrected by carefully turning the extractor rod. Remember, on the newer Smith & Wesson models, the thread on the extractor rod is left handed. Check with a qualified armourer or gunsmith before performing this repair. Better yet, have them do it.
- 2) Another simple problem is caused by not closing the cylinder properly and this is indicated by the fact that the cylinder will not turn nor will the trigger move back. Check for dirt under the extractor or the crane (yoke), then close the cylinder and continue to fire.

Self loader

There are four malfunctions that can occur on the self-loader and knowing how to clear them quickly will allow the shooter to continue the exercise. If the shooters get a malfunction, they are expected to clear the problem **safely** and continue shooting.

The four malfunctions are:

- fail to fire;
- fail to extract;
- fail to eject;
- fail to feed (e.g. a magazine not seated properly). The shooter *must* be conversant with how to clear these malfunctions.

³ The instructor should demonstrate for the shooters how to check for these problems, and how to correct them.

N.B. The shooter must learn to recognise the distinctive sound of a primer detonating without igniting powder and the absence of recoil. This is commonly called a squib load, and can occur in any type of firearm.

Notes:

CEASE FIRE

This is either a verbal command or sharp repeated blasts of a whistle. The shooter will make the firearm safe and holster. The shooter will then wait for further instructions. While the shooters are awaiting further commands, their hands must stay away from their firearms at all times.

WITH SIX ROUNDS

On the command "With six rounds, load and holster" the shooter will:

Revolver:⁴

- 1) Unholster the revolver
- 2) Point it down range with the trigger finger anchored along the frame
- 3) Using strong hand thumb, activate the cylinder release
- 4) Transfer revolver to support hand, fingers through frame cradling the cylinder,
- 5) Shift muzzle direction from down range to downwards
- 6) Load six rounds either with a speed loader or loose rounds
- 7) Close cylinder
- 8) Holster.

UNTIL THE SHOOTER IS READY TO SHOOT, THE TRIGGER FINGER STAYS OUTSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD AT ALL TIMES!

Notes:

⁴ Transfer revolver to support hand, fingers through frame cradling the cylinder. This is for a right handed shooter. The instructor should demonstrate the left handed method as well.

Self loader:

- 1) Unholster the pistol
- 2) Point it down range with strong hand on the stock and trigger finger anchored along the side of the frame
- 3) Insert a magazine containing six rounds with the support hand
- 4) Lock the elbow, arm extended, muzzle pointed down range
- 5) Pinch the slide between thumb and index finger using the rear most slide serrations
- 6) Pull and release the slide. This movement allows the slide to go forward, pushing the top cartridge in the magazine into the chamber, (movement is similar to a sling shot action). An alternative method is to depress the slide lock lever to allow the slide to go forward, loading a live round into the chamber
- 7) Apply the safety or decocker lever if outfitted with one
- 8) Holster the pistol

UNTIL READY TO SHOOT, THE TRIGGER FINGER MUST STAY OUTSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD!

Notes:

PRESENTING THE FIREARM FOR INSPECTION

At the end of a shooting stage, the shooter is required to present the firearm for inspection by the range officer

With a revolver, after the shooter has completed the stage, the shooter will

- 1) Facing down range, activate the cylinder release
- 2) Swing the cylinder out
- 3) Transfer the revolver to the support hand, with the fingers through the frame cradling the cylinder, (instructor to demonstrate the left handed method)
- 4) Keeping the muzzle pointed down range, turn the body 90 degrees to the right
- 5) Stand in this position until a range officer has inspected the shooter's brass to verify that all shots have been fired and issues the command to holster the empty firearm
- 6) Turn to face down range and holster the empty firearm.

