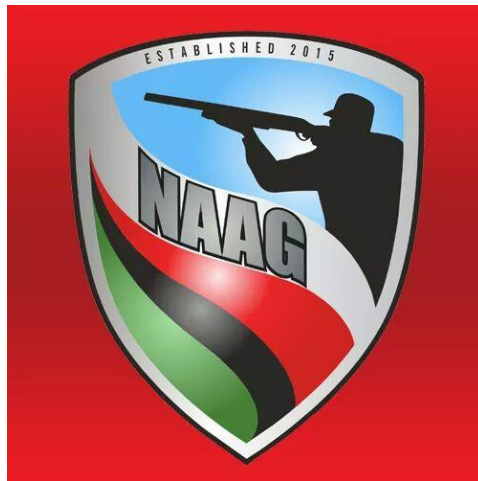


MEMBER HANDBOOK



NATIONAL
AFRICAN-
AMERICAN
GUN
ASSOCIATION

Education. Training. Safety. Self Defense. Advocacy.
For and By African Americans.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. NAAGA Mission Statement

The mission of the National African American Gun Association (NAAGA) is to establish a fellowship by educating on the rich legacy of gun ownership by African Americans, offering training that supports safe gun use for self-defense and sportsmanship, and advocating for the inalienable right to self-defense for African Americans.

Education. Training. Safety. Self Defense. Advocacy. For and By African Americans.

More specifically, NAAGA's objectives are to:

- (a) to preserve, protect, and defend the Second Amendment rights of members of the African-American community with respect to firearm ownership, self-defense, and defense of family;
- (b) to promote and develop a greater understanding and awareness among the African-American community regarding the importance and benefits of firearms ownership, and conduct education and policy related to such rights;
- (c) to introduce members of the African-American community to firearms use for self-defense, defense of family, competitive shooting, and outdoor recreational activities;
- (d) to educate members of the African-American community about state and federal legislation that affects their Second Amendment rights to own and bear firearms;
- (e) to educate and train members of the African-American community in the safe handling, use, and proper care of firearms; and
- (f) to promote and improve marksmanship, defensive shooting, and competitive shooting among members of the African-American community.

B. Political Action

The National African American Gun Association (NAAGA) is a patriotic law-abiding organization, but we recognize that there are national, local, and regional events that take place that need to be discussed and in some cases aggressively corrected through legal means as it relates to our community. Our organization was formed to advocate self-defense with the use of firearms based on the 2nd Amendment, but a secondary and very important function of NAAGA is to be active on social issues. By collectively working together with a defined strategy, we can begin correcting social injustice.

To address these ongoing social and political issues, we are active in three (3) fundamental areas:

- **Political Activism** - we vote our conscience and let our lawmakers know our concerns;
- **Selective Economics** – we will only support those companies, cities, individuals, and people that support us; and
- **Fundraising** – we request donations from individuals for social causes and provide support to those issues.

II. MEMBERSHIP AND CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Rules of Membership

- Any person who is at least eighteen (18) years old, who subscribes to the mission and objectives of NAAGA, and who pays the required annual dues shall be eligible to be a member of NAAGA. Anyone who wishes to be a member of a chapter shall also pay chapter dues (if required by the chapter). Minors who are at least 10 years old can participate in shooting activities but must be accompanied and supervised at all times by a parent or legal guardian.
- Any person who has a felony conviction or who has a misdemeanor conviction for domestic violence (and the conviction has not been pardoned or expunged **AND** rights to possess a firearm restored), is not eligible to become a member of NAAGA. Under federal law, that person is not legally allowed to possess a firearm and therefore is prohibited from joining NAAGA.
- Membership shall not be denied to any person because of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical disability of the person.
- All rights, privileges, and benefits shall be equally available to all members of NAAGA. All rules, regulations, bylaws, and directives shall be equally applied to all members.
- It is the duty of each member to assist in every feasible manner in promoting the mission and objectives of NAAGA and to act at all times and in every matter in a professional manner.
- It is the duty of the officers and members to conduct NAAGA's affairs in an efficient and professional manner, in accordance with NAAGA's Bylaws, and such programs and regulations as may, from time to time, be adopted by NAAGA.

