

HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE TRAINING MANUAL



EDITION TWO 2014

DISCIPLINES THAT INVOLVE HOLSTERS



NRA – ACTION PISTOL SHOOTING

A series of established matches shot at set distances involving a specified number of shots fired with a strict time limit. No 'on range' movement is required, although shooters often choose to shoot from the prone position and do develop special techniques to help improve their scoring abilities. The four major match events shot in competition include:

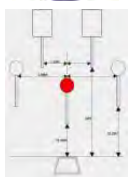
Barricade event, Practical event, Moving target event, Falling Plates event. The total number of aggregated points possible for this type of competition is 1920X

The official target is the AP-1 with separate scoring rings.



IPSC – PRACTICAL PISTOL SHOOTING

A comprehensive range of stages, generally designed to be different at each event, make up a Practical Pistol Shooting competition. The idea is to test the shooter's level of ability involving the 'practical use of a handgun'. Such skills represent a 'shoot' or 'no shoot' situation. Targets can be partially obscured, moving or swinging out of sight. Steel knock down targets and pepper poppers are also used. Target scoring depends on the power factor of the ammunition used. Further details can be obtained from the IPSC Rule book. Targets used are the Classic and Mini IPSC target as well as the reactive pepper poppers and round of square steel targets.



SPEED SHOOTING - STEEL CHALLENGE SHOOTING

From a static position each shooter engages an array of steel targets in the fastest possible time. Each match is shot 'comstock' which means an unlimited number of rounds. Usually five 'strings' or 'runs' of fire are shot, the highest time deducted, leaving the aggregated time of four runs as the shooter's score for a particular course of fire.

Power factor is not enforced as the emphasis is on speed and accuracy. Plates must be hit in order to score. All plates are calibrated for 120 power factor. Misses or failure to engage a target, results in time penalties.



SERVICE MATCH

A popular event unique to Australia and New Zealand. Ninety shots in total are fired starting as far back as 50 yards and moving as close as 7 yards to the four targets used.

Firing positions include prone, left and right barricade, strong and weak hand shooting.

One string of fire requires the shooter to fire their pistol, unsighted, from a position that is not above the shoulder. Different classes in the match provide for both semi-auto pistols and the traditional 'service' revolvers.



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

A fun shooting sport for the whole family that has seen exceptional growth in New Zealand over the last few years. Shot to International rules (Single Action Shooting Society – SASS) using firearms from the late 1800's to more modern 1900's firing black powder and smokeless cartridges. Dressing the part of a cowboy is a mandatory requirement and whole families are involved in this fun sport.

This event not only uses pistols but rifles and shotguns as well and, as such, is a three gun match. (See separate section for CAS instructions)



THREE GUN and MULTIGUN SHOOTING

These events require a shooter to compete using a pistol, rifle and shotgun. Stages, or courses of fire, are designed to fully test each shooter's ability with the three different firearms.

This style of shooting is very similar to that of IPSC – Practical Pistol shooting and uses the same targets

INTRODUCTION to NEW SHOOTERS

Action shooting is a generic term used to collectively describe a number of shooting disciplines that all share a common element. That is the requirement to draw a loaded pistol from a holster. This practise was first introduced into New Zealand in the 1990's and since that time action shooting disciplines have grown significantly, both in the number of disciplines and in the number of club members who are actively engaged in this type of shooting.

To be frank, action shooting has some inherent risks but it is incorrect to say that action shooting is a risky sport. Principally, this is due to the strict application of drills and practises which club members are required to perform and the high standards which must be achieved and maintained. In other words, training, practise and continual monitoring is required to ensure that the risks involved in action shooting are adequately mitigated.

Pistol New Zealand recognises the need for training and continuous up-skilling, not only on the part of the shooters both seeking holster qualification and once that qualification has been gained, but also the club trainers and holster instructors who conduct the holster training courses and assessments.

The sequence and duration of training is not defined by Pistol New Zealand as it is understood that each club member will progress through their training and subsequent shooting activities at different rates. Similarly, the training that clubs offer to their members is not dictated to them in terms of a formal training program, and Club Training Officers and their respective training teams have a degree of flexibility in the manner in which they training their club members. Each club is responsible to ensure that their club members have sufficient training and have the necessary knowledge and skills to remain safe at all times. However, a common set of drills are assessed for the holster qualification and the same standard must be attained by all club members in order to achieve this qualification. Ultimately, this sets the bar for those wishing to draw a loaded pistol from a holster.

This manual describes the drills that are required for the holster qualification. The layout is intentional as it is principally a teaching tool and aims to assist both club trainers and the club members who are undergoing training. It also acts as an aide-memoir to be referred to as a shooter's skills are eroded, after a period of absence from active shooting for example. Each drill has been designed to ensure that the actions required in action shooting can be performed safely but safety remains the individual shooters responsibility. The fundamental principles of reacting to range commands, always keeping the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, never sweeping any part of the body and ensuring that fingers remain clear of the trigger until engaging a target must be adhered to at all times.

Each shooting discipline has a unique set of rules which govern how shooting is conducted and the competitive elements of the discipline such as the structure of matches, scoring etc. The holster qualification is applicable across the board and forms the basis upon which discipline rules are then overlaid. At no time should a shooting discipline rules conflict with the drills that are taught and assessed for the holster qualification, nor should a club member ever justify any unsafe behaviour "because it's in the rules".

Drawing a loaded pistol from a holster is controlled by Pistol New Zealand Policy C-12 and club members are encouraged to review this policy as it defines part of the framework that action shooting activities are required to adhere to. It also defines the procedures for both attaining and retaining the holster qualification. It is worth noting that the holster qualification does not expire if a club shooter remains active in an action shooting discipline but it is understood that skills do erode if they are not constantly practised. If a person is absent from the sport for a period of time, they are encouraged to seek re-training and assessment. This is mandatory if this period exceeds five years. It is also worth noting that a holster qualification may be suspended or revoked and Policy C-12 defines how and when this will occur.

Holster training and assessment can at first appear quite daunting to some. I encourage you to listen carefully to your trainers, be diligent in the application of the drills and assimilate all of the knowledge that is presented to you. With the benefit of practise and experience you will likely look back on this and wonder what all of the fuss was. However, do not become complacent. You remain responsible for you own safety and for the safety of those around you.

I wish you well in your training and good luck in your sport.
Peter Nield: PNZ National Holster Training Co-Ordinator.



PISTOL
NEW ZEALAND

HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE
Action-Speed-IPSC-3Gun
Service-Cowboy Action

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ELIGIBILITY TO SIT THE ACTION COURSE

To be eligible to sit this course, trainees **MUST** have:

- ✓ Approval from your club club Holster Instructor or Club Training Officer who will determine the member's suitability to sit this course. (There are no time requirements as to when a member may sit this course). You may sit the holster course at another club but only with the prior approval from your own club Holster Instructor or Club Training Officer.
- ✓ Be at least 12 years of age and a holder of the "Junior Proficiency badge" (Ages 12-16)
- ✓ Pistol NZ is aware that some clubs allow the trainee to take the course with equipment purchased by the trainee and held by a B cat endorsed club member. This is not recommended. However, if this does happen to the person whom the firearm is registered **MUST** be in attendance with the trainee at all times - as required by the Letter of Agreement- Section 5.6 and 5.7.
Clarification: (You cannot take possession of a pistol without a permit to procure. (Section 44 of the Arms Act, 1983). If a club gun is used then the person whose license it is on must be present).
- ✓ Completed the "PNZ CLUB RANGE OFFICER SAFETY" test. This is based on section two of the member's handbook.
- ✓ Be the holder of a current Firearms license or have completed the 'junior proficiency badge' course (12-16).
- ✓ Received tuition from their club in the safe handling of firearms on the range, plus undergone basic pistol shooting skills training and be deemed proficient and safe by the Club Training Officer and have passed the Club safety course.
- ✓ Your own equipment. This includes the pistol you propose to use in your chosen discipline, your own belt, holster and pouches. (See Page's 10-12).
- ✓ Dummy rounds (6) suitable for the pistol used (Certified safe by the Trainer and at least one other person present. (see details relating to dummy rounds on page 12).
- ✓ Good quality ear and eye protection.
- ✓ Appropriate clothing should be worn (no camouflage clothing or offensive tee shirts that could bring our sport into disrepute) Closed toe footwear, jandals are not acceptable.
- ✓ A hat (baseball or Cowboy) is also a good idea as most shooting is out under all weather conditions.
- ✓ At Least fifty (50) rounds of live ammunition.
- ✓ The shooter's own copy of the PNZ Holster Manual.
- ✓ Sensible, safe attitude and a willingness to listen, learn and perform to the best of their ability.

For Your Safety!

It is mandatory for all action shooters, range staff and spectators to wear eye and ear protection at all times during shooting activities.

ELIGIBILITY TO SIT THE ACTION COURSE

The Following is not acceptable;

- X** Equipment that has been borrowed for the course (excluding club guns)
- X** Any equipment deemed unsafe by the Trainer/Assessor
- X** Equipment that does not meet divisional requirements
- X** Ammunition that is deemed unsafe
- X** A shooter that displays a poor attitude, or an unwillingness to listen, learn and perform as instructed

Suitable Pistols for Action Shooting and participation in this course:

- ✓ Any Single Action Semi-auto (1911 style with thumb safety) - This includes a 1911 A1 or variant for Wild Bunch
- ✓ .22 calibre (1911 style with thumb safety) pistols that can be holstered according to the requirements
- ✓ Glocks and other striker fired pistols
- ✓ Double Action Semi-auto pistols Fitted with a de-cocker (Production Division)
- ✓ Single Action / Double Action Semi-autos (Production Division)

Instruction and Safety Assessments (Action):

During a holster qualification course, instruction will be given on the correct procedure required to render all types of pistols safe to holster. Trainees will also be required to demonstrate such procedures.

It is requirement that should a shooter who has qualified with a double action pistol, revolver or striker fired pistol change over to a 1911 style pistol fitted with a safety catch, they undergo further club level training and safety reassessment.

ACTION HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course trainees will be able to;

- Understand the rules and regulations pertaining to shooting from a holster.
- Fully understand and appreciate their obligations as a holster qualified shooter.
- Understand and are able to appropriately respond to all Range Officer commands.
- Able to load, unload, and reload a pistol safely in accordance with the associated drills.
- Able to demonstrate the **Action 5 stage safety draw** in accordance with the associated drills.
- Competently demonstrate basic pistol handling skills.
- Shoot a basic qualifying match safely and competently.
- Able to follow instructions and record a 85% score.

PNZ Holster Badge Accreditation

- Action Shooters may qualify using any approved type of pistol. They must however have a working knowledge of the procedures required in order to render all types of pistol "safe to holster" E.G Apply safety, lower hammer D/A semi-auto, use a de-cocking lever, hammer down D/A Revolver, striker fired pistol such as Glock. It is a requirement that should a shooter change the type of pistol used to qualify, they must seek club level familiarization training and re-assessment.
- Trainees who pass this course will receive an Action Holster Badge and certificate. Shooters are encouraged to wear their holster badges at all times when attending the range and shooting at a competition.

PNZ Holster Course Training Personnel (See the PNZ website for more details)

- The holster qualification course will be conducted by an accredited PNZ Holster instructor.

All PNZ accredited holster personnel are listed on the PNZ website www.pistolnz.org.nz (Under Services/Holster)

Shooters that wish to shoot Single Action Revolvers (Cowboy Action) need to sit the Cowboy Action Holster qualification. (See course later in this manual)

SECTION ONE

ACTION HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE Action-Speed-IPSC-3Gun-Service

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STAGE ONE - ACTION COURSE FLOW CHART

Eligible to Sit the Course- Club Trainer Approval Granted

Stage One

Introduction – Meet your PNZ Holster Trainer
Course Objectives – Approved and Required Equipment

Stage One – Review & Sign-Off

Stage Two

Safety Zone and Other Safety Factors

Shooter Obligations – Range Officer Responsibilities
Range Officer Commands

Five Stage Safety Draw
Load and Make Ready
Unload and Show Clear

Magazine and Revolver Reloads

Shooting Stance – Posture – Style – Shooting Positions - On Range Movement
Malfunctions and the Required Remedial Actions

Stage Two – Review & Sign-Off

Stage Three

Warning and DQ Infringements
Live Fire Exercises 85% pass required

Stage Three – Review & Sign-Off

Stage One and Two - Trained by the Holster Trainer

Stage Three - Conducted by the Holster Assessor

The Assessor and Shooter sign off all paperwork

Assessor collects the Course Fee (\$30), submits the Assessment results to PNZ

The Assessment Completion Advice form should be sent to

P.O.Box 391 Hastings or E-mail to exec@pistolnz.org.nz

(Details for Direct Payments can be found on the Holster Page on the PNZ website)

STAGE ONE - APPROVED EQUIPMENT



S/A Semi-Auto



D/A Revolver



.22 Calibre



D/A Semi-Auto



S/A-D/A Semi-Auto



Glock

The first requirement is to own a suitable pistol that will function reliably and safely. For most action shooting the minimum calibre is 9mm (.38). A double action Revolver is another option, however, the semi-automatic is by far the more popular choice. A .22 calibre pistol may also be used and are starting to feature in Action, Service and CAS related shooting



We recommend shooters purchase a good quality holster, one that will hold their pistol securely during all vigorous on range movement. The holster must cover the trigger of the pistol when it is correctly holstered, making it impossible for any accidental trigger contact to occur. The top of the pistol butt must not be below the top edge of the belt.