With the self loader, after completing the stage, the shooter will:

- 1) Have fired the last shot and the slide should have locked open. If it hasn't, the shooter will lock the slide in the open position (have a qualified armourer or gunsmith affect repairs at the earliest)
- 2) Remove the magazine
- 3) Keeping the muzzle pointed down range, turn 90 degrees to the right and wait for the range officer to inspect the firearm
- 4) Turn to face down range, allow the slide to go forward and place hammer down
- 5) Holster the empty firearm.

DANGERS WHEN HOLSTERING

- 1) Be careful of muzzle direction
- 2) The shooter should pivot his/her body to face squarely down range when holstering
- 3) Do not point the muzzle back to find the holster. Keeping the muzzle pointed down range, bring the firearm back until the muzzle will drop into the holster, then tip the firearm forward and insert into the holster

NOTES:

FUNDAMENTALS OF SHOOTING

The fundamentals of shooting are broken down into four areas. They are:

GRIP
STANCE
SIGHT ALIGNMENT/SIGHT PICTURE
TRIGGER CONTROL

The other areas to be considered are:

BREATHING FOLLOW THROUGH RHYTHM

GRIP

When grasping the grip of the firearm, it should be done in a manner similar to a firm handshake. The only pressure required is enough to secure the firearm so that it can be steadied on the target. The support hand is just that, support. The support hand should not be exerting any pressure on the strong hand, otherwise it will interfere with the manipulation of the trigger.

STANCE

There are two stances that can be used, and it is up to the shooter to determine which is the most effective. The first is the **isosceles stance**. The shooter is standing, facing the target with both arms stretched out towards it. The firearm is pointed at the target in this manner. A draw back to this position is during the discharge of the firearm, the shooter must ensure he/she has good balance, leaning slightly forward. The next method is the **weaver stance**. The shooter is standing at a 45 degree angle from the target. The support arm is bent at the elbow, while the strong arm is slightly bent as well. This stance is very steady, but the drawback is that some people put too much of an angle into this, making it extremely uncomfortable.

SIGHT ALIGNMENT/SIGHT PICTURE

In order to align the sights properly, the top of the front sight must be flush with the top of the back sight. The front post is sitting in the middle of the channel of the rear sight so that there is equal light on either side of the front sight. The focus is then placed on the front sight, leaving the target and the rear sight a blur. It is important not to peek at the target while shooting as it disrupts the critical focus established on the front sight.

TRIGGER CONTROL

Trigger control is the controlled pull of the trigger straight to the rear until the hammer breaks free and falls forward striking the firing pin. This in turn will cause the round to discharge.

Control of breathing while shooting is a learned response. Control of breathing not only depends upon the capability of the individual shooter, it is also dependant upon the shooter being properly aligned with the target, i.e. the height of the target. If the shooter and the firearm aren't in proper alignment with the target, the stress in the upper body will interfere with the natural breathing cycle. Control of breathing is performed by extending the pause which occurs between the end of the exhale cycle and the beginning of the next inhale cycle. The pause between the cycles should not be any more the 6 to 8 seconds. More than that may result in unwanted muscle tension, and possibly deterioration of vision.

Rhythm fits into this also. Establish a smooth rhythm with the breathing and trigger control and the shooter will be able to control the firearm more efficiently. Follow through is when the shooter pull the trigger and maintain the point of aim without peaking or moving the firearm off the target.

THE DRAW⁵

This is a sequence of events from the firearm in the holster to the first shot fired. This is best taught in a step-by-step sequence.

⁵ The **instructor** should watch for and correct a tendency to swing up past the target and lower the firearm back down onto the target. If the shooter understands that there is no swing and that the firearm is punched to a position exactly on target s/he will master it.

The **instructor** should also watch for and correct a tendency to scoop the muzzle of the firearm down from where it just clears leather and up again instead of a straight punch out towards the target.

It should be stressed that there is a slight pause while the shooter gets his/her grip on the grip of the firearm. When the draw commences, the shooter should have a proper shooting grip. Without the proper grip, the rest of the draw will not properly follow.