- NAAGA memberships shall run for a period of one year at which time a member may renew his or her membership for an additional year by paying the required annual dues.
- Membership in NAAGA is not transferable or assignable. Membership terminates on the dissolution of NAAGA or the death of the member. Membership in NAAGA is not a property right that may be transferred after a member's death. Members also understand that they will not be entitled to a portion of any assets that may be held by NAAGA upon dissolution in the event NAAGA qualifies as a tax-exempt entity under the Internal Revenue Code, §501(c)(4) or other applicable section of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Any individual member may terminate his or her membership at any time by a resignation in writing sent by email, messenger, or text to any officer of NAAGA.
- NAAGA's officers may impose reasonable sanctions on a member, or suspend or expel a member from NAAGA, for good cause. Good cause includes a failure to pay annual dues within a time limit as prescribed by NAAGA after the prior one-year term has expired and a 30-day notice of such default has been given to the member, or a material and serious violation of NAAGA's Bylaws, rules, or of law.
- Upon termination of membership in NAAGA, such persons shall no longer receive benefits, rights or privileges of NAAGA and shall not be entitled to same.
- A former member may submit a written request for reinstatement of membership. NAAGA's officers may reinstate membership on any reasonable terms that the officers deem appropriate.

B. NAAGA Ethical Code of Conduct

- Members may NOT engage in activities that OVERTLY promote violence toward any members or the public.
- Members may NOT engage in any form of harassment or discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical disability toward any members or the public.
- Members may NOT engage in alcohol consumption before or during a NAAGA meeting or shooting event.
- Members may NOT engage in verbal discussions or statements advocating any acts of violence toward Police, Military, and/or Government officials.
- Members may NOT engage in verbal discussions or statements advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Violations of this Ethical Code of Conduct will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate termination of the violating member from NAAGA.

C. NAAGA Member Media Guidelines

NAAGA is a brand, and like any brand it can be aided or damaged by those that are a part of it. We recognize the right of our individual members to have their own opinions, take actions on their own behalf, and speak to anyone that they choose, including people from the media. That being said, we request that our members not partake in activities legal or illegal that could be detrimental to the image of NAAGA while wearing NAAGA apparel, participating in NAAGA events, and/or taking part in non-NAAGA events while proclaiming to be a member of NAAGA. NAAGA members may choose to speak with media AS INDIVIDUALS ONLY. Members speaking as individuals should make it clear to media personnel that they are speaking AS INDIVIDUALS ONLY. General members CANNOT make statements on behalf of NAAGA or represent their opinions and beliefs as those of NAAGA. If a member of NAAGA is approached by the media for an official statement about NAAGA they should direct the person to contact the chapter president at (INSERT CHAPTER PRESIDENT EMAIL) or the National Media Director at mediadir@naaga.co

Social Media Outlets

Website: <https://naaga.co>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NAAGA.co/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NAAGAGUNS1>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/naaga_natl/

III. GUN OWNERSHIP

The 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America states:

“A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

A. Gun Ownership Mindset

Gun ownership is a right of the people. However, it is also a mindset, meaning the ideas and attitudes that you have approaching gun ownership must be clearly defined. Is your motivation for owning a gun for protection, recreation or hunting? If for protection, is your goal home defense or legally carrying a gun for self-protection? Recreational gun ownership can range from shooting targets at your local range to competing as a member of a national pistol shooting team. Regardless of your purpose for gun ownership, there are a few principles that govern your conduct with firearms within the NAAGA community: Discipline, Responsibility, and Safety.

Discipline is extremely important, and should not be overlooked. It is the practice of self-control and the observance of well-defined rules and regulations. The practice of discipline brings structure and stability to a person’s life, and without discipline there is chaos. As a close knitted gun community, we need each NAAGA member to be highly disciplined when handling firearms and consistent in following chapter safety guidelines and rules of conduct. An inability to do so can have deadly results. So, we require you to consider others and be respectful of their safety.