When holstered, the muzzle of the pistol must point no further than a one meter radius of the shooter's feet when standing relaxed or any part of the shooter's body. Due to potential safety issues, the use of a holster to carry and draw a pistol where the holster position is behind your back or placed inside the trousers in any configuration is strictly prohibited. Shooters wishing to use this kind of Holster placement, will not be qualified to shoot from a holster on any Pistol New Zealand range

STAGE ONE - APPROVED EQUIPMENT

Gun Belt & magazine pouches

The belt should be strong enough to carry all equipment and wide enough to disallow holster swivel or any other movement. Magazine or speed loaders pouches may be worn on the holster belt and should be capable of retention. The gun belt must be suitably secure, threaded through belt loops or held in place via a Velcro double belt system. Belt keepers may also be used.



Ammunition used must be deemed safe. i.e. - not over or under loaded. An excessive load places dangerous stress factors on the brass and pistol which could very well result in injury or, at the very least, damage to the firearm. Light loads may result in a projectile being lodged in the barrel.

The shooter is advised to seek the advice of experienced shooters regarding a suitable load and projectile for their pistol. Tyro shooters need to understand the 'power factor' of their loads and the requirements set out for a particular discipline. They should be advised to use only good quality brass and to dispose of split or bulged cases. Top competitive shooters always barrel drop their loaded ammunition before a match, as it only takes one faulty round to hang up a pistol and therefore ruin any chance of a winning score.



Power Factor is the bullet weight multiplied by the muzzle velocity (in FPS)/1000

STAGE ONE - REQUIRED EQUIPMENT



Dummy Rounds- Snap Caps

Before any dry fire drills are conducted during the Holster Qualification course, the Instructor will ask all present to physically check that they have no LIVE ammunition in bags, pockets or magazines that could be mistakenly loaded during this time.

The rule must be - No live ammunition present during dry fire drills.

- All “Dummy Rounds” to be inspected by Trainer plus one other person and be certified as safe.
- Dummy Rounds must not have a primer OR powder, a hole should be drilled through the case
- Snap Caps, designed for dry fire practice, may be used

Ear and eye protection MUST be worn. Appropriate clothing should be worn including footwear. Jandals or open toed sandals are not acceptable. A baseball cap or hat is also a good idea as most shooting is outdoors under all weather conditions.



STAGE ONE - HOLSTER POSITION ON GUN BELT



For IPSC Standard, Production and Classic divisions the holster and magazine pouches must be worn **BEHIND** the hip bone of the shooter. (as shown in the above photo)

All other classes may have the pistol/holster and magazine pouches placed anywhere on the belt, on or forward of the hip bone.

Female shooters have a dispensation to lower their belt and associated equipment to rest more comfortably on the hips. (Details on holster and mag pouch positions can be found in each of the action rulebooks if required).



Open Class Pistols and Mag pouches may be worn anywhere on the belt

STAGE ONE - ASSESSMENT

After completing level One, the Trainer will check off the following;

- ☐ Introduction - opportunity to meet the PNZ Trainer - Trainees I.D name tags issued
- ☐ Trainee complies with all listed requirements (*See Eligibility to sit the Course*)
- ☐ Acceptable dress code including footwear (*See Eligibility to sit the Course*)
- ☐ Course objectives covered and understood (*See Course Objectives*)
- ☐ Action Shooting disciplines described (*See Disciplines that involve holsters*)
- ☐ Check equipment Pistol, Holster, Belt, Mag Pouches, Ear & Eye Protection, Dummy Rounds
- ☐ Location / position of holster and mag pouches on gun belt

I declare the trainee is fully competent in all of the above subjects and is clear to proceed on to stage two.

Shooters name:.....

Trainer:

Instructor Badge Number: Date:

Venue :

(This assessment form does not need to be sent to the PNZ Executive Officer)

STAGE TWO - SAFETY ZONE AND OTHER SAFETY FACTORS

All Pistol NZ ranges that are approved for action shooting must have at least one safety zone designated. There will be at least one PRIMARY Safety Zone with possibly a SECOND Safety Zone on the ranges where and when an event requires such. These Safety Zones are clearly marked areas where the shooter may;

Clear an unloaded pistol from a bag, then holster
Clear an unloaded pistol from a holster, then into a bag
Clean and make adjustments to a pistol
Show the pistol to another person

Loaded magazines may be WORN in the Safety zone, provided they are not handled or removed from pouches.

Drawing and dry fire practice must only be conducted in a Safety zone designated for this purpose and in which a SAFE direction is marked

AMMUNITION MUST NOT BE HANDLED IN THE SAFETY ZONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE
(Ammunition includes dummy rounds, empty cases, snap caps etc)

Action Shooting involves carrying, drawing and holstering a loaded pistol. Matches involve 'on range movement' including running, jumping, shooting from behind the cover of a barricade or similar obstacle. Also engaging targets while standing, kneeling, sitting or prone and sometimes even on the run. In order to do all this safely, each shooter must thoroughly learn and master the necessary skills required and be prepared to listen and obey the instructions of the Range Officer.

SAFETY MUST ALWAYS BE A SHOOTERS FIRST CONSIDERATION

Speed and match winning ability will come with practice and experience.

The Holster Trainer will not assume trainees attending this course already understand the basic fundamentals of pistol shooting and safe firearm handling skills. Both the Trainer and the Trainee should be prepared to cover such basic training once more so everyone can feel confident in each others company.

'Gun control is self control'. Any accident means that one or more safety rules were violated.

That's why we demand that the shooter accepts full responsibility for their actions. It's their gun they're shooting and they must have full control of the 'disaster factor'. If they cannot accept responsibility, this is not the sport for them. (from the USPSA Handbook).

It should be noted the term 'Action Shooting' does in fact encompass several separate, quite different style or disciplines of pistol shooting. The shooter must thoroughly learn the rules of their particular chosen sport. It's not difficult to do so and can only add to the shooters enjoyment, success and progress. Pistol clubs can assist by making available copies of the NRA Action, IPSC, Service, CAS or Speed rule books. These rule books are also available to print or buy from the Pistol NZ On-line Shop and under each section page.

A rule book is provided in the course fee for either IPSC or Cowboy Action.

STAGE TWO - SHOOTER OBLIGATIONS

The shooter should arrive on the firing line 'fully prepared', have all magazines loaded, ear and eye protection on. Know what is expected of them (course of fire - start position) and arrive ready to start.

If they receive a warning or request from the Range Officer - take it in the spirit it is offered. We are talking about safety, not just that of the shooter, but of every person on range.

Shooters need to appreciate the role the Range Officer plays; it can be a tough one so it's nice to be thanked after a course of fire or competition. When free to do so, the shooter can help by offering to help with range duties such as, scoring, patching out, painting /resetting plates. Help also by picking up empty brass.

This helps keeps the day's shooting program moving along, it helps spread the workload, plus promotes a lot of goodwill.

Action shooting has, to date, a remarkable safety record. Very strict rules and regulations are in force to protect us all. Unsafe gun handling, if and when observed, will without exception be addressed.

In fact, we have an agreement amongst action shooters to, if an unsafe procedure is pointed out by another shooter or range officer, it will be accepted in good grace and a "thank you" offered. After all, who wants to be the one who could possibly destroy our unblemished safe pistol shooting record !!



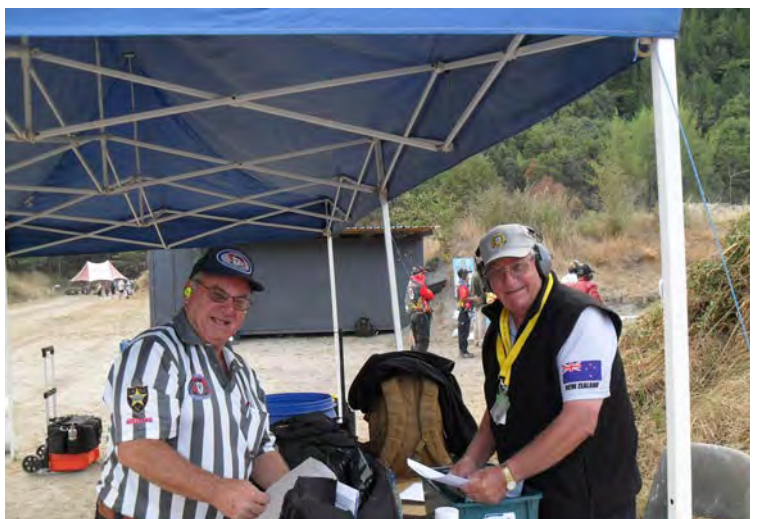
STAGE TWO - RANGE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Safety on the range is the responsibility of ALL range users. The Range Officer function is to ensure all shooting and on range activity is conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the competition being shot including safety issues. Shooters, range staff and spectators must obey all lawful commands and requests made by a duly appointed Range Officer.

A Range Officer should always act and appear as calm, courteous, firm and above all completely unbiased. In short, 'the true professional'.

During the PNZ Holster Badge Qualification course you will be instructed how to R/O a course of fire using the correct sequence of verbal commands. You will also be required to shoot a course of fire, clearly following these commands.

R/O commands are short, precise and consistent. You should know these commands thoroughly and be able to vocalize them clearly and confidently. The comments, in red, are the range commands, the responses are in black.



STAGE TWO - RANGE OFFICER COMMANDS (AND REQUIRED RESPONSES)

Before any live firing takes place the Range Officer will ensure the range is clear.

Live fire is about to commence. Everyone on the range should now be wearing ear and eye protection. No one should venture down range, past the firing point. The next designated shooter(s) move into position on the firing line. Shooters should be fully prepared and ready to start a course of fire.

The range officer will issue a command of “range is in use, then..... shooter(s) to the line” (or similar)

“Load and make ready”*

*Draw pistol (as per the associated drill) Load by inserting and seating a full magazine. Rack the slide, loading a round into the chamber of a semi-auto. Engage the safety if fitted (or lower the hammer) and re-holster (as per the associated drill – if holster qualified). ***Under “Wild Bunch” SASS rules, using a semi-auto pistol. Magazine is inserted and seated but no round is loaded into the chamber.***

“Ready” or “Are you ready”

Shooter(s) assume the required start position indicating they are ready to start. If not they should state “not ready”

“Standby”

Within 3-7 seconds the start signal will sound, targets turn or target comes into view.

“If finished, unload and show clear”

*Shooter(s) having completed a course of fire should lower pistol to 45 degrees and wait for the range officer to instruct them to unload and show clear. Shooter(s) unloads (as per the associated drill) and checks that his/her pistol is clear - then presents the pistol to the range officer who confirms gun is clear. **It is the shooters primary responsibility to make sure the pistol is safe.***

“If clear, hammer down, holster or bag”

Lower the slide with care. Point the pistol downrange and pull the trigger in order to lower the hammer on an empty chamber. This needs to be a deliberately aimed shot so if an accidental discharge was to occur, a projectile would fall within a safe cone of fire.

“Range is clear”

Only at this point may people move downrange to patch or change targets, retrieve empty brass magazines etc.

Other Range Commands include;

“Stop” or “Cease fire, unload and show clear”

An incident has occurred that may endanger your personal safety or that of others on the range. On hearing this command you must stop firing immediately - apply safety and lower pistol to the 45 degree position. Wait for Range Officers instructions.

“Finger”

The Range Officer suspects you may have your finger inside the trigger guard, during movement and possibly making contact with the trigger. This is a verbal warning for you to remove your trigger finger out of the trigger guard NOW.

