

**SOUTH CAROLINA
POLICE COMBAT LEAGUE**



**Police Pistol Combat
Competition**

**FIREARMS and ELIGIBILITY
RULES
*QUICK LOOK***

Effective: Sunday, April 26, 2026

ELIGIBILITY OF COMPETITORS “SECTION 2”

Modified to Remove SCPCL-Specifics

2.1 Eligibility of Competitors -The conditions of a match shall prescribe the eligibility of competitors, teams or individuals. Any limitation of eligibility to compete must be stated in the Tournament Program. It is the intent and the spirit of these Rules for both individual and team entry that “full time” be interpreted as the primary occupation. Individuals with a questionable category or teams with a questionable proposed team composition must establish eligibility with The South Carolina Police Combat League (SCPCL) Board.

INDIVIDUALS

2.2 National Rifle Association Membership - SCPCL membership is not required to participate in Police Pistol Combat Tournaments.

2.3 Non-U.S. Law Enforcement: Non US Law Enforcement officers may compete in any SCPCL Sanctioned Tournament, unless further restrictions are imposed by conditions stated in the Tournament Program.

2.4 Police Eligibility Requirements

1. Regular full-time law enforcement officers of a regularly constituted law enforcement agency of a municipal, county, state or federal government. Full time salaried Transit Police; Penal Institution Guards; Industrial Police; including Bank Guards, and Armored and Express Company Guards. Full time Police Firearms Instructors in Law Enforcement or Police Academies are eligible to compete in the respective police categories. Official current identification from the agency employing a civilian full-time police firearms instructor will be required.
2. Persons employed as Industrial Police by private industry on a part-time basis, or where such employment is not the sole occupation of such person, may not compete in SCPCL Police Pistol Combat tournaments.
3. Officers of a regularly organized Reserve or Auxiliary named in 2.4.1 provided that when on duty they are required to perform the same law enforcement functions and/or duties as the Agency to which they are in reserve and are authorized to be armed by the appointing authority.
4. Officers who qualify under subsections 1,2 & 3 of this section upon retirement and possessing retired credentials, may enter competition covered by these rules.
5. Federal Flight Deck Officers who hold valid certifications.
7. Such retirees who are employed after retirement in any agency which qualifies for entry in SCPCL Police Pistol Combat competition may not compete as a retired officer but may compete as a member of the organization in which they are presently serving.
8. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States, regular or reserve, private detectives, private body guards, honorary police or sheriffs, consultants, or any other persons who are members of a body organized for ceremonial purposes **may not** compete in SCPCL Police Pistol Combat Tournaments regardless of the name given to such a body and regardless of the titles given such members.
9. **Military Police:** Members of the United States military meeting the following criteria shall be eligible to compete in SCPCL Police Pistol Combat tournaments:
 - a. The competitor must be currently assigned to a duly recognized Military Police unit of any of the armed forces of the United States and must have served continuously with that unit, or a similar unit, for a minimum of one year prior to entry into SCPCL sanctioned competition.
 - b. The competitor must hold a valid Military Occupation Specialty designation identifying the competitor as a Military Police Officer, Investigator, Correctional Personnel, or the like.
 - c. Eligibility pursuant to this subsection shall apply equally to active duty regulars, reservists, and members of the National Guard.

2.5 Eligibility Authentication: It is the competitor’s responsibility to have their Law Enforcement Credentials in their possession when entering and competing in Police Pistol Combat Tournaments.

2.6 Law Enforcement Categories: Listed are suggested categories for SCPCL sanctioned Police Pistol Combat tournaments. Other categories, such as Conservation Officer, may be used if detailed in the Tournament Program.

Definitions

Federal: This category includes all individuals and teams whose salaries are paid from Federal Government funds.

State: This category includes all individuals and teams whose salaries are paid from State Government funds.

County: This category includes all individuals and teams whose salaries are paid from County funds.

Municipal: This category includes all individuals and teams whose salaries are paid from Municipal funds.

Industrial: This category includes all individuals and teams employed by regularly organized security agencies, railway or industrial police departments, bank guards and armored truck and express company guards.

Military Police: This category includes all individuals and teams eligible to compete as defined in Section 2.4.7.

FIREARM RULES

All firearm rules are directly drawn from the NRA PPC Rule Book as of 2025, with reference to those sections applied where practical.

ALL FIREARMS (Formerly NRA Rule 3.1)

Each competitor is responsible for their firearm and any which may be questionable should be submitted to the Tournament Director, Referee, or 3-Man Jury for decision prior to being used.

All standard safety features of the pistol must operate properly.

With respect to Sections 3.2 through 3.10, and in addition to the firearm specific regulations below, the following features are either Allowed or Prohibited on all firearms.