The **instructor** should stress the position of the support hand in the first step. It should be an automatic positioning so that the two hands can come together quickly and that the support hand does not have to chase the strong hand.

- a) The shooter's strong hand grasps the stock of the firearm, coming up from the bottom. The second, third and fourth fingers come up on the stock with the middle finger hitting the trigger guard. S/he has the correct shooting grip on the stock with the trigger finger straight down the side of the holster under the gun barrel.
- b) The support hand moves forward of the centre of the stomach with the fingers together, extended and the palm vertical. The palm is about 8" out from the stomach. The position of the support hand is in line with the push out of the strong hand towards the target so there is no change in the push out line. Trial and error will determine the right position for each shooter.
- c) The pistol is drawn out with the muzzle just clear of the holster with the shooter's support hand remaining in its previous position. When the muzzle is just clear of the holster and is lifted to point down range.
- d) The shooter commences to push his/her firearm towards the support hand where the two hands will come together. The muzzle of the pistol never goes below a line from where it just clears the holster to its position when the shot is fired
- e) The shooter's hands come together with power in the support and strong hands. The support hand fingers are over the strong hand fingers and the support hand thumb is over the strong hand thumb.
- f) The push out continues. The trigger finger is placed into the trigger guard once the target is acquired and the shooter is ready to shoot.
- g) The shooter is focused on the front sight for the correct sight picture.

RELOADING DURING THE COURSE OF FIRE⁶

- 1) The reloading sequence should be as follows

Revolvers (speed loaders)

- Lower the revolver and bring it close to the body by pivoting from the shoulders, not the elbows.
- Simultaneously:

⁶ The **instructor** should demonstrate the magazine change for self-loaders and the speed loaders for the revolver.

- a) Tilt the revolver to the left about 30 degrees.
 - b) Pivot the body to the right so that the revolver will continue to point down range. The feet should remain in position.
 - c) Rotate the revolver to the right. Cradle the cylinder with the support thumb and second and third fingers. The strong thumb operates the cylinder release latch. The cylinder is pressed open with the impact being cushioned by the cradle grip.
- Simultaneously:
 - a) Twist the left hand so that the muzzle is vertical and the brass will drop straight down out of the cylinder (let gravity help all it can). Punch the extractor rod vigorously with the left thumb. If the round closest to the frame catches, rotate the cylinder with the support thumb and punch the extractor rod again.
 - b) The strong hand reaches for the speed loader.
 - Lower the support elbow into the body and point the muzzle as straight down as possible. The support thumb is moved from the extractor rod back to the cylinder and holds the cylinder fully open. The revolver is controlled at this point by the thumb and the second and third fingers of the support hand. Apply the speed loader by lining up two of the rounds with two of the chambers. Release the rounds in the speed loader and close the cylinder with the support hand.
 - Raise the revolver and assume the appropriate stance.

Self loaders (magazine changes)

Simultaneously:

- The support hand goes to the fresh magazine and takes the required grip
- The strong hand brings the firearm back closer to the body and the strong hand grip is shifted so that the strong thumb rests on top of the magazine release. The muzzle should not be raised. Release the magazine.

Simultaneously:

- The magazine well is tilted slightly to the left side.
- Using the index finger at the front of the magazine as a guide, the back of the magazine is inserted at the back of the magazine well. The support hand aligns the magazine properly.
- The magazine is pushed firmly into place using the heel of the support hand.
- Close the slide.
- The shooter's left hand proceeds immediately onto the grip.
- The shooter picks up the front sight and prepares for the next shot.

It must be stressed that during the magazine sequence that the **trigger finger stays outside** the trigger guard at all times until ready to shoot.

- If the magazine does not drop immediately but sticks part way out, the shooter can use the little finger of the support hand to whisk out the magazine. S/he will have the fresh magazine in the support hand at the same time so s/he will not have to change the grip.

Some stock pistols such as the Glock, Browning and CZ75 may require that the magazine be stripped from the pistol with the support hand before going for the fresh magazine on the belt.

