

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES PRACTICAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION



# USPSA

2024 ANNUAL VOL. 40 | NO. 1A

# 2024



2024 ANNUAL ISSUE

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# INSIDE USPSA

By Yee-Min Lin, RD8  
 USPSA President  
 president@uspsa.org

# INTERESTED IN USPSA SHOOTING?

**I**nside this Annual Issue, our welcoming publication for new members, you will find everything you need to know to get started competing in USPSA! Our sport was born in 1976 from a collection of combat shooting matches around the world. Today we are approximately 39,000 members strong. We have over 730 affiliated clubs where you can test your skill on an unlimited number of courses of fire with many different types of guns in our nine USPSA sports divisions, our USPSA multi-gun divisions, and Steel Challenge. We have the fastest and safest shooting sport in the world, with something for everyone. One thing that sets us apart from the others is our classification system. You can see where you rank among the best shooters in the world, and track your own improvement as you progress through the system. **Again, welcome to USPSA.**



## HOW DO YOU STAY INFORMED ABOUT USPSA AND STEEL CHALLENGE?

USPSA's recent success, and information about what is going on in the organization, is certainly no secret.

### HERE ARE EIGHT TIPS TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT IS GOING ON:

- 1. Get the USPSA and/or Steel Challenge Mobile Apps** – These great new tools have a lot of information you need on the field of play and when discussing the games with your friends.
- 2. Subscribe to bi-monthly USPSA Magazine online and/or in print** – the magazine is available to all current members. If you haven't read it, or haven't read it in a while, you are missing some great content. It isn't just about match articles anymore.
- 3. Subscribe to the weekly USPSA Downrange email newsletter** – Every week, USPSA sends information about USPSA and other great content to over 85,000 email addresses.
- 4. Visit the USPSA and SCSA webpages at USPSA.org and SCSA.org** – The websites are a great place to keep up on announcements, minutes from all Board meetings, and other resources you need as a member, competitor, range officer, or

match director. There are also preferred vendors here who offer promotions to all USPSA members.

**5. Visit the USPSA and SCSA Facebook pages** – With original and shared content daily, the USPSA Facebook page is a great way to connect with the USPSA/SCSA community and stay informed.

**6. Visit the USPSA and SCSA Instagram pages** – The Instagram pages are also a great way to see videos and promotions all about USPSA and Steel Challenge.

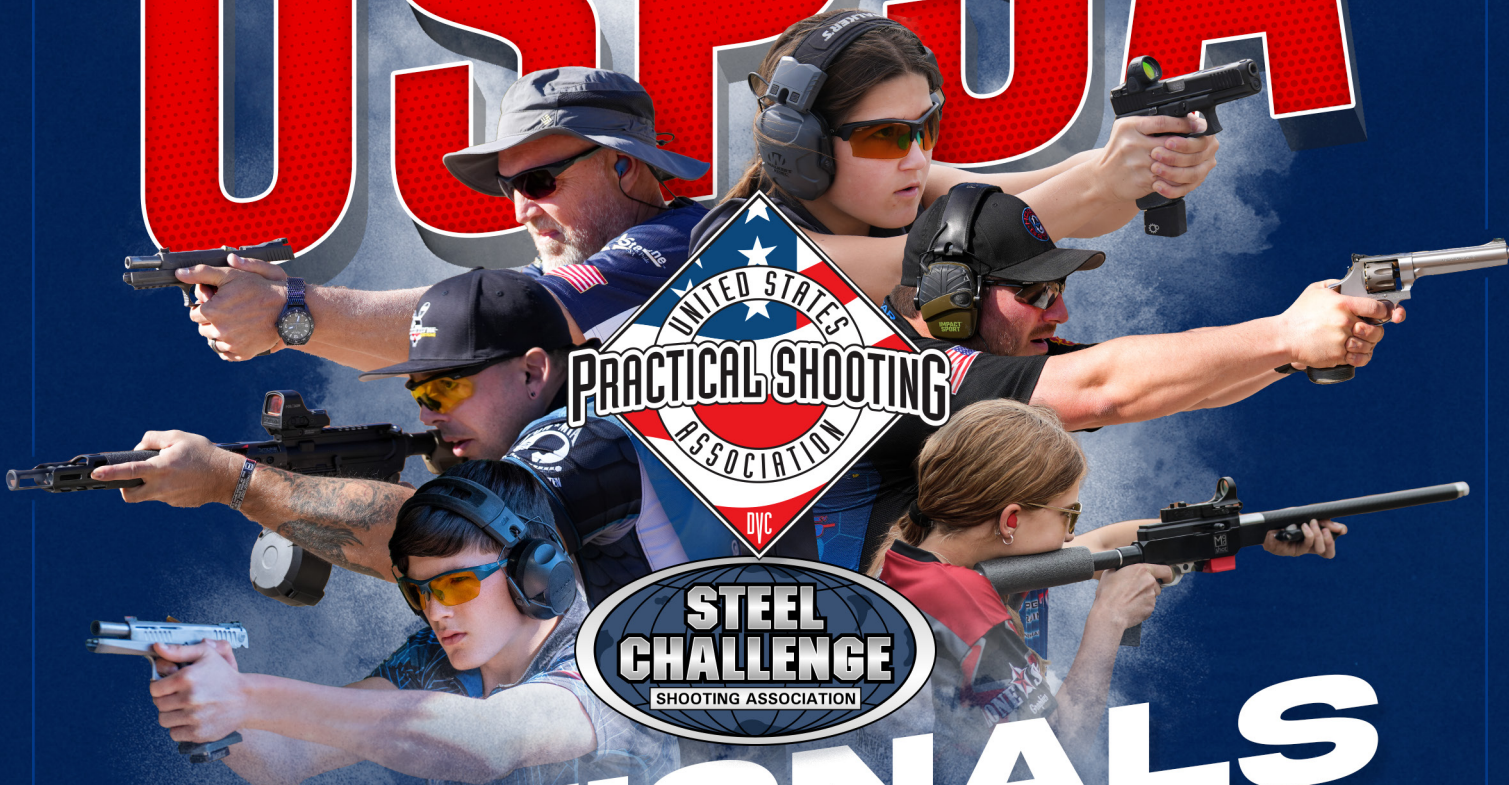
**7. Update your email address in your profile** – USPSA sends direct email to all 39,000 members from time to time. While we don't use this as often, we do send important information to all members, and other messages targeted to range officers or Steel Challenge competitors. We won't send you any spam.

**8. Set up Push Notifications** – Setup Push Notifications on all your devices to get notifications that are important to you. These include major match announcements, uploaded match scores, and much more.

Yee-Min Lin,  
 USPSA President

2024

# USPSA



# NATIONALS



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 Cardinal Shooting Center  
 Marengo, OH  
**JUNE 28th - 30th**  
*STAFF June 26th - 27th*



PRESENTED BY VORTEX OPTICS  
**MULTIGUN NATIONALS**  
 Forest Lake Sportsmen's Club  
 Forest Lake, MN  
**JULY 19th - 21st**  
*STAFF July 17th - 18th*



**IPSC NATIONALS**  
 Rio Salado Sportsman's Club  
 Mesa, AZ  
**APRIL 12th - 14th**  
*STAFF April 10-11*



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 Talladega, AL  
**SEPTEMBER 13th - 15th**  
*STAFF September 11th - 12th*



PRESENTED BY FEDERAL  
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 CMP Marksmanship Park  
 Talladega, AL  
**OCTOBER 18th - 20th**  
*STAFF October 16th - 17th*



## FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

By Donna Webb, L4030  
 Managing Director, USPSA/IPSC  
 donna@uspsa.org

# WELCOME TO USPSA

I REMEMBER the excitement I felt when I became a member and went to my first match. I almost immediately took that next step and became a Range Officer. I was told that the better I knew the rules, the better I could play the game. It was good advice. I like to tell people, “Going to a match is like going back in time where people actually treat each other with respect.” We are part of such a great sport.

As Managing Director, I am privileged to work with an amazing staff that is here to answer your questions and help you in any way we can. Our goal is to make sure you get the most out of your membership. Be sure to check out the website at uspsa.org. There is everything you need to get started and to thrive. The webpage has a Directory of the staff along with phone numbers and contact forms. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

USPSA’s mission is to promote safe, fair, and fun participation in Practical Shooting competition, for members of all ages and skill levels, through effective leadership, education, communication, and administration. We take that mission very seriously and we use that as a gauge for the choices we make and initiatives we implement. Thank you for joining the family. I hope your experience is as amazing as mine has been, and I hope to see you on the range!

Donna Webb,  
 USPSA Managing Director

## WHO YOU GONNA CALL? YOUR USPSA STAFF

**ALTHOUGH THE USPSA** office staff members are now working remotely, that doesn’t mean we aren’t there to give you a hand, answer questions, untangle knotted problems, or solve confusing conundrums – because we are here for you, just as we have always been. Here is a list of the “who ya gonna call?” for our staff; check out our web site for email addresses or call our office number, **360-855-2245**, for more information.

**DONNA WEBB / Managing Director** (August 2022) I oversee the company’s daily operations, make sure employees are performing efficiently, and provide strategies and guidance to ensure employees achieve the goals we have created. I am the direct contact to the Board of Directors through a partnership with the President.

**TROY MCMANUS / Director, National Range Officers Institute** (2012); I am responsible for rules enforcement and interpretation, all levels of range official training and certification.

**JAKE MARTENS / Director of Media/Marketing & Strategic Initiatives** I started at first in a part time role at the end of 2014 as the assistant editor of the USPSA Magazine and point of contact for USPSA & Steel Challenge clubs. In 2017 my role grew to include USPSA Events, all media and programs with regards to marketing, partnerships and sponsors.

**RICK BROTZEL / Director of I.T.** (January 2013) Starting out as webmaster, I now am responsible for overseeing the organization’s technology strategies, managing crucial systems such as the classification system, web sites, member apps, and ensuring the successful implementation of technology initiatives to drive the organization’s growth and success.

**STACI PULVER /** I was hired by Dave Thomas as the new receptionist on May 4, 1999. I cross trained in other areas as the organization grew. I became the USPSA **Magazine Advertising Coordinator** in 2009, a job I very much enjoy! I also offer support and work closely with our marketing team.

**HEATHER WOLKENHAUER / Director Of Club and Member Services.** I started at USPSA as a Temp to cover the membership coordinator in 2014. I wear many different hats, depending on the needs at the time. We will be working on ways to help improve our club support, which will in turn help support our members

**NATHAN PERREAULT /** I started here in March of 2018; my title is **IT Support & Development Engineer.** I assist customers and office staff with general I.T. issues, and address their questions and issues regarding classification systems, our web sites and apps. I also perform software development and technical resource management as guided by the Director of I.T.

**TERRI WILSON /** I have been here six and a half years; I am the **NROI Coordinator** and handle Seminar scheduling, New Certifications and Recertification.

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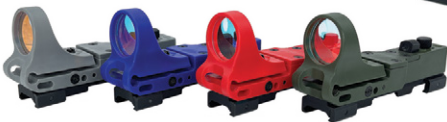


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THE **USPSA MOBILE APP** AND **STEEL CHALLENGE MOBILE APP** ARE BOTH AVAILABLE FROM THE APPLE, ANDROID, AND AMAZON APP STORES. THERE IS NO COST TO DOWNLOAD THEM AND ARE COMPLETELY FREE. HOWEVER, YOU MUST BE A CURRENT USPSA MEMBER TO LOG IN.



**APP FEATURES INCLUDE:**

- // USPSA Classification Lookup
- // USPSA Rules
- // USPSA Match Results
- // Digital Membership Card
- // Find USPSA Clubs Near You
- // Classification Calculator
- // Find a USPSA Match Near You
- // USPSA Classifier Diagrams

## THE OFFICIAL **USPSA MOBILE APP**

Designed for use by USPSA competitors, the USPSA Mobile App includes a member classification and classifier lookup, classifier calculator, classifier stage diagrams, a club finder, a match finder, match results and analytics, rule book, a membership card, and a contact form. Members may choose which features they want to use online and offline.

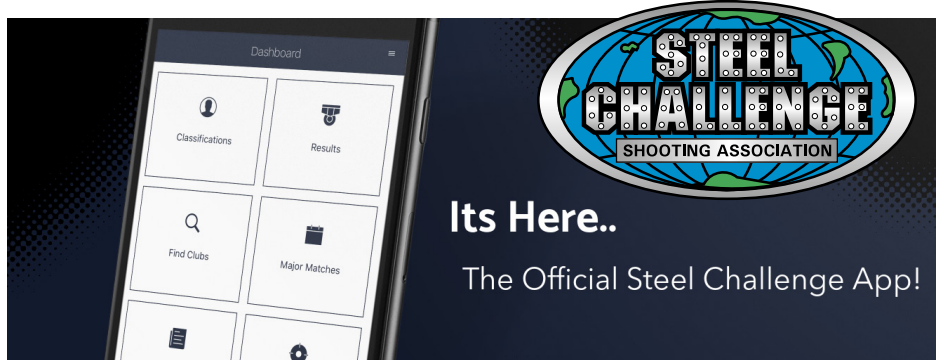


**APP FEATURES INCLUDE:**

- // Classification Lookup
- // Steel Challenge Rules
- // Match Results
- // Digital Membership Card
- // Find Clubs Near You
- // Classification Calculator
- // Find a Match Near You
- // Classifier Diagrams

## THE OFFICIAL **STEEL CHALLENGE MOBILE APP**

The Steel Challenge Mobile App, designed to meet the needs of members before, during, and after Steel Challenge matches. Includes rules, classifier calculator, classification info, stage diagrams, finding matches, clubs, match results, and membership info.



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Travis Tomasz



# SPEED POWER +ACCURACY

thing from revolvers and the classic 1911 auto pistol to modern service pistols, custom race guns, rifles, shotguns, and carbines.

### SCORING




USPSA shooting hinges on a concept called hit factor, which is a points-per-second measurement. It considers three factors: *Speed, Power, and Accuracy*. Competitors shoot the course of fire timed against the clock. Afterward, range officers record the shooter's time (Speed), note the shots impact on the targets (Accuracy), and tally any penalties. They assign points to the hits based on the ammunition used. Then, by dividing the total points by the time

**B**lend these three elements, and you have the most dynamic shooting sport ever devised – USPSA! Practical shooting was established as IPSC in 1976 to organize the varied independent efforts to build shooting skills and train for self-defense. The sport's early days date back to the 1950s, with quick-draw “leather slap” matches popular in the desert Southwest. USPSA was incorporated in 1983 and has grown to over 38,000 members by 2024.

Early practical shooting challenged established techniques, training practices, and equipment standards. IPSC pioneers developed scenario-based competitions to accurately assess the effectiveness of their shooting techniques and gear. The rapid, shooting-on-the-move stages led to the term “run and gun,” which is commonly used to describe the sport today. True to its origins, USPSA continues to offer divisions that employ state-of-the-art firearms and support equipment. Competitors wield every-

**SCORING**

USPSA shooting revolves around a “points per second” concept called “Hit Factor”. Here is how to determine your Hit Factor in competition.

**Hit Factor = Points ÷ Time**

example:  
20 points / 10 seconds = 2.0 Hit Factor

taken, we arrive at the hit factor. Local club matches usually feature four to six stages. Shooters receive a separate hit factor for each, which scoring officials compare later. They award maximum points to the shooter with the highest hit factor. Points for other competitors are granted relative to this score. For example, achieving 90 percent of the top hit factor earns 90 percent of the available points. The sum of points across all stages determines the winner. While the math may seem daunting, scoring programs are available to simplify the process.