Action work to make a crisper and/or smoother trigger pull	Allowed
Fixed or adjustable sights	
Sight Blackening	
Modification or change of stocks because of the size of a competitor's hand or to facilitate loading	
Internal modifications that would render the firearm less safe than originally designed by the manufacturer	Prohibited
Any external modifications, except those allowed within each rule	
Front sight extending beyond muzzle	
Compensators, barrel venting, or barrel porting	
Ammunition: No high speed or Magnum ammunition will be allowed. Ammunition must be hand loaded or factory loaded to produce sufficient velocity to pass through the target AND the backer. Shots which do not pass through the target and the backer will be scored as misses.	

OPEN CLASS REVOLVER (Formerly NRA Rule 3.2)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Open Class Revolvers.

Firearm / Caliber: A revolver chambered to fire center-fire cartridges .32 caliber or larger	
Barrel Length Maximum	6 Inches
Trigger Pull Minimum: Single Action	2.5 Pounds
Sight Radius Maximum	8.5 Inches
Sight Guards which do NOT extend rearward more than 2 inches	Allowed
External Trigger Stops	
Grips/Stocks that when measured from side-to-side at the base are greater than 1 ¾ inches in thickness (1.75")	Prohibited
Caliber / Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition may be used. Wadcutter ammunition is allowed.	

OPEN CLASS SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL (Formerly NRA Rule 3.3)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Open Class Semi-Automatic Pistols.

Firearm / Caliber: Center-fire pistols of .35 caliber or larger. All double action semi-automatic pistols must fire the first shot of every stage double action except at the 50 yard line.	
Barrel Length Maximum	6 Inches
Trigger Pull Minimum Single or Double Action	3.5 Pounds
Sight Radius Maximum	8.5 Inches
Sight Guards which do NOT extend rearward more than 2 inches	Allowed
Extended Magazine Well Funnel	
Magazine Bumper Pad	
External Trigger Stops	
Caliber / Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition may be used. Wadcutter ammunition is allowed	

DISTINGUISHED REVOLVER (Formerly NRA Rule 3.4)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Distinguished Revolvers.

Firearm / Caliber: A factory manufactured (catalog item) revolver capable of chambering and firing .38 Special ammunition. Revolvers may chamber no more than six rounds.	
Barrel Length Maximum	6 Inches
Trigger Pull Minimum - Single Action	2.5 Pounds
Installation of any unmodified trigger sold by the manufacturer	Allowed
Chamfered Cylinder	
Adjustable Front Sight	Prohibited
Trigger modification as to length, width, or grooves	
Trigger Shoe	
External Trigger Stop	
Thumb Rest	
Grips/Stocks that when measured from side-to-side at the base are greater than 1 3/4 inches in thickness (1.75")	
Tape on the stock/grip	
Any substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock, or hand	
Weighted grip/stock	
Installation of sights that require alteration of the firearm for installation.	
Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition. No wadcutter ammunition is allowed.	

DISTINGUISHED SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL (Formerly NRA Rule 3.5)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Distinguished Semi-Automatic Pistols.

Firearm / Caliber: Factory manufactured (catalog item) center-fire semi-automatic pistol capable of chambering and firing .35 caliber or larger ammunition, or FN 5.7 x 28 caliber ammunition. All double action semi-automatic pistols must fire the first shot of every stage double action except at the 50 yard line.	
Barrel Length Maximum	6 Inches
Trigger Pull Minimum Single or Double Action.	3.5 Pounds
Sight Radius Maximum	8.5 Inches
Open Sights, from any Manufacturer provided such sights do not require alteration of the firearm for installation.	Allowed
Extended Magazine Well Funnel	
Magazine Bumper Pads	
Finger Groove and Slip on Grips	
Any accessories, parts, or components which are manufactured to duplicate, in materials and dimensions, the original as offered by the manufacturer of the pistol.	
Smith & Wesson Model PPC9 Pistols	
Adjustable Front Sight	
Full-length Bo-mar type rib on the slide	
External Trigger Stops	
Thumb Rest	
Grips/Stocks that are flared at the base	
Tape on the grip/stock	
Any substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock or hand	
Weighted grip/stock	
Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition. No wadcutter ammunition is allowed.	

STOCK SERVICE REVOLVER – (Formerly NRA Rule 3.6)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Stock Service Revolvers.