Notes:

POSITIONS⁷

STANDING UNSUPPORTED

The standing unsupported position is used at the 7, 15, and 25 yard positions. There is no support allowed. NRA rule 5.10.

KNEELING

- 1) When the command to shoot has been given, the gun is drawn and the shooter then adopts the kneeling position.
- 2) The shooter adopts the position, shifting the body if necessary.
- 3) Assume the shooting grip
- 4) Fire the shot sequence
- 5) Stand up keeping the muzzle forward of the body during this manoeuvre.
- 8) Reload.

Notes:

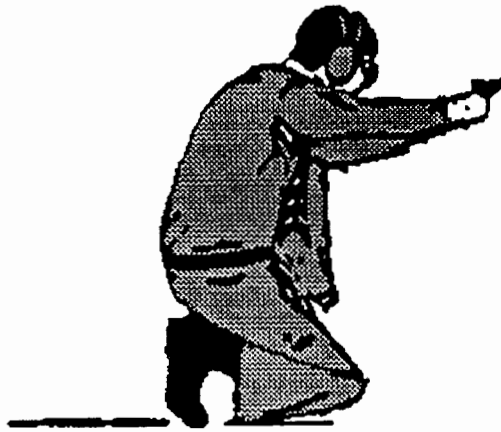
⁷ The instructor should demonstrate the various positions, then have the shooters practice using unloaded firearms. Ensure they are unloaded, and pointed in a safe direction.



(fig. 1, kneeling)



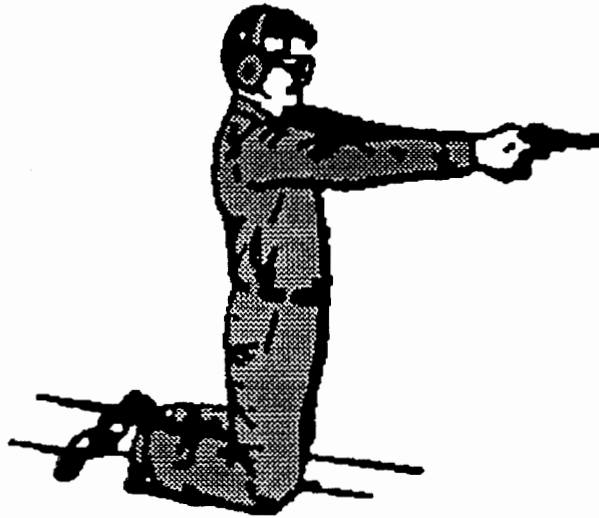
(fig. 2)



(fig. 3, note foot placement)



(fig. 4, foot placement)



(fig. 5, can also lean back onto feet.)

BARRICADES⁸

The intention of shooting around either the left or right barricade is to simulate shooting from cover. With this in mind, there are the barricade line rules, which are:

With the barricade in place, the leading edge of the left hand barricade extended rearward perpendicular to the barricade is the line which the shooter's feet must not cross.

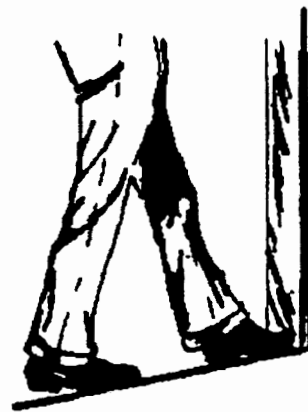
- The same is true of the right hand barricade

When shooting barricades:

- The shooter leads with the outside leg
- The inside leg is in position to balance the shooter so the shooter will not fall over.



(fig. 6)



(fig. 6a)

⁸ Instructor demonstrate the use of the barricade - right and left handed.

LEFT HAND BARRICADE

After reloading the shooter must transfer the firearm from his strong hand to his/her support hand. The sequence is as follows.

