

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES PRACTICAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION



# USPSA

2025 ANNUAL VOL. 42 | NO. 1A

# 2025

2025 ANNUAL ISSUE



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Daisy Evans



Todd Holmes

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## FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

By Alan H. Turner II, A161000  
 Managing Director, USPSA/IPSC  
 alan@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 40,000 members strong. We have over 775 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.

Allen Turner,  
 USPSA Managing Director



— 2 0 2 5 —

# NATIONALS



## WORLD SPEED SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

sponsored by *Ruger*

**May 28–June 1, 2025**

CMP Marksmanship Park  
Talladega, AL

presented by *Vortex*



## FACTORY GUN NATIONALS

CARRY OPTICS / PRODUCTION / SINGLE STACK / REVOLVER

sponsored by *SIG Sauer*

**June 27–29, 2025**

(pre-match June 25–26)

Cardinal Shooting Center  
Marengo, OH

presented by *Vortex*



## MULTI-GUN NATIONALS

sponsored by *Federal*

**July 18–20, 2025**

(staff July 16–17)

Forest Lake Sportsmen's Club  
Forest Lake, MN

presented by *Vortex*



## IPSC NATIONALS

**August 22–24, 2025**

(staff August 20–21)

Cardinal Shooting Center  
Marengo, OH



## RACEGUN NATIONALS

OPEN / LIMITED / PCC / LIMITED OPTICS / LIO

sponsored by *Vortex Optics*

**October 24–26, 2025**

(pre-match October 22–23)

Hosted by Greater Zion  
Hurricane, UT

presented by *Berry's Bullets*

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20  
25

# 40,000 MEMBERS AND CLIMBING: USPSA MEMBERSHIP HITS ALL-TIME HIGH!

BY JAKE MARTENS, DMM, L5050

AS OF APRIL 15, 2025, USPSA and Steel Challenge reached a major milestone: 40,000 members. That's the largest our organization has ever been, and it's more than just a number it's a testament to the passion, growth, and dedication happening across every level of the sport. Whether you're running a club, working the timer, or showing up for your first match, you've played a part in this.

To hit 40,000 members is exciting, but what's even more important is what it represents. It reflects increased engagement at the local level, full squads at major matches, a surge of interest from new shooters, and a wave of volunteers stepping up to keep everything moving. We're averaging over 33 new members every single day, and that trend shows no sign of slowing down.

## GROWTH STARTS AT THE CLUB LEVEL

At the core of this momentum are our clubs. Across the country, 481 USPSA clubs and 293 Steel Challenge clubs are active and running matches. That's where the action happens. These clubs are the entry point for most shooters into the sport, and they're also the foundation for long-term participation.

We closed out Q1 of 2025 with match activity up 19 percent in USPSA and 11 percent in Steel Challenge compared to Q1 of 2024. That's a big jump, and it reflects not only more matches being hosted but also more shooters showing up to compete. Club matches are filling up, registration links are getting hammered, and squads are filling up fast.

## 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.

**ALAN TURNER / Managing Director** In July 2024, I joined USPSA as Managing Director to lead a dedicated team of professionals focused on delivering efficient, effective, and fiscally responsible support to our members, clubs, and the sport as a whole. Together, we work to grow practical shooting nationwide while ensuring strong daily operations and long-term strategic progress. I work closely with the USPSA Board of Directors to align our efforts and advance the mission of the organization.

**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.

### USPSA OFFICE

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## A PACKED MAJOR MATCH CALENDAR

The 2025 calendar is stacked. As of mid-April, we have 70 Level 2 and Level 3 USPSA matches scheduled across the country, plus 25 Steel Challenge major events on the books.

That's a significant number of opportunities for shooters to test themselves beyond the local level – and a sign that match directors are stepping up in a big way. From the classic destination matches to newer events building a reputation, there's no shortage of options to get out and compete.

## BUILDING UP RANGE OFFICERS AND THE NEXT GENERATION

The future of USPSA and Steel Challenge depends on solid match staff, and that starts with education. In the first three and a half months of 2025 alone, we've already completed 35 NROI Range Officer seminars, helping train and certify the next wave of match officials. That number is expected to climb, with over 50 additional seminars scheduled throughout the remainder of the year. This includes more than just RO classes; we've also got two IROA IPSC seminars on the calendar, helping grow the pool of volunteers.

### Volunteers Make It All Happen

We say it often, but it bears repeating – this sport runs on volunteers. It's easy to focus on the competition, the gear, the guns, the stages, but none of it happens without the people behind the scenes. These are the people driving USPSA and Steel Challenge forward.

## LOOKING AHEAD

With a record number of members, strong match activity, and a packed calendar of events and training, 2025 is shaping up to be a banner year for USPSA and Steel Challenge. But we're not taking our foot off the gas; we're 40,000 strong and still climbing. Let's keep it going! ■

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# STAYING INFORMED WITH OFFICIAL MOBILE APPS

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.

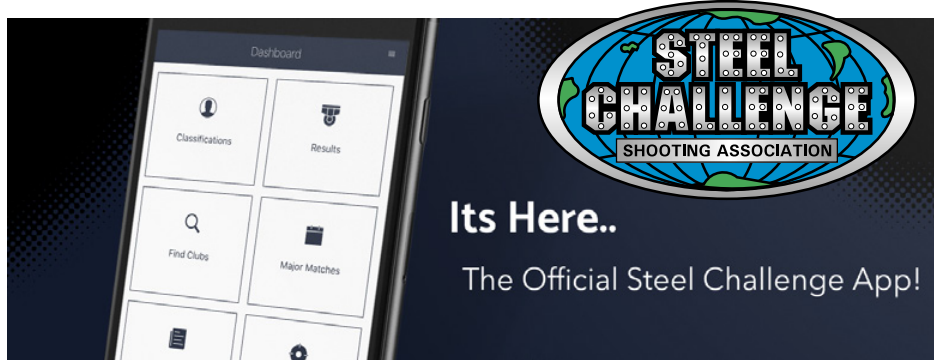


**APP FEATURES INCLUDE:**

- // 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.



**Its Here..**

The Official Steel Challenge App!



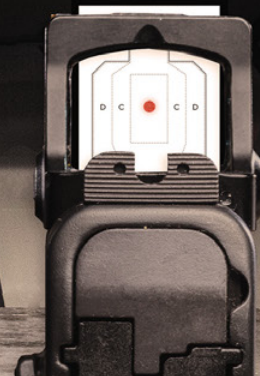
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thing from revolvers and the classic 1911 auto pistol to modern service pistols, custom race guns, rifles, shotguns, and carbines.

## 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 40,000 members by 2025.

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 775 affiliated clubs across the United States and around the world, we're eager to connect you with local shooting enthusiasts. ■



Naomi Moss



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# 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 or SCSA matches. 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.

Sean Griffith



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.

New for 2024/2025, Steel Challenge Range Officer, (SCRO), certification can be achieved through a one-day, SCSA-dedicated seminar.

### RESPECT & 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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# ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS

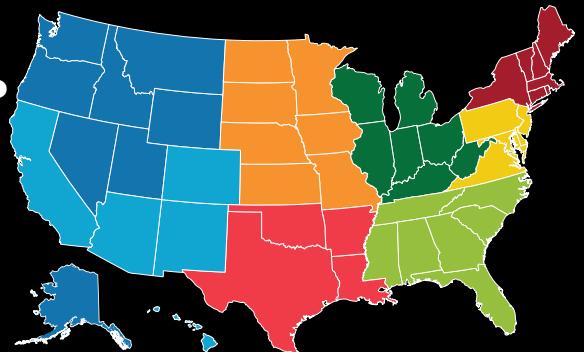
**I**f you're intrigued by USPSA competition, I can't recommend enough that you contact a local club representative and make a visit to the range. Experiencing a match in person will teach you more in a few hours than what we could possibly convey in this publication or that you could find online. The 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

### USPSA AREA MAP WHAT AREA ARE YOU IN?

- AREA 1      ■ AREA 5
- AREA 2      ■ AREA 6
- AREA 3      ■ AREA 7
- AREA 4      ■ AREA 8



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 481 USPSA and 294 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" numbered 1 through 8. For instance, the sections in New Mexico and

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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 day to day operations of USPSA

as well as the organization and running of the National Events is handled by the remote staff. 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. ■





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Teri Demmon



# 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.

Jonathan Menocal



# 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
  - Optics are allowed

## 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





**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. Limited 10 also allows the use of optics.

**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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The DS9 Limited Optics Competition Pistol (LOC V2) was designed with heavy influence from our Team MPA members, which includes some of the Top Shooters in USPSA. The DS9 LOC V2 is a 9mm Minor Pistol intended for use in USPSA Limited Optics Division.

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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. ■



Max Leograndis



Chris Tilley

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Jesse Grant

# ARE YOU READY? STAND BY, BEEP!

**BY ZACK JONES**  
DIRECTOR OF STEEL CHALLENGE  
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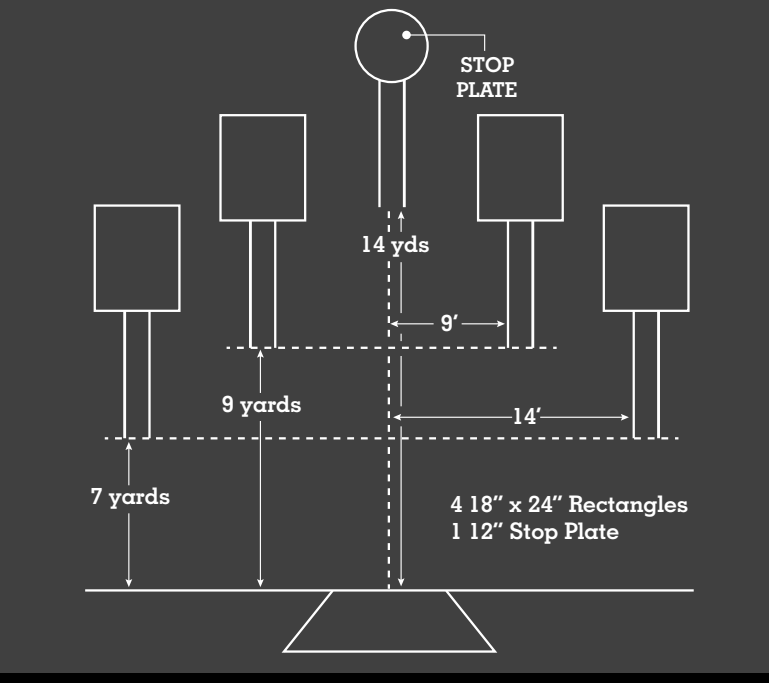
**D**ing, ding, ding, ding, ding! The ringing of steel plates as fast as you possibly can is what Steel Challenge is all about. Imagine hitting five plates ranging in size from 10-inch circles to 18x24-inch rectangles in under two seconds; that's what some of the fastest competitors in the world can 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)