### DON'T MISS!

Speed might seem crucial, but as USPSA shooters often say, "You can't miss fast enough to win." Missing a shot or hitting a penalty target results in rapid point loss. An "A" hit on the target scores 5 points. However, a miss incurs a 10-point penalty so you not only forgo the potential 5 points but also lose an additional 10. Penalty target hits also carry a 10-point deduction. This scoring emphasizes the importance of accuracy in USPSA shooting.

### MUCH MORE THAN "SHOOTING"

USPSA competition involves more than firing a gun. It requires shooters to draw, move, reload, navigate obstacles, analyze the course, and shoot, all while the timer runs. The clock stops only when you've completed all tasks and fired the last shot. If your gun malfunctions or you need to reload, quick, safe resolution is on you – there are no breaks, except for range equipment failure or safety concerns. USPSA places as much emphasis on gun handling as on shooting, ensuring a thrilling experience that is sure to be enjoyable.

### SAFETY FIRST


Safety is paramount in USPSA, more so than in many other shooting sports. At a match, unless you are shooting or working on your pistol in the safety area, your pistol must remain unloaded and holstered. Breaking this rule results in immediate disqualification, as does pointing a firearm, loaded or not, at oneself, another person, or up range of the firing line. Two range officers supervise each shooter, and strict adherence to safety rules contributes to USPSA's exemplary safety record. Despite the high stakes, new shooters

need not worry. Before your first match, the host club provides a safety orientation or check, verifying your gear and familiarizing you with the necessary protocols through shooting exercises. Success and enjoyment are the goals. To find a local club, visit the USPSA website ([www.USPSA.org](http://www.USPSA.org)), or call (360) 855-2245. With over 730 affiliated clubs across the United States and around the world, we're eager to connect you with local shooting enthusiasts. ■

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Jessica Jonasson



Jacob Hetherington



# INSIDE NROI

By Troy McManus, NROI DIRECTOR  
dnroi@uspsa.org

## LEARNING THE RULES

### HIERARCHY OF OFFICIALS

USPSA's volunteer officials come in several flavors, all of which are trained and certified by NROI.

#### 1. RANGE OFFICERS

Certified by NROI, Range Officers perform most of the "refereeing" seen at a USPSA match. They carry the timer, check equipment, score targets, and help make sure the competitor plays in a safe manner.

#### 2. CHIEF RANGE OFFICERS

CROs are the Sergeants of the Range Officer corps. They have supplemental training in course design and range operations. They normally serve as the chief range officer on a stage, overseeing the activities of the range officers under them.

#### 3. RANGE MASTERS

Have extensive supplemental training in range operations, arbitrations, staff management, squadding, and the various fine points of the rules. RM candidates are assigned a mentor, and over the course of a year they will complete an extensive program of correspondence and on-the-job training.

RMs oversee the officials at major matches. The nationals, for example, employ two or more — each assigned to one half of the match.

#### 4. RANGE MASTER INSTRUCTOR

The top of the RO hierarchy, the RMIs travel the United States to instruct range officers and chief range officers, and also mentor Range Master Candidates.

**R**ules are the backbone of any game, and as Director of the National Range Officer Institute (NROI), it's my job to interpret those rules for USPSA, and to assist in the training of range officers at all levels.

Since this article is limited for space, I can't discuss many details of our rules here, but I will mention that the majority of them deal with safety on the range. USPSA is a dynamic sport that requires competitors to use full power handguns (and rifles and shotguns at times), to solve a competitive shooting problem under the clock. Movement is often required, as is reloading your gun on the move, so safe



gun handling skills are paramount.

The National Range Officer Institute trains and certifies range officials for USPSA sanctioned events. NROI-certified range officers will be seen in uniform at the larger Area- and National-level events,



USPSA matches challenge you mentally and physically. Figuring the fastest, easiest way to complete a course is a big part of the game.

### SAFE GUN HANDLING | THE 4 RULES TO REMEMBER

Most of our safety rules are derived from **4 basic rules** of safe gun handling:

- Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- Never point your muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what's behind it.

Louis Gilman



safely assisting competitors in their endeavors. The entire RO cadre also competes actively but at times they put aside their guns to help run events. The range officer corps forms the backbone of the volunteer infrastructure at a great many clubs, where you will see them competing and officiating at the same event. The best ones are often asked to travel to major events, and our people are frequently tapped by IROA, the International Range Officer Association, to officiate at major matches worldwide (including the world championship matches held every three years). NROI certification carries a certain cachet within the USPSA/IPSC world, particularly if the RO develops a reputation for being calm, knowledgeable, and fair.

To become a range officer, we ask that you compete actively in USPSA matches for a period of time, enough to get comfortable with the basics of the sport and its terms. Prospective ROs then attend a level 1 certification class (usually over a weekend) where they are taught the nuts and bolts of being an official, and are tested on their knowledge of the rules. CRO or Chief Range Officer status can be gained by attending a level 2 seminar at a later date, and all officials at all levels are tested on the rules annually.

### MULTIGUN AND STEEL CHALLENGE ENDORSEMENT

If your interest lies in Multigun or Steel Challenge, don't despair. The MG and

Steel Challenge rules have recently been revised, and NROI has the means to certify range officials in this fast-growing aspect of our sport. If you already hold a certification, (RO, CRO, RM), you can gain an endorsement in either discipline through our Learning Management System, or LMS.

### RESPECT AND PROFESSIONALISM

Overall, USPSA's officials are some of the most highly-respected in the shooting sports, and because of this are often sought out to help serve at higher level matches across the country.

Their success, diligence, and professionalism as officials are a major part of what makes USPSA one of the safest, most professional shooting sports available anywhere.

USPSA transitioned to electronic rules in 2019. A copy of all of our rules can be found and downloaded at [www.uspsa.org/rules](http://www.uspsa.org/rules) or on the USPSA App: [www.uspsa.org/app](http://www.uspsa.org/app). I encourage you to take a look at the rules if you are interested in playing our game, and ask questions of Range Officials whenever you need additional help.

Taking a level one seminar will not only help you become a certified Range Officer, it will help you be a better competitor, knowledgeable in our rules, and more aware of the safety aspects of our game.

We look forward to showing you what we mean! Come and see us in action at a local match, and remember, shoot safe! ■



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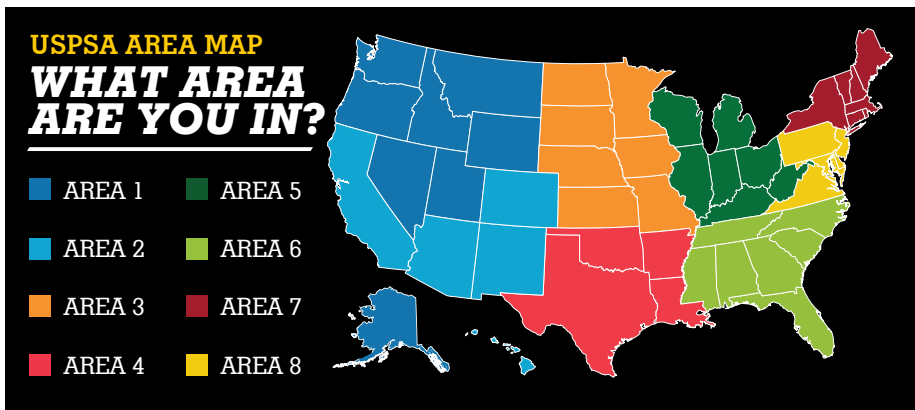
For more information, call (360) 855-2245 or e-mail [info@uspsa.org](mailto:info@uspsa.org)

# ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS

**I**f you're intrigued by USPSA competition, I can't recommend enough that you contact a local club representative and make a visit to the range. Experiencing a match in person will teach you more in a few hours than what we could possibly convey in this publication or that you could find online. The nuances and variety inherent in USPSA competition are best appreciated when shown firsthand by seasoned competitors. USPSA shooters are renowned for their friendliness and eagerness to assist newcomers, so don't hesitate to inquire.

## AN ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS

USPSA is an "association" of independent clubs and individuals. Although all adhere to the same rule book, each club operates as a collective of local volunteers united by their love for shooting. Clubs select their leadership and designate contacts to help integrate newcomers. The commitment of these



Loren Farinelli



volunteers is vital; their efforts cultivate the spirit of the sport and underline the significance of connecting with local clubs. To discover a club near you, visit [www.uspsa.org](http://www.uspsa.org) and use the "Find a Club" map. Simply enter your location details, and the tool will display clubs in your area along with contact information. Collectively, approximately 460 USPSA and 270 Steel Challenge clubs ensure fair play, fostering a competitive environment that is equitable and deeply valued by USPSA participants.

### USPSA STRUCTURE

Affiliated clubs are organized into "sections," each overseen by a section coordinator. These coordinators manage local events like section championships and act as liaisons for clubs within their section. They will inform you about local matches and may invite you to attend or connect you with a club that's close by. Sections are grouped into multi-state "Areas"

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numbered 1 through 8. For instance, the sections in New Mexico and Arizona comprise part of Area 2, while those in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio are part of Area 5.

Every four years, members from each Area elect an Area Director to the USPSA Board of Directors. These directors organize Area-level championships and make pivotal policy decisions for USPSA.

The Board comprises the eight Area Directors and the President, who is elected by the members for a four-year term. The President, aided by the home office and remote staff, is tasked with organizing the national championship. The USPSA team includes a Managing Director, a Director of the National Range Officers Institute, a Director of Media and Marketing, and a Director of Information Technology.

As a new shooter, you'll join the ranks of local volunteers who are the lifeblood of USPSA events. Every match, including national championships, relies on the dedication of these volunteers. They form the backbone of our organization; without them—especially the officials who handle registration, mentor new shooters, oversee range safety, and manage scoring—there would be no competition and, consequently, no fun. ■



# Elevate Your Performance

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# FOCUS ON: DIVISIONS

WHICH GUNS DO WE SHOOT, AND WHY?



**U**SPSA shooting is one of the most demanding forms of practical pistol competition on the planet. Which division is right for you to start your competition journey in? The choice often aligns with the reasons for shooting pistols in the first place: some aim to hone their

skills for self-defense, others enjoy customizing their firearms, and many focus on the experience, learning to shoot each style of pistol. However, the best firearm for your first match is the one you already own. The right division for you is the one that brings you joy—there is no single “best gun” for USPSA. People

choose one style over another based on the enjoyment it brings them, as USPSA shooting is ultimately about having fun with your firearm.

## PRODUCTION DIVISION

This division is for approved production handguns with double-action triggers or striker-fired mechanisms. Popular choices include CZs, S&W, Tanfoglios, Glocks, SIGs, Walthers, Berettas, Caniks, and approved revolvers, like 8-shot versions. Shooters may modify sights, grips, and internal parts, and swap small parts such as triggers, hammers, magazine releases, and slide stops; slide modifications and swaps are permitted. Magazines are limited to 15 rounds, and all guns are scored as “Minor” caliber, regardless of the actual power of the load. Holsters and gear must be non-race-type, with most shooters opting for standard Kydex holsters on a double-layer belt.

J.J. Racaza



# THE DIVISIONS

## PRODUCTION DIVISION

- Striker fired or double-action firearms. (See <https://uspsa.org/productionlist>)
- Shooters may modify the grip, exchange small external parts like triggers, hammers, slide stops, sights and magazine release as well as tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Max 15 rounds in the magazine
- All guns scored "Minor" (like a 9mm)– no matter how powerful the load actually used.
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race-type"

## LIMITED & LIMITED 10

- Any gun without a compensator or optic sights fits this division; DA and Safe Action guns, along with Single Action autoloaders.
- High-capacity magazines up to 141.25mm overall may be used (171.25mm for single-stack guns).
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm, and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).
- Limited 10 is the same as Limited except :
  - Max 10 rounds in magazine

## SINGLE STACK 1911 DIVISION

- Single-stack Government model pistols are the only guns allowed.
- Standard-capacity magazines only (8 rounds for "major calibers", 10 rounds for "minor").
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race-type".
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- No optics, no porting, no compensators, or "devices to control recoil," such as weights.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).

## LIMITED OPTICS DIVISION

- Allows for handguns fitting the Limited Division rules with the addition of a required optic mounted on the slide
- Scoring is "Minor" only
- Extended magazines up to 141.25mm are permitted, as well as all Limited Division customizations, including magwells and single action trigger types
- The use of race holsters are allowed

## REVOLVER DIVISION

- Eight rounds (only) between reloads for "minor", six rounds (only) between reloads for "major".
- No optical sights, porting, or recoil compensation.
- May change grips, enlarge the cylinder release, change sights, chamfer cylinders, and tune the action.
- May score "major" using any bullet .355" or larger.

## OPEN DIVISION

- High-capacity magazines no longer than 171.25mm overall
- Optics allowed
- A Compensator or "devices to control recoil" allowed.
- Guns may score "major" with any bullet .354" or larger.



## CARRY OPTICS DIVISION

- Striker fired or double-action firearms on the Production Gun approved list. (See <https://uspsa.org/productionlist>)
- Optical/electronic sights REQUIRED; must be attached directly to slide between rear of slide and ejection port
- A slide may be modified for installing optical sights. Milling or stippling on the slide to provide texture is also allowed, cuts designed to lighten the slide, such as holes, are allowed.
- Shooters may modify the grip, exchange small external parts like triggers, hammers, slide stops and magazine release as well as tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Maximum weight of firearm with unloaded magazine measuring no more than 141.25mm is 59oz
- All guns scored "Minor" (9mm) – no matter how powerful the load actually used.
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race" type

## PISTOL CALIBER CARBINE DIVISION

- Pistol Caliber Carbines in 9mm, .357 Sig, .40 S&W, 10mm, .45 ACP
- Must have stock attached and be capable of being fired from shoulder position.  
\*Note: AR and similar pistols with arm braces are not allowed.
- All carbines are scored "Minor" (like 9mm) - no matter how powerful the load actually used, maximum is 1600 fps
- No capacity restrictions on magazines, side by side magazine coupling is not allowed
- Optic/electronic sights and lasers are allowed



Randi Rogers



Gianni Giordano



Jay Beal



### SINGLE STACK

The only permitted firearms here are 1911 Single-stack Government model pistols from makers like Springfield Armory, Wilson Combat, Colt, and others. Magazine capacities are limited to standard sizes—8 rounds for “Major” calibers (.40, 10mm, and .45 ACP) and 10 rounds for “Minor” (9mm and .38 Super). Shooters adhere to Single Stack division guidelines for holsters and are allowed similar modifications as in the Production Division.

### LIMITED & LIMITED 10 DIVISIONS

Competitors in the Limited Divisions often use double-stack 2011 single-action autoloaders in .40 S&W or 9mm. They can perform various minor customizations to enhance shootability, barring optical sights, porting, or compensators. Calibers may be “Minor” (9mm) or “Major” (.40 S&W or larger), with high-capacity magazines up to 141.25 mm

in length. The Limited 10 Division follows the same equipment rules but restricts magazine capacity to 10 rounds post-start signal.