- 1) When the firearm is pointing down range at the target, the shooter anchors his/her trigger finger along the side of the frame and then passes the firearm to the left hand.
- 2) The left thumb slides under the right thumb as the right thumb slides away from the stock.
- 3) The last part of the right hand to leave the gun are the 3 fingers off the front of the stock as they are replaced by the corresponding fingers of the left hand and the index finger off the side of the frame.
- 4) The last part of the exchange involves the left hand trigger finger going into the trigger guard as the firearm comes up on target on the left side of the barricade and the right hand takes up the support on top of the right hand.

There will likely be an unintentional discharge if the trigger finger is not kept out of the trigger guard during the exchange.

RIGHT HAND BARRICADE

After firing six shots, the shooter transfers the firearm from the left hand back to the right hand. The sequence is the same when changing from left hand to right hand as it was when changing from right hand to left hand.

The shooter then

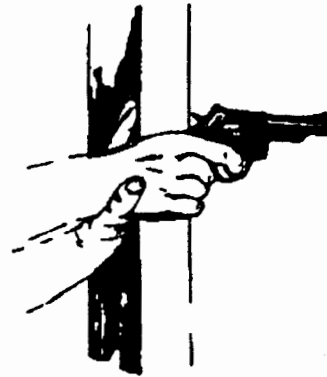
- 1) Reloads.
- 2) Shifts foot position.
- 3) Brings the firearm up to engage the target on the right side of the barricade. The firearm cannot come in contact with the barricade.

4) The left hand may use the barricade for additional support, but the disadvantage of doing so is recoil management is difficult, and may result in a change in the point of impact.

5) After engaging the target with the final six shots the shooter presents the firearm for inspection.



(fig. 7)



(fig.8)

LINE RULES

The forward safety line is always used. The use of the barricade line rules are optional and is at the decision of the host club.

Notes:

SITTING⁹

- 1) Load six rounds and holster
 - 2) Draw
 - 3) When the firearm clears the holster, the gun is pushed out from the body so the firearm is always pointed in a safe direction - down range. Lower the body straight down to the point where the support hand can be placed on the ground for support. Rock backwards to place the buttocks firmly on the ground with the strong knee rising to a comfortable height and the strong foot flat on the ground.
 - 4) The support foot is placed behind the strong foot.
 - 5) ASSUME A TWO HANDED GRIP ON THE FIREARM.
 - 6) Lower the arms over the top of the strong knee with the firearm in front of the knee.
 - 7) Lean back and use the front of the knee for support.
 - 8) Fire six rounds.
 - 9) Reload.
- See the following diagrams for alternative positions.

⁹ The instructor is to demonstrate the different sitting positions, pointing out safety considerations necessary for each method.



(fig. 9)



(fig. 10)



(fig. 10a)

PRONE¹⁰

- 1) While still in the sitting position ensuring finger is out of the trigger guard, extend firearm forward in a one hand grip
- 2) Swing feet to one side and pivot on the buttock to bring legs to the rear
- 3) Proceed to go prone and slither the right hand forward onto the ground
- 4) Assume the shooting grip
- 5) Make a fist with the edge of the support hand on the ground supporting the strong hand and the firearm
- 6) At this point check the angle of the body and the support knee to get the most secure and comfortable position from which the shooter can focus on the front sight. Ensure the body is straight on with the target so as not to interfere with the other shooter(s).
- 7) Swing the support foot back, roll over on the support side and swing the support foot over the strong knee
- 8) Focus on the front sight and fire six rounds
- 9) Helping the with the support hand, stand up with the firearm in the right hand pointing down range. The trigger finger is outside the trigger guard and anchored along the side of the frame.
- 10) Reload and commence shooting the left hand barricade portion of the stage.¹¹

Notes:

¹⁰ The instructor is to demonstrate how the prone position can be applied, pointing out the proper set up so as not to interfere with other shooters.