“Muzzle”

The Range Officer suspects you may be about to break the 180 degree cone of fire - this is a verbal warning for you to re-align the muzzle of your pistol down range – NOW

It is worth noting that a Range Officer may offer a verbal warning, but is not obliged to do so. Safety is the shooter’s responsibility.

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Five Stage Safety Draw Drill

1



Take a firm grip of the butt, trigger finger extended and outside of the trigger guard.

Non shooting hand placed to the centre of the body. This hand position prevents possible muzzle sweeping and allows for a quick, positive free style double grip to be taken.

2



Draw the pistol, immediately pointing the muzzle downrange. Finger out of the trigger guard.

Support hand positioned where it can readily be moved to take up a two handed free style grip on the pistol.

3



As the muzzle breaks the 45 degree angle, or higher, the shooter may disengage the thumb safety catch. (If fitted) Then, if shooting free style, take a firm, two handed grip.

4&5



Take a sight picture and bring the trigger finger into the trigger guard lightly resting on the trigger.

Having completed a safe draw, muzzle pointing down range, sights correctly aligned on your intended target - commence and continue gentle pressure on the trigger until the hammer falls.

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Load and Make Ready - S/Action Semi Auto

It is important that tyro (new) shooters are taught the correct way to “load and make ready” any pistol in their charge, before assuming the Pistol Ready Position or Holstering if holster qualified. During all of the following procedures the pistol must be pointing in a safe direction.



For this dry fire drill the Trainer will have the shooter load a magazine with dummy rounds.

1. Draw the pistol and magazine, trigger finger outside of the trigger guard.....Muzzle always pointing down range.



2. Insert and seat a fully loaded magazine (dummy rounds).....



3. Slide is cycled chambering a round of ammunition.....



4. The thumb safety catch is then engaged.



Holster the pistol, trigger finger fully extended and outside of the trigger guard.

Non shooting hand is placed onto the centre of the body.

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Load and Make Ready - D/Action Semi Auto



Special attention and care must be given with the “Load and Make Ready” drills for double action semi-auto pistols.



Single Action / Double Action pistols fitted with a safety

Single Action condition: If the single action is a requirement, follow page 19 steps 1-3, then if the pistol is fitted with an external safety catch this must be engaged so the pistol functions as a S/A Pistol.



Double Action condition: If the double action is a requirement (production division) and the pistol is not fitted with a de-cocking lever, the hammer must be fully lowered.



This should be done by firmly gripping the hammer with the weak hand on both sides using the thumb and index finger pulling the hammer to the rear, then while holding the hammer, the trigger is then pressed allowing the hammer to be **manually, fully lowered with all due care.**



Single Action / Double Action pistols fitted with a de-cocking lever

Follow page 19 steps 1-3, then if the pistol has a de-cocking lever, that alone must be used to de-cock the pistol, without touching the trigger.



Holster the pistol, trigger finger fully extended and outside of the trigger guard.

Non shooting hand is placed onto the centre of the body.



The Glock pistol and other strike fired pistols

These pistols have a unique safety feature that requires neither a safety catch or de-cocking devise. To load and make ready, simply insert of loaded magazine, cycle the slide chambering a live round of ammunition. The pistol may now be lowered to the Pistol Ready Position or Holstered.

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Load and Make Ready - Revolver



For this dry fire drill the Trainer will have the shooter load a speedloader (if used) with dummy rounds.

1. Draw the revolver and a speedloader (if used), trigger finger outside of the trigger guard.....Muzzle always pointing down range.



2. Open the cylinder and load with the required rounds, via a speedloader or individually (dummy rounds).....



3. Close cylinder..... no other action is required, however, a revolver must be holstered hammer down and in the double action mode.



4. Holster the pistol, trigger finger fully extended and outside of the trigger guard.

Non shooting hand is placed onto the centre of the body.

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Unload and show Clear Drill



Single Action / Double Action pistols

Keeping the muzzle pointing down range, remove the magazine from the pistol - allow it to drop to the ground, or return it to a pouch, bag or pocket.(another option - hold magazine using the little finger of the strong hand).

With the non shooting hand, rack open the slide (gently but firmly) keep your hand well clear of the ejection port and allow the ejected round to fall to the ground.



Hold the slide open for the Range Officer and yourself - to check that the chamber is empty.

Both you and the Range Officer must thoroughly check that the pistol is clear.

Once the Range Officer -and yourself - are satisfied that the pistol is clear, you will be asked:

“If clear, hammer down and holster”



It is the shooter AND the Range Officer's responsibility to ensure that the pistol is clear.

Manually (with care) close the action, then pointing the muzzle down range, dry fire the pistol in order to lower the hammer.

This serves as the final test to ensure your pistol is clear of any live ammunition. Hold the pistol firmly during this procedure.

This must be a deliberate aimed “shot” down range.

If an accidental discharge were to occur, you must be able to maintain full control. Holster or “bag” the pistol.



Revolvers

Keeping the muzzle pointing down range, open the cylinder and eject the empty cases into your hand, allow them to drop to the ground or return them to a pouch, bag or pocket.

Hold the cylinder open for the Range Officer and yourself - to check that the chambers are empty.

Both you and the Range Officer thoroughly check that the pistol is clear. Once the Range Officer -and yourself - are satisfied that the pistol is clear, you will be asked:

“If clear, hammer down and holster”

It is the shooter AND the Range Officer's responsibility to ensure that the pistol is clear.

Manually close the cylinder and Holster or “bag” the pistol.



STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Pistol Re-Loads

Forced or tactical magazine changes are very much part of Action Shooting. This is where an empty, or near empty magazine is ejected and a fresh one is rapidly seated enabling the shooter to continue firing.

This is an important part of Action Shooting. Repetitive practice is recommended - like a smooth fast draw, reloads can cut seconds of your time. Start your practice sessions off slowly - mag out, fresh one in, no hang ups. Once this process is working well, start to speed up. If you fumble, slow down and start again.



Semi-Auto:

Draw the pistol towards your body by bending both arms at the elbows. Release the spent magazine before, or as your arms bring the pistol close to the body. The idea is to draw the fresh magazine from the pouch while the spent magazine is being ejected - with a lot of practice you may find you can have the fresh mag inserted and seated before the spent mag hits the floor.

By drawing the pistol in close you are in control of this manoeuvre, tilt the pistol so you can clearly see the mag-well, guide the fresh magazine into the mag-well using your index finger touching the tip of the first round. Firmly seat the magazine by using the heel of the hand - thrust the pistol out and continue engaging targets.

Note: Don't fumble your re-loads. physically look at what you are doing. (Tip) If you look carefully at the middle photo above you will see an **ink drawn red dot**. This can be used as a focal point, intended to make you consciously look at the mag-well during re-loads. Its not competitive to shoot your gun empty where the slide locks back. Attempt to always keep count of your shots, pick the best opportunity to re-load a fresh magazine. If you do have to re-load and drop the slide, it can amount to wasted time.



Revolver:

For improved control and visual application, draw the revolver towards your body by bending both arms at the elbows.

Release the cylinder catch and swing the cylinder open.....Eject spent cases.

Reload using a speed loader or individual rounds manually.

Be careful of the muzzle direction during this procedure.

Drop the speed loader, close the cylinder then thrust the pistol forward and continue engaging targets.

Like the semi-auto and even more so for a revolver, it's not competitive to shoot your pistol empty. Attempt to always keep count of your shots and pick the best opportunity to reload fresh rounds.

STAGE TWO - Shooting Stance and Posture



The 'Weaver' Stance - free style.

(The weaver stance was developed by Jack Weaver in 1959)

Designed to reduce muzzle recoil, and recovery time. This stance enhances the shooter's ability to draw and index targets at speed.

One foot is placed behind and to the side of the other, the body is positioned at roughly a 45 degree angle. Note the shooter's right arm is straight and the left arm is bent to compensate for the angle of the body.

Posture - legs slightly bent, stomach and buttocks muscles lightly flexed. Head centrally aligned.

Grip - Strong hand 40% support hand 60% approximately.

The fingers of the support hand are wrapped into the grooves of the dominant hand. Both thumbs relaxed and parallel.



The 'Isosceles' Stance - free style.

(Isosceles - of a triangle, to have two sides equal)

Used for long and close distance shots that require a high degree of accuracy.

Also a very versatile stance used by many competitive shooters as it offers stability as well as mobility.

From this stance a wide arc of engagement is possible.

STAGE TWO - Weak and Strong Hand/Pistol Transition



Strong Hand only

Dominant hand only - depending whether you are left or right handed. The non-shooting hand/arm is brought to the centre of the chest. This helps brace the chest muscles, it must not come into contact with the shooting arm offering artificial support.



Weak Hand only

Weak hand only - depending whether you are left or right handed. The non-shooting hand/arm is brought to the centre of the chest. This helps brace the chest muscles, it must not come into contact with the shooting arm offering artificial support.

Care must be exercised when transitioning the pistol from strong to weak hand, or weak to strong hand.

Muzzle direction must remain down range, and finger out of the trigger guard.



Transition between strong hand and weak hand only

As the pistol is drawn close to the body by bending both arms at the elbows, raise the thumb of the hand holding the pistol, this creates an open path for the other hand to slide into position for a smooth, controlled transition.

This is a two stage action, the pistol is drawn towards the shooter, transition achieved, pistol thrust back out to engage target. 'Pull - Push action'



Note:

Finger out of the trigger guard during transition.
Keep pistol parallel, muzzle pointing down range

STAGE TWO - On Range Movement- Training Notes



All action holster drawn disciplines have movement during a course of fire.

When transitioning between shooting positions or during on-course movement between targets, the trigger finger **MUST** be visibly seen outside of the trigger guard, unless you are engaging a target.

The muzzle must not be permitted to break an invisible line, 180 degrees (pointing uprange) 90 degrees to the left or right.

Failure to comply with this requirement invokes disqualification from a match.

Muzzle direction and safe movement during shooting is a shooter's most important consideration.



Definition of Uprange:

That area **BEHIND** the shooters box, charge line and towards the 'safe' area of the range.

Definition of Downrange:

Is that area that points towards the targets.

Draw Speed

Drawing the pistol as fast as possible is not a good idea, or necessary for a trainee attending this course. Smooth and steady is the correct approach. There will be plenty of time to increase your drawing speed as your experience and pistol handling skill develop.

Placement of the non shooting hand during the draw

During this course while drawing and re-holstering the pistol, your Trainer will be very firm about the placement of the non shooting hand. Every time the pistol is drawn or re-holstered the non shooting hand must be placed to the centre of the shooter's body.

Although this is not mandatory for experienced action shooters, it is highly recommended for several reasons.

- It reduces the chances of accidental sweeping (muzzle across any part of the shooter's body).
- Convenient to quickly take up a free style grip (economy of movement).
- Drawn pistol comes under control quickly.



STAGE TWO - Malfunctions and the Required Remedial Actions



Stove pipe:

An empty case jammed in the ejection port impeding the slide.

Remedial action: Remove finger from inside the trigger guard. With your non shooting hand, use a rearward sweeping action to clear the empty case.



Ammunition feed jam:

Remedial action: Remove finger from inside the trigger guard. Drop/eject magazine,



.....rack slide several times to clear jammed round(s).
Re-load fresh magazine, rack slide, continue shooting.



Failure to go fully into battery or failure to fire:

Click but no bang. Magazine may not be seated. High or faulty primer. Tap the magazine - rack - continue.

Projectile lodged in barrel - 'pop n stop'

Which means if you hear a 'pop' instead of the normal bang, stop, keep your pistol pointing downrange, wait for 30 seconds then unload and show clear in the normal manner.

If a projectile is lodged in the barrel the gun may have to be dismantled - on the line - then taken away to check for any possible damage to the pistol, and or, remove the projectile.

STAGE TWO - Shooting Positions - PRONE

During this course the trainee will need to learn how to shoot on the move - free style - and shoot while standing, kneeling, sitting and from a prone position. Special advice will be given regarding safely shooting from behind a barricade, through a window, port or moving safely through a closed door.



Note: Pistol is drawn, finger outside of the trigger guard, non shooting hand to centre of body. Hand used to support body well clear of muzzle.

A course of fire may require the shooter to drop to the prone position. There are many versions of going prone, depending to a large degree on ones athletic ability. The pistol must be drawn before the prone position is adopted. The non shooting hand can be extended to the ground to help support the bodyweight, both legs are then kicked back in order to land in the prone position.