Beth Yeager



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. ■



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



Josh Froelich



Tim Dunderi

## 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 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.



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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 rules, which prohibit compensators,

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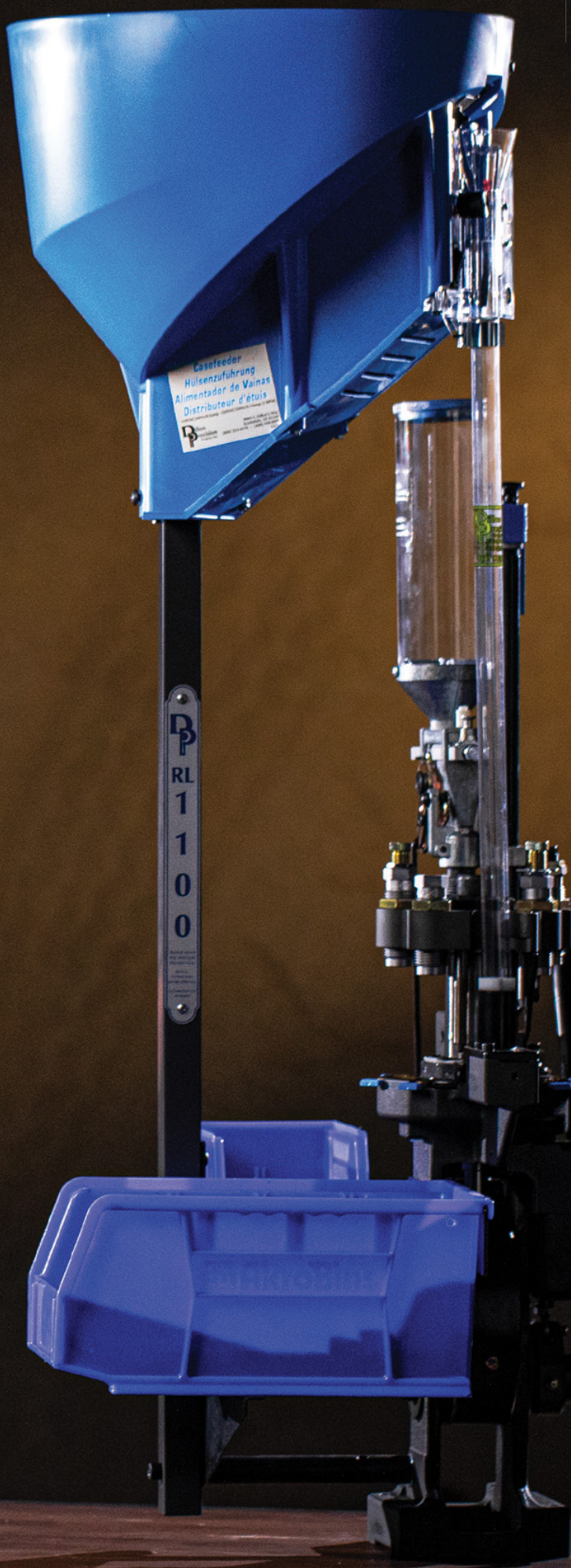


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Jerry Miculek

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.

**MODIFIED DIVISION:**

The Modified Division is a new 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 a compensator on the barrel. ■

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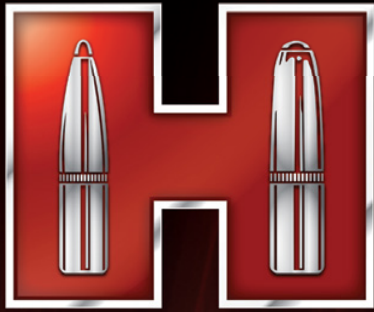




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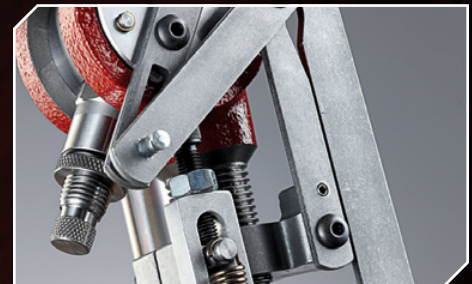
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The Lock-N-Load® AP™ is the easiest, ready-to-use reloading press you can buy. Lock-N-Load® technology allows you to stop loading, change dies and start loading another caliber in a matter of seconds. With a single pull of the handle, you can feel precision engineering at work with ultra-smooth indexing and quick-change die bushings. Reload up to 500 rounds per hour with the most efficient and advanced progressive reloading press available today.

- Patented Lock-N-Load® Die Bushing System
- Lock-N-Load® Powder Measure with Quick Change Metering Insert
- Case Activated Powder Drop
- Automatic Indexing
- Automatic Priming System
- Reliable EZ-Ject™ System



Our five-station die platform features patented quick change bushing system that allows users to change calibers in less than five minutes.



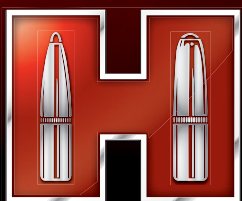
Engineered with quick change overs in mind, the case activated powder drop only dispenses a charge when a case is present.



Interchangeable shell plates make change overs quick and the universal case retainer spring allows removal or insertion of a case at any point in the reloading process.



Innovative ejection system delivers 100% reliable ejection with no adjustments from 380 to 45-70.



**Hornady®**  
*Accurate. Deadly. Dependable.*

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# USPSA INTRODUCES AN UPDATED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM



Kenzo Yoshimura

## CLASSIFICATION BRACKET PERCENTAGES



GRAND MASTER	95 TO 100%
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



Tony Caspers

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. ■

**USPSA:**

**Winner receives \$1000 and a shooter slot to their choice of Nationals events in 2026**

**SCSA:**

**Winner receives \$1000 and a shooter slot(s) to the WSSC in 2026**



**Visit Our Website to Enter to Win!**

# 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

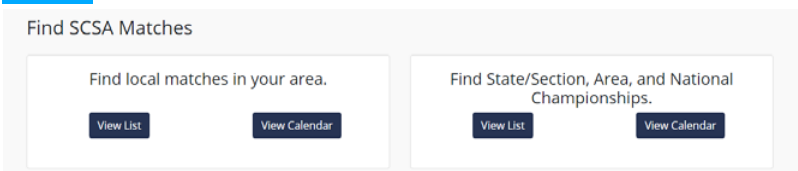
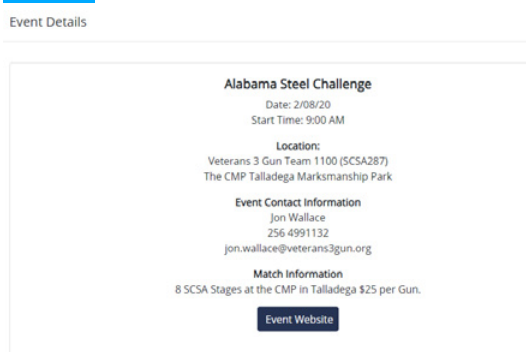


IMAGE 2

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	Ridgeville, 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! ■



# THE BALLER BOSS



Scan to learn more!

## NEW PRODUCT!

Upgrade your Boss Holster Hanger with the new release from Shockbottle, the **Baller Boss Ball Joint**.

You can use the ball joint instead of the spacers on your current rig!



Raise, lower and adjust the angle of the holster:

**ROLL** rear of gun closer/further from body

**PITCH** rotates gun forward/backward

**YAW** rotates heel closer/further from body



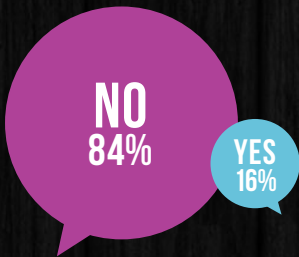
# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS OPEN DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

2024 OPEN DIVISION

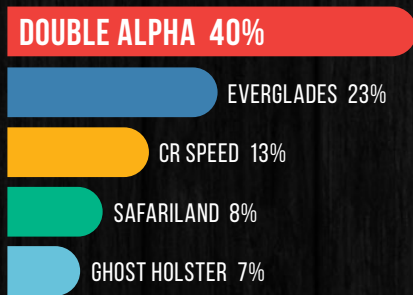
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



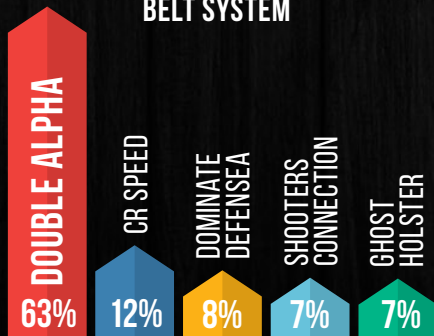
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



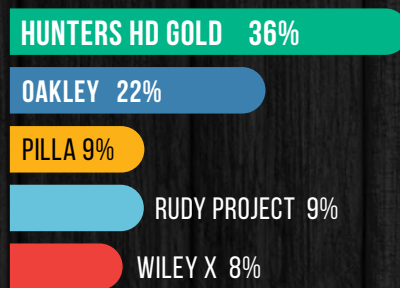
### BELT SYSTEM



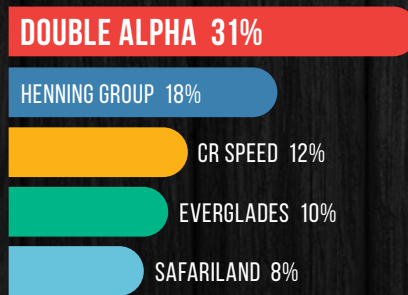
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



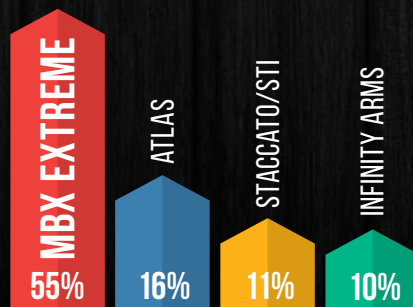
### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



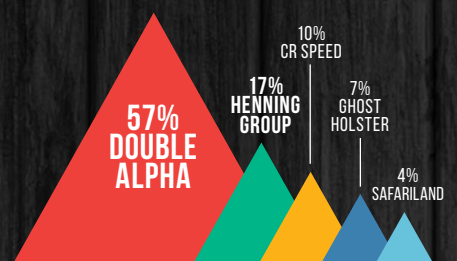
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