Firearm / Caliber: A factory manufactured (catalog item) revolver with duty sights capable of chambering and firing .38 Special ammunition.	
Barrel Length Maximum	4 Inches
Replacement of service type sights with other service type sights, luminescent service sights, or fiber optic service sights provided such sights do not require alteration of the firearm for installation.	Allowed
Ramp or post front sight as sold by the manufacturer of the firearm	
Chamfered Cylinder	
Adjustable Front Sight	Prohibited
Trigger Modification as to length, width, or grooves	
Trigger Shoes	

External Trigger Stops	
Thumb Rest	
Grips/Stocks that when measured from side-to-side at the base are greater than 1 ¾ inches in thickness (1.75")	
Tape on the stock/grip	
Any substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock, or hand	
Weighted grip/stock	
Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition. No wadcutter ammunition is allowed.	

STOCK SERVICE SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL – (Formerly NRA Rule 3.7)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Stock Service Semi-Automatic Pistols.

Firearm / Caliber: Factory manufactured (catalog item), center-fire semi-automatic pistol with duty sights capable of chambering and firing .35 caliber or larger ammunition, or FN 5.7 x 28 caliber ammunition. All double action pistols must fire the first shot of every stage double action	
Barrel Length Maximum	5.5 Inches
Trigger Pull Minimum: Single or Double Action	3.5 Pounds
Sight Radius Maximum	7.5 Inches
Any accessories, parts, or components which are manufactured to duplicate, in materials and dimensions, the original as offered by the manufacturer	Allowed
Replacement of service type sights with other service type sights, luminescent service sights, or fiber optic service sights provided such sights do not require alteration of the firearm for installation.	
Magazine bumper pads.	
Extended magazine well funnel.	
Finger groove and slip on grips.	
Weapon Mounted Light Per Rule 3.22.	
Slide & Grip Enhancement Decals & Wraps Per Rule 3.23.	
Tape on the grip/stock.	Prohibited
Adjustable Front Sight.	Prohibited
Full-length Bo-mar type rib on the slide.	
Trigger shoe.	
External Trigger Stops & Thumb Rest.	
Grips/stocks that are flared at the base.	
Any substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock or hand.	
Weighted grip/stock.	
Smith & Wesson Model PPC9 Pistols.	
Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition. No wadcutter ammunition is allowed.	

OFF-DUTY REVOLVERS – (Formerly NRA Rule 3.8)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Off Duty Revolvers.

Firearm / Caliber: A factory manufactured (catalog item) revolver capable of chambering and firing .38 Special ammunition.	
Barrel Length Maximum.	2.75 Inches
Replacement of service type sights with other service type sights, luminescent service sights, or fiber optic service sights, sights provided such sights do not require alteration of the firearm for installation.	Allowed
Ramp or post front sight as sold by the manufacturer of the firearm.	
Chamfered Cylinder.	
Slide & Grip Enhancement Decals & Wraps Per Rule 3.23.	
Tape on the stock/grip.	Prohibited
Adjustable Front Sight.	
Trigger modification as to length, width, or grooves.	
Trigger Shoes.	
External Trigger Stops & Thumb Rest.	
Grips/Stocks that when measured from side-to-side at the base are greater than 1 ¾ inches in thickness (1.75”).	
Any substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock, or hand.	
Weighted grip/stock.	
Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition. No wadcutter ammunition is allowed.	

OFF-DUTY SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS – (Formerly NRA Rule 3.9)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Off Duty Semi-Automatic Pistols.

Firearm / Caliber: A stock factory manufactured (catalog item) semi-automatic center-fire pistol suitable for off duty concealed carry, chambered for and capable of firing .380 caliber ammunition or larger. All double action pistols must fire the first shot of every match or stage double action.	
Barrel Length Maximum.	3.75 Inches
Trigger Pull Minimum: Single or Double Action.	3.5 Pounds
Replacement of service type sights with other service type sights, luminescent service sights, or fiber optic service sights, provided such sights do not require alteration of the firearm for installation.	Allowed
Magazine bumper pads.	
Extended magazine well funnel.	
Finger groove and slip on grips.	
Magazine grip extensions, if when installed, add no more than one finger width to the overall length of the magazine when inserted.	
Extended magazines, if no more than one finger width of the magazine is exposed when the magazine is inserted.	
Slide & Grip Enhancement Decals & Wraps Per Rule 3.23.	

Tape on the grip/stock.	Prohibited
Adjustable Front Sight	
Bo-Mar type ribs on the slide.	
External Trigger Stop & Thumb Rest.	
Trigger Shoe.	
Any substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock, or hand.	
Weighted grip/stock.	
Use of full size compatible magazines.	
Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition. No wadcutter ammunition allowed.	

PRODUCTION PISTOLS and DISTINGUISHED PRODUCTION PISTOLS – (Formerly NRA Rule 3.10)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, the following specifications apply for Production Pistols.