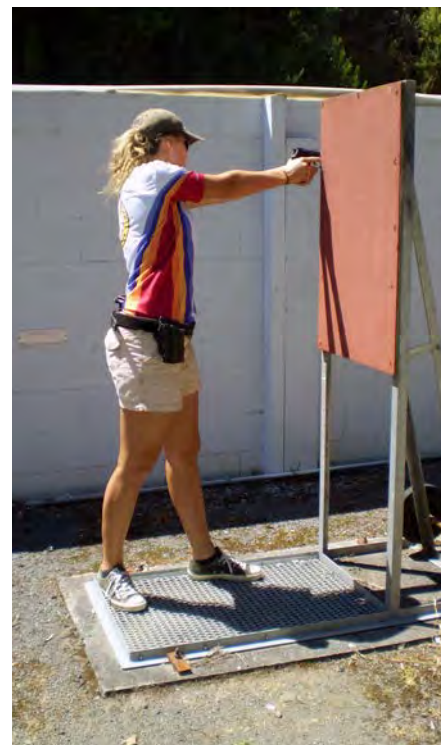
Note - when going prone: Muzzle direction down range, finger outside the trigger guard.
Do not muzzle sweep the support hand/arm.

Unload and show clear: Keep muzzle pointing down range, finger outside the trigger guard.
Stand before unloading in order to show clear.



Drop to the prone position resting pistol butt firmly on mat. Note arms are fully extended and flat on mat

STAGE TWO - Shooting Positions - Barricade and Kneeling



Shooting from a barricade

Muzzle clear of barricade. When changing from right to left side of barricade, pistol is drawn toward shooter, then thrust forward. Do not allow muzzle to point skyward or downward.

Finger out of the trigger guard during this manoeuver.



Kneeling

A course of fire may require either one or two knees to be on the ground.

Pistol must be drawn before taking the kneeling position and care must be exercised regarding muzzle direction. Keep finger out of the trigger guard until ready to engage targets.

STAGE TWO - Shooting Positions - Sitting



The course of fire may require the shooter to start or move into a sitting position. Each shooter has their own preferred way of lowering their body to the ground and the position in which they sit.

The pistol must be drawn before moving into a sitting position.

If the course of fire starts from a sitting position, the shooter would be well advised to stand before drawing. (If permitted).

The muzzle of a holstered pistol while sitting must not point at any part of the shooter's body.



Make sure your body or foot is not forward of the firing line

STAGE TWO - Shooting through a Port - Window - Door



Where possible don't thrust the pistol into or through a barrel, window or port.

By doing so you may restrict your arc of fire or risk damage to the pistols sights in the event of contact. You could also impede the movement of the slide.

Make sure you know which direction the door opens. Away from you, or towards you.

Avoid muzzle sweeping any part of your body.

Finger outside of the trigger guard.

Open the door by pushing or pulling using your non shooting hand - muzzle of pistol may be parallel to the hand used to open the door - but at no stage must the hand, wrist, arm or any other part of the shooters body be swept by the muzzle.



STAGE TWO - ASSESSMENT (Using Dummy Rounds Only)

After completing Level Two, the Trainer will sign-off the following;

- ☐ The Five Stage Safety Draw - Demonstrate and able to vocalize clearly the five steps.
- ☐ Load and Make Ready - Demonstrate
- ☐ Re-loads (magazine changes) - Demonstrate
- ☐ Unload and Show Clear - Demonstrate
- ☐ Demonstrate The Weaver Stance
- ☐ Demonstrate The Isosceles Stance
- ☐ Demonstrate The Free Style Grip and Posture
- ☐ Demonstrate The Strong Hand Only Grip and Posture
- ☐ Demonstrate The Weak Hand Only Grip and Posture
- ☐ Demonstrate Pistol Transition From Strong To Weak Hand
- ☐ Demonstrate Shooting Positions - Standing - Kneeling - Sitting - Prone
- ☐ Demonstrate Shooting From - Barricade - Ports / Windows - Doors - On Range Movement
- ☐ Demonstrate Dealing With Malfunctions
- ☐ R/O Commands fully understood and able to be recited
- ☐ Understands Safety Zone requirements / rules and procedures
- ☐ Demonstrate procedures required to render all types of pistols safe to holster.

I declare the trainee is fully competent in all of the above subjects and is clear to proceed on to stage three.

Shooters name:.....

Trainer:

Instructor Badge Number: Date:

Venue :

(This assessment form does not need to be sent to the PNZ Executive Officer)

STAGE THREE - Warning and Disqualification Infringements

It should be noted that there is no Range Officer requirement to warn a shooter that an infraction is about to occur, safe gun handling is the shooter's responsibility. However, a range officer may choose to offer a verbal warning.

The following verbal warnings may be used.

“Finger” in a loud firm voice. (IPSC & Action events)

Shooter possibly has finger in the trigger guard - remove it now !!

“Muzzle” in a loud firm voice.

The Muzzle of pistol is approaching or about to break the 180 degree safe angle - correct immediately!!

“Stop or Cease fire - Unload and show clear”

A dangerous situation has occurred. Stop immediately.

Follow the Range Officer's instructions exactly.

Note: If a Range Officer SEES a shooter take more than one step with a finger inside the trigger guard, unless engaging a target, whether the finger is touching the trigger or not, the R/O will impose a D.Q. ruling.

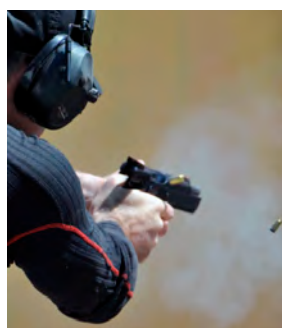
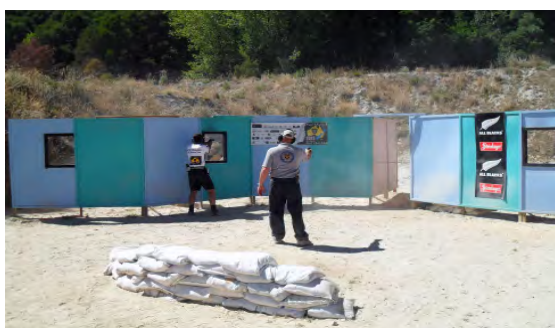
If the Range Officer SEES a shooter allow their pistol's muzzle to break the 180 degree line, the R/O will impose a D.Q. ruling.

If a shooter drops a pistol during a course of fire: (After the command to load and make ready)

If the pistol is loaded or unloaded - it is an automatic D.Q. offence.

Outside of a course of fire:

The correct process is to call the Stage or Match Range Officer at which time they will clear the range, then pick up the pistol and make sure it is unloaded, then the Range Officer will hand back the pistol to the shooter to holster or bag. This is not a D.Q. offence.



STAGE THREE - Skills Live Fire Exercise One

Level three moves into LIVE FIRE exercises

Under the direction of the Assessor, shooters will complete these 2 live fire exercises to assess what they have learned in Stage 2 (One will test basic skills and one movement on a range).

Shooters will be requested to fully load magazines with live ammunition.

Exercise one:

Instructor Note: NRA, IPSC or Service Match targets may be used. (2 required) Distance to targets - 10 meters.

"Range is in use - shooter to the line, load and make ready"

"Are you ready, standby....."

On start signal -

Shooter will draw and fire two shots on target 1 - re-load and fire a further two shots on target 2

Lower pistol to 45 degrees, apply safety catch and re-holster

Repeat this drill three times - then on R/O's command, unload and show clear.

12 rounds required

"Load and make ready....."....."Are you ready, standby....."

On start signal,

draw and fire one shot, strong hand only on target 1

Transfer the pistol to the weak hand only and fire one shot on target 2

**Transfer pistol back to strong hand. Lower pistol to 45 degree position,
apply safety catch and re-holster.**

Repeat this drill three times - then on R/O's command, unload and show clear.

6 rounds required

"Load and make ready....."....."Are you ready, standby....."

On the start signal,

draw then kneel, fire two shots onto target 1

Lower pistol to 45 degree, apply safety catch and re-holster.

On start signal, draw then drop to the prone position, fire two shots onto target 2

Stand, lower pistol to 45 degrees, apply safety catch and re-holster.

Repeat this drill three times - then on the R/O's command unload and show clear.

12 rounds required

All drills correctly executed: ☐

Compliant: ☐

Procedures followed: ☐

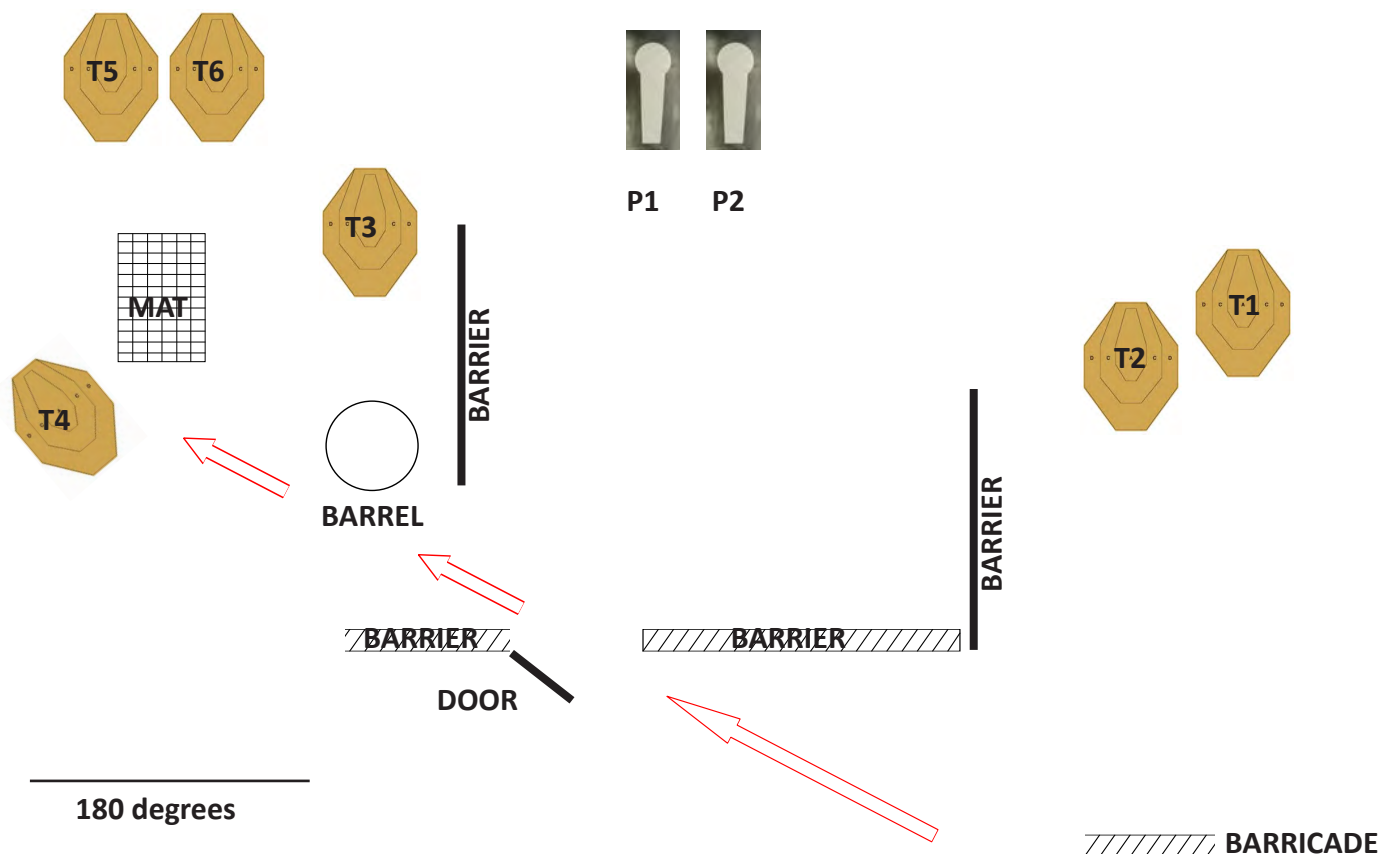
Not yet compliant: ☐

85% Score required (26 or more hits recorded)

Score only the number of hits on each target.

/ 30

STAGE THREE - Movement Live Fire Exercise Two



180 degrees

/// BARRICADE

A

Instructors Note: Targets can be NRA, IPSC or Service Match targets
Distance from barricade, door entrance and mat to targets - 10 meters
Exact Position of targets and barriers not important as this is a skills based test

- You will require a minimum of 14 rounds, there is a forced re-loading during the course of fire!
- This is an exercise so time is not important - safety and technique is !
- Only the number of hits on each target will be recorded - steel must be down.