### REVOLVER DIVISION

Revolver Division is led by Smith & Wesson and Ruger revolvers in minor calibers. Shooters may fire eight rounds between reloads for “Minor” scoring or six for “Major,” with limited modifications permitted. No optical sights, porting, or compensators are allowed. Shooters may enhance grips, enlarge cylinder releases, chamfer cylinders, and tune actions. The “Major” scoring uses cartridges firing bullets .354” or larger, with six rounds fired before reloading. Recently, USPSA allowed eight shots before reloading in the “Minor” scoring, affecting points for hits outside the A zone.

### OPEN DIVISION

The Open Division is akin to top-fuel drag racing for USPSA, where cutting-edge, high-capacity 2011’s reign. Here, competitors can make all Limited Division modifications plus more, including using extended magazines up to 171.25mm, optical sights, and recoil reducing compensators. Any caliber firing a .354” or larger bullet is allowed, with hand-loaded 9x19 and various .38 Super cartridges being popular. This division typically features custom-built race guns, open style race holsters and gear.

### CARRY OPTICS DIVISION

With the rising trend of red dot optics on service pistols, Carry Optics has become the most popular USPSA division. It largely follows Production rules but requires optic/electronic sights to be slide mounted behind the ejection port. Magazines can be extended to 141.25mm and scoring is “Minor” power factor only. The same type of commercial ammunition and similar holsters and gear as Production Division are most common.



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## PISTOL CALIBER CARBINE (PCC)

The PCC division has seen steady growth in popularity, with numerous manufacturers offering competition-ready carbines and accessories. Red dot optics are prevalent, scoring is “Minor” power factor only.

## PROVISIONAL LIMITED OPTICS DIVISION

The new “Limited Optics” Division remains provisional for handgun competition at the time of this publication. It adheres to Limited Division rules with the addition of a required optic mounted on the slide. Scoring is “Minor” only, same as with Carry Optics. Extended magazines up to 141.25mm are permitted, as well as all Limited Division customizations, including magwells for quick reloads, and single action trigger types found on high capacity 2011’s. The use of race holsters differentiates this division from Carry Optics’ restrictions on gear. ■



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Maria Grimes

# ARE YOU READY? STAND BY, BEEP!

**BY ZACK JONES**  
DIRECTOR OF STEEL CHALLENGE  
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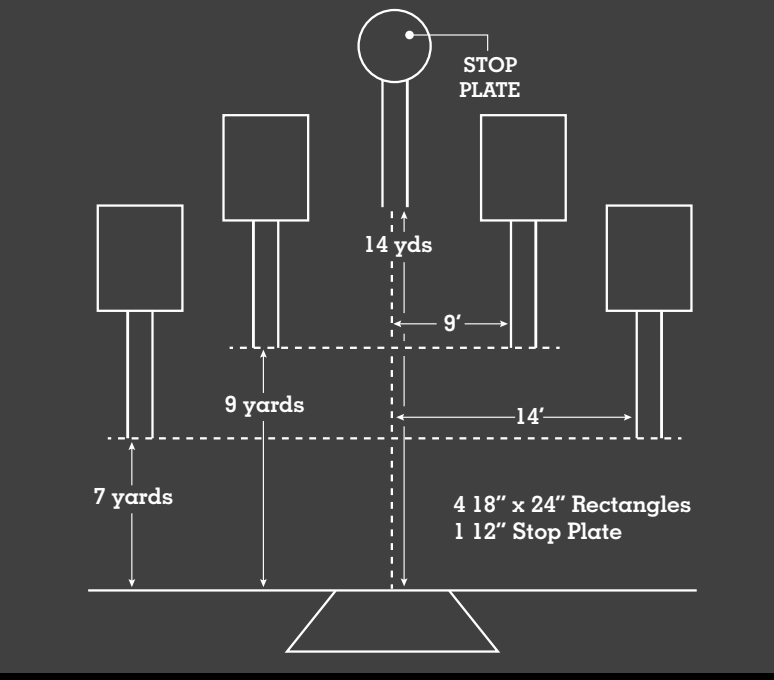
**D**ing, ding, ding, ding, ding! The ringing of steel plates as fast as you possibly can is what Steel Challenge is all about. Imagine hitting five plates ranging in size from 10-inch circles to 18x24-inch rectangles in under two seconds; that's what some of the fastest competitors in the world can do. Don't worry if you can't shoot that fast – there's plenty of fun to be had by competitors of all ages and skill levels! It's quite common for entire families to shoot matches together.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

A Steel Challenge match is comprised of up to eight official stages. Level 1 (club) matches are required to offer a minimum of two of the eight official stages, and may offer other unofficial stages in the same match. Level 2 (state level) matches are required to use a minimum of six of the eight official stages; only the two longest stages, Speed Option and

## SMOKE & HOPE

Smoke & Hope tempts shooters to go fast. Inevitably, many go too fast and miss.



Outer Limits, may be excluded in these matches. (Area, Regional) and Level 4 World Championship, matches are required to offer all eight official stages, with no other stages in the match. These events may also offer side matches, which are not part of the match score but allow you an opportunity to shoot a unique firearm of some sort. When it's your turn to complete the course of fire, you step into the shooting box. A range official will issue a series of commands for you to prepare

your firearm; once you're ready, the timer will beep and you'll shoot the five steel plates. Four of the plates can be shot in any order you choose. The last plate, known as the "stop plate", must be shot last. This signifies that you have completed your attempt at the course of fire. The post for the stop plate is usually painted red or some other color so that new competitors can remember which plate to shoot last. If in doubt, just ask the range official. After shooting the five plates, your time is recorded either on paper or on the electronic scoring tablet. You repeat this process five times; each run is known as a string. After the final string is completed, your worst time is thrown out and the total time for your four fastest strings is your time for the stage. The competitor with the lowest total time for all stages is the winner for that match.

The event is divided into four separate matches. All centerfire pistols compete in the main match. Rimfire pistol irons and Rimfire pistol open compete in the Rimfire pistol match. Rimfire rifle irons and Rimfire rifle open compete in the Rimfire rifle match. Finally, Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) Irons and PCC Optics compete in the PCC match.

## PICK A DIVISION

Equipment needs are minimal for Steel Challenge. You can compete with any rimfire pistol or rifle, a centerfire firearm or, in our most recently added division, PCC. In total we have thirteen different divisions in Steel Challenge. Having five magazines is best, but you can get by with less when you are first starting out. Just bring as many magazines as you have and odds are another competitor will lend you one or would be willing to assist with reloading your magazine while you shoot to keep the match running on schedule. All centerfire pistols start from the surrender position (wrists above shoulders), so you will need a holster for your firearm. All Rimfire and PCC competitors start from the low ready position; in front of each shooting box is an aiming flag or cone which you aim at while you wait for the timer to beep, signifying the start of your run.

## EARN A CLASSIFICATION

USPSA members are eligible to earn a classification ranging from D (lowest)

Jenna Larsen



through Grand Master (highest) in each of the thirteen divisions used in Steel Challenge. To become classified, a competitor must be a current USPSA member, and must shoot a minimum of four of the eight official stages. It does not matter which four of the eight stages you shoot and you don't have to shoot all four at the same match. The classification system keeps track of the official stages you have shot and calculates your classification once you've shot four stages. Classifications are updated weekly on Wednesday, so you can track your progress from match to match. As you shoot each stage faster, you'll earn a higher classification. Some competitors are so dedicated to Steel Challenge that they have earned classifications in all thirteen Steel Challenge divisions!

Recognizing that earning a classification in all thirteen divisions takes a significant amount of time and dedication USPSA created "Club 13" to recognize those that had achieved this milestone. Palmetto State Armory agreed to sponsor a Club 13 challenge coin. The first 100 coins were gold. The second 100 coins were silver. The third 100 coins were bronze. Coins 400 – 500 are pewter in color.

## GETTING STARTED

Getting started in Steel Challenge is very easy. On the site [scsa.com](http://scsa.com) you can find a list of sanctioned matches; hopefully, one is close to you. Once you've found a match, it would be a good idea to contact the match director in advance and let him know you want to shoot the match. Some ranges may

require an orientation prior to competing in the match. The match director can answer any questions that you have in advance of match day. Once you've found the match, you'll want to decide which division to shoot. As previously stated, we have thirteen divisions in Steel Challenge. The centerfire pistol divisions align with the pistol divisions used in USPSA Handgun matches; the rimfire and PCC divisions are based on whether the firearm has an optic installed or not. Once you determine the firearm you want to shoot, you need to make sure to bring ammo, lots of ammo! A typical five-stage club match requires a minimum of 125 rounds per firearm, and you should seriously consider bringing twice the minimum. You just never know when you may need to take an extra shot. If you will be shooting a centerfire pistol, you'll need a holster for your firearm and for Rimfire/PCC, you'll need a suitable bag or case for transporting your firearm between stages. For Rimfire rifles and PCCs, you must have a chamber flag for each firearm you plan to shoot. The chamber flag allows range officials to instantly verify the firearm is unloaded while it is being transported between stages.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to know more about Steel Challenge or have questions not answered in this article, please contact the Director Steel Challenge, Zack Jones, at [zack@uspsa.org](mailto:zack@uspsa.org) and he'll be happy to help in any way he can. ■

Reuben Aleckson



BY TROY McMANUS, L2345

# MULTI-GUN BASICS

**U**SPSA incorporated long guns into its competitive roster shortly after its establishment. Originally known as the “3-Gun competition,” this event saw participants operate each firearm on its designated course, with little to no interaction between the different guns. Responding to enthusiasts who wished to challenge themselves with all three firearms in a single stage—and inspired by the pioneering spirit of “outlaw” matches—the USPSA introduced the Multi-Gun competition.

In Multi-Gun contests, shooters face a series of challenges that may require a mix of rifle, shotgun, and handgun usage. The appeal of these competitions lies in their complexity and vigorous nature, continuing the USPSA’s tradition of emphasizing precision and swiftness. Mastering a trio of firearms demands a wide range of abilities and tailored



Spencer Marsh



King Cavalier II

## HIT FACTOR VS. TIME PLUS SCORING

Some matches still use traditional USPSA hit factor scoring, but this is proving more difficult to do, since considerations for major pistol, minor rifle, and major shotgun (or a different combination of all three) must be taken into account. The more popular method of scoring multi-gun matches is called Time Plus, so named because misses and failure to shoot at penalties are simply added into your score as additional time, not points. This scoring method uses your time as your score, as long as all targets are neutralized. Missed, failure to shoot at, or poorly hit targets are penalized with additional time added. In this type of scoring, as in golf, low score wins. It's pretty simple and the courses of fire are much easier to score and reset. One A hit on a target or two hits anywhere on the target are enough to "neutralize" that target and not cost any penalty seconds. Don't shoot at one, or miss one, and that will add considerable time to your final score.

Multi-Gun matches are gaining in popularity, and growing across the country. Check your local club for the opportunity to shoot your AR and combat shotgun in competition.

equipment, propelling the popularity of the sport by presenting an exhilarating and multifaceted test of skill.

The evolution of sporting rifles, especially the AR-15 and its derivatives, has been significantly influenced by their use in Multi-Gun competitions. Formerly avant-garde semi-automatic shotguns have also progressed, now replaced by faster, more specialized designs tailored to these events. The box-fed shotgun is now a fixture in the Open Division. Moreover, the accessories for ammunition management have advanced in tandem, catering to a need for rapid and accurate



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Lanny Barnes

reloading on the move. Nowadays, it is typical to see competitors wearing an array of advanced magazine and shotshell holders, all intended to facilitate quick reloading during intense stages.

Safety is paramount in USPSA events, and Multi-Gun matches are no exception. They uphold a specific set of regulations that mirror the handgun competition rules, emphasizing the safe handling of firearms. These updated guidelines are accessible through the USPSA's website.

Multi-Gun competitions are divided into six divisions, differentiated by the firearms used. While 'major' and 'minor' power

factors are outlined for each division, a growing number of matches now employ Time Plus scoring, which shifts the focus from power to precision and promptness. However, competitions can also be conducted using Hit Factor scoring.

The USPSA Multi-Gun rule set permits matches to recognize single gun formats with either rifle or shotgun, as well as two-gun divisions like rifle and pistol or Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) and pistol. These formats, particularly the single gun matches, have seen an upsurge in popularity due to the reduced gear and ammunition requirements, making

participation more accessible. After all, there's an undeniable joy in hitting the range with just a rifle or shotgun, skillfully navigating the stages.

For a deeper dive into these rules and scoring systems, the USPSA has made a comprehensive guide accessible online.

**OPEN DIVISION:**

Competitors in the Open Division enjoy the most freedom. They may equip their firearms with compensators, which help to reduce recoil and muzzle climb, as well as any combination of scopes and electronic sights on all three guns. Other permitted modifications include bipods, flashlights, and lasers. In this division, shotguns can have unlimited ammunition capacity and may be fully loaded at the start; both speedloader tubes and magazines are permissible.

**TACTICAL DIVISION:**

The Tactical Division requires handguns to adhere to the USPSA Limited Division

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rules, which prohibit compensators, barrel ports, or optics. Rifles may be equipped with a single optic and a small compensator but cannot have bipods, flashlights, or lasers. For shotguns, competitors must limit the loading to a maximum of nine shells at the start, and neither shotgun speed loaders nor magazines are permitted.

**LIMITED DIVISION:**

The Limited Division imposes the same restrictions on handguns and shotguns as the Tactical Division. The primary distinction for rifles is the allowance of only one non-magnifying optic, such as a 1X red dot sight; telescopic sights are not permitted.

**HEAVY METAL TACTICAL DIVISION:**

In the Heavy Metal Tactical Division, handguns must comply with USPSA Limited 10 rules and require a minimum caliber of .40. Rifles are restricted to .308 caliber, and shotguns must be 12 gauge. Loaded capacities are limited across all three firearms, and rifles and shotguns may follow the same rules regarding compensators and optics as in the Tactical Division.

**HEAVY METAL LIMITED DIVISION:**

This division mirrors the requirements of the Heavy Metal Tactical, with the added stipulations that rifles cannot have any optics, and competitors must use a pump-action shotgun in 12 gauge or larger. However, compensators are allowed on rifles within certain size restrictions.