Responsibility is defined as the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something. It is a widely-mentioned statement that “we are responsible for the terminal resting place of every round that we fire from our weapon.” Therefore, it is our responsibility to be proficient with our guns to effectively place rounds on targets we intend to hit, as well as to never negligently discharge (ND) our weapon towards a person or object we are not intending to hit. Be disciplined, practice, and follow instruction. Responsibility also means having a duty to someone or a cause. As members, we have a responsibility to be a positive representation of our Club chapter and the National African American Gun Association at-large.

Safety will be the result of practicing discipline, responsibility, and having respect for fellow members. We take handling firearms safely, and following safety protocols at the indoor or outdoor gun ranges where we meet up very seriously! If a member exhibits continued negligent conduct, steps will be taken to make the situation safe and that member will undergo remedial training or be asked to leave the range. There is no room for exception. We are a safety-first organization. How can we have fun and learn if it is not safe? The foundation begins with committing to the rules of gun safety.

B. Five Rules of Gun Safety

Gun safety rules and recommendations are intended to avoid the negligent discharge, or the consequences of firearm malfunctions. Their purpose is to eliminate or minimize the risks of unintentional death, injury, or damage caused by improper possession, storage, or handling of firearms.

- 1. ALWAYS treat ALL guns as if they are loaded.**
- 2. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. Never point the gun at anything you are not willing to destroy.**
- 3. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until you are consciously ready to shoot.**
- 4. ALWAYS be sure of your target and what is both in front of and beyond it.**
- 5. If your gun falls, let it drop. Do not try to catch it.**

C. Open and Concealed Carry

There are two methods of carrying a firearm when outside of your home or vehicle -- Open Carry and Concealed Carry. Knowing the difference between the two will help you decide which is the best option for carrying a handgun on your person when in public.

- Open Carry is the act of publicly carrying a firearm on one's person in plain sight.
- Concealed Carry, on the other hand, is a method of carrying a firearm on your person so that it cannot be seen by individuals out in the public.

Aside from the state specific laws, there are a few important considerations, especially when open carrying in public. Even though you may be within your constitutional right to arm yourself and you have abided by all your local state laws, members of the public may feel uneasy seeing your handgun openly carried in plain sight. Some business owners may object to firearms being brought into their businesses. If someone calls the police reporting a person with a gun, the police will most definitely respond with a mentality of dealing with a potential threat to the public!

Each state has its own gun laws pertaining to open and concealed carry of handguns on your person. Please check your state laws to be certain of the specific requirements for when you can carry with or without a permit.

D. Legal Defense and Insurance Programs

Legal defense programs are designed to provide legal representation and funds to help protect the law-abiding citizen from impending legal or financial consequences of using a firearm in a self-defense situation. We practice and train with our self-defense weapons to survive the fight, but what happens, legally, after a justifiable use of force? Will you spend the night at home, in bed, or detained in a police department holding cell? Having an attorney that understands firearms and gun laws is vitally important to surviving both the criminal and civil justice systems. The companies below are only two choices for ensuring you maintain your freedom after a self-defense incident where you have fired your weapon.

US Law Shield - is a firearms legal defense program dedicated to preserving the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners. The program offers a membership in which program attorneys experienced in firearms law provide legal representation at no additional cost if you use your firearm and are charged in a criminal or civil case. It has a 24-hour emergency hotline for members. It also provides gun law education through online videos and seminars presented by program attorneys and law enforcement professionals. www.uslawshield.com

USCCA Self-Defense Shield – offers a membership in which USCCA provides legal representation and financial protection in a criminal or civil case if you are forced to defend your

life or the life of others. It also provides a critical response legal team available 24/7, firearms theft insurance, skills training and legal rights education. www.usconcealedcarry.com

E. Home Defense

When you consider defending your home, it is not only about the weapon you reach for. It is more about a posture you take to keep your family safe in and around your household. Always watch your back when entering your home, keep exterior lights on for family members coming home after dark, and have a rehearsed family response plan in the event there is a break in while you are home. If you consider your home your “castle”, then you should protect and defend it accordingly:

Mote – the mote around the exterior of your home is adequate lighting and low shrubbery to prevent the uninvited from hiding near entries.