Remember - Muzzle direction down range at all times, comply with the 180 degree rule.

Finger out of the trigger guard unless engaging targets.

Be conscious of your basic drills.

Exercise two - Course of Fire:

Start Position: Standing in Box A arms relaxed at sides,

On the Assessor command....."Load and Make ready"

On the start signal move to the barricade, from the right hand side of the barricade 2 shots on target 1

from the left hand side of barricade 2 shots on target 2.....**move to the door**

Open and move through door – engage PP1 & PP2. Move to barrel – shooting through the barrel engage

target 3 with 2 shots. Then on the move towards the mat engage target 4 with 2 shots. Dropping prone

on the mat, 2 shots on targets 5 and 6.....On the Assessor command.....**"If finished, unload and show**

clear""If clear hammer down and holster"

85% Score required (12 or more hits recorded)
Scores only the number of hits on each target.

14

Compliant:

☐

Not yet compliant:

☐

STAGE THREE - ASSESSMENT Live Fire Exercises -Signoff

After completing Level Three live fire exercises, the assessor will sign-off the following;

- ☐ Understands Shooter's Obligations
- ☐ Demonstrated ALL Basic Skills competently, safely and in accordance with this manual
- ☐ Shooting positions - barricade, windows, doors, standing, kneeling, sitting, prone
- ☐ Shot the Skills live fire exercise competently and safely, able to follow instructions and scored required 85%
- ☐ Shot the Movement and match competently, safely and scored required 85 %
- ☐ Displays a positive attitude and sportmanlike behaviour

I declare that

has completed the PNZ Action Holster Qualification Training programme and has qualified to shoot from the Holster

Assessor: Venue:

Instructor Badge Number: Date:

Assessor Signature: Shooters Signature:

Assessment Date:

Send the Holster Qualification Assessment Advice form (page 67) to the Executive Officer.

Thank you to all the shooters who gave their time to demonstrate shooting positions in the Action Holster Manual.



ACTION HOLSTER
QUALIFICATION COURSE
WILD BUNCH

SECTION TWO

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Unique Considerations for Action Wild Bunch- Action Qualification

Trainer Note: All shooters sitting the Action Holster Qualification should be taken through this section, so they understand the differences between Action and Wild Bunch Action.

All the information contained in the Action qualification is the same as for Wild Bunch except the following unique considerations: (Taken from the SASS rules).

Direction of Muzzle:

The muzzle in Wild Bunch must not be permitted to break an invisible line, **170 degrees (pointing uprange) 85 degrees to the left or right. Failure to comply with this requirement invokes disqualification from a stage, 2 disqualifications from stages is a disqualification from the match. (This is 180 degrees in other Action events).**

Muzzle direction and safe movement during shooting is a shooter's most important consideration.

"Load and make ready" Wild Bunch differences:

Wild Bunch like CAS have a loading area called a LOADING table. The Loading table is used to load the 1911 style pistol just before the stage is to be shot. There is only room on a table for a couple of shooters with 2 long guns and a pistol.

For Wild Bunch, a pistol is "Loaded" with a loaded magazine.

For a Wild Bunch Action qualified shooter this entails having a loaded magazine inserted ONLY in the pistol and the pistol reholstered. The pistol is not cocked and no safety applied. If a shooter is NOT Holster qualified, then the pistol must be staged only (Placed in a start position on the stage).

Note: Magazines shall be loaded with up to five rounds only. A shooter may load LESS than five rounds in a magazine.

In Wild Bunch shooting, unless specifically instructed otherwise, a live round will only be chambered in the pistol on the clock when needed in the firing sequence.

Reloading:

All reloads shall be from slide lock, no "tactical reloads." In Wild Bunch, you may not reload the pistol with a round in the chamber. You may NOT reload a single round in the 1911 by placing it in the chamber and then closing the slide. All ammunition must be loaded from a magazine. All reloads shall be from slide lock.

If after firing all the rounds in the magazine the slide lock fails and the shooter needs to reload without moving, one may do so without locking the slide back before inserting the new magazine. This is considered a malfunction. Safe reloads after any type of malfunction are legal.

STAGE ONE - Unique Considerations and Approved Equipment

Unload and Show Clear:

At the end of the course of fire the 1911 must be shown clear **on the firing line not the UNLOADING table**. The range Commands for unloading a pistol once the shooter has finished are the same as for all action events (See Page 17) No further checking is needed at the UNLOADING Table.

Safety Zones:

The unloading table is not intended as a primary safety zone for pistol maintenance and cleaning. All pistol ranges have specific safety zones for this type of work.

Approved equipment - Pistol

Wild Bunch require the use of an 1911 (Or 1911-A1) pistol (and variants) only. This must be a full-size single stack steel frame 1911 style semi-auto pistol in .45 ACP caliber

(Unlike Cowboy Shooting, no more than one main match pistol may be carried to the firing line).



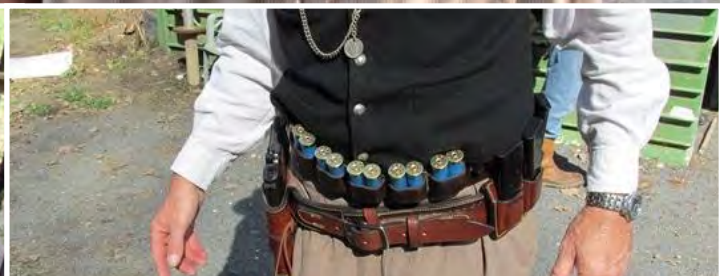
Approved equipment - Holsters

All pistols must be carried in a safe holster capable of retaining the firearm throughout a normal range of motion.

Loose ammunition (i.e., ammunition not in magazines) required for reloads during the course of any stage must be carried on the shooter's person in a bandoleer, cartridge/shot shell belt loop, pouch, holster, or pocket or be safely staged as required by stage instructions.



(For more details on Holster requirements, see the SASS Wild Bunch Rulebook on the SASS Website)



ELIGIBILITY TO SIT THE COWBOY ACTION COURSE

To be eligible to sit this course, trainees **MUST** have:

- ✓ Approval from a club Holster Instructor or Club Training Officer who will determine the member's suitability to sit this course. (There are no time requirements as to when a member may sit this course).
- ✓ Be at least 12 years of age and a holder of the "Junior Proficiency Badge" (Ages 12-16)
- ✓ Pistol NZ is aware that some clubs allow the trainee to take the course with equipment purchased by the trainee and held by a B cat endorsed club member. This is not recommended. However, if this does happen the person to whom the firearm is registered **MUST** be in attendance with the trainee at all times - as required by the Letter of Agreement- Section 5.6 and 5.7.
Clarification: (You cannot take possession of a pistol without a permit to procure. (Section 44 of the Arms Act, 1983). If a club gun is used then the person whose license it is on must be present).
- ✓ Completed the "PNZ CLUB RANGE OFFICER SAFETY" test. This is based on section two of the member's handbook.
- ✓ Be the holder of a current Firearms license or have completed the 'junior proficiency badge' course (12-16).
- ✓ Received tuition from their club in the safe handling of firearms on the range, plus undergone basic pistol shooting skills training and be deemed proficient and safe by the Club Training Officer and have passed the Club safety course.
- ✓ Your own equipment. This includes the pistol you propose to use in your chosen discipline, your own belt, holster and pouches . (See Page's 10-12).
- ✓ Dummy rounds (6) suitable for the pistol used (Certified safe by the Trainer and at least one other person present. (see details relating to dummy rounds on page 12).
- ✓ Good quality ear and eye protection.
- ✓ Appropriate clothing should be worn (no camouflage clothing or offensive tee shirts that could bring our sport into disrepute) Closed toe footwear, jandals are not acceptable.
- ✓ A Cowboy hat is mandatory for Cowboy action and is handy under all weather conditions.
- ✓ Fifty rounds (50) of live ammunition.
- ✓ The shooter's own copy of the PNZ Holster Manual.
- ✓ Sensible, safe attitude and a willingness to listen, learn and perform to the best of their ability.

For Your Safety!

It is mandatory for all action shooters, range staff and spectators to wear eye and ear protection at all times during shooting activities.

ELIGIBILITY TO SIT THE COWBOY ACTION COURSE

The Following is not acceptable;

- X** Equipment that has been borrowed for the course (excluding club guns)
- X** Any equipment deemed unsafe by the Trainer/Assessor
- X** Equipment that does not meet Cowboy Action requirements
- X** Ammunition that is deemed unsafe
- X** A shooter that displays a poor attitude, or an unwillingness to listen, learn and perform as instructed

Suitable Pistols for Cowboy Action Shooting and participation in this course:

Any Single Action centerfire revolver - Single Action Revolvers must meet SASS Rules

Single Action .22 calibre revolvers - Single Action .22 Revolvers must meet SASS Rules

This course covers the use of Single Action revolvers ONLY.

If Single Action Shooters subsequently wish to change pistols or qualify to shoot a:

Glock
Double action revolver
Double action semi-auto , fitted with a de-cocker
Single action / double action semi-auto fitted with a de-cocker
(or safety catch that is not used)

You will be required to sit the **Action Holster Qualification Course**.

Any PNZ Holster Trainer, Assessor or Master Grade Trainer can conduct this process.

PNZ will be notified by the person conducting the reassessment of any changes to a shooters holster qualification status.

COWBOY ACTION HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course trainees will be able to;

- Understand the rules and regulations pertaining to shooting from a holster.
- Fully understand and appreciate their obligations as a holster qualified shooter.
- Understand and are able to appropriately respond to all Range Officer commands.
- Able to load, unload, and reload a pistol safely in accordance with the associated drills.
- Able to demonstrate the **CAS 5 Stage Draw** in accordance with the associated drills.
- Competently demonstrate basic pistol handling skills.
- Shoot a basic qualifying match safely and competently.
- Able to follow instructions and record a 85% score.

PNZ Holster Badge Accreditation

- Trainees who pass this course will receive a CAS Holster Badge and certificate. Shooters are encouraged to wear their holster badges at all times when attending the range and shooting at a competition.
- For the Cowboy Holster Qualification you must use Centerfire or .22 Single Action Revolvers only.

PNZ Holster Course Training Personnel (See the PNZ website for more details)

- The holster qualification course will be conducted by an accredited PNZ CAS Trainer/Instructor.
- The assessment examination will be conducted by an accredited PNZ CAS Assessor.
- PNZ Master Grade Trainer /Instructors are able to conduct both the holster qualification course and assessment.

All PNZ accredited holster personnel are listed on the PNZ website www.pistolnz.org.nz (Under Services/Holster)

SECTION THREE

ACTION HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE COWBOY ACTION

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STAGE THREE - COWBOY ACTION HOLSTER QUALIFICATION

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STAGE ONE - COWBOY ACTION COURSE FLOW CHART

Eligible to Sit the Course- Club Trainer Approval Granted

Stage One

Introduction – Meet your PNZ Holster Trainer
Course Objectives – Equipment

Stage One – Review & Sign-Off

Stage Two

Cowboy Action Safety Area and other Safety Factors

Shooter Obligations – Range Officer Responsibilities
Range Officer Commands
Cowboy Action Categories

Safety Draw (2 Pistols) Conventional Rig and Cross draw
Load and Make Ready
Unload and Show Clear and Loading/Unloading Table
Reloading During the Course of Fire
On Range Movement
Shooting Stance, Grips and Positions

Stage Two – Review & Sign-Off

Stage Three

Warnings and Stage and Match DQ Infringements
Live Fire Exercise 85% Pass Required

Stage Three – Review & Sign-Off

Stage One and Two - Trained by the CAS Holster Trainer

Stage Three - Conducted by the CAS Holster Assessor

The Assessor and Shooter sign off all paperwork

Assessor collects the Course Fee (\$30), submits the Assessment results to PNZ

The Assessment Completion Advice form should be sent to

P.O.Box 391 Hastings or E-mail to exec@pistolnz.org.nz

(Details for Direct Payments can be found on the Holster Page on the PNZ website)

STAGE ONE - APPROVED EQUIPMENT- HOLSTERS

HOLSTER and BELTS

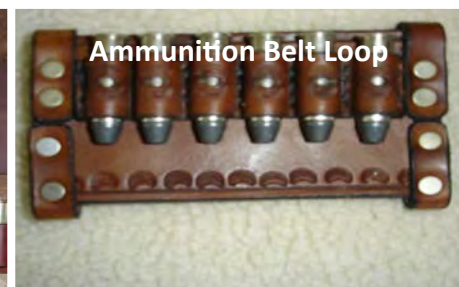
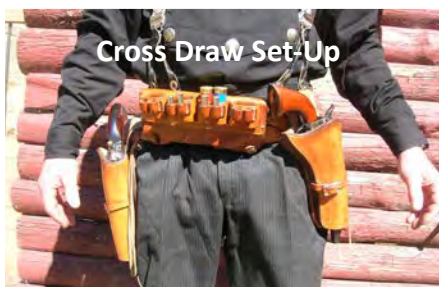
All handguns must be carried in a safe holster capable of retaining the firearm throughout a normal range of motion.