**PROVISIONAL MODIFIED DIVISION:**

The Modified Division is a new provisional division in Multi-gun competition. It allows handguns that fit the Limited Division rules to have an optional optic mounted on the slide. Additionally, shotguns may start with a maximum of 13 rounds loaded and may also be equipped with a single non-magnified optic. Shotguns are permitted to have a single non-magnified optic as well. ■

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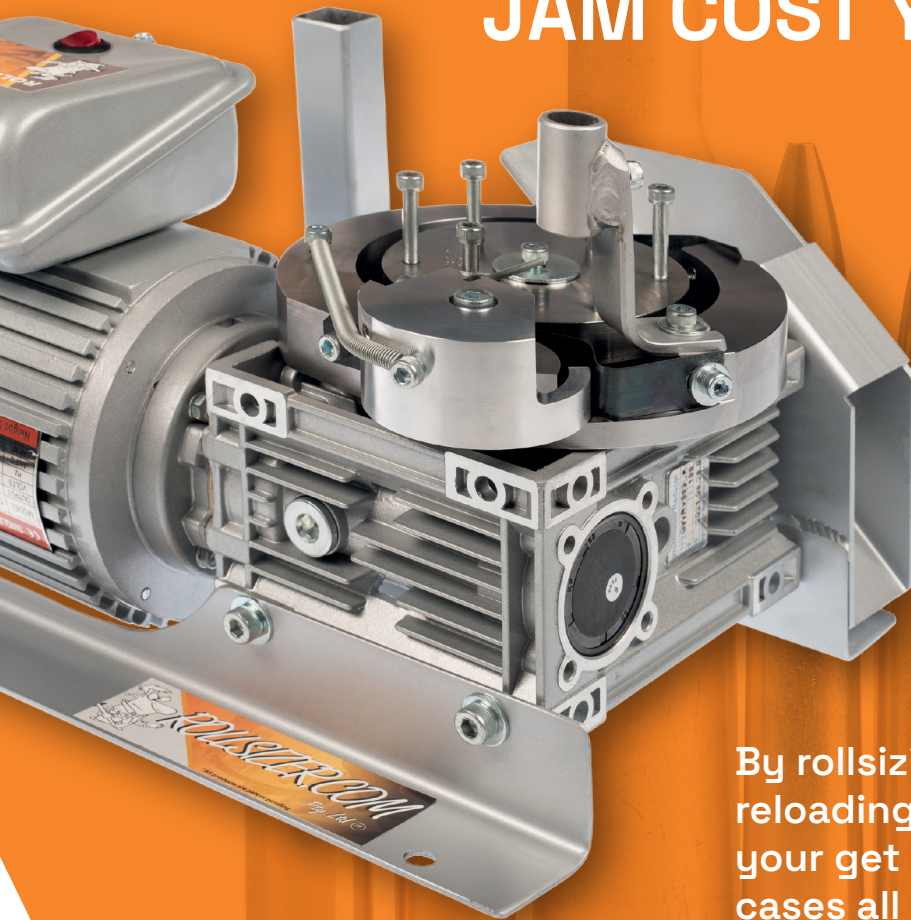
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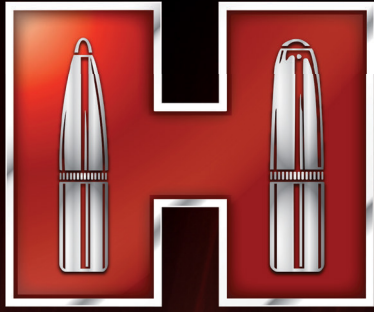
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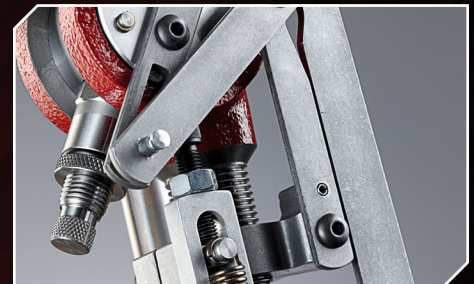
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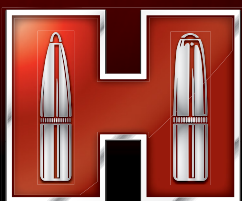
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# USPSA INTRODUCES AN UPDATED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM



Eddie Garcia

## CLASSIFICATION BRACKET PERCENTAGES



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MASTER	85 TO 94.9%
A	75 TO 84.9%
B	60 TO 74.9%
C	40 TO 59.9%
D	2 TO 40%

The USPSA classification system is a method for tracking your performance against other shooters within each division. It evaluates your most recent stage results from classifier stages shot at your local club against past scores. Clubs submit these results, which now can be done effortlessly and are updated weekly. It can also include your performance from larger Level 2 and 3 matches if the meets the criteria.

Our system's ability to reset performance standards preserves the integrity of a USPSA classification. Much like golfers who establish their "handicap" through multiple rounds on courses with a known "par," USPSA shooters earn their classification by completing several courses with a "high hit factor." This classification enables other shooters to gauge their skills and creates competitive classes where individuals face off against peers of similar ability.

For an initial classification, you need only four valid scores. These classifications are recalculated every Wednesday morning. It's important to note that clubs must upload match



Jennifer Tang

results and settle activity fees by Tuesday for scores to be included in that week's calculations. Unpaid classifier scores are withheld pending club payment.

Once classified, the system reviews the best six of your eight most recent valid scores during its next run. If the average of these places you in a higher class, you'll be promoted. Moreover, your classifications in other divisions are also assessed to ensure they comply with the board policy stating that no classification can be more than one class below your highest.

Members can print their cards by accessing their profile on the USPSA website and clicking the 'Classification Card' link. Tracking your classification is also available on the USPSA mobile

app, where you can find the classifier calculator to determine your percentage right away.

The last 40 years have seen practical shooters revolutionize the sport—transforming shooting techniques, firearm construction, holster designs, and even the choice of ammunition. As the sport's upper echelon advances, so does the "high hit factor" necessary to achieve a "Grand Master" title. By continually adapting to these shifts, our classification system has become a widely recognized standard in the practical shooting community.

The USPSA system is dynamic and robust, serving as a testament to the organization's commitment to the sport's evolution. ■

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# GETTING STARTED IN STEEL CHALLENGE

BY STEVE FOSTER, L6066

**S**teel Challenge is one of the most exciting action shooting sports in the world. In addition to the competitive nature of the sport, an added bonus is that the whole family can come along and get involved for a reasonable amount of money. The barrier to entry into the sport is fairly low. Let's spend a few moments and walk through where to find your first Steel Challenge match and what you will need to participate.

The Steel Challenge Shooting Association released a new web page in 2019 at SCSA.org. In order to find a local match or any of the major matches, go to the website and click "Matches" in the top right-hand corner of the website. From there you will see the "Find SCSA Matches" (*image 1*).

You can click on either "View List" or "View Calendar". For the purposes of our discussion, click on "View List". You will then see a list of all sanctioned Tier I or what we commonly refer to as "local" Steel Challenge Matches (*image 2*).

If you would like more information about a match, go ahead and click on the "Match Name". You will find the date, time, location of the event, contact information for the director of the match and, typically, you will see the cost of the match (*image 3*).

You may have heard that a lot of people shoot more than one division (or gun) in a match; as a new shooter, I would recommend shooting one division. In our

example, we will need to bring \$25 for the Veterans 3 Gun Team 1100 match located at the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park.

Now that I know where I need to go, what do I need to bring? Let's start off with the two key essentials. You may be thinking gun and ammunition – no, not yet, we will get to that in a few moments. You need to bring:

1. **Eye Protection**
2. **Hearing Protection**

When you arrive at the shooting event, always make sure you have your eye protection on before you exit your vehicle. These events are held at gun ranges with active shooting going on; you only get two eyes, so let's be diligent in keeping them. When shopping for your safety glasses, look for a pair that is tested to an ANZI Z87.1 2015 standard. This means eye protection of a .25" steel ball traveling at 150 FPS. These can be purchased for as low as \$20.

Next, make sure you have your hearing protection in your hand in case shooting is already going on. When you purchase hearing protection, you will want a Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) of at least 25. With a proper fit, foam ear plugs can offer a NRR of 32. If shooting larger caliber guns, inner ear and over ear combinations are recommended. For shooting Rimfire, foam ear plugs are a great start and these can be found for as low as a dollar a pair.

Your next question should be, what kind of gun do I need to bring? I would recommend you bring what you have. Most outdoors enthusiasts have or know someone with a Ruger 10/22 or 22/45 in their safe, or maybe a Glock 17. If you don't, email the match director of the Steel Challenge match and ask them if they know of someone in the club who has equipment for you to borrow. Worst case scenario, you can purchase a Ruger 10/22 or 22/45 Mark IV or similar setup for \$300, or less if you shop around. To start with, I recommend starting from the 'low-ready' and not drawing from a holster. When asking to borrow equipment, see if they have five magazines to use during your first match. If you are hooked

IMAGE 1

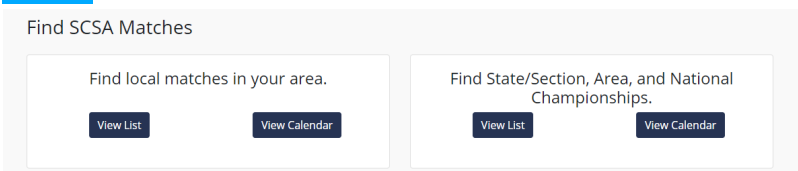
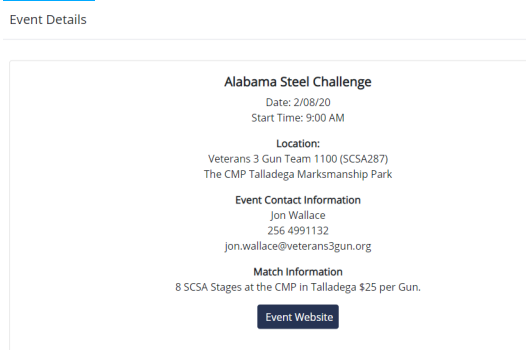


IMAGE 2

Match Name	Club	Date	Location
Palm Springs Gun Club Steel Challenge	Palm Springs Gun Club	1/26/20	Thousand Palms, CA
PGC January Match (Charleston, SC)	Palmetto Gun Club	1/26/20	Ridgeway, SC
Pricetown Steel Challenge - PRPCSCSA January 2019 Match	Pricetown Rifle & Pistol Club	1/26/20	Fleetwood, PA
First Coast Steel Shooters January match	First Coast Steel Shooters	1/27/20	New Smyrna Beach, FL
First Coast Steel Shooters January match	First Coast Steel Shooters	1/27/20	New Smyrna Beach, FL
Flagler Monday Six Stage Match	Flagler Gun And Archery Club	1/27/20	Bunnell, FL
The Range at True North Steel Challenge Match	True North Firearms Center	2/01/20	Oxford, NC
Flagler Monday Six Stage Match	Flagler Gun And Archery Club	2/03/20	Bunnell, FL
Hansen Steel Challenge	Fort Myers Practical Shooters	2/08/20	Punta Gorda, FL
Alabama Steel Challenge	Veterans 3 Gun Team 1100	2/08/20	Talladega, AL

IMAGE 3



the way I was, you will want your own equipment; having five magazines helps the shooting squads move along quicker. When you borrow or purchase a gun for the match, make sure you have a bag to bring it to and from the firing line in an unloaded and safe condition. Make sure when the “Make Ready” command is given, the muzzle end of the gun is pointed downrange. If shooting a rifle, you will need a chamber flag, which more than likely will come with the gun – if not, a simple zip tie will get you through your first match.

The only other thing you need for a match is to make sure you have enough ammunition. To be on the safe side, bring 500 rounds. For Rimfire, you can find ammunition on sale for about \$.05 a round, for a total of \$25.

When you get to the range, most times, “check in” is at a clubhouse, but every range is different. Again, check with the match director or their web site to get the check-in time, directions, check-in point, and match fee.

To recap the costs of getting started, if you are able to borrow a gun and magazines, is:

- Eye Protection \$20
  - Ear Protection \$1
  - Ammunition \$25
  - Match Fee \$25
- TOTAL \$71**

You should have ammunition to come home, and your eye and ear protection is reusable if you take care of them. If you want to purchase a gun, I would add around \$300 and a bag for \$10, a total of \$310 plus tax. Most guns come with two magazines, so you will want to buy three more for about \$20 each, a total of \$60. Your own setup will be less than \$400 to get started, and you can upgrade with time.

It may seem a bit daunting, but I recommend reading the Rules of Steel Challenge located on the SCSA.org website under *Member Resources*.

You do not need to be an expert. There will be Ranger Officers in charge of your squad, and they will be able to answer any questions you may have.

We all started at the same starting point. Don't be nervous. Get to the range, be safe, and have fun! ■



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# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS OPEN DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

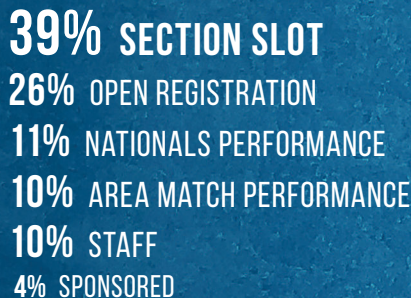
USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

2023 OPEN DIVISION

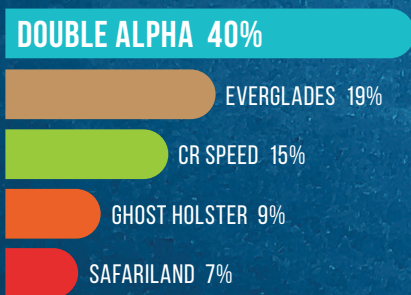
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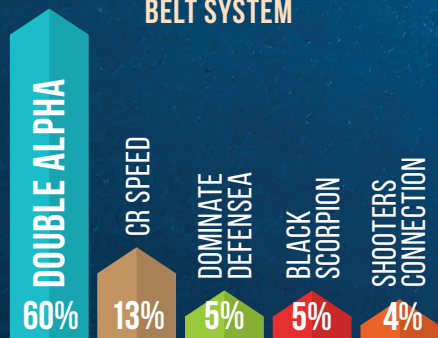
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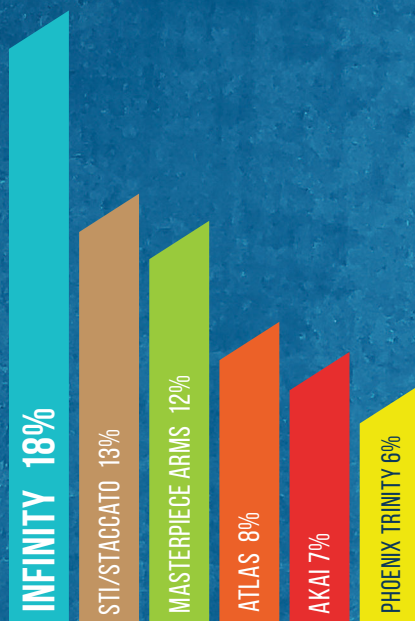
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



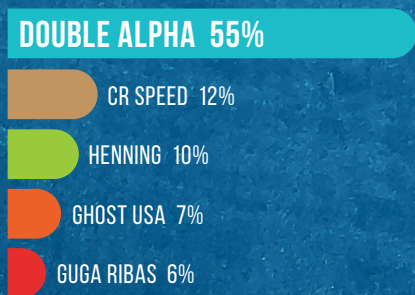
### BELT SYSTEM



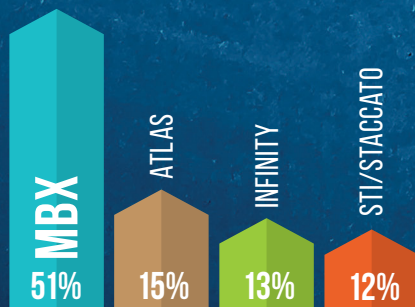
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



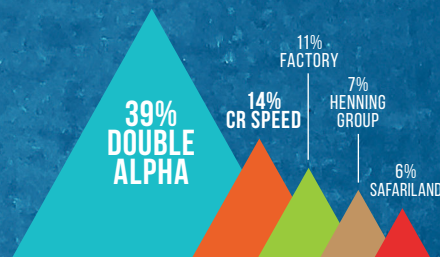
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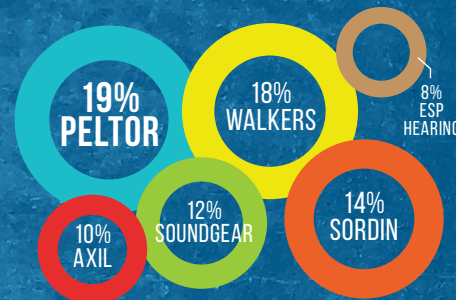
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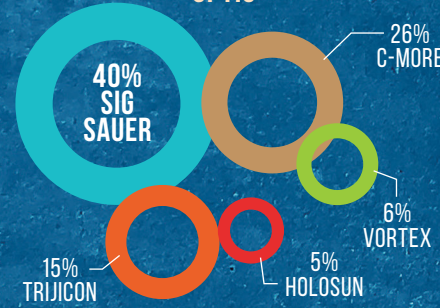
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