Castle Gate – install locksets and deadbolts that are rated to withstand kick in forces.

Windows – place jam bars to secure all ground level windows. Keep bushes low around windows to remove hiding places.

Watch Tower – home security surveillance systems allow you to see who is at the door or around the perimeter of your home and can be monitored remotely.

The Dragon – your home defense weapon platform of choice. When the mote and the castle door have been breached and the threat to your family is now in the building, and cannot be evaded, it is time to unleash the dragon. What is best as a home defense weapon--the pistol, shotgun, or rifle? It’s a matter of what suits you best to handle, and what is most effective within your home inside of 10 to 15 yards.

The Shotgun - is considered to have fight stopping power with its buckshot load. A tactical shotgun can provide accurate hits on targets without a concern of over penetration between rooms or outside of the home. One consideration is that its length makes it harder to maneuver around corners in the home and the recoil may be difficult to manage for some shooters.

The AR Type Rifle – outfitted with a laser provides for accurate aim under stress and has a large capacity of rounds (10 to 30 round magazine) that can be used to quickly end a threat. Because

of the velocity of the rounds fired, over penetration of interior and exterior walls may be a concern.

The Pistol – provides a level of versatility over the shotgun or rifle platforms in that it can be shot with one hand, freeing the other hand to open doors, dial a cell phone, or shield a child. Although the stopping power of a pistol is lesser than a shotgun or rifle, the semi-automatic pistol can have a magazine capacity of up to 19 rounds. The pistol is a lighter and more maneuverable platform, but it is more difficult to shoot accurately under pressure. Consider adding a laser sight to improve accuracy.

F. Children and Guns

Gun ownership is also a family affair. If there are children in the household, firearms should be secured from unintended access by them or other youth that visit your household. As a parent, only you can decide when it is appropriate to introduce your child to guns and teach them about gun safety in a trusted, controlled environment. Removing the mystery around guns and teaching youth how to determine real guns from toys, are key components of accident prevention.

Statistics show that there are guns in 40% of U.S. households. However, the stats do not give details on how many homes adopt the safety procedure of **storing guns and ammunition where they cannot be accessed by any unauthorized person.**

As a parent, you are responsible for the safety and well-being of your child both inside and outside of your home. **It is very simple to ask if there are guns where your child may be visiting**, and to teach and reinforce to your child these simple rules of what to do when they see a gun:

Adapted from the NRA's **The Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program**

1. **STOP!** – this critical step allows a child the time needed to remember the rest of the safety instructions.

2. **Don't Touch** – firearms that are not disturbed are unlikely to fire and harm your child or other individuals.
3. **Run Away** – immediately leaving the area ensures that they will resist the curiosity to touch the firearm or be harmed by someone else who negligently causes it to fire.
4. **Tell a Grown Up** – find and tell a parent or guardian. If a parent is not available, find a trustworthy adult like a neighbor, teacher, or relative.

G. Youth and Recreational Shooting

Older youth can explore the fun of recreational shooting and hunting through various programs designed to give an appreciation of the shooting sports and outdoorsmanship. NAAGA provides firearms safety and skills training for youth, as well as exposure to national youth shooting sports events.

There will be more information on future opportunities for collegiate scholarships through NAAGA and listings of college and universities that offer shooting programs.

IV. COMPONENTS OF HANDGUNS AND AMMUNITION

A. Basic Parts of a Revolver Handgun

All handguns have three major components – the frame, the barrel, and the action.

The **frame** is a metal, wood, or polymer housing that also serves as the handle (grip) of the handgun. The trigger mechanism is housed in the frame, and all other major parts are attached to the frame. The **barrel** is the metal tube that the bullet travels through, and the **action** contains the parts of the handgun that loads, fires, and ejects the cartridges.



Basic Parts of a Revolver Handgun

Action

Muzzle – End of barrel that the bullet exits. Muzzles are critical for accuracy, flash/sound suppression.

Front Sight – Optic device nearest the muzzle used to assist in aligning the barrel of a gun to the intended target.