LOCATION OF CAS HOLSTERS AND POUCHES

These pictures identify where holsters and pouches need to be located on the shooter to conform to the requirements of the International Rules that govern SASS shooting. The belts, holster and buckles must be robust and strong enough to hold the weight of a loaded pistol and/or the included weight of loaded ammunition. Professionally made gear, whilst it can be expensive, is an investment and a 'one off' purchase that should see the shooter through their shooting 'career'.

Main match holsters (Cowboy Action) must be located one on each side of the belly button and separated by at least the width of two fists at the belt



Ammunition required for reloads (for shotgun and Rifle as well as pistol) during the course of any stage must be carried on the shooter's person in a bandoleer, cartridge/shotshell belt loop, pouch, holster, or pocket or be safely staged as required by stage instructions. Leather belt slide ammo loops are acceptable; however, shotgun shell slides may not be worn over shotgun loops on an ammo belt.

Shotgun loops must be in a single row. Rifle and revolver ammunition may not be carried in a shotshell loop. No ammunition may be carried in the mouth, ears, nose, cleavage, or any other bodily orifice.

Bandoleers, cartridge belts, and pouches must be of traditional design (e.g., bandoleers must be loose and not secured in any way to prevent movement). Modern drop pouches, combat style shotgun loops, wrist or forearm bandoleers, and such are not allowed. Pouches shall have a flap and must carry their contents loose, with no special provisions to organize the contents for rapid retrieval.

Cartridge loops must not have a metal or plastic liner. However, the entire loop may be made of metal.

Shotgun ammo loops may not accommodate more than two rounds per loop, and rifle/revolver ammo loops shall accommodate only one round per loop.

Ammo belts must be worn so all ammo is positioned at or below the belly button.

For more details on Holster and Belt requirements, check out the SASS rules on the SASS website.

STAGE ONE - APPROVED EQUIPMENT- REVOLVERS

REVOLVER REQUIREMENTS

Original single action revolvers manufactured prior to 1899, their approved replicas, and the SASS approved single action adjustable sight revolvers are the only revolvers approved for use in SASS main match competition.



The rules relative to SASS approved revolvers depend upon the competition category in which one participates. Sights are a major factor for determining in which category a revolver may be used. Certain shooting categories require a specific type of revolver and ammunition be used. Please see the shooting categories for further information. No more than two main match revolvers may be carried to the firing line.

REVOLVER CALIBERS

Must be centerfire calibers of at least .32 caliber and no larger than .45 caliber or percussion calibers of at least .36 caliber and no larger than .45 caliber.

Must be in a caliber commonly available in revolvers. Examples include, but are not limited to, .32-20, .32 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .38 Special, .44 Magnum, .44-40, and .45 Colt.

Standard velocity .22 caliber rimfire ammunition is allowed within the Buckaroo Category only.

Although the .32 caliber revolvers and .36 caliber cap and ball revolvers are legal, they may not be powerful enough to handle all reactive targets.

Sights must look like sights available during the cowboy era—bead, blade, simple post, or otherwise approved front sights (such as the XS Cowboy Express) made of materials such as steel, iron, ivory, faux ivory, brass, gold, pewter, copper, or silver are allowed.



For more details on Revolver and Ammunition requirements, check out the SASS rules on the SASS website.

STAGE ONE - ASSESSMENT

After completing level One, the Trainer will check off the following;

- ☐ Introduction - opportunity to meet the PNZ Trainer - Trainees I.D name tags issued
- ☐ Trainee complies with all listed requirements (*See Eligibility to sit the Course*)
- ☐ Acceptable dress code including footwear (*See Eligibility to sit the Course*)
- ☐ Course objectives covered and understood (*See Course Objectives*)
- ☐ Cowboy Action Shooting disciplines described (*See Disciplines that involve holsters*)
- ☐ Check equipment Pistol, Holster, Belt, Mag Pouches, Ear & Eye Protection, Dummy Rounds
- ☐ Location / position of holsters and ammunition carriers all located correctly

I declare the trainee is fully competent in all of the above subjects and is clear to proceed on to stage two.

Shooters name:.....

Trainer:

Instructor Badge Number: Date:

Venue :

(This assessment form does not need to be sent to the PNZ Executive Officer)

STAGE TWO - SAFETY ZONE AND OTHER SAFETY FACTORS

SAFETY ZONES

All Pistol NZ ranges that are approved for action shooting must have at least one safety zone designated. There will be at least one PRIMARY Safety Zone with possibly a SECOND Safety Zone on the ranges where and when an event requires such.

These Safety Zones are clearly marked areas where the shooter may clean and make adjustments to a pistol, show the pistol to another person or conduct drawing and dry fire practice.

AMMUNITION MUST NOT BE HANDLED IN A SAFETY ZONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE

COWBOY ACTION LOADING/UNLOADING TABLES

Unlike most other action disciplines, Cowboy Action use Loading/Unloading tables to help speed up shooting on the range and to verify safe handling.

Loading Table Officers are responsible for:

- Visually checking to ensure all firearms are loaded with only the correct number of rounds required in a course of fire. They count, along with the shooter, rounds being loaded into rifles and revolvers.
- They check to make sure no round is ever under the firing pin of any revolver.
- The Loading Officers ensure safe muzzle direction is strictly observed and enforced when a competitor is at a Loading or Unloading Table, as well as during movement to and from the Loading or Unloading Table.

Un-Loading Table Officers are responsible for:

- Competitors unloading each of their firearms. Along with the competitor, they visually inspect all chambers to make sure they are empty. Rifles and shotguns are cycled to verify their magazines are empty. All revolvers taken to the firing line must be checked, whether or not they were used, and only two main match revolvers may be taken to the line.
- Never allow a competitor to leave the loading table with a loaded firearm unless they are going to the firing line.

SAFETY IS A SHOOTER'S PRIMARY CONCERN

The primary responsibility for safety always rests with the competitor. Shooters should always know the condition of their firearms and should never depend upon the Loading and Unloading Officers to ensure their firearms are correctly loaded and unloaded. The Loading and Unloading Officers are simply an added measure of safety.

Action Shooting involves carrying, drawing and holstering a loaded pistol. Matches involve 'on range movement' including running and shooting from behind the cover of a barricade or similar obstacles, engaging targets while standing, kneeling, sitting or prone. In order to do all this safely, each shooter must thoroughly learn and master the necessary skills required and be prepared to listen and obey the instructions of the Range Officer. Speed and match winning ability will come with practice and experience.

The Cowboy Holster Trainer will not assume trainees attending this course already understand the basic fundamentals of pistol shooting and safe firearm handling skills. Both the Trainer and the Trainee should be prepared to cover such basic training once more so everyone can feel confident in each others company. It should be noted the term 'Action Shooting' does in fact encompass several separate, quite different styles or disciplines of pistol shooting. The shooter must thoroughly learn the rules of their particular chosen sport. It's not difficult to do so and can only add to the shooters enjoyment, success and progress. Pistol clubs can assist by making available copies of the CAS rule books. These rule books are also available to print or buy from the Pistol NZ On-line Shop and under each section page.

A rule book is provided in the course fee for Cowboy Action.

STAGE TWO - SHOOTER OBLIGATIONS

The shooter should arrive on the firing line 'fully prepared', have all firearms loaded (if required), ear and eye protection on. Know what is expected of them (course of fire - start position) and arrive ready to start. If they receive a warning or request from the Range Officer - take it in the spirit it is offered. We are talking about safety, not just that of the shooter, but of every person on range.

Shooters need to appreciate the role the Range Officer plays; it can be a tough one so it's nice to be thanked after a course of fire or competition. When free to do so, the shooter can help by offering to help to with range duties such as, scoring, painting /resetting plates. Help also by picking up empty brass. This helps keeps the day's shooting program moving along, it helps spread the workload, plus promotes a lot of goodwill.

Action shooting has to date, a remarkable safety record. Very strict rules and regulations are in force to protect us all. Unsafe gun handling, if and when observed, will without exception be addressed. In fact, we have an agreement amongst action shooters. If an unsafe procedure is pointed out by another shooter or range officer, it will be accepted in good grace and a "thank you" offered. After all, who wants to be the one who could possibly destroy our unblemished safe pistol shooting record !!

RANGE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Safety on the range is the responsibility of ALL range users.

The Range Officers function is to ensure all shooting and on range activity is conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the competition being shot including safety issues. The Range Officer safely assists the shooter through the course of fire. It is expected the Range Officers will be the responsible parties for observing and resolving all safety related matters occurring in the loading, unloading, and firing line areas.

However, any shooter who observes a safety infraction not seen by the Range Officer(s) should call the infraction to a Range Officer's attention, at which time the matter will be resolved. Shooters, range staff and spectators must obey all lawful commands and requests made by a duly appointed Range Officer.

A Range Officer should always act and appear as calm, courteous, firm and above all completely unbiased. In short, 'the true professional'.

During the PNZ Holster Badge Qualification course you will be instructed how to R/O a course of fire using the correct sequence of verbal commands. You will also be required to shoot a course of fire, clearly following these commands.



STAGE TWO - RANGE OFFICER COMMANDS (AND REQUIRED RESPONSES)

Standard Range Commands are used in almost every established shooting sport. It is the most efficient way to run a shooting line. A Range Officer does not have to say the range commands exactly word for word, but the closer the better. For instance, instead of “Is the Shooter Ready” the term “Is the Cowboy Ready” is certainly acceptable. After all, the western flavor and spirit of our game allows for colorful individuality. There is no reason safety, efficiency, and having fun can’t all co-exist! Range Officers should SPEAK UP! Many of the competitors may be a bit hard of hearing, and all are wearing hearing protection.

The competitor would be called to the loading table where he/she loads both pistols and their rifle under the supervision of a Range Officer assigned to this task.

“Do You Understand the Course of Fire?”

Is the customary initial query from the Range Officer at the Loading Table.

A negative response requires additional explanation. The Shooter’s questions should be answered in a clear and consistent manner. A Range Officer should never make a shooter feel as though he/she is being rushed. **Before any live firing takes place the Range Officer will ensure the range is clear.**

The competitor would then be called to the line where they would ‘stage’ their rifle and shotgun, according to the course of fire and their pistols if the course of fire requires it.

“Is the Shooter Ready?”

Is normally the Timer Operator’s (Range Officers) initial command and should always be said just before the “Stand By” command. If the competitor is not ready or doesn’t understand the stage, they can ask the Range Officer questions. If they are ready, they should just nod their head to indicate they’re ready to hear the “Stand By” command. If a competitor asks a question, a Range Officer should answer it to their satisfaction. While the primary goal for a Range Officer is to assist the shooter, questions regarding the negotiation of the stage should be kept to a minimum at the firing line.

After it is apparent a competitor understands the stage, the Range Officer says again, “Is the Shooter Ready?” not just “Stand By.” It’s better when a shooter is comfortable and given the courtesy of a starting rhythm. Range Officers are not trying to surprise a shooter with the start signal. They should not rush the shooter, but sometimes it is up to the Timer Operator (Range Officer) to keep things moving efficiently.

“Stand By” or “Indicate Ready by Saying the Line”

Will always be the last words spoken with a one- to three-second pause before the start signal unless the stage calls for the shooter to say a line or use a prop before the time starts. **“Indicate Ready by Saying the Line”** can optionally be used to cue a competitor to self-start the stage. The “Stand By” command should still be used after a competitor says their line.

“Muzzle up - Please move to the Unloading Table”

Should be stated by the Range Officer at the end of a shooting sequence. Often the competitor stops thinking—after all, the shooting problem is finished! They simply need a gentle reminder of what to do next.

“Range Clear”

This command is given only after the shooter has completed their run, the revolvers are holstered, the long guns are picked up and pointed in a safe direction with the actions open, and the shooter is on the way to the unloading table. It is now safe to gather brass and prepare for the next shooter.