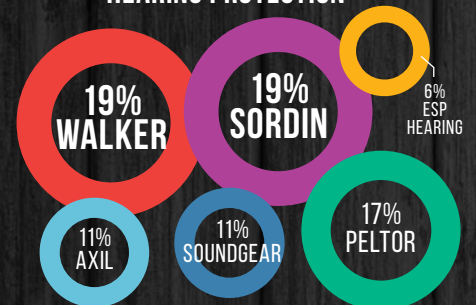
### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER



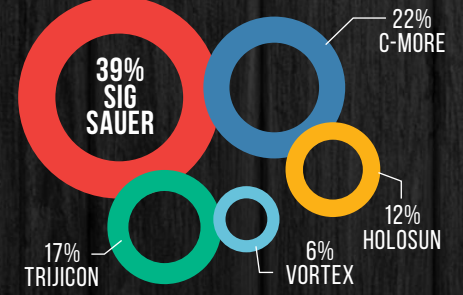
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



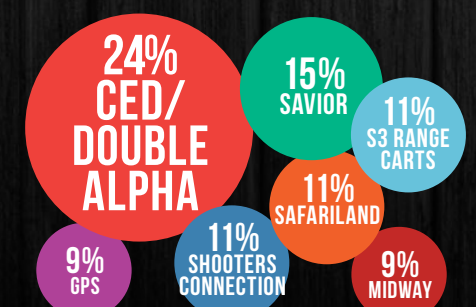
### HEARING PROTECTION



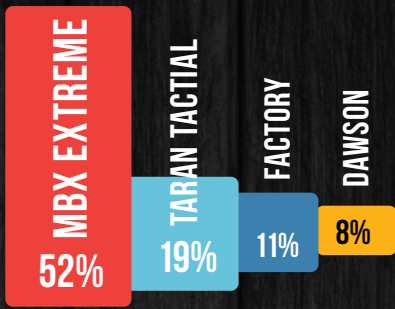
### OPTICS MANUFACTURER



### RANGE BAG BRAND



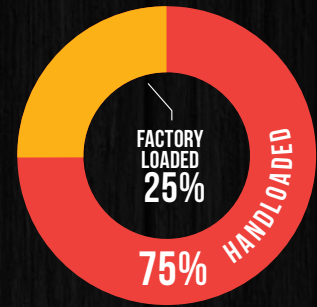
### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



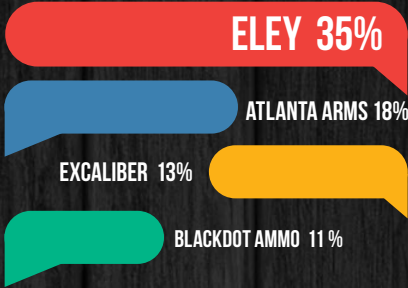
### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



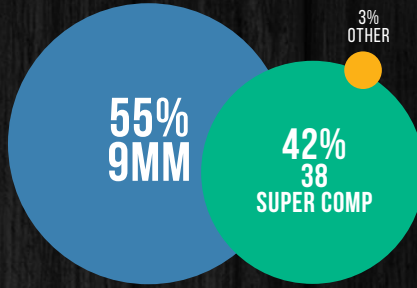
### AMMUNITION



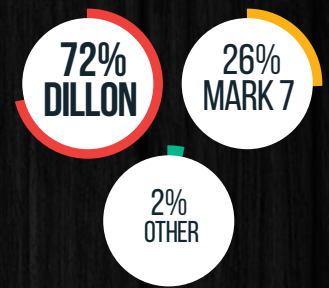
### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



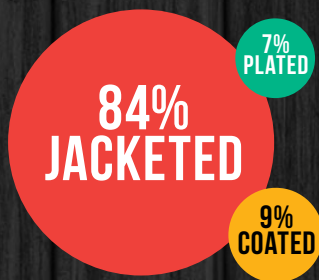
### BULLET CALIBER



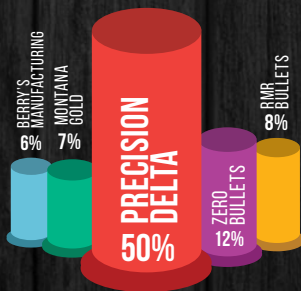
### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



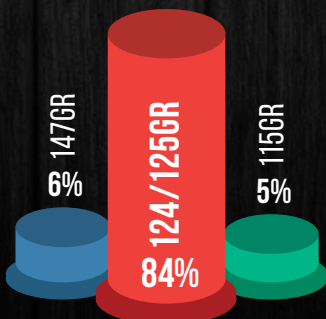
### BULLET TYPE



### BULLET MANUFACTURER



### BULLET WEIGHT



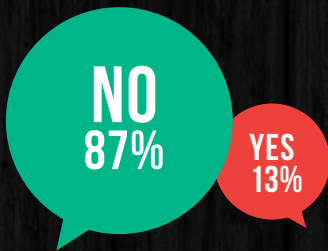


# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS LIMITED/L10 DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

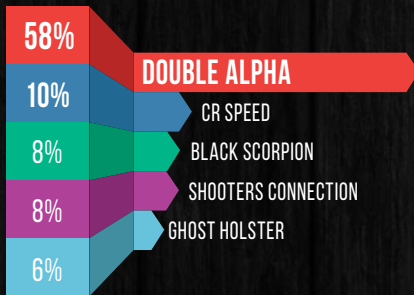
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



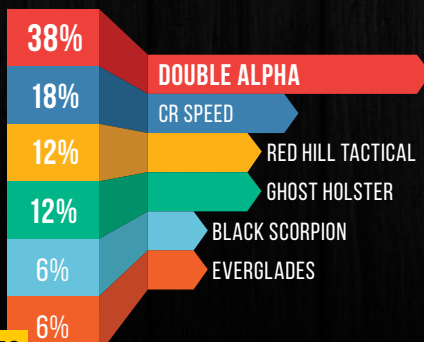
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?

- 30% FROM YOUR SECTION
- 25% OPEN REGISTRATION
- 19% NATIONALS PERFORMANCE
- 11% STAFF
- 8% FROM YOUR CLUB
- 4% AREA MATCH PERFORMANCE
- 3% SPONSORED

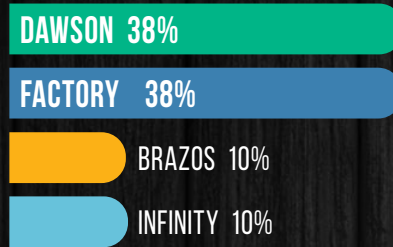
### BELT SYSTEM



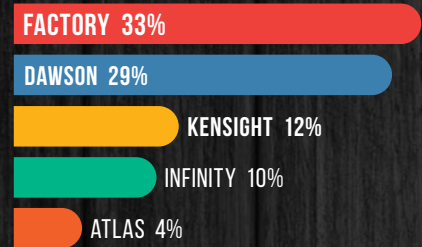
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURER



### FRONT SIGHT



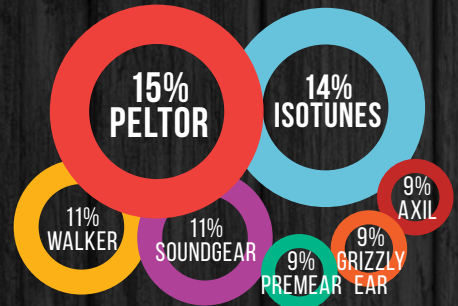
### REAR SIGHT



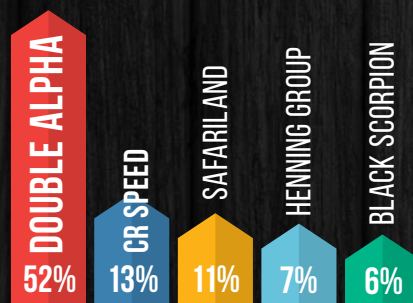
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



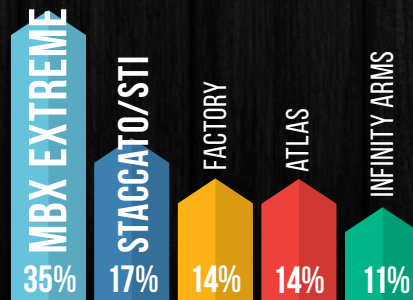
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



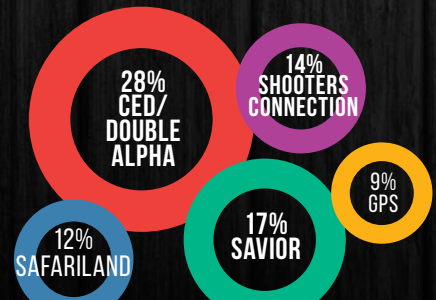
### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER

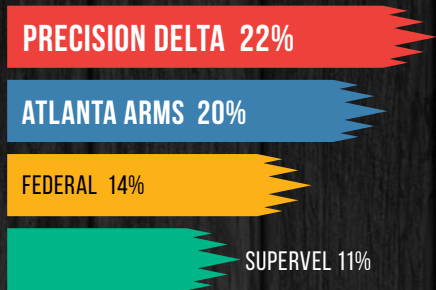


### RANGE BAG BRAND

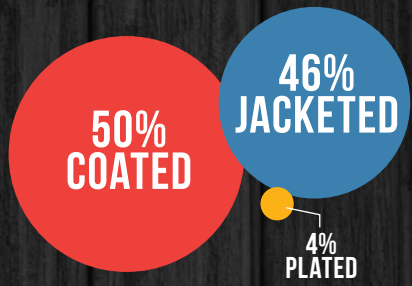




FACTORY AMMUNITION



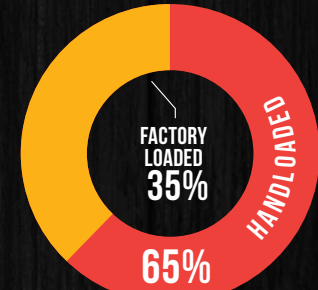
BULLET TYPE



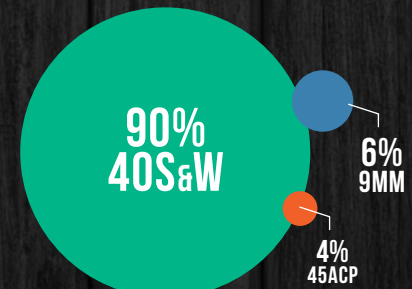
GRIP MANUFACTURERS



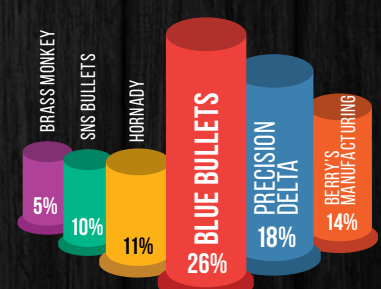
AMMUNITION



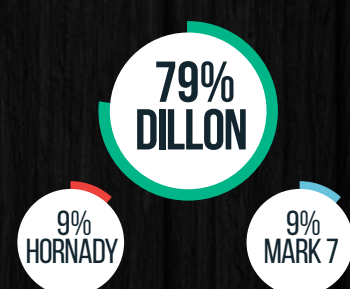
BULLET CALIBER



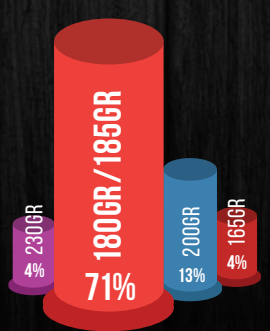
BULLET MANUFACTURER



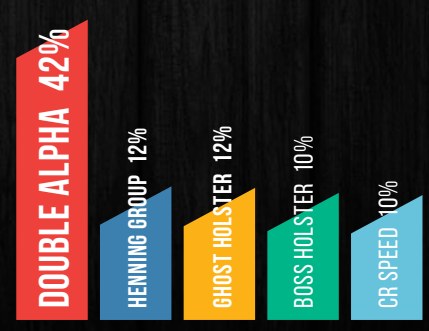
RELOADER MANUFACTURER



BULLET WEIGHT



HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



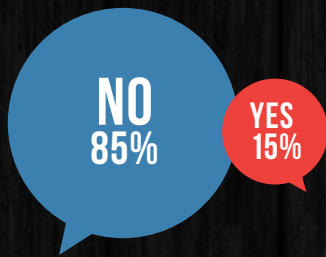


# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS PRODUCTION DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

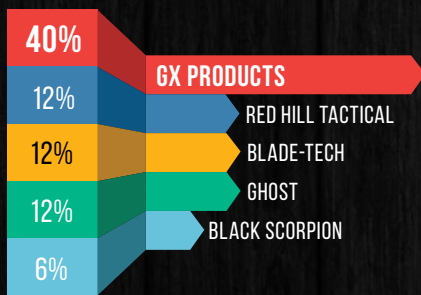
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



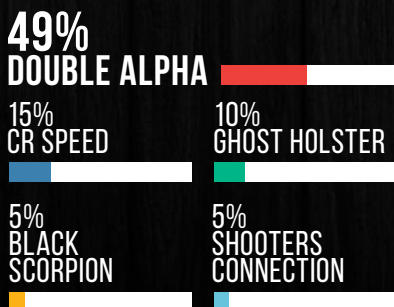
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?

- 30% OPEN REGISTRATION
- 19% NATIONALS PERFORMANCE
- 17% FROM YOUR SECTION
- 13% STAFF
- 6% AREA MATCH PERFORMANCE
- 6% FROM YOUR CLUB
- 5% SPONSORED

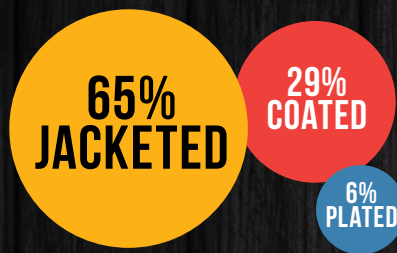
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



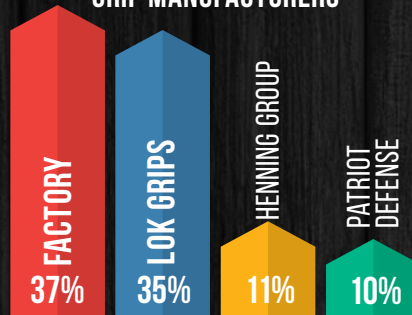
### BELT SYSTEM



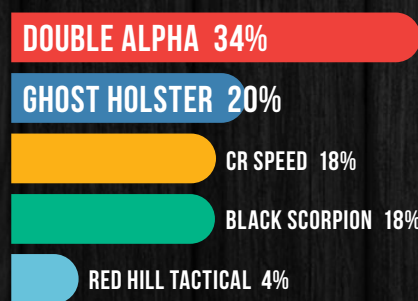
### BULLET TYPE



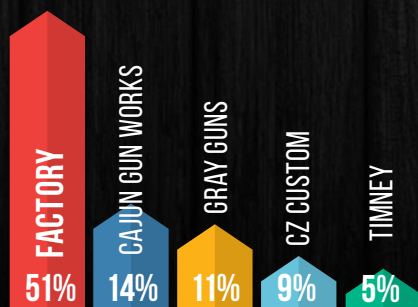
### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



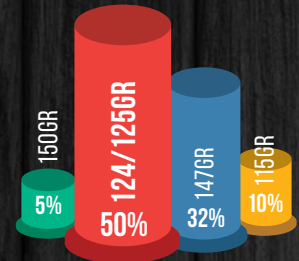
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



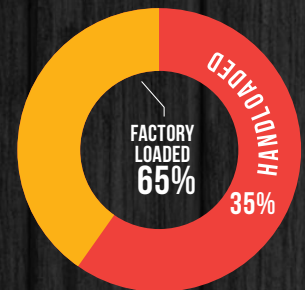
### TRIGGER MANUFACTURER



### BULLET WEIGHT



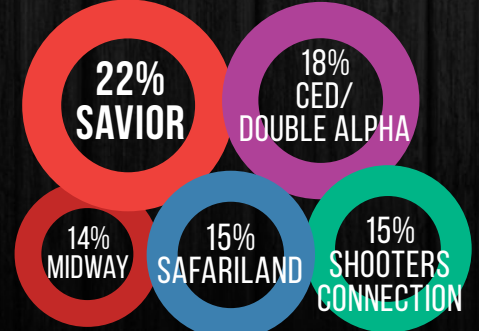
### AMMUNITION



### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES

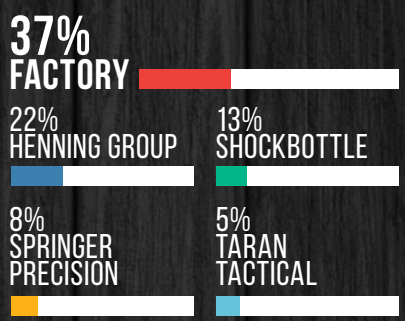


### RANGE BAG BRAND

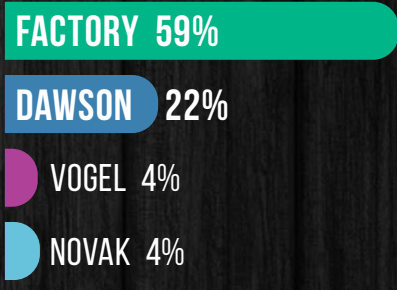




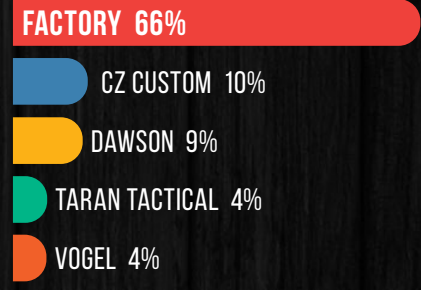
BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



FRONT SIGHT



REAR SIGHT



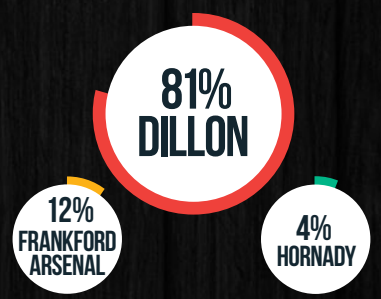
FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



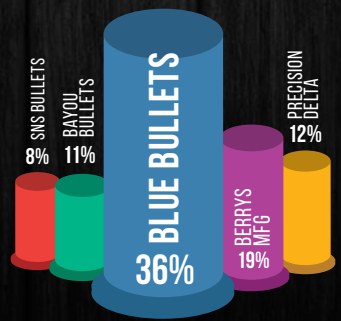
HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



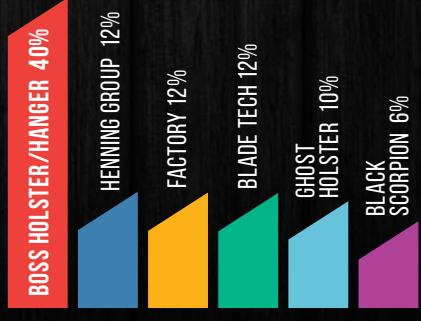
RELOADER MANUFACTURER



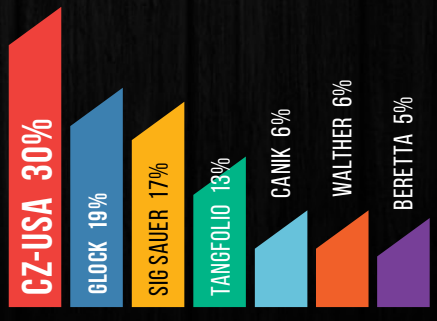
BULLET MANUFACTURER



HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME





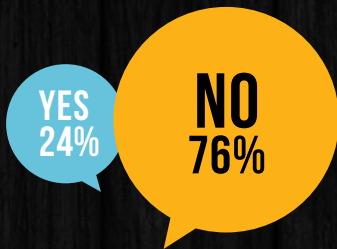
# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS PCC DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

2024 PCC DIVISION

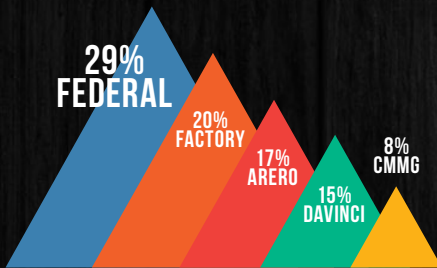
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



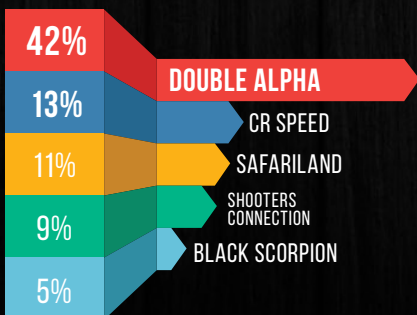
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?