Barrel - Tube within the gun that the projectile or bullet travels in when fired. Gases are released within the barrel that propels the bullet at a high velocity towards the target.

Cylinder – Rotating part of a revolver that contains the chambers for loading rounds to be fired.

Hammer – A device that strikes the primer of a cartridge, or strikes the firing pin, which detonates the gun powder to fire the bullet.

Cylinder Latch – Locks the cylinder in place for firing. Also releases the cylinder for casing extraction and reloading the revolver.

Frame

Extractor Rod - the extractor rod is used to eject empty casings from the cylinder after rounds have been fired.

Trigger Guard – surrounds the trigger mechanism preventing the trigger from being misfired.

Trigger – mechanism used to move the firing pin or hammer to a ready to strike position, and releases the pin or hammer to strike the primer of a cartridge to fire the bullet.

Frame – provides the housing for all the mechanical components of a gun.

Grip – part of the firearm attached to the frame used to hold and steady the gun for firing accurately.

B. Basic Parts of a Semi-Automatic Handgun

All handguns have three major components – the frame, the barrel, and the action.

The **frame** is a metal, wood, or polymer housing that also serves as the handle (grip) of the handgun. The trigger mechanism is housed in the frame, and all other major parts are attached to the frame. The **barrel** is the metal tube that the bullet travels through, and the **action** contains the parts of the handgun that loads, fires, and ejects the cartridges.



Basic Parts of a Semi-Automatic Handgun

Upper (Action)

Muzzle - end of barrel that the bullet exits. Muzzles are critical for accuracy, flash/sound suppression.

Front Sight - optic device nearest the muzzle used to assist in aligning the barrel of a handgun to the intended target.

Barrel - tube within a handgun that the projectile or bullet travels in when fired. Gases are released within the barrel that propels the bullet at a high velocity towards the target.

Slide - the slide is the action of a semi-automatic handgun that serves to eject spent casings, cock the hammer or striker for the next shot, and load another cartridge into the barrel the slide returns forward.

Slide Serrations - serrated edges at the front and, or rear of the slide that helps to provide a secure grip on the slide for fast and reliable chambering of a round.

Rear Sight - Optic device mounted on the rear of the slide used to acquire proper sight alignment and sight picture when aiming a firearm.

Lower (Frame)

Accessory Rail – mounting point use to add laser or flashlight accessories to a handgun.

Take Down Lever – mechanism used to field strip or disassemble a handgun for cleaning or repair.

Trigger Guard – surrounds the trigger mechanism preventing the trigger from being misfired.

Trigger – mechanism used to move the firing pin or hammer to a ready to strike position, and releases the pin or hammer to strike the primer of a cartridge to fire the bullet.

Magazine Release – button used to release the magazine from the pistol for reloading or clearing.

Grip – part of the firearm attached to the frame used to hold and steady the handgun for firing accurately.

Magazine Base – bottom of a magazine sometimes used to extend the grip of the firearm, or aid in extracting the magazine from the handgun.