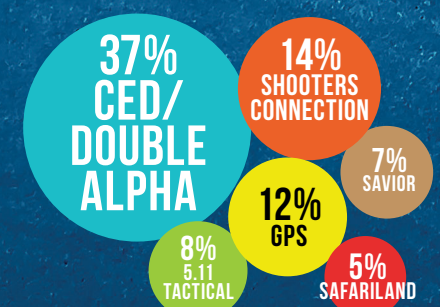
### HEARING PROTECTION



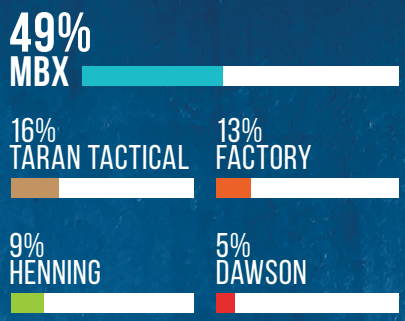
### OPTIC



### RANGE BAG BRAND



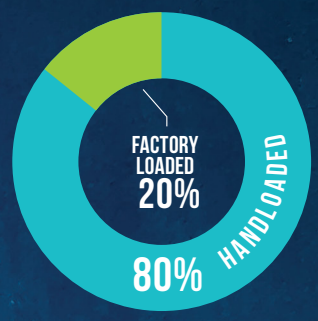
BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



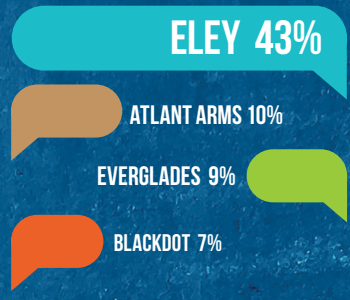
GRIP MANUFACTURERS



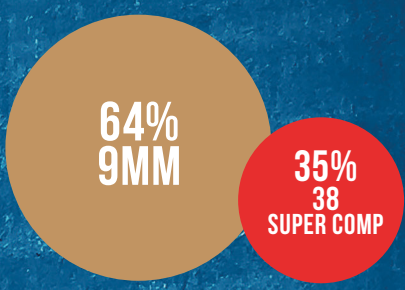
AMMUNITION



FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



BULLET CALIBER



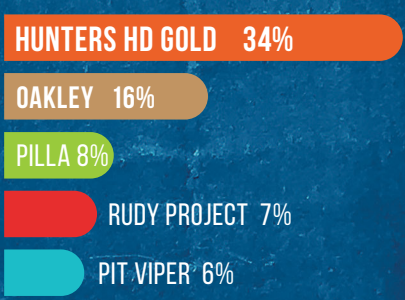
RELOADER MANUFACTURER



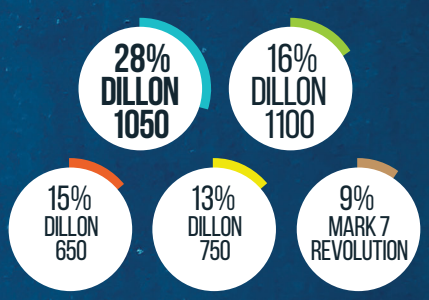
BULLET TYPE



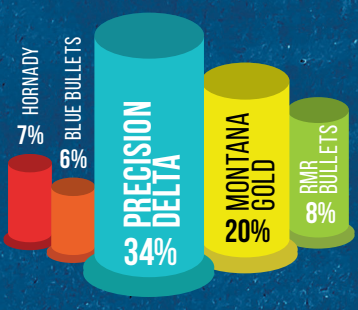
EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



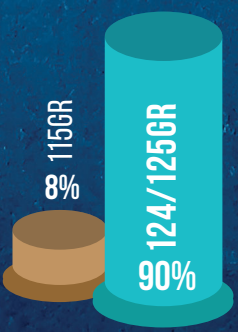
MODEL OF RELOADER



BULLET MANUFACTURER



BULLET WEIGHT





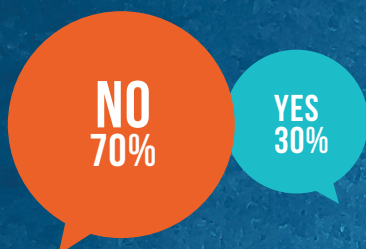
# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS LIMITED/L10 DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

2023 LIMITED/L10 DIVISION

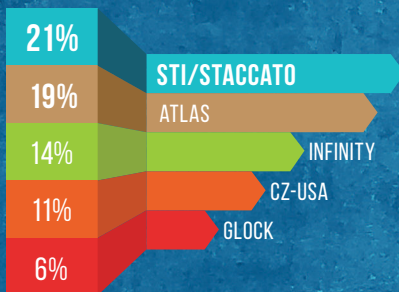
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



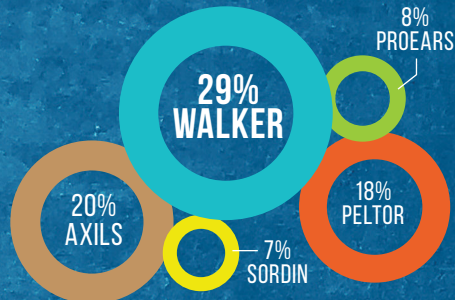
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?

- 37% OPEN REGISTRATION**
- 31% SECTION SLOT**
- 11% AREAS PERFORMANCE**
- 8% STAFF**
- 7% NATIONALS PERFORMANCE**
- 6% SPONSORED**

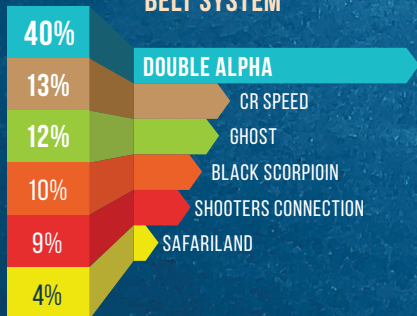
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



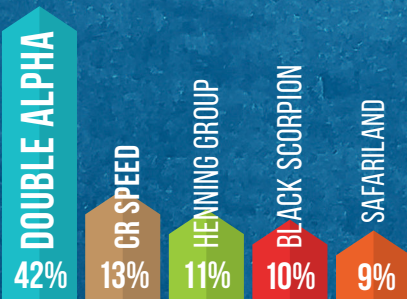
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



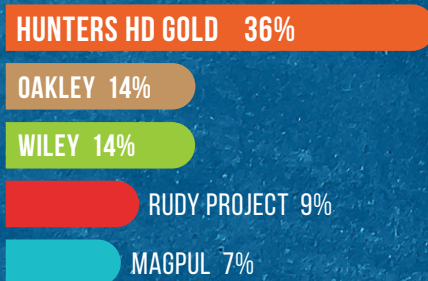
### BELT SYSTEM



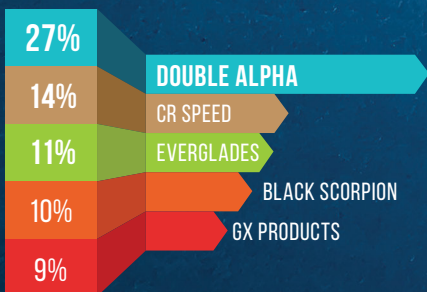
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



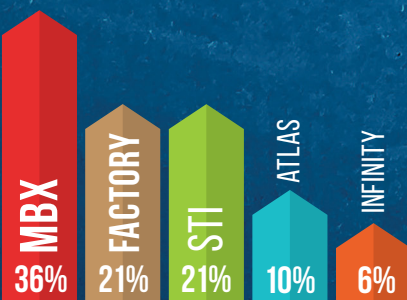
### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



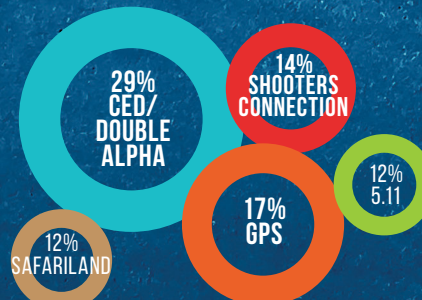
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURER



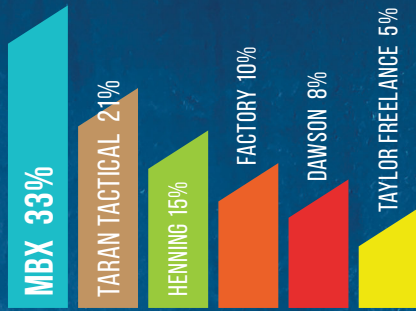
### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER



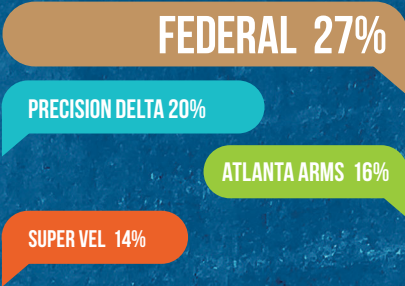
### RANGE BAG BRAND



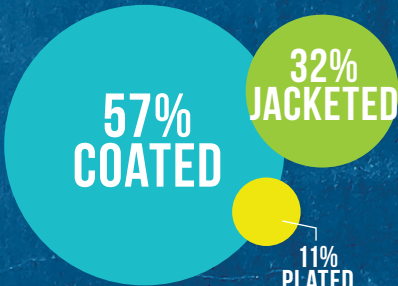
### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



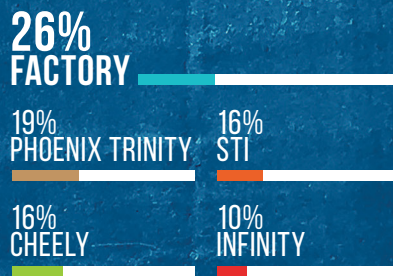
### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



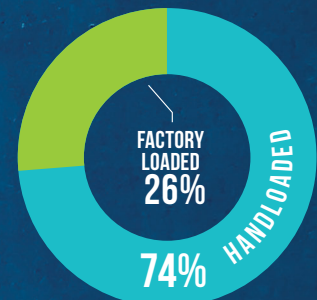
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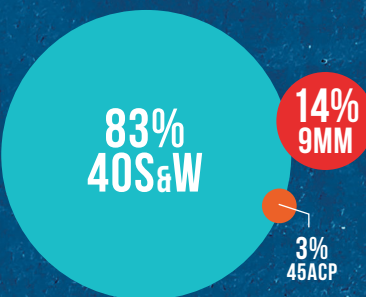
### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



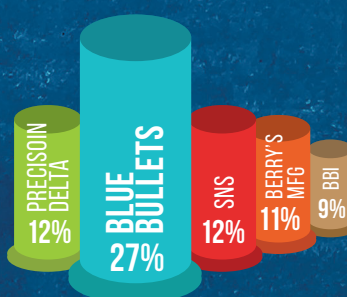
### AMMUNITION



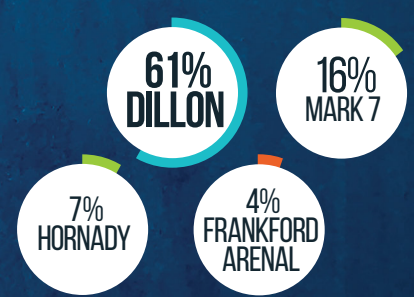
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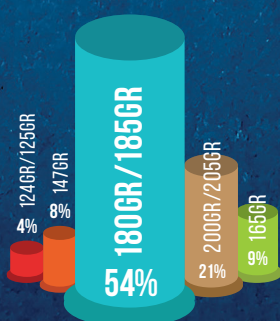
### BULLET MANUFACTURER



### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



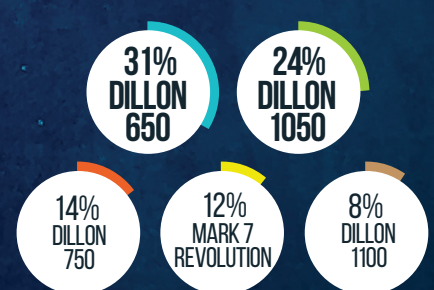
### BULLET WEIGHT



### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



### MODEL OF RELOADER



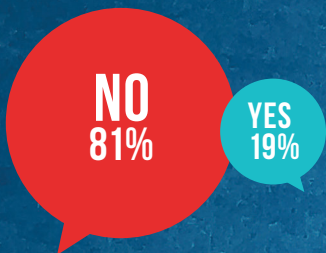


# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS PRODUCTION DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

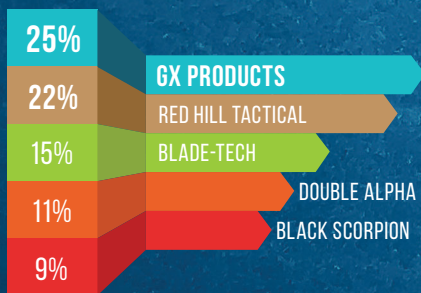
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



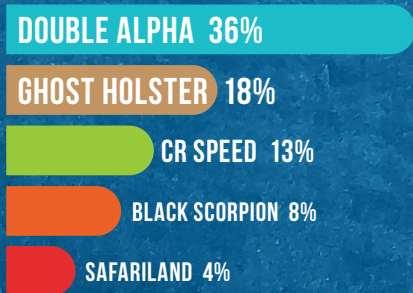
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



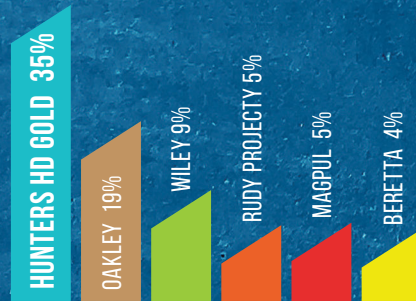
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



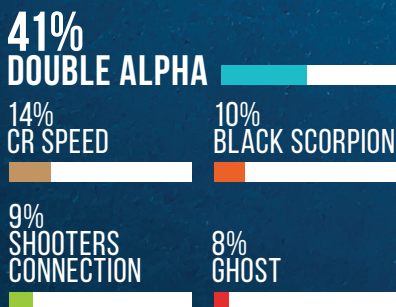
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



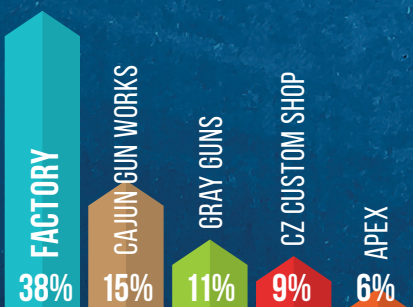
### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