- 34% OPEN REGISTRATION
- 24% FROM YOUR SECTION
- 11% NATIONALS PERFORMANCE
- 10% STAFF
- 10% AREA MATCH PERFORMANCE
- 6% FROM YOUR CLUB
- 5% SPONSORED

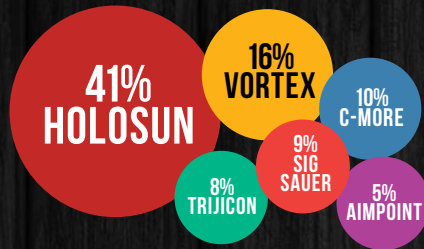
### LOWER BRAND



### BELT SYSTEM



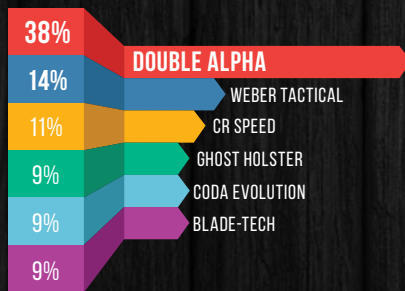
### OPTIC MANUFACTURER



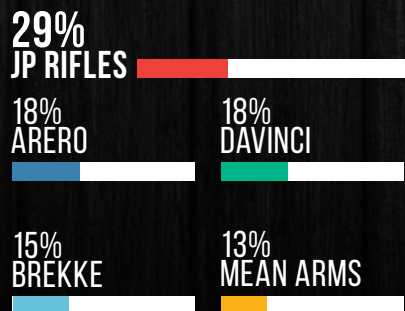
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



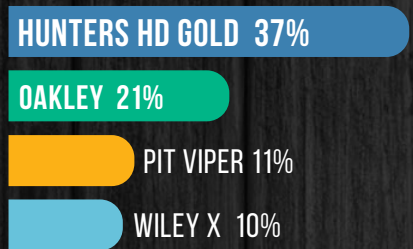
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



### UPPER BRAND



### EYEWEAR BRAND



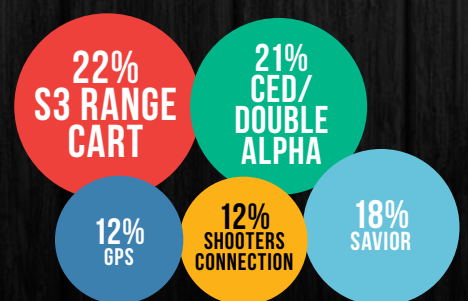
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



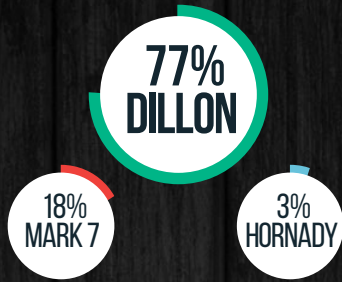
### FOREARM BRAND



### RANGE BAG BRAND



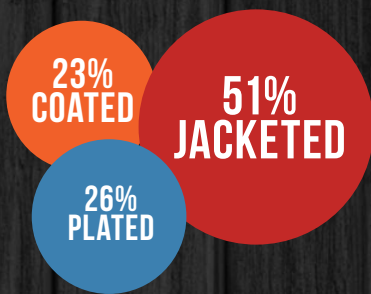
## RELOADER MANUFACTURER



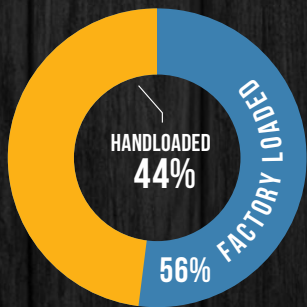
## FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



## BULLET TYPE



## AMMUNITION



## BULLET MANUFACTURER

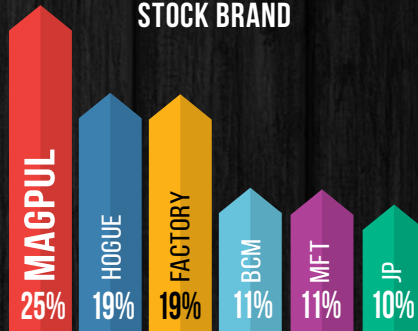
23% BERRY'S MFG	12% BLUE BULLETS
10% PRECISION DELTA	9% RMR
9% BAYOU BULLETS	8% SNS BULLETS

## BULLET WEIGHT

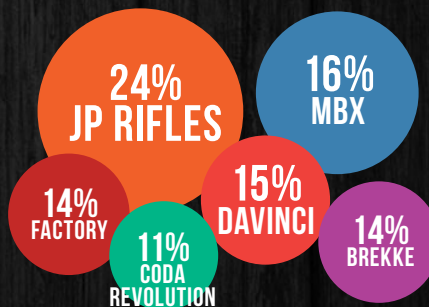
32% 115GR	26% 124/125GR
17% 147GR	13% 100GR
	6% 135GR



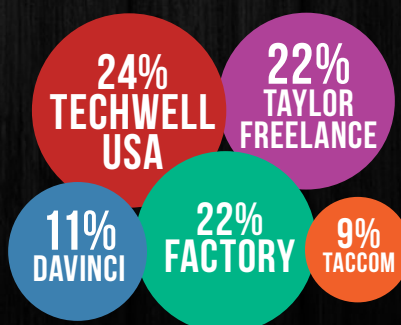
## STOCK BRAND



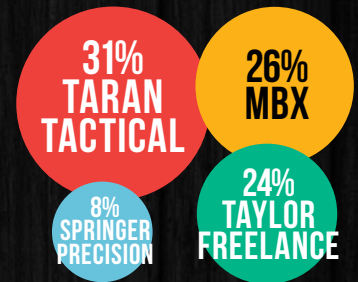
## COMPENSATOR BRAND



## MAGWELL BRAND



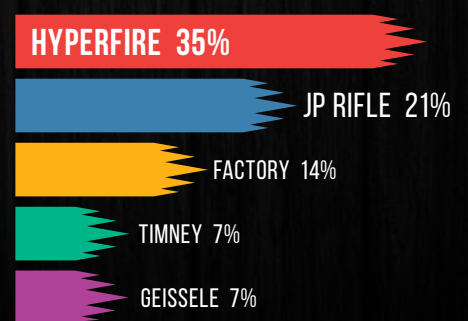
## BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



## GRIP MANUFACTURERS



## TRIGGER BRAND





# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS CARRY OPTICS DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

2024 CARRY OPTICS DIVISION

### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



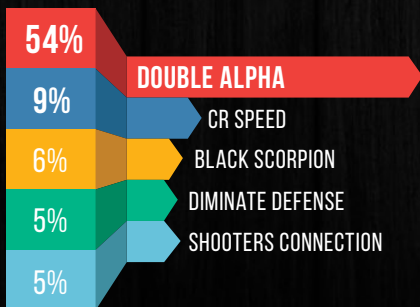
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



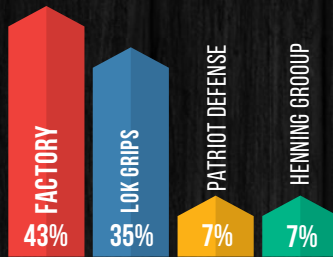
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



### BELT SYSTEM



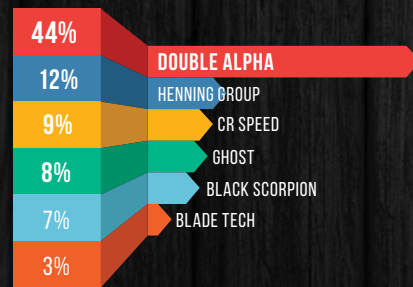
### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



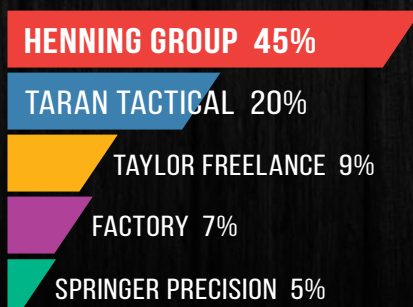
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



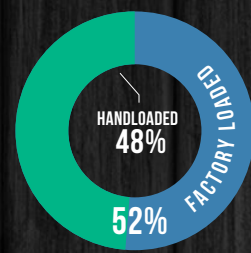
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



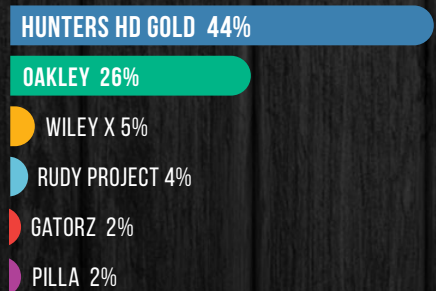
### AMMUNITION



### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



### EYEWEAR BRAND



### RANGE BAG BRAND

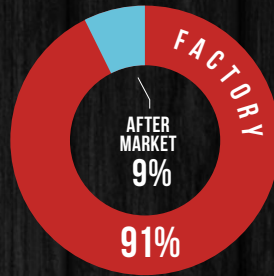




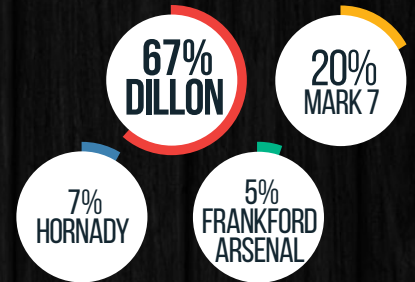
### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



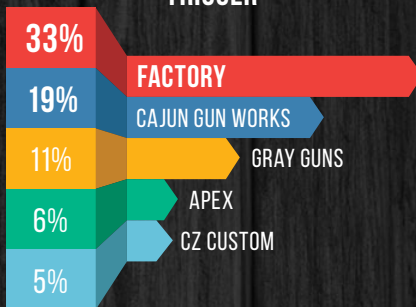
### SLIDE



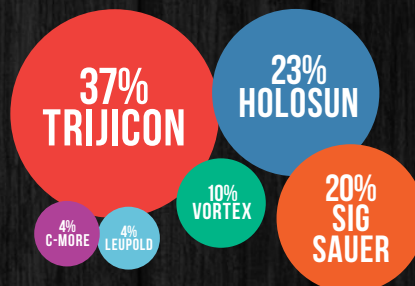
### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



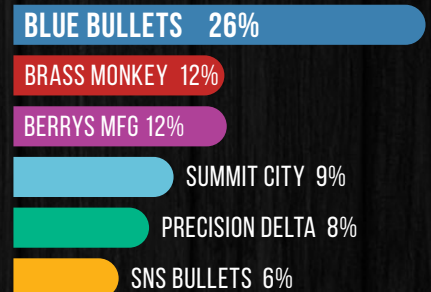
### TRIGGER



### OPTIC MANUFACTURER



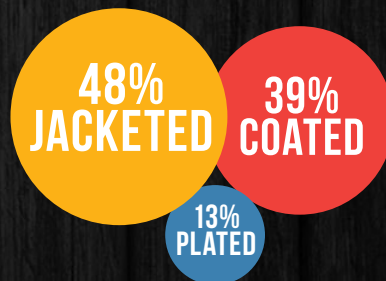
### BULLET MANUFACTURER



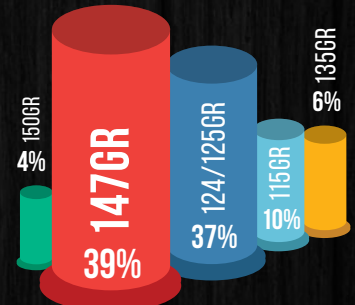
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