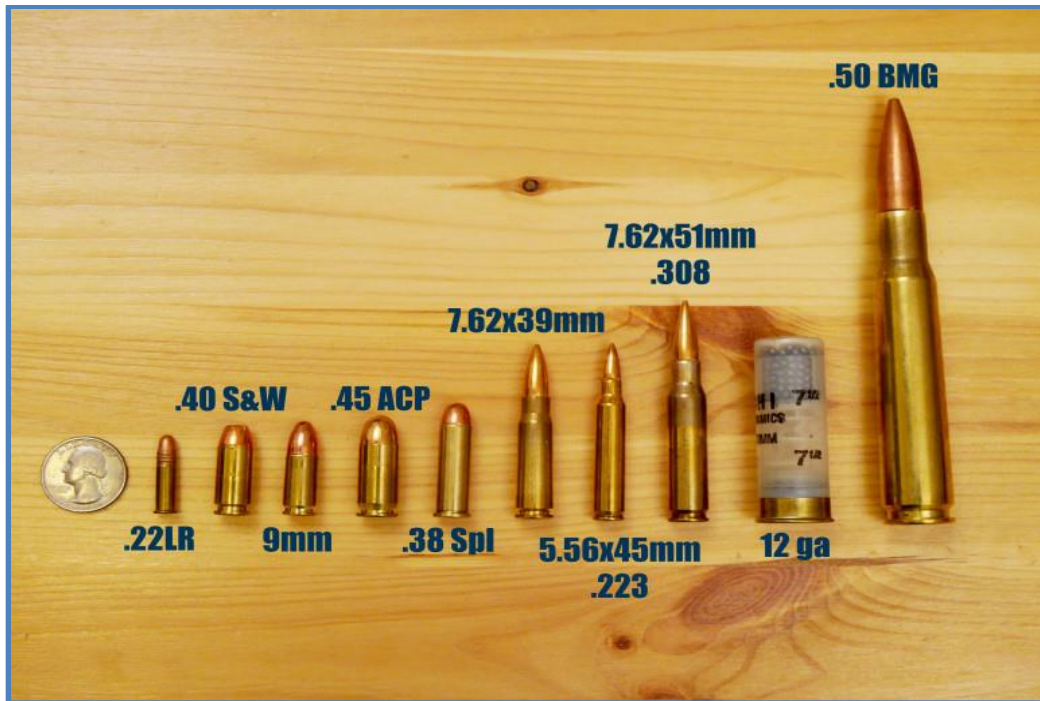
Slide Lock – mechanism used to hold the slide in a rearward position, or used to refer to the state of a handgun when its magazine has been fired empty.

Manual or External Safety – lever on a firearm when switched to “safe” prevents the firing of the weapon. Some handguns are equipped with a grip safety that will only allow the gun to fire if it is held with the proper grip on the handgun.

C. Various Types of Ammunition

This will, by no means, be an exhaustive comparison of various calibers of ammunition, their velocities, impact power, or why you would choose one caliber firearm over another. The goal of this section is to help you to understand the basic components of a round, or cartridge, and why it is important to select the right type of ammunition for the caliber of firearms that you shoot.

The term “caliber” refers to the approximate internal diameter of a firearm’s barrel. It is also used to represent the diameter of the round it fires in inches or in meters. For instance, a .380 caliber is a pistol cartridge that is .38 of an inch in diameter, and a 9mm cartridge is 9 millimeters in diameter. Using the wrong caliber of ammunition in your firearm can cause damage to the firearm and can harm you as well. On mostly all modern firearms, the caliber of the gun will be etched on the barrel or frame, and can also be found in the owner’s manual. Only use the diameter of cartridge that is recommended for the caliber of gun being fired. Below is a great visual of various cartridge sizes, and a brief description of each.



Source : <https://www.pewpewtactical.com/bullet-sizes-calibers-and-types/>

.22LR – is a very small round used primarily for hunting small game and target shooting.

.380 ACP - is a low recoil round with less stopping power than other popular pistol cartridges.

.40 S&W – is an accurate, moderate recoil round with more impact energy than a 9mm round.

9mm – quality, low cost, readily available round with low recoil and higher magazine capacities.

.45 ACP – combines accuracy and stopping power. Heavy recoil, costlier round than 9mm.

.38 SPL – used in revolvers; accurate, low recoil with less stopping power than .40 or .45 CAL.

7.62 x 39mm – Soviet design for SKS and AK-47 rifles. Performs in both extreme cold and heat.

5.56 x 45mm – NATO M16 rifle round with low recoil and an effective range of 250–550yds.