“Down Range”

Is announced prior to proceeding down range to reset/repair targets.

STAGE TWO - RANGE OFFICER COMMANDS (AND REQUIRED RESPONSES)

Range Commands continued:

“Unload and Show Clear”

The command used by the Unloading Officer when a competitor comes to the unloading table (applies to all guns taken to the line).

“Gun Clear”

Is the appropriate Unloading Officer response as each firearm is successfully inspected empty at the unloading table. “Thank You” is appropriate after all guns have been inspected.

Additional Range Commands include;

“Action Open”

This command is given by the Timer Operator when a competitor puts a long-gun down with the action closed. The Timer Operator (Range Officer) must do everything in his/her power to prevent the shooter from moving from that position with the action on any long-gun closed. If the shooter puts down a gun with the action closed, but returns and opens the action before firing the next firearm, there is no penalty.

“Muzzle!”

This command warns the shooter their muzzle is getting close to the 170° limit and should be pointed back down range.

“Cease Fire!” or “Stop!”

If at any time an unsafe condition develops, the Timer Operator (Range officer) will immediately shout “Cease Fire!” or “Stop!” The shooter is to stop firing or moving immediately. Failure to heed this command is serious and may result in a Match Disqualification. (“Whoa!” sometimes works just as well!)

Staging your Guns

Horizontal staging

All guns staged shall have their barrels pointed safely downrange. All long guns initially staged on a horizontal flat surface shall be staged lying flat where at least the rear of the trigger guard is on the staging area. All handguns initially staged on a horizontal surface (where the course of fire directs) must be staged with the entire gun on the staging surface. All long guns shall be displayed open and empty with their barrels pointed safely down range.

Vertical staging

All shooters have the ability to stage, and return, their long guns in vertical racks without fear of breaking the 170 degree rule (as long as the long gun stays vertical).

Care must be taken when restaging open and empty long guns to the rack, making sure the long gun is secure and in no danger of falling to the ground or sliding off.



STAGE TWO - COWBOY ACTION CATEGORIES

Single Action Shooting

Cowboy Action Shooting is a sport in which shooters compete with pre 1899 style firearms typical of those used in the "Wild West" such as single action revolvers, lever action and pump action rifles, as well as side by side, lever action and pump action shotguns and offer a number of categories which can affect the type of pistols and gear a shooter can use.

Single Action Shooting have categories which include:

Age-Based:

- *These may use any shooting style except Gunfighter.*
- Juniors 16 years of age and under (Buckaroos less than 14 years of age, Young guns 14-16 years of age)
- Cowboy category – any age
- Wrangler – 36 years of age or older
- 49er – 49 years of age or older
- Senior – 60 years of age or older
- Silver Senior – 65 years of age or older
- Elder Statesman/Grand Dame – 70 years of age or older

Frontier Cartridge

- *Requires a SASS - legal traditional style single action revolver.*
- Any shooting style may be used.
- Only black powder or black powder substitute propellants may be used.
- Cartridge ammunition or cap and ball revolvers may be used.
- Two standard holsters are required, one on either side of the shooter's body or one cross draw.

Frontiersman

- *Only cap and ball revolver with traditional style sights may be used (no adjustable target style sights).*
- Only black powder or black powder substitute propellants may be used.
- The revolver must be fired one handed, unsupported.
- Two standard holsters are required, one on either side of the shooter's body or one cross draw.

Classic Cowboy

- *Any SASS legal - large-caliber revolver.*
- Any shooting style may be used.
- Smokeless or blackpowder propellants may be used. (B-Western category)
- Two standard holsters are required, one on either side of the shooter's body or one cross draw.

Duellist

- *Requires a SASS-legal traditional style single action revolver.*
- The revolver must be fired one-handed, unsupported.
- Smokeless or black powder propellant may be used.
- **Duellist** is defined as shooting a pistol cocked and fired one handed, unsupported.
The revolver hand, or shooting arm, may not be touched by the off-hand except when resolving a malfunctioning pistol problem or when transferring from one hand to another.
- **Double Duellist** is defined as shooting a pistol cocked and fired one handed, unsupported, with each hand. That is left pistol with left hand and right pistol with right hand- one pistol at a time.
- Two standard holsters are required, one on either side of the shooter's body. No cross draw set-ups are allowed.

STAGE TWO - COWBOY ACTION CATEGORIES

Categories Continued

Gunfighter:

- Requires a SASS - legal traditional style single action revolver.
- One revolver must be fired right handed, unsupported, and the other must be shot left-handed, unsupported.
- Smokeless or black powder propellant may be used.
- Gunfighter is defined as shooting with a pistol with each hand, both at the same time and usually alternating shots. Pistols must be cocked and fired one handed, unsupported, one right handed and one left handed. Two standard holsters are required, one on either side of the shooter's body. No cross draw or "Butt forward" set-ups are allowed. Gunfighter and B-western categories are the only categories that allow two loaded pistols out of the leather at the SAME time.
- **Gunfighter is a category for EXPERIENCED shooters only.** Shooters wishing to shoot Gunfighter must show their proficiency by first shooting 2 major competitions. (CAS Island or CAS Nationals) using the "double duelist" style, that is using left hand for the left pistol and right hand for the right pistol. The shooter's ability will be assessed by the Section Director, Chief R/O and /or Match RO's.



STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Safety Draw - Conventional Rig

The following are the basic steps to a safe draw using a conventional cowboy rig with 2 pistols.



Note: The following examples show a draw from the weak hand side first, (Which is popular) which side a shooter draws from first is up to the shooter.....



Step 1 - Draw and Fire

Draw the weak hand pistol from the holster using your weak hand making sure not to sweep your strong hand.....



.....then transfer the pistol to the strong hand.....



.....cock the pistol with your weak hand.....



.....aim....FIRE!, repeat this process, shooting all 5 rounds.....

Conventional Draw - Continued from page 53



Step 2 - Holstering and Drawing Second Pistol
Reholstering the Weak Hand Pistol and drawing the Strong Hand Pistol

.....Once finished shooting the pistol,
transfer the pistol back to the weak hand.....



.....strong hand drops to the strong hand
pistol.....



.....re-holster empty pistol and draw
loaded pistol while weak hand is on butt of
empty pistol.....



.....second pistol is drawn.....



.....weak hand follows to pistol.....

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS

Safety Draw - Conventional Rig

Conventional Draw - Continued from page 54



.....weak hand cocking.....



.....aim..FIRE!, repeat this process, shooting all 5 rounds



Step 3 - Re-Holstering

.....Once finished, return to the Holster.....



.....look into Holster as you re-holster.....



.....pistol now holstered.

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Safety Draw - Cross-Draw Rig

The following are the basic steps to a safe draw using a Cross-Draw cowboy Rig with 2 pistols.



Note: The following examples show a draw from the cross draw holster first, (which is popular) which side a shooter draws from first is up to the shooter....

Step 1 - Draw and Fire

Draw the weak hand pistol from the cross draw holster using your strong hand making sure not to sweep your weak hand.....make sure you begin with the Weaver stance which will bring the barrel over the fire line (See red line)

This requires you to move your foot forward, thus turning your body to the right (This is in reverse for a left hand shooter).



.....then draw.....



.....cock the pistol with your weak hand.....



.....aim....FIRE!, repeat this process, shooting all 5 rounds.....

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Safety Draw - Cross-Draw Rig

Cross Draw - Continued from page 56



Step 2 - Holstering and Drawing Second Pistol
.....then transfer the pistol to the weak hand.....



....look at empty holster as you are re-holstering.....
at the same time your strong hand has already moved to the second pistol.....



....while weak hand is still on the grip, turn to the isosceles stance (Square on to the targets) as you draw the second pistol.....



.....weak hand follows to pistol, weak hand cocking the pistol.....



.....aim....FIRE!, repeat this process,
shooting all 5 rounds.....

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Safety Draw - Cross-Draw Rig

Cross Draw - Continued from page 57



Step 3 - Re-Holstering

.....Once finished, return to the Holster.....



.....look into Holster as you re-holster.....pistol is now holstered.

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Load and Make Ready!

ALL LOADING OF REVOLVERS IS DONE AT THE LOADING/UNLOADING TABLE

LOADING AN OLD MODEL RUGER

- Open loading gate, load 5 rounds and close loading gate.
- Make sure the cylinder latch is engaged in the cylinder.
(It is good practise for the shooter to always use a loading block or a loading strip so revolvers are always loaded with 5 rounds)
- Show the loading table Range Officer your revolver to check that the hammer is down on an empty chamber. If you look closely at the photo (below-right) you will see a clear gap at the top of the cylinder and in front of the loading gate. You should be able to see 'daylight' through there to indicate that there is no round loaded.
- Holster the Revolver



STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Load and Make Ready!

ALL LOADING OF REVOLVERS IS DONE AT THE LOADING TABLE

LOADING A COLT or COLT CLONE

- Open the loading gate
- Draw the hammer cock back to half
- Load the first round
- Rotate the cylinder leaving the next chamber empty
- Load the next four rounds
- Close the loading gate
- Draw the hammer back to full cock and lower hammer on the empty chamber.
- Show the loading table supervisor the revolver to check that the hammer is down on an empty chamber
- Holster the revolver.



FOR OTHER LOADING INFORMATION REFER TO THE SASS MANUALS

STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Unload and Show Clear!

ALL UNLOADING OF REVOLVERS IS DONE AT THE LOADING/UNLOADING TABLE

- At the unloading table draw and unload your revolvers one at a time.
- With Ruger revolvers, open the loading gate and working the ejector rod eject all cases from the cylinder. Show the unloading table Range Officer the cylinder is clear by spinning the cylinder.
- With Colt style revolvers open the loading gate and draw the hammer back to the half cock position. Then work the ejector rod to empty the cylinder of all cases. Show the unloading table Range Officer the cylinder is clear by spinning the cylinder
- When the unloading table Range Officer is satisfied all chambers are clear the shooter will be told "Gun is safe. Holster" at which stage the shooter closes the loading gate and holsters the revolver.
- In the case of Colt style revolvers "Gun is safe. Hammer down and holster" the shooter closes the loading gate, draws the hammer back to the full cock position and lowers it onto an empty chamber



STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Reloading During a Course of Fire

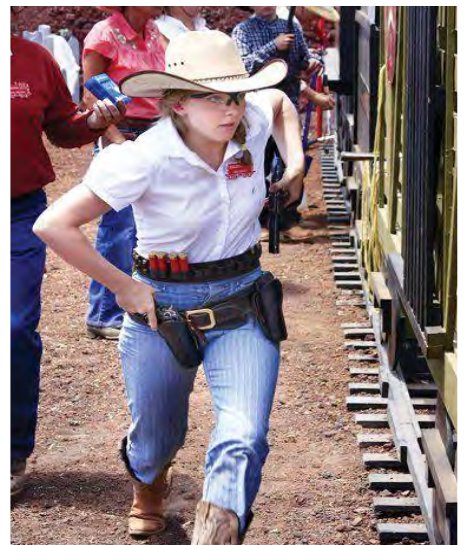
Sometimes the shooter is required to undertake a reload as part of a Cowboy course of fire. This may be a reload of anywhere between one and six rounds. Ammo will be loaded either from the body or from a prop on the range. The revolver is then shot until it is empty before it is holstered.



STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS On Range Movement

During this training the Cowboy Instructor will train the shooter to be well used to moving with a gun with the hammer down on an empty chamber or on a spent case and removing their trigger finger while dealing with malfunctions. Training processes should instruct the shooter to:

- Understand fully the requirements for loading their pistols by using a loading table
- Be fully conversant with the requirements of loading 5 rounds only and lowering the hammer on an empty chamber
- Be mindful of the muzzle of their pistol at all times and ensure that it does not break the 170 degrees
- Ensure that their trigger finger is easily seen outside the trigger guard while dealing with ammunition or jamming issues.
- Although the international rules under which Cowboy Action Shooting is run have no directive regarding movement with finger out of the trigger guard, in the interests of good gun handling practice shooters should endeavour to remember this safe practice.
- The Cowboy Holster Instructor will cover these points to make sure that they are clear in the shooter's mind and they understand the consequences of any breach.



STAGE TWO - BASIC DRILLS Shooting Stance, Grips and Positions



The 'Isosceles' Stance

Possibly used for more accurate, long distance shooting. The body is 'square' on to the targets and the shooter standing with feet placed apart. A caution for those using a cross-draw. The shooter may have to twist the body so as not to break the 170 while drawing the pistol from the cross-draw holster



The 'Weaver' Stance

Designed to reduce muzzle recoil recovery time. This stance enhances the shooter's ability to draw and index targets at speed. One foot is placed behind and to the side of the other and the body turned at an angle.



