

USPSA Pistol Caliber Carbine

Suggested Best Practices

USPSA has introduced a new, provisional division called Pistol Caliber Carbine, which will allow a carbine chambered in standard pistol calibers to be shot in USPSA handgun matches.

(Appendix D8) To help clubs adapt to the new division (which is optional, as are *all* USPSA divisions), we've created this document to provide some general guidance. These suggestions are NOT rules, they are here to help clubs adapt to the new division if desired.

Safety is first and foremost, because carbines will be hand carried, so muzzle direction is critical. Also, some method of indicating an empty chamber must be employed. The rules in the addendum are specific as to muzzle direction, presence of a chamber flag, and safe directions when casing and uncasing the carbine. All handgun safety rules, such as the 90 degree rule, accidental discharge rules, and unsafe gun handling rules apply to PCC, with exceptions and additional stipulations included in the Addendum.

Terminology

- All references to "handgun" in the current edition of the rule book are deemed to apply to PCC as well, except where PCC is specifically noted in the rules.
- All references to "strong hand" and "weak hand" in the current edition of the rule book apply to PCC as follows: Strong Hand will require the PCC to be shouldered on the strong hand side, trigger pulled with the strong hand. Both hands may be on the gun. Weak Hand will require the PCC to be shouldered on the weak hand side, trigger pulled with the weak hand. Both hands may be on the gun. Stage procedures may not require the carbine to be fired one handed.

Start Positions

- Default/normal start position: Facing downrange, carbine held in both hands, stock on belt or shouldered, muzzle downrange. Fingers will be out of the trigger guard, and the safety must be applied if the carbine is loaded. This equates to either "port arms" or "low ready". NO uprange starts while holding the carbine!
- Loaded or unloaded will mirror the handgun condition
- Table starts are the same for handgun and PCC, safety permitting. If the handgun starts in a drawer or briefcase, the WSB should place the PCC on top of the object, if it can be done safely.

- Hands on marks equals carbine muzzle on a mark. The mark can be different from the hand position marks for safety/operability reasons.
- Barricade starts—suggested that muzzle be touching a mark on the barricade. A suggested position for the mark is approximately 3 feet above the ground, centered on the barricade.
- Muzzle downrange means *generally* downrange, and does not have to be directly horizontal, pointing at the backstop, unless the WSB specifies it as such.
- At ranges where muzzle direction is specified by the range (not the USPSA club) then that restriction must be followed.
- Ultimately, the start position should be up to the stage designer, but must be clearly stated and able to be safely assumed by the competitor.

Stage Procedures

- Where stage procedures specify reloads, they apply to carbines as well.
- All ammunition is carried on the belt, just like with handgun ammo. There are no placement restrictions for mag pouches.
- Except for start positions, all other stage requirements will remain the same.

Gun Handling

- Carbines can be transported in cases, on carts, held in the hands, or slung, as long as the muzzle is reasonably vertical (up or down), and a chamber flag is in place. A flagged carbine is treated the same as a holstered pistol, with the exception of sweeping rules.
- Uncasing the carbine may be done in a safe area, or against the berm or backstop (“staging area”) if match organizers permit. This will expedite the make ready process.
- When carrying the carbine from the safe area or the location where it was uncased, the muzzle must be up or down and a chamber flag must be inserted.
- Either the competitor or the RO must retain the chamber flag for use after the “If Clear, Hammer Down, Bolt Open” command.
- Racks, if available, can provide a convenient, safe method of staging carbines until needed. All carbines on a rack must have a chamber flag inserted.

Match Timing/Organization

- PCC Division is its own division, and as such falls under the rules for shooting more than one division.

- Match organizers wishing to allow competitors to compete in more than one division, per the rules, may consider having a separate side match for PCC only, unless timing is not a concern.