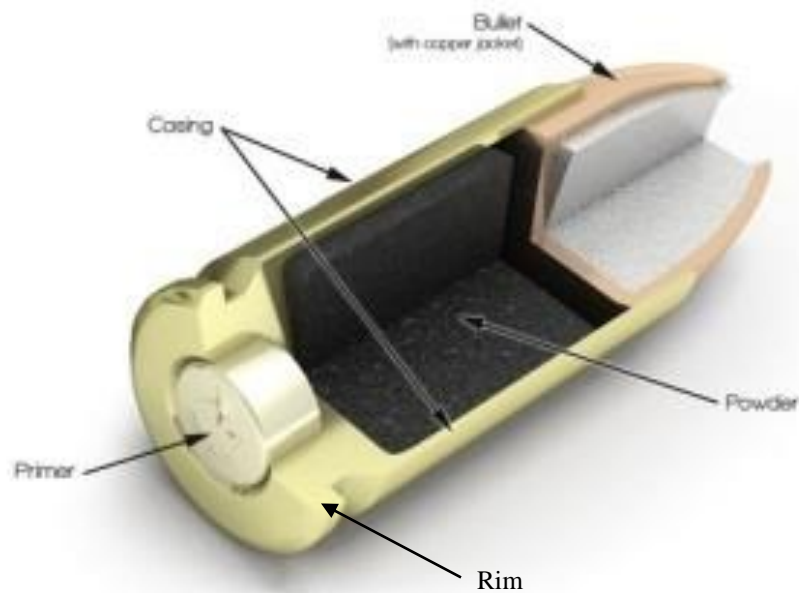
7.62 x 51mm – for NATO M14 and M60 rifles. Lighter round, better cycling in automatic rifles.

12 Gauge – for use with shotguns; cartridge contains metallic “bird or buck shot” projectiles.

.50 BMG - used in Browning .50 Caliber Machine Gun for long range and anti-material targets.

* Information source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

D. Components of a Cartridge



Source: <http://www.thefirearms.guide/ammo/ammo-101>

Primer – primers are shock sensitive chemicals integrated into the rear of a cartridge that ignites the powder propellant.

Casing – houses all the components of the cartridge. Referred also as a full metal jacket (FMJ).

Rim - provides the extractor, on the firearm, a place to grip the casing to eject it from the gun's chamber once the bullet is fired.

Powder – the propellant that launches the bullet at velocities affected by the number of grains of gun powder.

Bullet – the projectile that is shot out of the barrel of the gun. Typically copper with a ball (rounded) tip or hollowed tip.

V. WEAPON RETENTION AND GUN STORAGE OPTIONS

A. Weapon Retention (Holsters)

There are several levels of retention designed to keep your firearm secure from physical damage, loss due to physical activity, or from an intention gun grab to disarm the operator. The levels of retention refer to the number of devices used to provide increasing levels of security from Level 1 to Level 3.

Level 1 – Passive Retention using friction to retain a handgun in a holster that is molded to fit the model of firearm. These holsters can be fabric holsters to the commonly used Kydex molded holsters. Within the Level 1 category of retention, there are several types of holsters:

IWB – Inside the Waist Band (concealed carry)

AIWB – Appendix Inside the Waist Band (concealed carry)

OWB – Outside the Waistband (concealed or open carry)

Ankle Holsters – Under the pants leg (concealed carry)

Garter Holsters – Under the dress/Thigh Holsters (concealed carry)

Level 2 – Uses the same degree of retention as Level 1, in addition to employing one mechanism such as a thumb operated lever or button, back strap, or holster flap. The introduction of a mechanical feature or active retention system provides more security when running, in physical combat with an assailant, or moving behind cover.

Level 3 – Provides Level 2 degree of safety plus an additional active retention mechanism. An example is an open or concealed carry holster that uses a push button to remove a shroud that protects the handgun from gun grabs from the front or back of the operator. Law enforcement officers and military personnel employ Level 2 and Level 3 retention because of the likelihood of physical contact with assailants that could escalate into a fight for their firearm.

As a concealed carry or open carry citizen, you must determine which level of retention is suitable. Consider also the balance between securing your weapon and having the ability to quickly draw from your holster in a threat situation.

We now know how handguns are secured by holsters, but how are holsters secured?

On the body carry is secured by: (1) **paddle holsters** that clip between the waist band or belt and the paddle style backing of the holster; (2) **belt clips** that clip to specific belt widths; (3) **snaps** that loop around a belt; (4) passing the belt through **belt loops** on the holster to secure it; (5) **elastic banding** with sewn in fabric holsters; or (6) **friction** holsters designed to be tucked in a waistband or carried in a pocket.