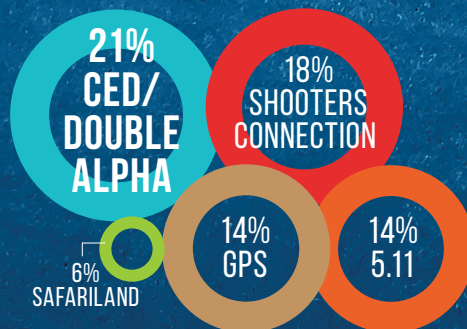
### BELT SYSTEM



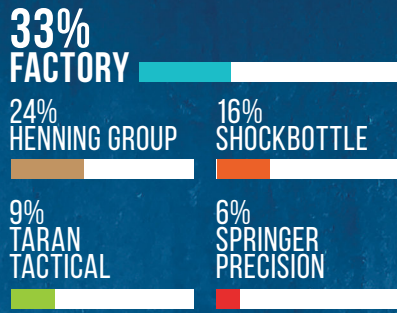
### TRIGGER MANUFACTURER



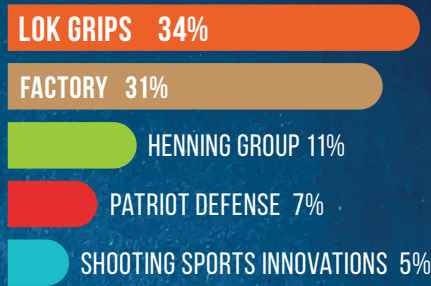
### RANGE BAG BRAND



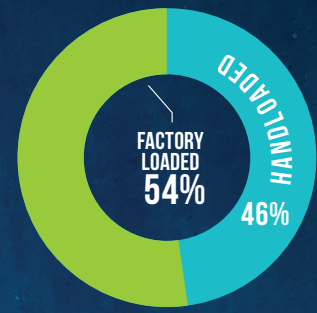
### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



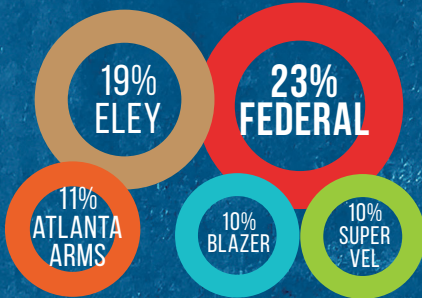
### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



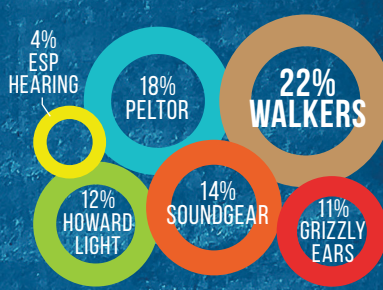
### AMMUNITION



### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



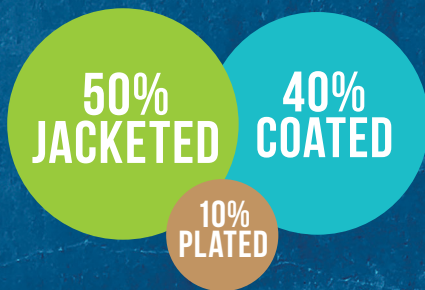
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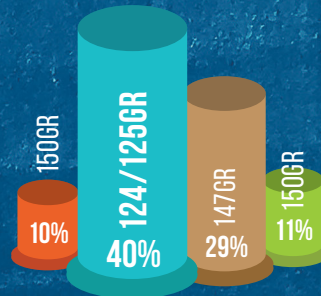
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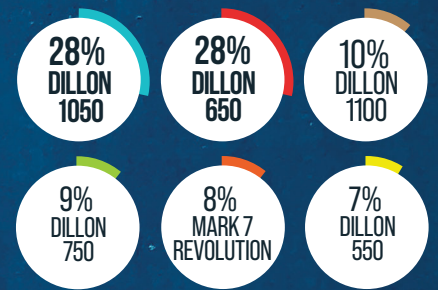
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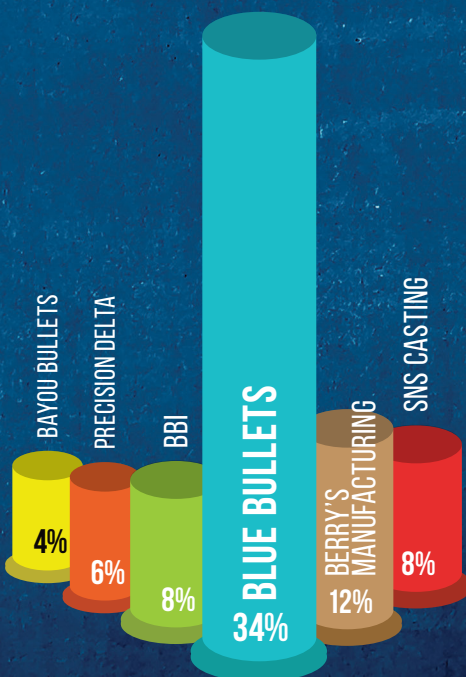
### BULLET WEIGHT



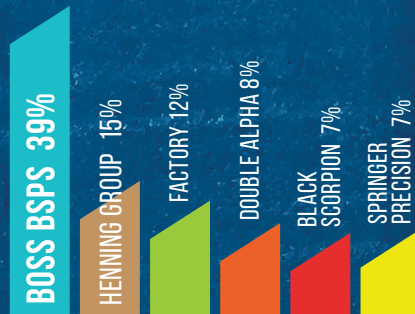
### MODEL OF RELOADER



### BULLET MANUFACTURER



### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME





# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS PCC DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

2023 PCC DIVISION

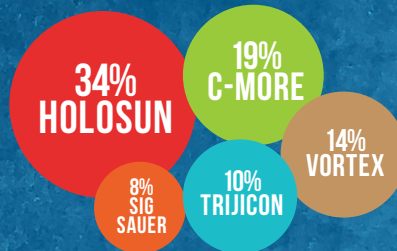
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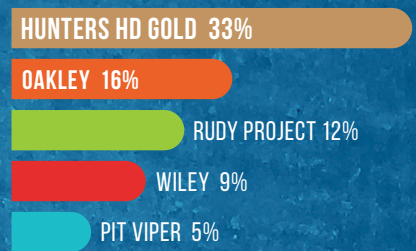
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



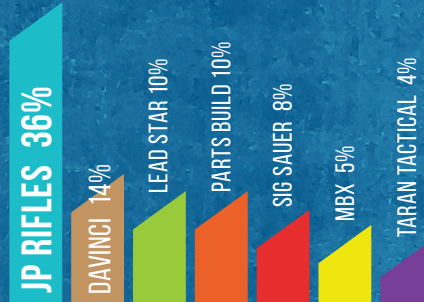
### OPTIC MANUFACTURER



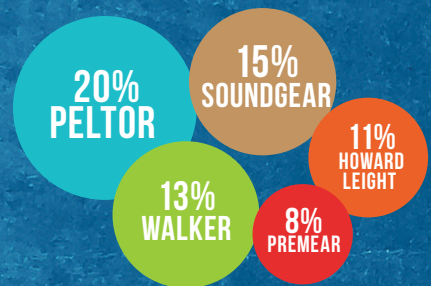
### EYEWEAR BRAND



### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



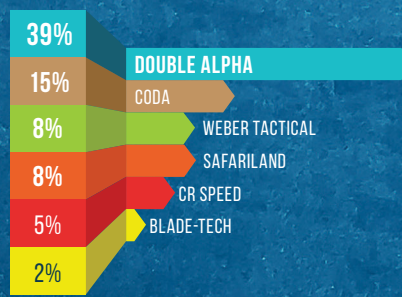
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



### LOWER BRAND



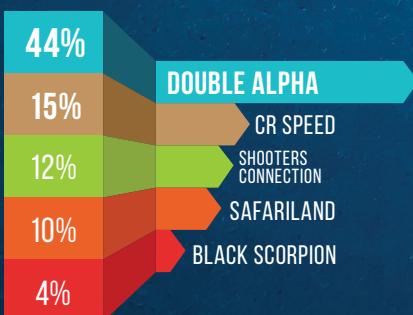
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



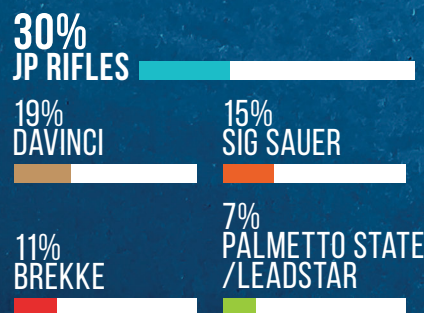
### FOREARM BRAND



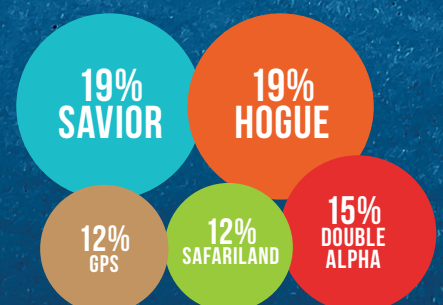
### BELT SYSTEM



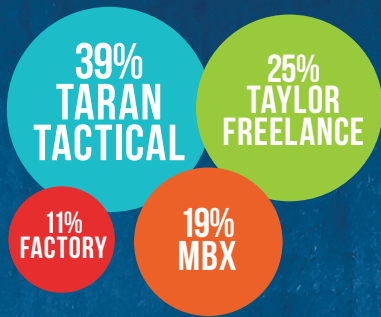
### UPPER BRAND



### RANGE BAG BRAND



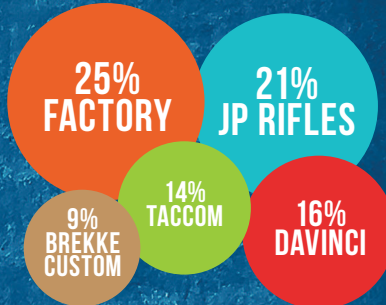
### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



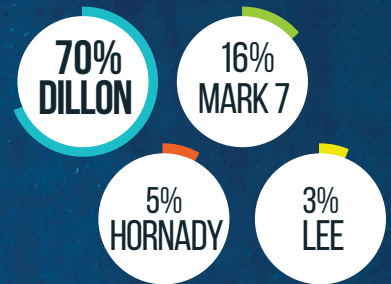
### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



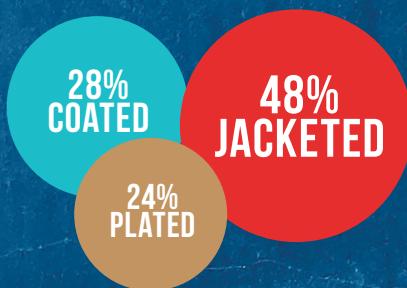
### BOLT BRAND



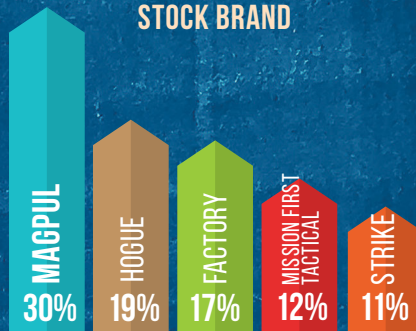
### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



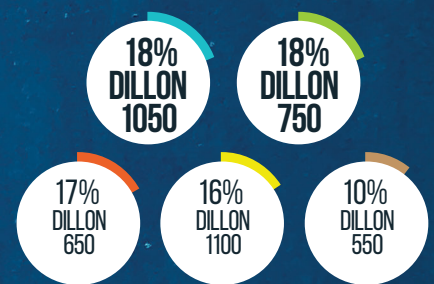
### BULLET TYPE



### STOCK BRAND



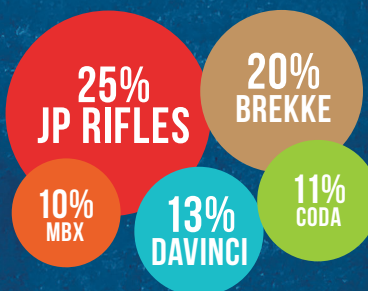
### MODEL OF RELOADER



### AMMUNITION



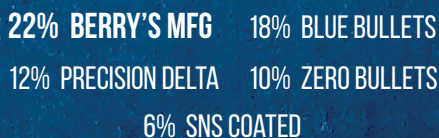
### COMPENSATOR BRAND



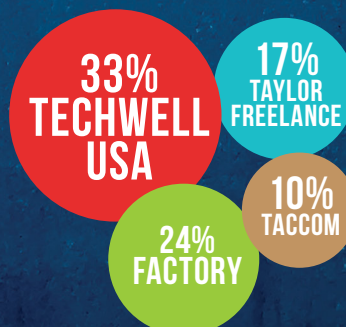
### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



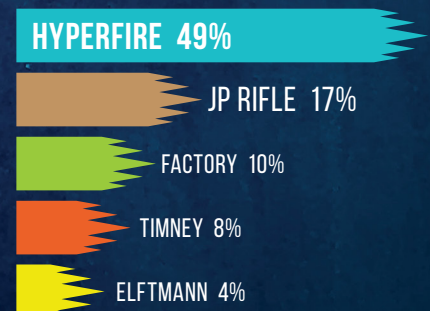
### BULLET MANUFACTURER



### MAGWELL BRAND



### TRIGGER BRAND



### BULLET WEIGHT



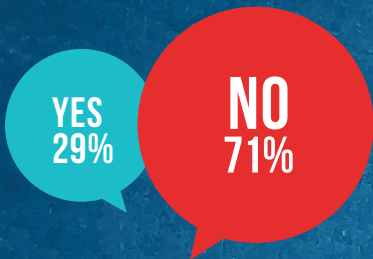


# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS CARRY OPTICS DIVISION

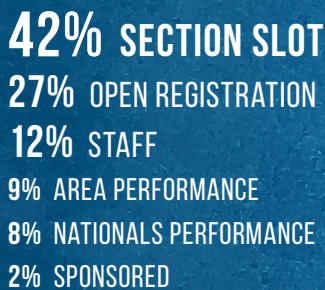
## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

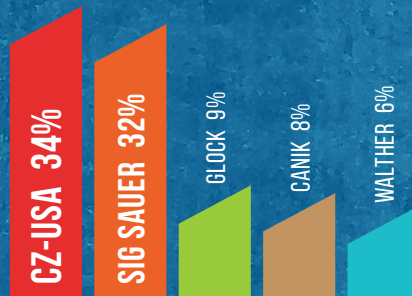
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



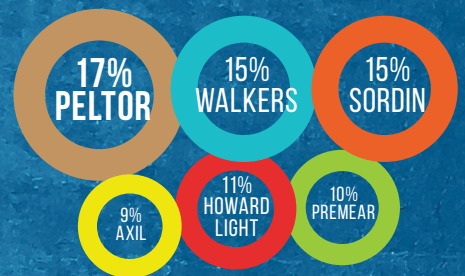
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



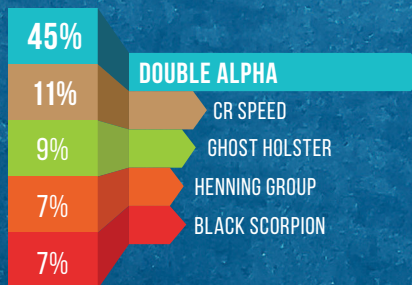
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



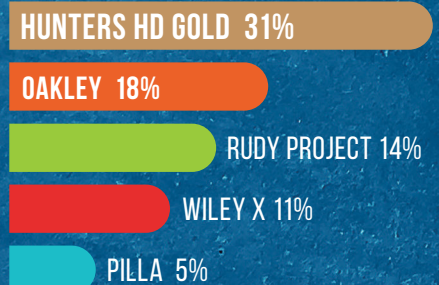
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