Firearm / Caliber: Approved Pistols for this Division are listed in Police Pistol Combat Bulletin 14.1 on the Law Enforcement Competitions website. To be considered for approval the pistol must be a mass produced center-fire semi-automatic pistol made for police or military use (at least 1,000 pistols), a stock catalog item that is unmodified from its original factory condition, and have a double, double/single, or striker type action. Double/single actions pistols must have a manual decocking device, or equipped with an automatic decocker that returns the pistol to double action mode when the slide is released. All double/single action and double action pistols must fire the first shot of every stage double action .	
Barrel Length Maximum	5 Inches
Single Action Models	Prohibited
Trigger Pull Minimum: Single or Double Action	3.5 Pounds
Sight Radius Maximum	7.5 Inches
Installation of extended magazine releases and slide catches produced by the pistol's manufacturer.	Allowed
Replacement of the factory fixed or adjustable service sights with another service type sight, luminescent service sight, or fiber optic service sight sold by the pistol's manufacturer as a factory catalog replacement part for the pistol, or with an approved sight listed in Police Pistol Combat Bulletin 16.1 (check most current list) or as approved by the SCPCL Board or on-site judge team. In no case may the firearm be altered for any sight installation.	
Magazine bumper pads.	
Finger groove and slip on grips.	
Weapon Mounted Light Per Rule 3.22.	
Slide & Grip Enhancement Decals & Wraps Per Rule 3.23.	
Tape on the grip/stock.	Prohibited
Single Action Pistols.	
Custom or competition model Pistols, even if a catalog item or another version of the manufacturer's base stock model.	
Any external change to the pistol from its original manufactured condition, including grips, extended magazine wells/funnel, trigger stops, trigger shoes, etc.	
Changing any internal part or component with a non-original factory	

manufactured part.	
Any Substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock or hand.	
Ammunition: Either hand loaded or factory loaded ammunition. No wadcutter ammunition is allowed.	

PRODUCTION DUTY OPTIC PISTOLS – (Formerly NRA Rule 3.10.1)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, and 3.10, the following specifications apply for Production Duty Optic Pistols.

Firearm / Caliber: Pistols meeting the specifications for Production Pistols in Section 3.10 and are listed as Approved in Police Pistol Combat Bulletin 14.1 may be equipped with an Approved non-magnified optic suitable for duty use. If the most recent version of that controlling document is not available, firearms must be approved by the SCPCL Board or on-site judge team.

The Duty Optic must be listed as Approved by The South Carolina Police Combat League Board in Police Pistol Combat Bullet 19.1 on the Law Enforcement Competitions website or approved by the SCPCL Board or on-site judge team.

To be considered for approval, Duty Optics must mount without any modification to the handgun as originally manufactured. Swapping the original slide to an aftermarket slide with optic mount cuts is not allowed since the handgun is no longer as originally manufactured.

The pistol should have co-witnessed front and rear sights, but the rear sight may be removed to mount the Duty Optic or to use a Stock Optic Ready Plate.

All Other Specifications are the same as Production Pistols

OFF-DUTY PRODUCTION OPTIC PISTOLS – (Formerly NRA Rule 3.10.2)

In addition to the specifications within Section 3.1, and 3.10.1, the following specifications apply for Off Duty Production Optic Pistols.

Firearm / Caliber: Pistols meeting the specifications in Section 3.10.1 and that are listed as Approved in Police Pistol Combat Bulletin 14.1 (or approved by the SCPCL Board or on-site judge team) with a maximum Barrel Length of 3.75 inches, may be equipped with a non-magnified duty optic listed as Approved by The South Carolina Police Combat League Board or approved by the SCPCL Board or on-site judge team.

All Other Specifications are the same as Production Duty Optic Pistols

SHOTGUNS – (Formerly NRA Rule Appendix D)

The following is provided as reference for competitors participating in SCPCL Shotgun Matches.

Firearm: Shotgun must be factory manufactured, 12 gauge, barrel length not to exceed 22 1/4 inches, metallic sights only, and no modifications. Barrel is to be cylinder or improved cylinder bore; constriction at the choke may not exceed 0.0149. Removable Chokes may be used. Shotgun barrels will be checked for choke and inspected. All safety devices provided by the manufacturer must function as designed.

Sling: Shotgun may be equipped with a sling but it cannot have sling cuffs or other devices that attach to the arm. Slings may only be used in Stage 2.

Ammunition: Must be 12-gauge 1 ounce rifled slugs. Ammunition will be inspected and a sample shell may be required for disassembly and examination. Reloaded or sabot ammunition will not be allowed.

Scoring Values: Each hit within the 7 Ring and in are worth 5 Points. Hits outside the 7 Ring are zero.