Free Style: Using any safe grip method you like, usually two handed.

Strong hand only: Duellist or Classic Cowboy, Frontiersman, or Gunfighter. For a right handed person, using this hand only. Left hand can be rested on the belt.

Weak hand only: Duellist or Classic Cowboy, Frontiersman or Gunfighter. For a right handed person, using the left hand only. This shooter is resting the right hand on his belt. Some shooters place the strong hand on their chest.



Sitting

Acquiring this position may take a bit of practice to ensure that the shooter finds a comfortable position to shoot from and one that enables them to stand again with ease, controlling the muzzle of the pistol at all times. Pistols may be staged on the table. Starting positions may include starting on props.

STAGE TWO - ASSESSMENT (Using Dummy Rounds Only)

After completing Level Two, the Cowboy Action Trainer will sign-off the following;

- ☐ Safety Draw - Demonstrate and able to vocalize clearly the draw steps.
- ☐ Load and Make Ready - Demonstrate
- ☐ Reloading on the Move - Demonstrate
- ☐ Unload and Show Clear - Demonstrate
- ☐ Demonstrate The Weaver Stance
- ☐ Demonstrate The Isosceles Stance
- ☐ Demonstrate The Free Style Grip and Posture
- ☐ Demonstrate The Strong Hand Only Grip and Posture
- ☐ Demonstrate The Weak Hand Only Grip and Posture
- ☐ Demonstrate Pistol Transition From Strong To Weak Hand during Reloading
- ☐ Demonstrate Shooting Positions - Standing - Kneeling - Sitting - Prone
- ☐ R/O Commands fully understood and able to be recited
- ☐ Understands Safety Zone requirements / rules and procedures

I declare the trainee is fully competent in all of the above subjects and is clear to proceed on to stage three.

Shooters name:.....

Trainer:

Instructor Badge Number: Date:

Venue :

(This assessment form does not need to be sent to the PNZ Executive Officer)

STAGE THREE - Warning ,Stage and Match DQ Infringements

The following are a list of safety infringements which may lead to warnings or disqualification. It is the shooters responsibility to carry out safe gun handling.

The 170-degree safety rule.

- Muzzle direction is important between, before, during, and after shooting a stage. A muzzle must not be allowed to “sweep” the other participants at any time.
- Failure to manage safe muzzle direction is grounds for disqualification from the stage, and for repeated offenses, from the match.
- Extreme care must be exercised when drawing a revolver from a cross-draw holster or returning the revolver to leather. The user must “twist” their body, if necessary, to ensure the muzzle never breaks the 170-degree safety rule during the process. Failure to ensure the muzzle is always down range is grounds for an immediate stage disqualification. A second infraction during the same match is grounds for match disqualification.

Note: The 170-degree safety rule means the muzzle of the firearm must always be straight down range +/- 85 degrees in any direction. If a competitor “comes close” to breaking the 180-degree safety plane, the 170 degree safety rule has been violated, and the competitor is at fault. It is also necessary to note that during the course of fire, the shooter must be given the ability to draw and holster revolvers from “straight hang” holsters

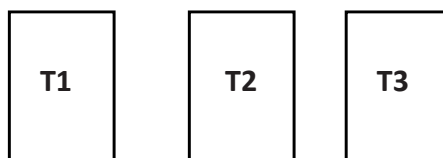
Movement and Safe Gun Handling.

- No cocked revolver may ever leave a shooter’s hand. (Stage Disqualification) This does NOT apply when loading or reloading on the firing line.
- No gun may be de-cocked on the firing line except by pointing it down range and pulling the trigger or while under the direct supervision of the Timer Operator (Range Officer). (This requires a positive indication/acknowledgement from the Range Officer to the shooter). The penalty for de-cocking is a Stage Disqualification. Once a revolver is cocked, the round under the hammer must be expended in order for it to be returned to a safe condition.
- Inadvertently leaving unfired rounds in a revolver is a miss unless the round is under the hammer, then it is a Stage Disqualification
- SASS matches are not fast draw competitions. Any unsafe gun handling in the course of a draw from the holster will result in the shooter’s disqualification from that stage.
- A shooter with firearm in hand shall never be allowed to move with a live round under a cocked hammer. Movement is defined the same as “traveling” in basketball. Once the firearm is cocked, one foot must remain in place on the ground until the firearm is made safe.
- ***Any discharge away from the actual firing line shall result in a Match Disqualification.***
- Movement is not allowed with a loaded, cocked firearm. Movement is defined by the basketball “traveling” rule. Whenever a shooter has a loaded, cocked firearm in hand, at least one foot must remain in place on the ground. 1st violation will result in a Stage Disqualification; 2nd violation will result in a Match Disqualification. This includes leaving the loading table with a cocked loaded firearm.
- A dropped unloaded gun on the firing line (from the loading table to the unloading table) results in the shooter’s disqualification from the stage. A dropped loaded firearm results in a match disqualification. A shooter may not pick up a dropped gun. The Range Officer will recover the gun, examine it, clear it, and return it to the shooter.

For more details on the above Cowboy Action safety rules refer to the SASS Rulesbooks

STAGE THREE - Skills Live Fire Exercise

Fixed number of shots A Total of 46 Rounds are Required
NO TIME RESTRICTIONS Start position shall be hands held in the surrender position
Targets Should be Cowboy Action Steel Plates- One Meter Apart



Stage One (Static) 7 Meters - 10 Rounds in Total

On the start signal draw and fire 2 shots on Target 1 Holster with hammer down on an empty case.
 Draw same pistol and fire 3 shots Target 2 and then holster. Repeat the sequence with the second pistol.
 Holster with hammer down on an empty case. *Move to unloading table – unload and show clear*

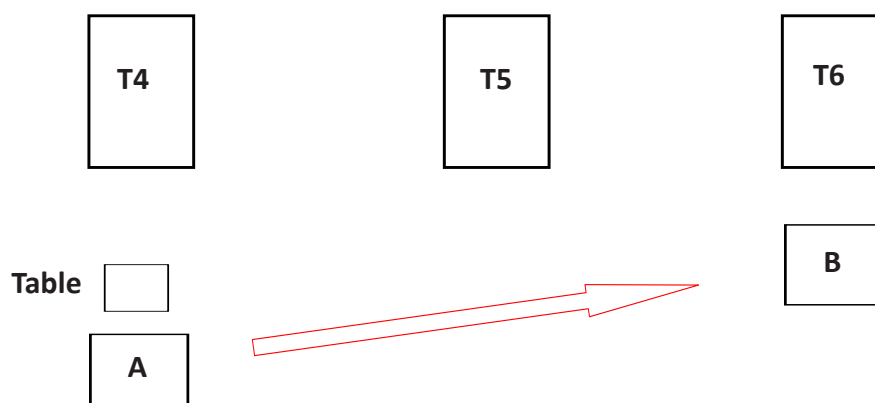
Stage Two (Static) 7 metres - 10 Rounds in Total

On the Start signal draw and fire 1 shot on Targets 1, 2 & 3 – then a further 2 shots on Target 1.
 Holster with hammer down on an empty case. Repeat the sequence with the second pistol.
 Holster with hammer down on an empty case. *Move to unloading table – unload and show clear*

Stage Three (Static) 10 metres - 10 Rounds in Total

On the Start signal draw and fire 1 shot on Target 1, 2 shots on Target 2, 2 shots on Target 3.
 Holster with hammer down on an empty case. Repeat the sequence with the second pistol.
Move to unloading table – unload and show clear

Stage Four (Moving) 10 metres - 16 Rounds in Total



String one: From Box A draw from the holster and fire 2 shots on Target 4, and 2 shots on Target 5.....
 Holster with hammer down on an empty case..... Move to Box B draw and fire 1 shot on Target 6.
Stage second pistol (Fired one shot from previous string) on table.....

String two: Start in Box A, retrieve loaded pistol from the table, load one extra round – 3 shots Target 4 and 3 shots on Target 5, hammer down on an empty case and holster..... Move to Box B, draw and unload 1 pistol, load five rounds and fire 2 shots on Target 5 – 3 shots Target 6. Holster with hammer down on an empty case.

Move to unloading table – unload and show clear

85% Score required (39 or more hits recorded)
Only score the number of hits on each target.

Compliant:

☐

Not yet compliant:

☐

<div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em;">/</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em;">46</div> </div>

STAGE THREE - ASSESSMENT Live Fire Exercise -Signoff

After completing Level Three live fire exercise, the assessor will sign-off the following;

- ☐ Understands Shooter's Obligations
- ☐ Demonstrated ALL Basic Skills competently, safely and in accordance with this manual
- ☐ Shot the Skills live fire exercise competently and safely, able to follow instructions and scored required 85%
- ☐ Displays a positive attitude and sportmanlike behaviour

I declare that

has completed the PNZ Cowboy Action Holster Qualification Training programme and has qualified to shoot from the Holster

Assessor: Venue:

Instructor Badge Number: Date:

Assessor Signature: Shooters Signature:

Assessment Date:

Send the Holster Qualification Assessment Advice form (page 67) to the Executive Officer.

Thank you to all the shooters who gave their time to demonstrate shooting positions in the Action Holster Manual.

Holster re-qualification:

Reason for re-qualification: If a holster qualified shooter has not shot from the holster in at least 5 Years a re-testing of the shooters holster safety will be carried out by the shooters club Assessor, using the final course live fire test, in either Action or CAS. A Pass mark must be achieved.

Name of Shooter:	
Address:	
E-mail	
Holster Number:	
FM1 Number:	
Date of re-qualification:	
Club:	
CTO Signature on behalf of the Club:	
Members Signature	
Assessor's Signature	

☐

Has passed the re-qualification test and is fully qualified to compete from a holster.

☐

Has not passed the re-qualification test and will undergo further training.

☐

Has not passed the Holster re-qualification test and it is the clubs recommendation that the shooter re-sits the complete holster course.

☐

Has not passed the Holster re-qualification and it is the clubs recommendation that the holster licence be withdrawn on the grounds of safety.

Please send this form to Pistol New Zealand within 7 days of re-qualification

DATE SENT TO PNZ:

	HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE (ASSESSMENT COMPLETION ADVICE TO PNZ) <small>(PLEASE PRINT ALL THE INFORMATION BELOW CLEARLY)</small>
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Trainees Surname		First Name	
Postal Address:		Post Code:	
Telephone No:	Email address:		
Firearms License:	Home Club:		
FM1 (PNZ Member No):	Chosen Discipline:		
PNZ Club RO and Safety Test: This must be completed and received by the PNZ XO before a Holster badge will be issued			
Rule Book:	<input type="checkbox"/> IPSC <input type="checkbox"/> CAS (Cowboy Single Action) <input type="checkbox"/> CAS (Wild Bunch 1911) (Please Choose one) OTHER RULEBOOKS ONLINE		
I declare that I have completed the prescribed course, through my club, as laid down by Pistol New Zealand and that I have completed the PNZ Club RO and Safety Test Trainee Signature: _____			

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment Location	Date	
Pistol used*:	<input type="checkbox"/> (1911 style) S-Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Revolver <input type="checkbox"/> Double/Single Action Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Glock/Striker fired action <input type="checkbox"/> Single action (CAS) <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Pistol Type (Shooter has been checked) <i>*Holster Instructors will instruct and require trainees to demonstrate how to render all types of action pistols safe to holster. (Action Only)</i>	
Equipment check:	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets the requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade required	
Result of assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input type="checkbox"/> No of Hits (Action) <input type="checkbox"/> No of Hits (CAS) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Year Recheck Passed	
Trainers Details:	Signed:	Number:
Action or CAS	E-Mail:	
Assessor Details:	Signed:	Number:
Action Or CAS	E-Mail:	

Holster Assessor Action:

When Complete Send to:	PNZ Executive Officer, P O Box 391, Hastings, 4156 Payment can be made by Cheque or Direct banking PNZ Account: 12-3254-0101884-00 Ref: Surname of Shooter You can scan an e-mail this form to: exec@pistolnz.org.nz	Total Fees included: \$ \$30 per Shooter
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PNZ Office use only

Date Form Received and Payment Made:	PNZ CRO and Safety Test:	Receipt Ref:	Badge / s	Rule Book / s	Certificate / s
		Items sent:			