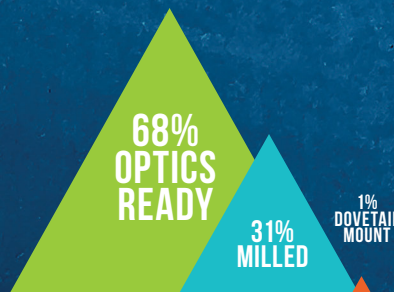
### EYEWEAR BRAND



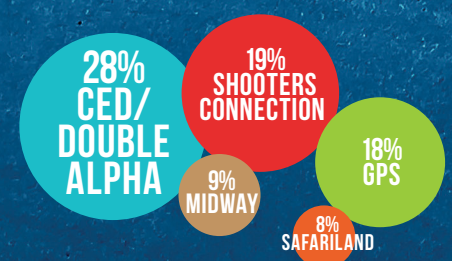
### BELT SYSTEM



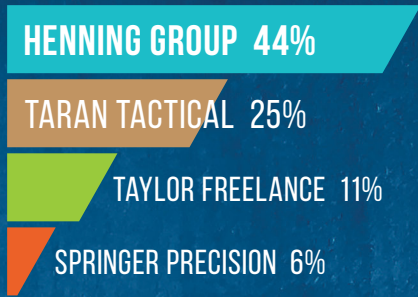
### FACTORY SLIDE



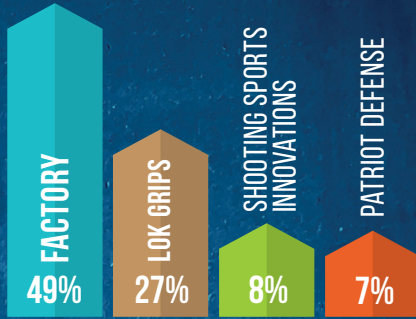
### RANGE BAG BRAND



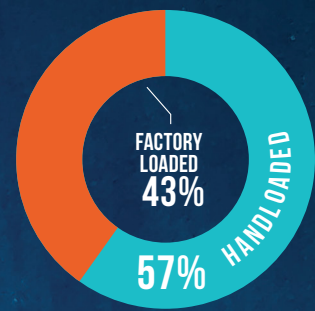
### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



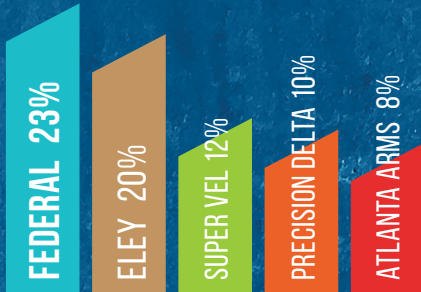
### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



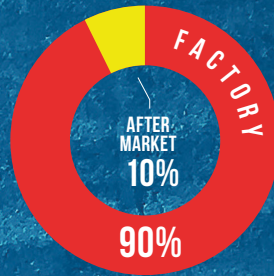
### AMMUNITION



### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



### SLIDE



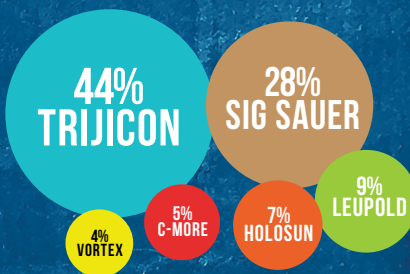
### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



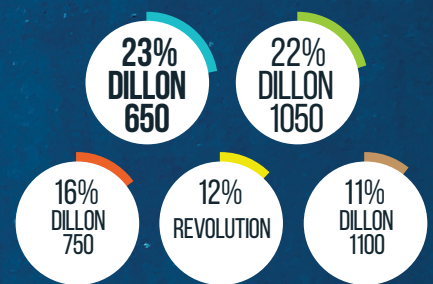
### TRIGGER



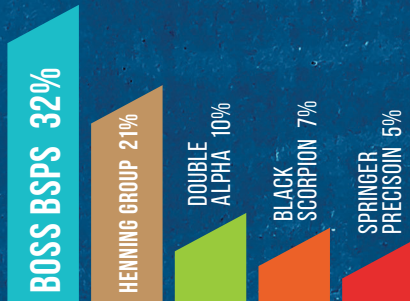
### OPTIC MANUFACTURER



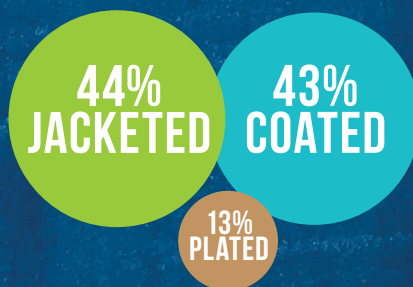
### MODEL OF RELOADER



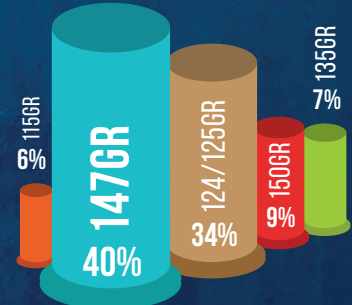
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



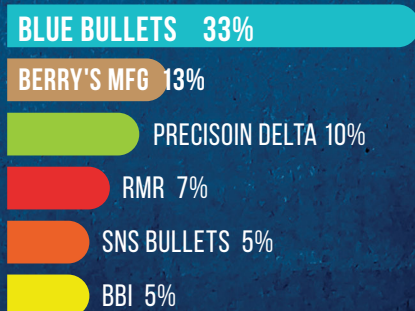
### BULLET TYPE



### BULLET WEIGHT



### BULLET MANUFACTURER



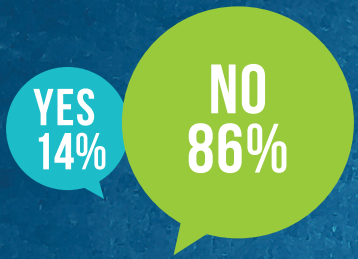


# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS SINGLE STACK DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

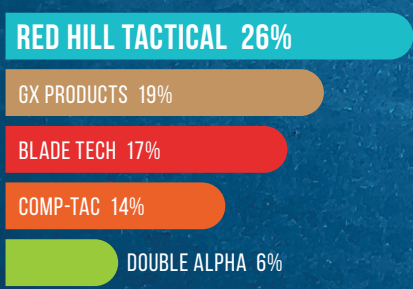
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



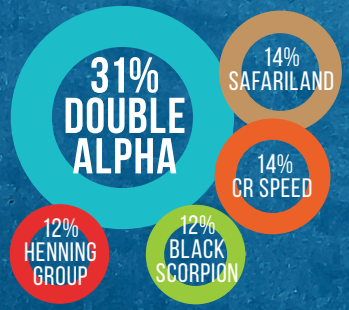
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



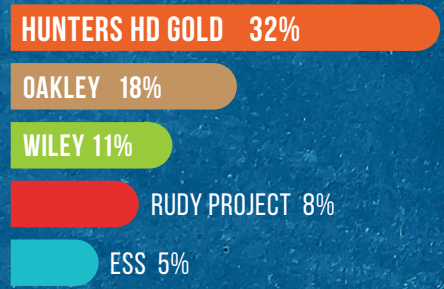
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



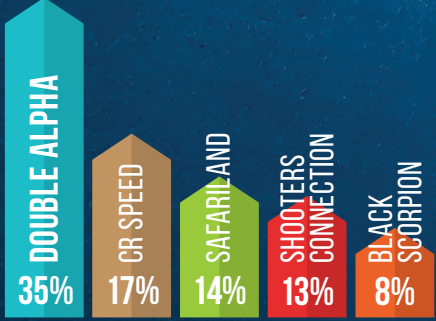
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



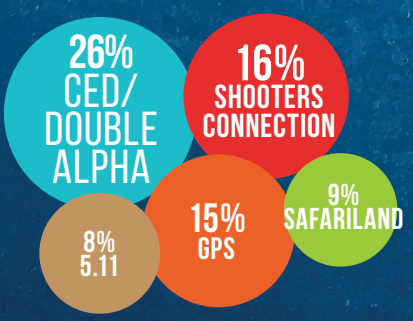
### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



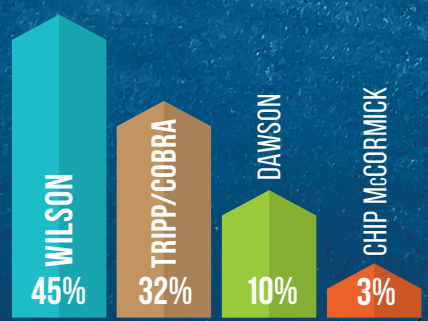
### BELT SYSTEM



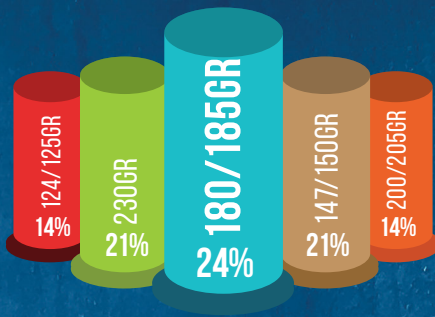
### RANGE BAG BRAND



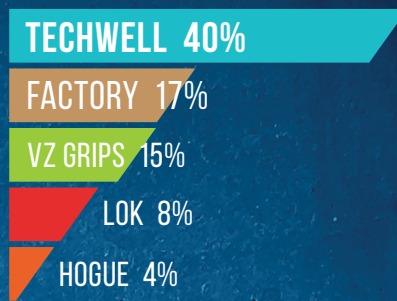
### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER



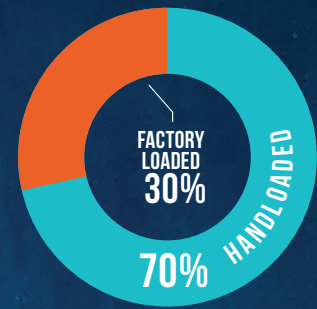
### BULLET WEIGHT



### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



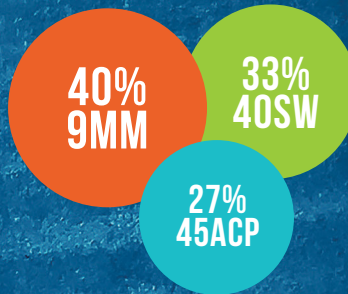
### AMMUNITION



### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



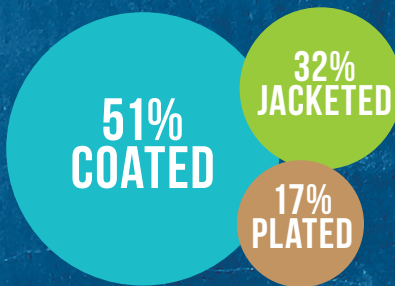
### BULLET CALIBER



### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



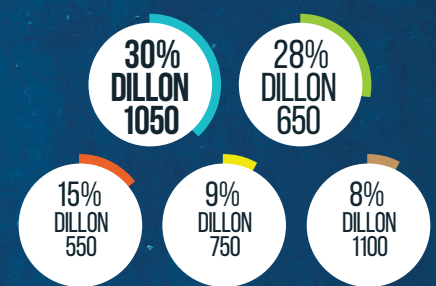
### BULLET TYPE



### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



### MODEL OF RELOADER



### BULLET MANUFACTURER



### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND





# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS REVOLVER DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?

**YES**  
17%

**NO**  
83%



### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?

**28%** NATIONALS PERFORMANCE

**26%** OPEN REGISTRATION

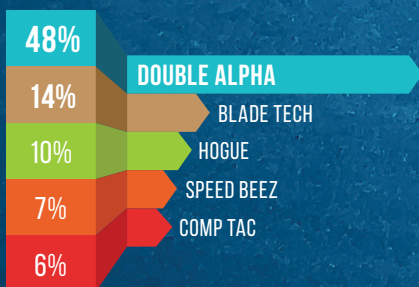
**24%** STAFF

**17%** SECTION SLOT

**3%** SPONSORED

**2%** AREA PERFORMANCE

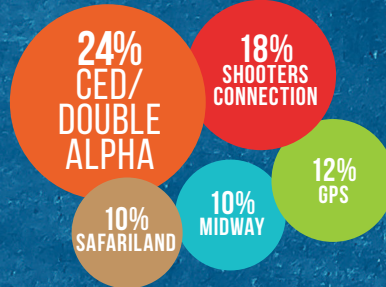
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



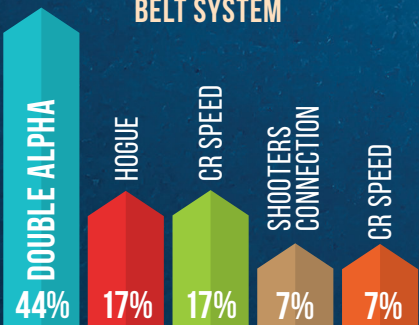
### MOON CLIP HOLDER



### RANGE BAG BRAND



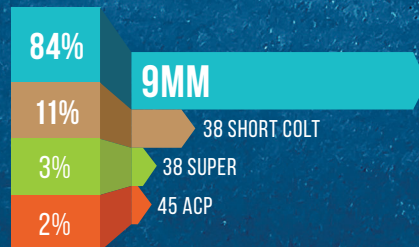
### BELT SYSTEM



### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



### BULLET CALIBER

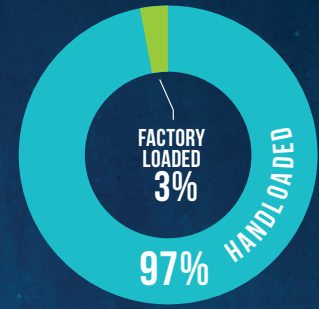


2023 REVOLVER DIVISION

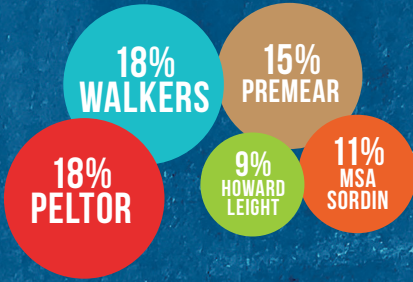
## GRIP MANUFACTURERS



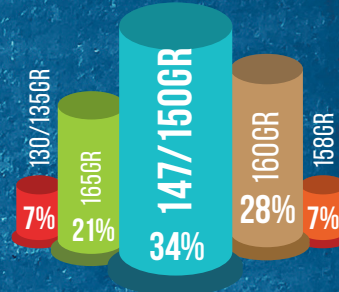
## AMMUNITION



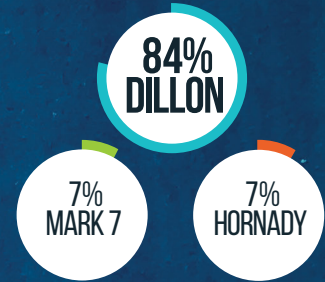
## HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



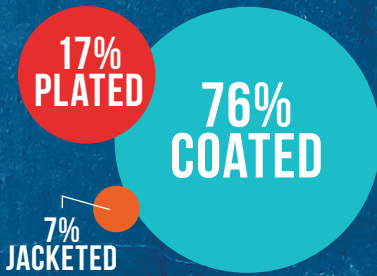
## BULLET WEIGHT



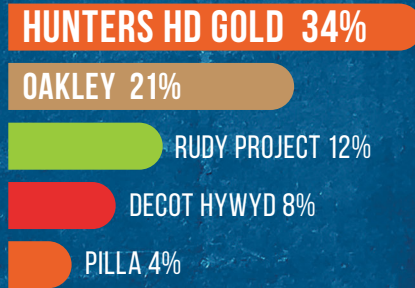
## RELOADER MANUFACTURER



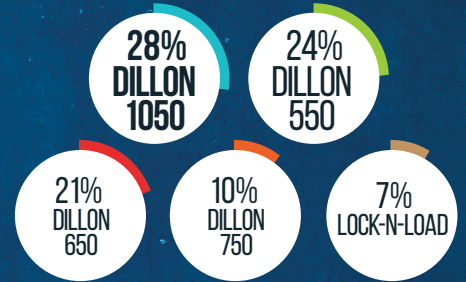
## BULLET TYPE



## EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



## MODEL OF RELOADER



## BULLET MANUFACTURER





# 2023 USPSA NATIONALS LIMITED OPTICS DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

USPSA'S LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TODAY

### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?