¹¹ These steps are repeated until the **instructor** is satisfied that the shooter has the sequence down properly, and so that at no time during the standing up is the muzzle pointed in an unsafe direction.

The support hand and arm must not be swept while the shooter is going prone.

(fig. 11)



(fig. 12)



(fig. 13)



COURSES OF FIRE

There are two common courses of fire. The 600 and 1500 matches. The 600 match is usually fired twice for a total maximum aggregate of 1200.

600 Match

Stage 1: 12 rounds in 20 seconds, standing unsupported, using a B27 target at 7 yards

Stage 2: 18 rounds in 90 seconds. 6 rounds kneeling, 6 rounds left hand left hand barricade, 6 rounds right hand right hand barricade, using a B27 target at 25 yards

Stage 3: 6 rounds in 12 seconds, standing unsupported, using a B27 target at 25 yards

Stage 4: 24 rounds in 2 minutes and 45 seconds. 6 rounds sitting, 6 rounds prone, 6 rounds left hand left hand barricade, 6 rounds right hand right hand barricade using a B34 target at 25 yards

Total rounds fired = 60, total possible score = 600

Notes:

1500 Match

Match 1, Stage 1: 12 rounds in 20 seconds, standing unsupported using a B27 target at 7 yards

Match 1, Stage 2: 12 rounds in 20 seconds, standing unsupported using a B27 target at 15 yards

Match 2: 18 rounds in 90 seconds. 6 rounds kneeling, 6 rounds left hand left hand barricade, 6 rounds right hand right hand barricade, using a B27 target at 25 yards

Match 3: 24 rounds in 2 minutes and 45 seconds. 6 rounds sitting, 6 rounds prone, 6 rounds left hand left hand barricade, 6 rounds right hand right hand barricade, using a B34 target at 25 yards

Match 4, Stage 1: 12 rounds in 35 seconds, standing unsupported using a B27 target at 25 yards

Match 4, Stage 2: 12 rounds in 35 seconds, standing unsupported using a B27 target at 25 yards

Match 5a, Stage 1: 12 rounds in 20 seconds, standing unsupported using a B27 target at 7 yards

Match 5a, Stage 2: 18 rounds in 90 seconds, 6 rounds kneeling, 6 rounds left hand left hand barricade, 6 rounds right hand right hand barricade, using a B27 target at 25 yards

Match 5a, Stage 3: 6 rounds in 12 seconds, standing unsupported using a B27 target at 25 yards

N.B.: Stage 3 is fired at this time only if the 1500 match is fired on a 25 yard range using the B34 target to simulate 50 yards. Otherwise, the 6 rounds in 12 seconds would take place after the 50 yard segment.

Match 5b: 24 rounds in 2 minutes and 45 seconds. 6 rounds sitting, 6 rounds prone, 6 rounds left hand left hand barricade, 6 rounds right hand right hand barricade using a B34 target at 25 yards

500 match

Scoring

SCORER: After you've finished shooting, you and the rest of the competitors will go to the scoring area. This area is under the control of the chief referee. The targets will be set up in order of position, i.e. 1, 2.... Use the top right corner of the target for the initial scoring. If you make a mistake, you won't have to make the corrections on the score card. Once you are satisfied you've completed scoring the target, copy the information onto the score card. Ensure you print clearly so that anyone checking the card can do so easily. Before you give the card to the competitor, you as the scorer must sign it.

COMPETITOR: You've just received a completed score card showing how you did on your targets. Now you should check the target to ensure all hits were counted. If you find any errors, talk to the scorer. Point out the error, and if the scorer agrees, he/she will make the change. If there is no agreement, you then challenge the score. Usually the fee for a challenge is \$2.00, but this is up to the host club.

No one uses a PLUG to score the target except for the chief referee. If a plug is used by anyone else, there will be no opportunity for challenge.

Now that you are satisfied the score is correct, sign the card and turn it in to the chief referee or his designate.