### BULLET TYPE



### BULLET WEIGHT



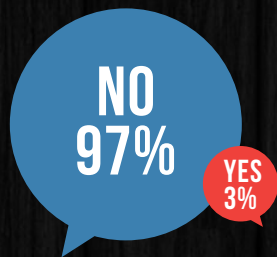


# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS SINGLE STACK DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

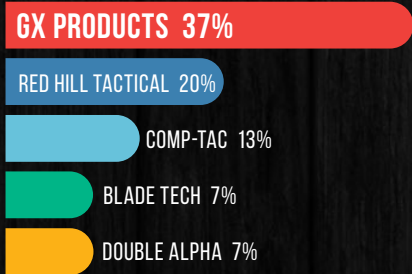
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



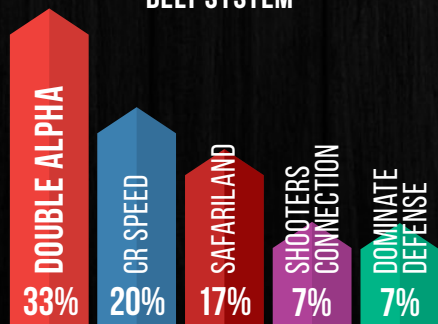
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



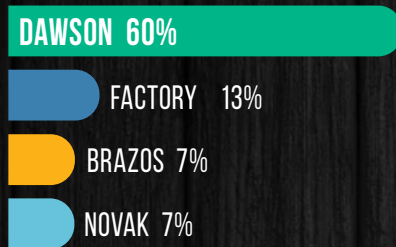
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



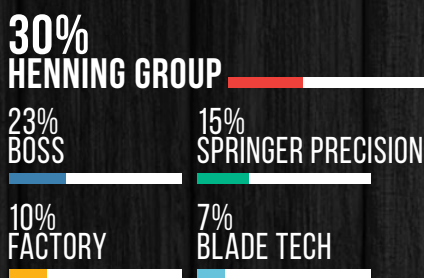
### BELT SYSTEM



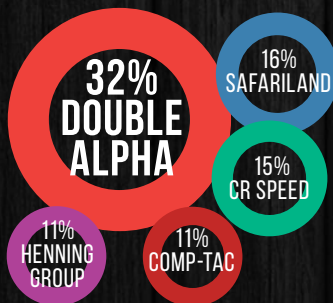
### FRONT SIGHT



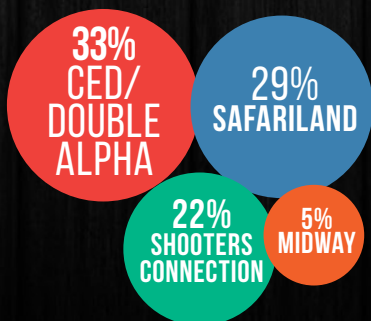
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURERS



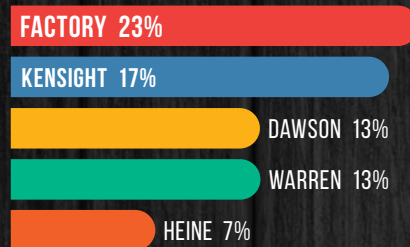
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



### RANGE BAG BRAND



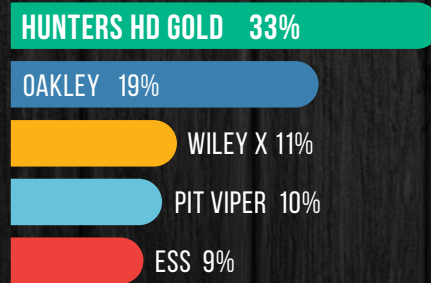
### REAR SIGHT



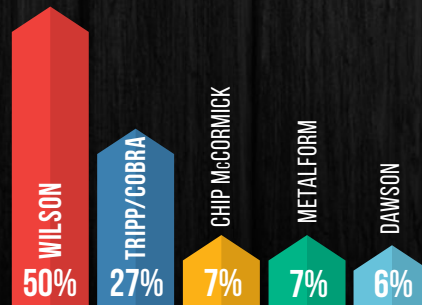
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



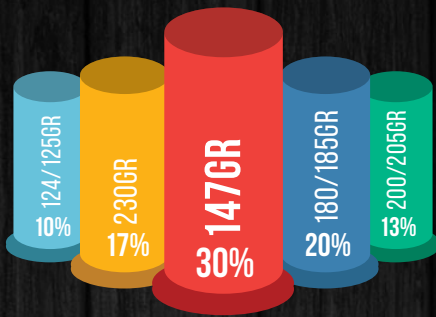
### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



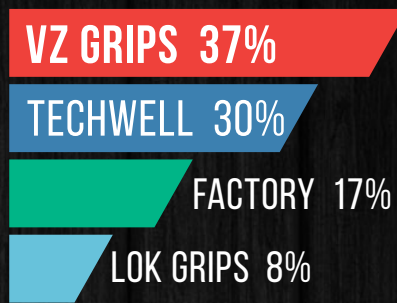
### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER



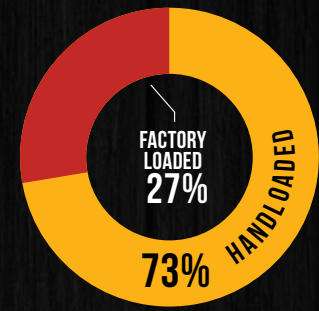
**BULLET WEIGHT**



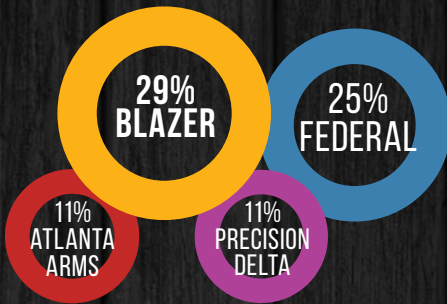
**GRIP MANUFACTURERS**



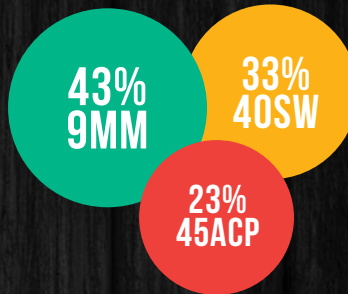
**AMMUNITION**



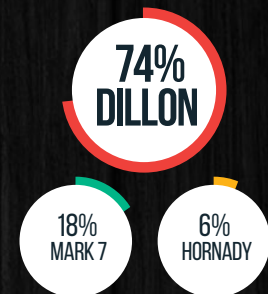
**FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION**



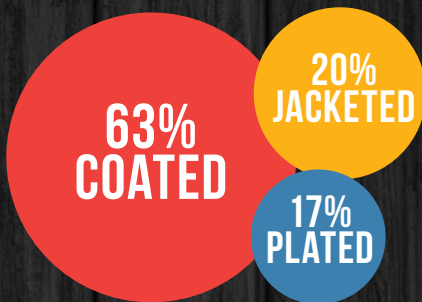
**BULLET CALIBER**



**RELOADER MANUFACTURER**



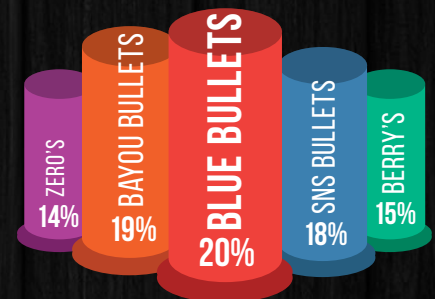
**BULLET TYPE**



**FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME**



**BULLET MANUFACTURER**



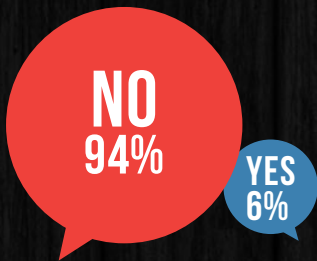


# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS REVOLVER DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

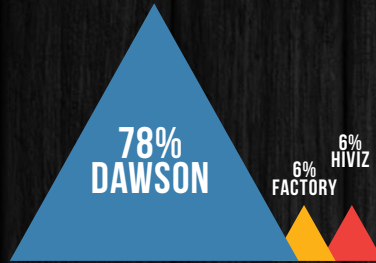
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



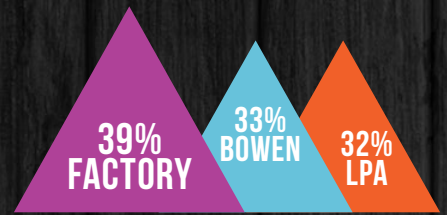
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?