**YES**  
27%

**NO**  
73%



### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?

**62% OPEN REGISTRATION**

15% STAFF

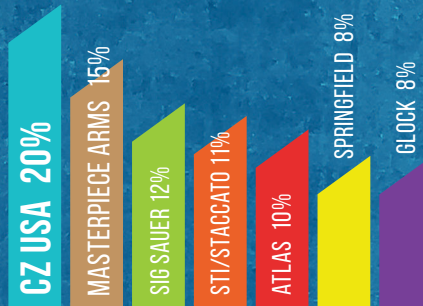
11% SECTION SLOT

4% AREA PERFORMANCE

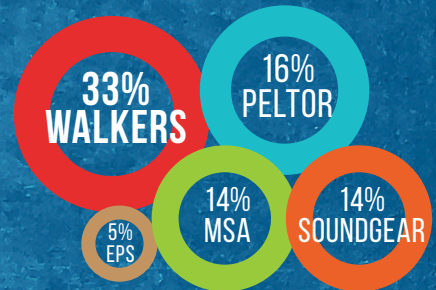
4% NATIONALS PERFORMANCE

4% SPONSORED

### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



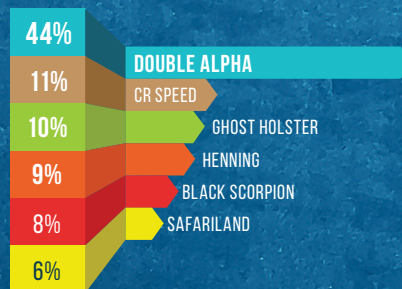
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



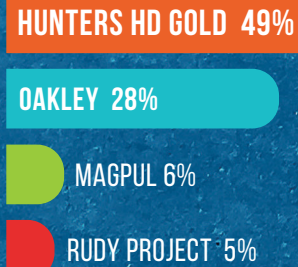
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



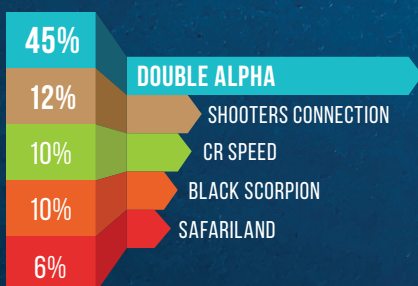
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



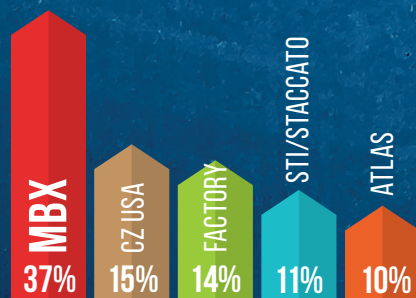
### EYEWEAR BRAND



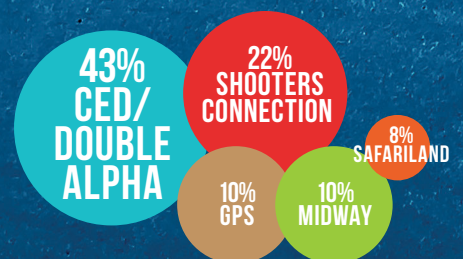
### BELT SYSTEM



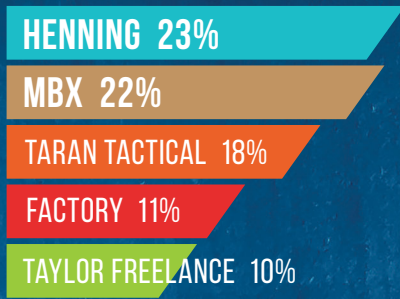
### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER



### RANGE BAG BRAND



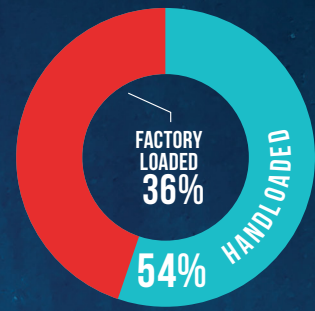
### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



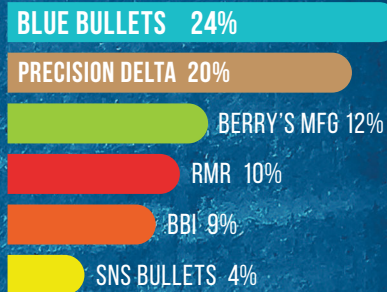
### AMMUNITION



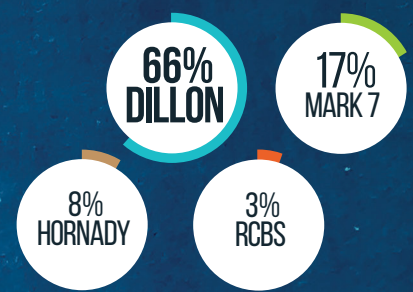
### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



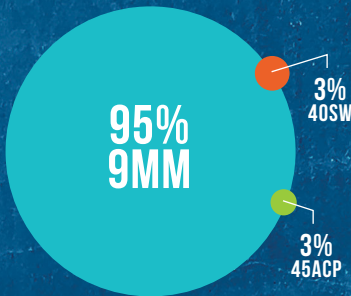
### BULLET MANUFACTURER



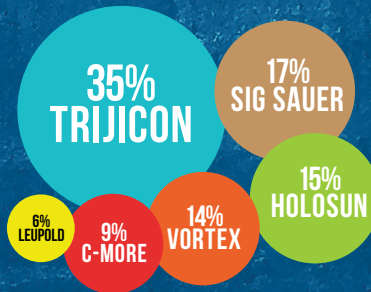
### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



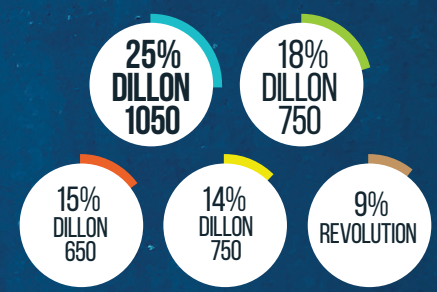
### BULLET CALIBER



### OPTIC MANUFACTURER



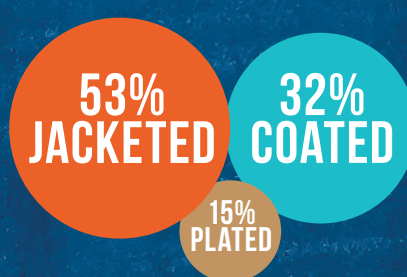
### MODEL OF RELOADER



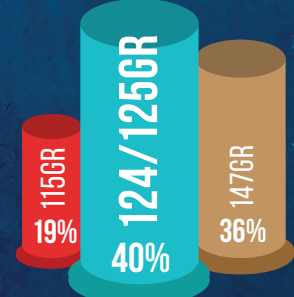
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



### BULLET TYPE



### BULLET WEIGHT



# SHOOTING SPORTS A PARENT'S GUIDE TO GETTING STARTED

BY STEVE FOSTER, L6066

**T**hirty-eight years ago, I pulled the trigger on my first gun, a bolt-action rimfire rifle. The loud crack of the bullet leaving the rifle and then hitting the intended soda can lit a spark inside me, which has developed into a burning passion in the Shooting Sports. My father was a skilled marksman who has a training heart with a “Safety First” mantra in everything we explored while I was growing up.

Steel Challenge is a great place for new shooters and youth shooters to begin their shooting career. Some of us haven't left. Why Steel Challenge? Shooting sports such as USPSA's Steel Challenge has a low barrier to entry to get your younger family members involved in competitive shooting.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet an amazing young man. His name is Tucker, and he is nine years old. I squadded with his father Andy Browne at a Tier 1 match in Tennessee. Tucker was enthusiastic about shooting, had lots of questions, and loved to spray targets with Steel Target Paint. He did not shoot this match, but was in attendance because his father wanted to gauge his interest and readiness to attend his first match.

Shortly after meeting Tucker, his father reached out to me and stated he had successfully shot his first match. I sat down with Tucker and his father to answer some questions many of us, as parents, have about getting their children or younger family members into competitive shooting.

Royce Bright and Neil Davis



**USPSA:** *Andy, you are a competitive shooter, can you tell me where your home range is and what involvement you have in the sport, i.e., Match Director for X, you shoot Steel Challenge, etcetera?*

**AB:** I am currently a member of the Steel Target Paint shooting team and compete in Steel Challenge competitions. I also serve as the match director for Dead Zero Steel Challenge, at the Dead Zero Shooting Park in Spencer, Tennessee, where we host monthly matches along with hosting the Tennessee State Steel Challenge Championship this year.

**USPSA:** *With the lack of matches being held, I traveled to Tennessee to shoot a*

*local match with you, and I met your son Tucker. How old is he, and what is his interest in shooting?*

**AB:** Tucker is nine years old, and he is interested in all things shooting. He has started competing in some of our local Steel Challenge matches and shows a great deal of excitement about the shooting sports. Tucker came to watch me at some matches and really expressed an interest in competing. He saw my teammates Steve Foster and Chris Barrett at a match and he was completely hooked. After that match, he shot some of the guns used by the team, including Larry Joe Steele's JP GMR-15 PCC and Vanessa Foster's CWA rimfire pistol. The level of excitement he

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showed me after that match let me know that we were on the right track to getting him involved in competition.

**USPSA:** *Why do you think he is so interested in shooting?*

**AB:** I have been involved in shooting for over 40 years, so Tucker has been exposed to shooting his whole life. We have spent many days as a family at the range having fun.

**USPSA:** *Tucker, why are you interested in shooting?*

**TB:** I like shooting guns and being able to go shoot with my dad.

**USPSA:** *Tucker, what is it you like most about the sport?*

**TB:** I like to get to shoot and try to get better every time I shoot.

**USPSA:** *Tucker, what do you like least about the sport?*

**TB:** There isn't anything that I don't really like about shooting.

**USPSA:** *Andy, why are you supporting him in his pursuit of shooting?*

**AB:** Part of my job as a dad is to support Tucker as he chases dreams. His interest in the shooting sports is something that is easy to get behind, since it such a positive activity. This also allows me to spend time with him as he grows.

**USPSA:** *What are your goals for him in the sport? We should talk about the ease of shooting Steel Challenge with the family atmosphere.*

**AB:** The number one goal I have for Tucker is for him to enjoy shooting. If he isn't having fun, then he is free to walk away from it. I have been this way with him through other sports he has been involved with. I want him to feel excited for every match he attends. Now, on the competitive end, I would love to see him become one of the next rising stars in Steel Challenge. This particular sport has so many talented young shooters, and they will carry the sport for us as the

next generation. Getting Tucker involved in Steel Challenge was a pretty easy decision, since it offers very few barriers to entry. We also have a great group of local shooters that include entire families. The environment at Steel Challenge matches is like a family gathering. I also liked the fact that there is not much movement involved in Steel Challenge stages, something that allows young shooters to better focus on safety and shooting fundamentals.

**USPSA:** *Let's talk about the different divisions in Steel Challenge. Which do you think is the best to start him off with? What would your advice be for other parents who are looking to get their son/daughter/niece/nephew involved in the shooting sports?*

**AB:** We started Tucker off in RFR0 for a couple of reasons. Our Magnum Research Switchbolt rifles are lightweight, so even smaller folks can handle them well. The rimfire platform also has very little recoil, so it helps keep him from feeling like his rifle is beating him up. The use of an optical



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sight helps with the overall learning curve of picking up speed in the stages as a new shooter. A reliable rimfire rifle with either open sights or an optic is easy to shoot well and the cost of rimfire ammunition is reasonable.

For anyone who is looking to get a youngster involved in the shooting sports, I would tell them to not feel intimidated. Even if you do not have personal experience, there are very capable shooters at the matches that will gladly help a young shooter get started. Patience seems to be abundant at matches, particularly when young shooters are involved.

**USPSA:** *Are you concerned at all for his safety shooting at the age of nine?*

**AB:** We exposed Tucker to firearms at a young age so that we could start to build healthy respect for them. With the many safety features built into Steel Challenge matches, we have been very comfortable with getting Tucker involved. Tucker had to show me that he could safely handle a firearm, clear malfunctions, and shoot with reasonable accuracy before he was able to shoot in a match.

**USPSA:** *For our readers who are considering getting a young person involved in shooting, what gear do you recommend for a new shooter and why – guns, glasses, ears, etcetera?*

**AB:** One of great things about Steel Challenge is the ease of getting started. As I mentioned, Tucker is using a Magnum Research Switchbolt rifle, and it has been great. We have six magazines that he uses for matches, one for each string and a spare. Something to consider with young shooters is their physical size and how a firearm or accessory will fit them. This has been something that was challenging with Tucker when we were working on hearing protection. The “in-ear” hearing protection proved to be uncomfortable for him, so he has settled on a traditional style of ear muffs. Since being comfortable is important, you will want to get feedback from the young shooter on their hearing protection. Pro Ears most likely offers hearing protection that will work for both

Milo Davis and Aron Bright



your budget and the shooter’s comfort. Comfortable eyewear is also an important consideration. Tucker had received a nice pair of shooting glasses from his grandparents at Christmas, so he was ready with those. Comfortable footwear is another consideration, since the shooters will be on their feet quite a bit. Also, remember to bring snacks and drinks to the range. This helps keep your young shooter fueled up throughout the match.

**USPSA:** *Do you have any other recommendations you would like to share with our readers on getting younger people involved in the sport?*

**AB:** It is imperative that we pass the shooting sports on to our younger shooters. If you have a young person who is interested, give them all the help you can. If you are unsure about how to get them involved, reach out to your local

club, and I am confident you will find them to be welcoming. All of the local clubs I shoot at go to great lengths to help youngsters or new shooters get going and feel comfortable.

**USPSA:** *Tucker, what message would you send to others who are not certain about shooting that are your age? What would you tell them to give them confidence?*

**TB:** I would tell them to concentrate on being safe and get started. I would also tell them to start with the smaller caliber guns and then work on the larger guns. It helps confidence by remembering that it is not about winning, it is about having fun and being safe.

Thank you to Andy and his son Tucker for spending time with us to share their first-hand knowledge and experience as they dive headfirst into a life-long passion! ■

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