This manual has provided the basic information necessary to participate in Police Pistol Combat. What follows is a list of equipment that the shooter must have to compete in Ontario. This same list will apply to those competitors that participate in the United States.

Necessary equipment:

- firearm meeting the requirements as set out in this manual, in the N.R.A. rule book, or as allowed by the host club.
- ammunition, usually an extra 100 rounds is a good idea just in case there is a cross fire and the shooter has an opportunity to re-fire.
- holster as approved in the N.R.A. rule book.
- full hearing protection (recommended along with the ear plugs is a full cup that will cover the entire ear)
- safety glasses (shatter proof, UV protection as a large number of the matches occur outside in the sun, wrap around design to protect against flying brass etc.)
- magazines for the self-loader, minimum of four (more would be better to allow for breakage etc.) Magazine pouch(es).

Nice to have:

- speed loaders (a minimum of three, but more is better, allows the shooter to have everything ready prior to the match as well as having spares should one break)
- carrying bag for all of the equipment
- baseball cap to protect from casings, sun, etc.
- calculator (The shooter will be so keyed up and will be prone to making mistakes. The calculator helps.)
- grease pencil or chalk, used to divide the target for easier scoring

- record book to document the scores, conditions, etc. for future reference
- shooting mat. Some ranges have stones at the firing line. The mat makes it a little more comfortable, but it must not interfere with the other shooters
- watch or timer, **ensure that whatever you use, there is no audible alarm** as it is not allowed in the rules.

ATTIRE

The allowed attire at the matches is quite simple. No camouflage clothing, no suggestive t-shirts or hats. From time to time, members of the media attend the matches, usually at the invitation of the host club in an attempt to get some positive coverage for our discipline. The last thing we want is for the media to give the public the impression we are “gun nuts”, etc. If the shooter is found to be wearing such clothing, the shooter will be asked to either change, or kindly leave the property.

Remember, the shooting of this discipline is a **privilege, not a right**, which was granted by the Police Revolver Clubs of Ontario. A lot of hard work went into bringing together the police and the civilian shooters in the spirit of competition and camaraderie. Don't spoil it for others. Any continuous breaches of the protocol, etc. may result in permanent suspension from P.P.C., with the information being forwarded to the Ontario Handgun Association for possible further action.

FINALLY

As with most sports, honour plays an important part in the integrity of the competitor. Some think it very easy to cheat at PPC. Sometimes it is, however, there is always someone watching to ensure the rules are followed and the safety requirements are maintained. In the event someone is caught cheating, the person will be taken before the disciplinary committee of the PRCO for further investigation. For a first time offence, the penalty will likely be suspension for one year. A second offence will result in a life time suspension, the offender's name forwarded to the OHA for any further action on their part. It is important to also know that there is also the possibility of a criminal charge of Cheating At Play, which can be found in the Criminal Code of Canada. Each incident will be reviewed by the committee, followed by the appropriate penalty.

For those of the you who wish to bring the your family, they are most welcome. Please, for the sake of the enjoyment of all the competitors and the safety of everyone, ensure the your guest(s) are aware of the safety boundaries. If the you have children, keep them under control at all times. They get excited, tend to run around playing, forgetting where they are. We have one of the best safety records in North America, we want to keep it that way.

Thank you.

Police Pistol Combat Classifications

These classifications were accepted by the Police Revolver Clubs of Ontario at the December 1994 Annual General meeting held in Hamilton, Ont.		1200	1500
High Master	98.4 % - Up	1181 - 1200	1476 - 1500
Master	97.4 - 98.39	1168 - 1180	1461 - 1475
Expert	96.0 - 97.39	1152 - 1167	1440 - 1460
Sharpshooter	92.0 - 95.99	1104 - 1151	1380 - 1439
Marksman	86.0 - 91.99	1032 - 1103	1290 - 1379
Tyro	Below 85.99%	Below 1031	Below 1289