- 37% NATIONALS PERFORMANCE
- 15% OPEN REGISTRATION
- 15% FROM YOUR SECTION
- 11% STAFF
- 11% SPONSORED
- 6% AREA MATCH PERFORMANCE
- 5% FROM YOUR CLUB

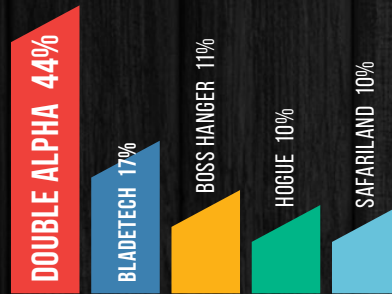
### FRONT SIGHT



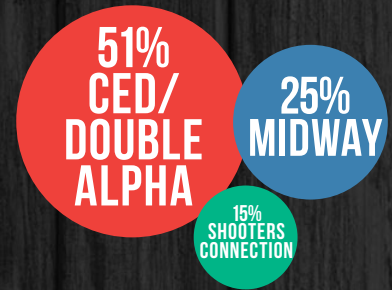
### REAR SIGHT



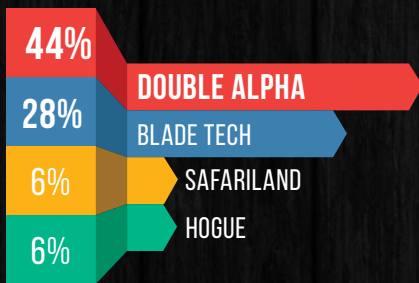
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



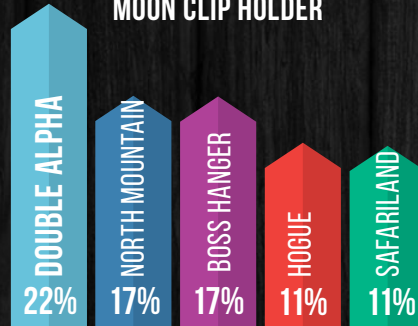
### RANGE BAG BRAND



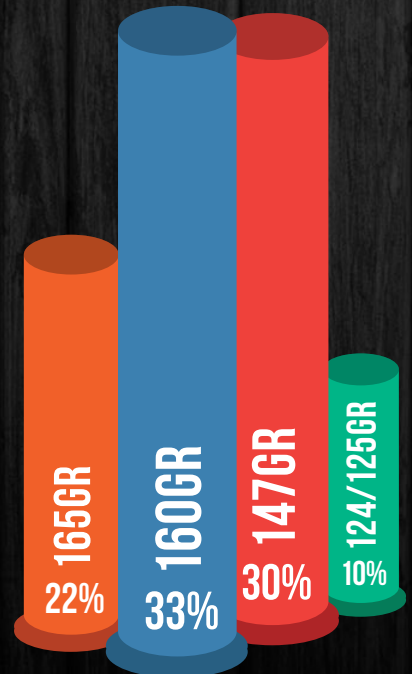
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



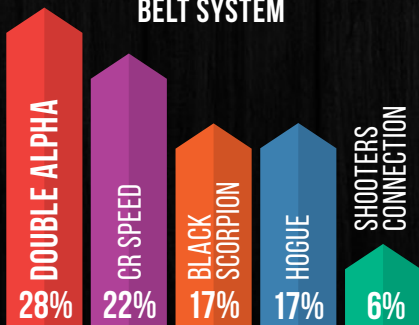
### MOON CLIP HOLDER



### BULLET WEIGHT



### BELT SYSTEM



### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



2024 REVOLVER DIVISION

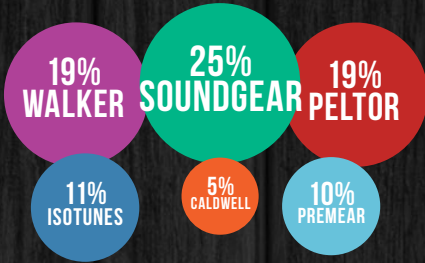
## GRIP MANUFACTURERS



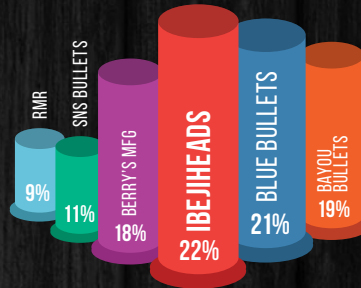
## AMMUNITION



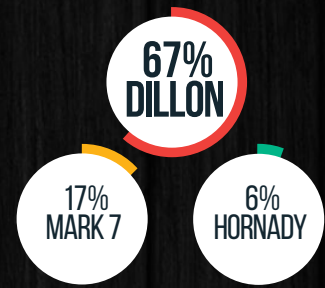
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



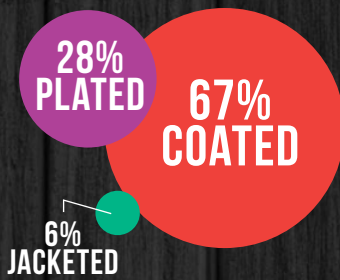
### BULLET MANUFACTURER



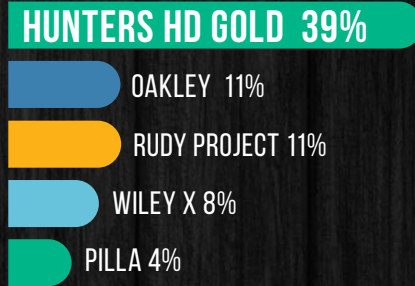
### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



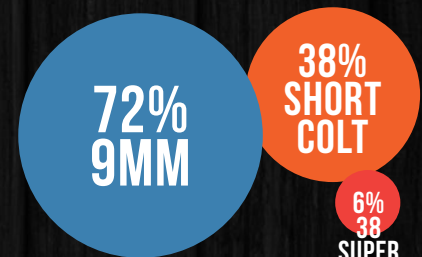
### BULLET TYPE



### EYEWEAR PROTECTION/LENSES



### BULLET CALIBER



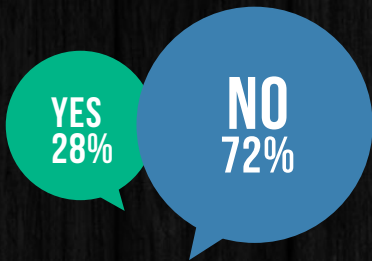


# 2024 USPSA NATIONALS LIMITED OPTICS DIVISION

## EQUIPMENT SURVEY

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

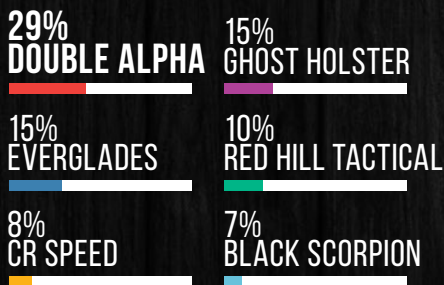
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



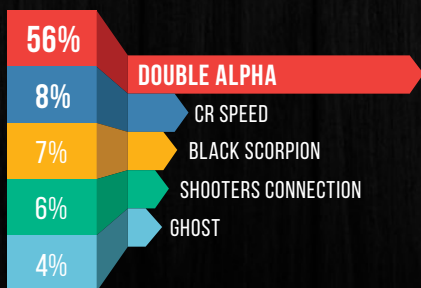
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



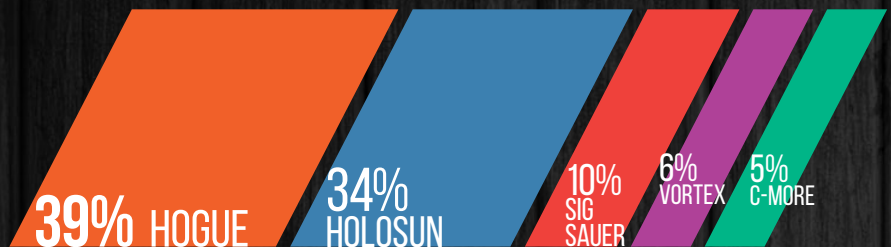
### HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



### BELT SYSTEM



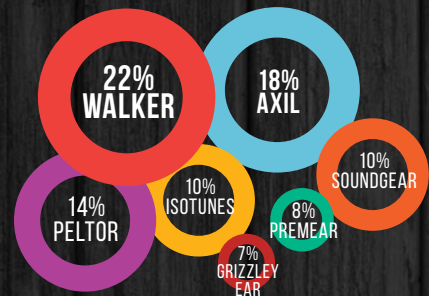
### OPTIC MANUFACTURER



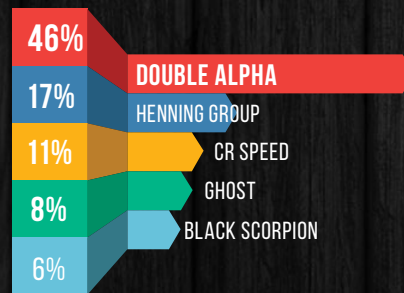
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER/FRAME



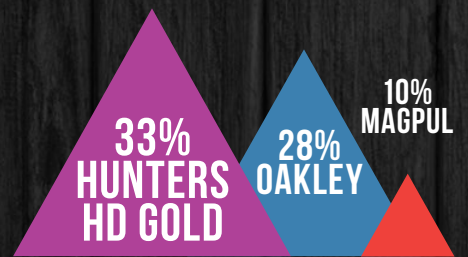
### HEARING PROTECTION BRAND



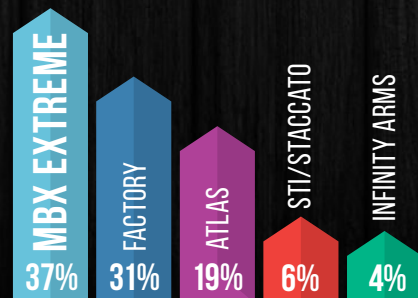
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



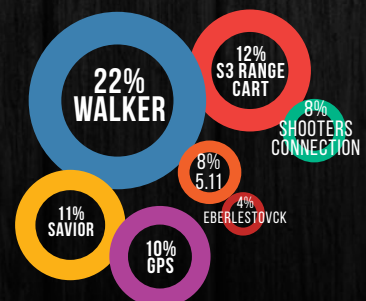
### EYEWEAR BRAND



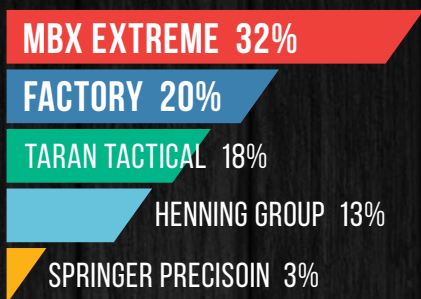
### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER



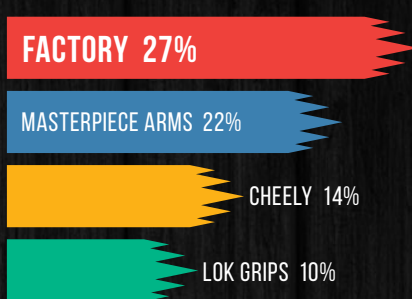
### RANGE BAG BRAND



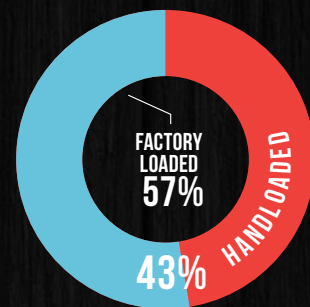
### BASEPAD MANUFACTURERS



### GRIP MANUFACTURERS



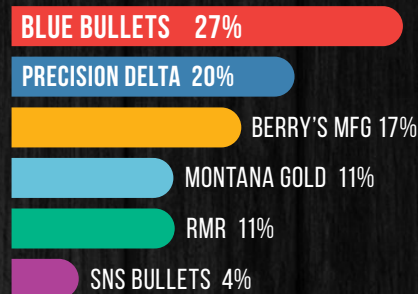
### AMMUNITION



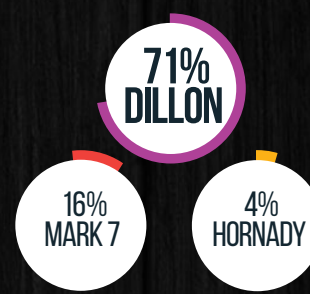
### FACTORY LOADED AMMUNITION



### BULLET MANUFACTURER



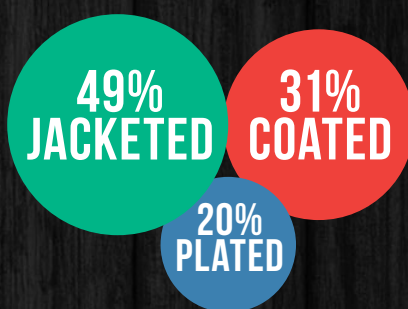
### RELOADER MANUFACTURER



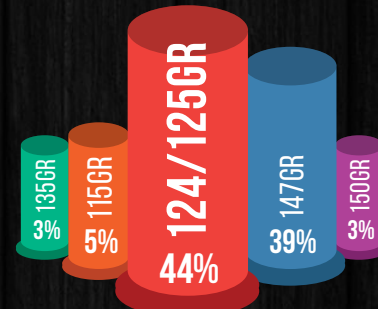
### HOLSTER HANGER MANUFACTURER



### BULLET TYPE



### BULLET WEIGHT



# THE HEARTBEAT OF USPSA

## WHY LEVEL 1 CLUB MATCHES ARE EVERYTHING

BY JAKE MARTENS, DMM, L5050



**W**hen people ask me, “*Jake, what makes USPSA so special?*” my answer is simple: the Level 1 local club match. You can talk about Nationals, World Shoots, Super Squad runs, all the shiny gear and slick videos and yeah, all that stuff is exciting. But at the core, at the very center of what USPSA is, what keeps the sport alive and growing, are the weekend warriors showing up at their local clubs to shoot Level 1 matches. Without these matches, without the commitment of local clubs, volunteers, and shooters, USPSA wouldn’t be what it is today.

Let’s dig into why these matches matter

so much, why YOU should be a part of them beyond just showing up and pulling the trigger, and how this simple concept started a movement that’s grown across the nation and the world.

### **THE ROOTS OF USPSA: IT ALL STARTED LOCAL**

Back in 1976, a small group of like-minded shooters, led by Colonel Jeff Cooper, got together to create a new kind of competition one based on practical shooting. They weren’t worried about trophies or titles. They wanted a test: real-world shooting skills measured through safe, practical courses of fire.

That led to the formation of the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC), and in 1984, the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) became the U.S. region of IPSC. USPSA grew from local matches the same club matches we’re talking about today into a national network of shooters. No matter how far we’ve come, the local match remains the bedrock of the organization.

The same spirit that drove those early matches still lives today. It’s that same “show up, work hard, shoot hard, have fun” attitude. Every time you attend a club match, you’re stepping into that legacy.

# Rolling Out Reliability

Solving the Bullet Bulge Dilemma



By Kevin Whitehead



There's plenty of confusion about what causes case bulges and how to fix them. This article breaks down roll sizing—what it is, how it works, and why it's essential.

While focused on pistol calibre ammunition, the principles apply to rifle ammunition with some adjustments. Why do they occur?

**SIZING DIES DON'T FULL LENGTH SIZE YOUR CASES. ITS NOT A BRAND THING, ITS PHYSICS, THEY CANNOT REACH THE BULGES.**

99% of cases used today started out as older cartridge designs and predate reloading, the shell plate and holders stop sizing dies from reaching the base. We all know that cases expand to match the chamber they were fired in, but the degree of expansion can vary widely between firearms. This guide explains how the rollsizer process effectively resolves them.



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Ammunition reliability is a key concern for shooters and reloaders, with bulged cases a common problem. Bulges are caused by variations in firearms, chamber dimensions, and recoil spring setups. Bulges can prevent rounds from chambering or cycling properly, leading to malfunctions, firearm damage, or failures during competition. Fortunately, rollsizing offers a simple solution, reshaping cases for consistent, reliable performance.

**FIX THE BULGE BY SIZING THE BASE BACK TO FACTORY, AND PROBLEMS GO AWAY.**

Loose chambers are often found in military, carry or law enforcement guns due to increased reliability and these will stretch brass significantly, also lighter recoil springs in competition firearms will do the same. Bulges can cause chambering difficulties, damaged extractors, and unreliable magazine operation. For commercial reloaders, these problems can also lead to huge financial losses and reputation damage.

Unlike standard reloading processes, rollsizing removes base bulges at the base of the case and reshapes brass to SAAMI specifications, your standard sizing dies can do the rest of the case. Even mixed range brass can be rollsized for consistent performance, giving competitive shooters smoother runs and fewer malfunctions.

**CONSISTENTLY SIZED BRASS MEANS CONSISTENT CADENCE AND CYCLING LEADING TO FASTER SHOOTING AND BETTER PERFORMANCE.**

Rollsizing saves time and money by eliminating tedious manual case gauging. It extends brass lifespan, with some cases reloaded up to 30-40 times. Rollsizing turns unusable brass into reliable ammunition.

Rollsizing improves feeding, reliability, and performance for shooters at all levels.

Rollsizers are available in models ranging from adjustable manual feed up to commercial-grade machines processing over 6,400 cases per hour. Rollsizers are a must-have tool for anyone serious about reloading.

Ready to eliminate the bulge? Visit [rollsizer.com](http://rollsizer.com) to find a rollsizer that fits your needs and discover why shooters worldwide trust this game-changing solution



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## DISCOVERING USPSA: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

For most shooters, their first taste of USPSA doesn't happen at a major match it happens at a Level 1 local club match. You show up with your gear maybe a stock Glock, maybe a hand-me-down 1911 or new SIG and someone says, "Hey, have you ever shot USPSA before?"

You learn how to safely move with a loaded firearm under Range Officer commands. You figure out what "Make ready" and "if finished, unload and show clear" mean. You learn that "standby... BEEP!" gets your heart racing like nothing else. And somewhere in all that, you find yourself grinning ear-to-ear. Because this is fun competitive, safe, challenging, and ridiculously addictive fun.

### LEVEL 1 MATCHES ARE WHERE:

- New shooters learn the rules and the ropes
- Friendships are forged
- Skills are sharpened
- Get Classified in the divisions
- Future National Champions take their very first shot



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**EVERY WORLD CHAMPION, EVERY GRAND MASTER STARTED AS "THE NEW GUY" AT A LOCAL MATCH.**

### SAFE, FUN, AND FAIR COMPETITION

USPSA's motto "Safe, Fun, Fair" isn't just marketing. It's the DNA of every Level 1 club match.

- **Safe:** Safety is priority one, no exceptions. From clear Range Officer commands to proper stage design, everything revolves around making sure every shooter whether brand new or seasoned has a safe environment to enjoy the sport.
- **Fun:** The excitement of running through a stage, making your plan and trying to execute it perfectly, is unmatched. Hitting that reload on the move, nailing a

tough swinger, beating your buddy's time it's pure, unfiltered fun.

- **Fair:** Consistent application of the rules matters. Whether you're shooting your first match or your thousandth, you're judged by the same rulebook. Fair competition is what keeps shooters coming back and what keeps matches meaningful.

### VOLUNTEERING: HOW MATCHES HAPPEN

Now here's the thing matches don't "just happen." There's no Match Fairy. Every match you shoot is built by volunteers. Without people stepping up to help, there are no stages to shoot.

### BE A RANGE OFFICER

Range Officers (ROs) are the backbone of safe competition. Becoming a certified RO means you not only help your local club, but you deepen your understanding of the rules. It's a way to give back AND become a better shooter yourself.

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And don't think you have to be "good enough" to be an RO. If you understand safety, care about fair competition, and have a willingness to learn, you are ready.

### HELP WITH STAGE SETUP

Setting up stages is a workout but it's also an education. You learn how to design stages that are challenging but fair, how to build safe courses of fire, and how different elements (angles, distances, movement) affect stage strategy. Plus, when you help set up, you get a deeper appreciation for the sport.

### RUN THE TABLET

The PractiScore app in the tablet is your friend. Volunteering to keep score helps you stay engaged, learn more about the rules, and see how stages are scored. It's a low-pressure but critical way to help.

### STAY FOR TEAR DOWN

Everyone loves to shoot but sticking around after the last shot to help tear down and put everything away is just as important. Many hands make light work.

If you want to see more matches, bigger matches, and better matches at your local club, the first step is volunteering.

### GROWING USPSA: WELCOMING EVERYONE

Competitive shooting isn't about where you're from, what you look like, or what you do for a living. It's about a shared love of the sport.

At local matches, you see it all: teenagers shooting their first matches, veterans introducing grandkids to the sport, women who started to get their concealed carry license and ended up hooked on competition, retirees chasing that next classification on their membership card.

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## IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE. IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY.

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USPSA grows because local clubs create a welcoming environment where anyone of any background, any skill level can show up and shoot.



### TESTING YOURSELF: WHERE SKILLS ARE FORGED

There's nothing like a local match to test your skills. Maybe you've been practicing reloads at home, or working on transitions at the range. When the timer goes off at a match, you find out where you really stand.

Each stage is a new challenge. Each match is a new opportunity to improve.

And when you work matches as a volunteer, you learn even more. Watching shooters, running timers, setting stages — all of it feeds back into making you a better, smarter, safer shooter.

### THE BACKBONE OF USPSA

Level 1 club matches are USPSA. They're not "stepping stones" to bigger things they are the big thing.

- They build community.
- They grow the sport.
- They teach skills.
- They create lifelong friendships.
- They uphold safety and fairness.
- They welcome new shooters.
- They are how USPSA survives and thrives.

When you show up to your local match, when you volunteer to set up, when you step up to RO a squad or help

tear down, you're not just helping your club. You're shaping the future of USPSA.

The next National Champion? They might be the kid you RO'd last weekend.

The next major match director? They might be the guy learning how to set up walls and barrels with you on Saturday morning.

The next wave of passionate, diverse, dedicated shooters — they're finding USPSA at the same local matches that have always been the heartbeat of the sport.

### GET INVOLVED

So next time you head to your local Level 1 match, think about everything that's happening beyond your stage runs. Think about how much history, community, and future is wrapped up in those stages.

### AND THEN ASK YOURSELF:

- Can I volunteer to RO today?
- Can I get there early to help set up?
- Can I design a stage for next month's match?
- Can I run the tablet for my squad?
- Can I stay and help tear down?

### THE ANSWER IS YES.

Because this is **your** sport. This is **your** community. **This is USPSA.**

And it all starts and continues at your local Level 1 club match.

See you at the range. ■

*Kimber*

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