Off the body carry involves securing a handgun in a purse, briefcase, or any style carry bag. Staging a firearm in the storage compartment of a car or in your nightstand drawer is also considered “off the body.” There are a few important considerations when a firearm is not on your person.

1. How fast can your gun be drawn from concealment inside of a closed carry bag?
2. Will you be near your gun when lives are threatened?
3. Losing your carry bag means losing your handgun as well.

B. Securing and Storing Firearms

Anytime a firearm is not in use, it should be stored and/or secured from theft and unintended operation, especially when there are young children in the household. Weapon storage units also protect and preserve the look and finish of your weapons. Various methods of locking down weapons exist in the form of trigger locks and safes that have keyed entry, combination entry, or biometric entry mechanisms.

VI. MARKSMANSHIP

A. Proficiency

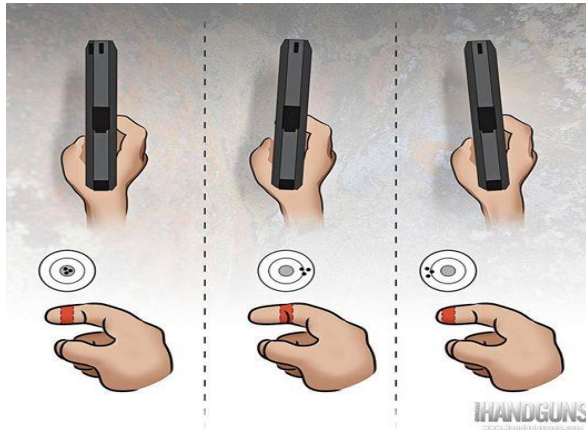
Why be proficient? Simply because your life, and the lives of those you love, depend on your ability to be effective employing the tools of personal defense. Whether you are a licensed concealed carrying citizen or you purchased a gun for home defense, the benefits of your proficiency may extend into the defense of people around you who may be subject to an imminent threat to their lives. Those who use firearms for hunting understand that being proficient is the difference between having food on the table or not!

It is our goal that all NAAGA members be confident and competent when using their weapons in a self-defense situation. Also, having situational awareness is key to avoiding or surviving an unexpected threat situation. Situational awareness is defined as the ability to identify, process, and comprehend critical elements of information about what is happening. Being aware and proficient will allow you to avoid a fight, or if necessary, stay in and win the fight. Make a commitment to practice, become proficient...get good!

B. Five Fundamentals of Marksmanship

1. **Grip** - a correct grip puts the gun in a 4-way vise. It allows you to manage recoil where the recoil energy goes back into your arms, and not into your wrists. Focus on keeping the handgun flat.
2. **Sight Alignment/Sight Picture** - focus on front sight with *both* eyes open. The target and rear sight will appear blurry because the human eyes can only focus on one distance at a time. Since your brain needs a reference point, align the top of the front sight level with the top of rear sight, center horizontally within the rear sight and cover the target.

3. **Trigger Control** – proper trigger position is on the center of the pad (first joint) of the trigger finger (as shown in the first panel of the image below). Execute a smooth, even trigger pull directly to the rear without disturbing your grip, sight alignment, and sight picture.



Source : <http://www.atwoodarmory.com/news-blog/proper-trigger-finger-placement>

4. **Stance** – provides a stable shooting platform and is critical to shooting accuracy. Proper stance pushes the gun towards the target, tilting the upper body slightly forward to buffer recoil and places the front sight of the gun in-line with the dominant eye.
5. **Breath Control** – seeks to minimize movement of the chest, when breathing, to maintain established sight alignment and sight picture. A pause in breathing at the time of firing the weapon will improve accuracy of the shot.

VII. NAAGA SHOOTING STANDARDS

A. Marksmanship Proficiency Standards Qualification Program

The National African American Gun Association's **Marksmanship Proficiency Standards & Qualification Program**, also known as "**The National Standards**," "**Standards**," or "**Qualifier**" is a standardized skills assessment and rating initiative offering members a way to assess and further develop their shooting skills.

Along with the **New Members' Orientation Class** and NAAGA's portfolio of **Firearm Training Courses**, "**The Standards**" is one of the three pillars in the organization's Pathway To Proficiency™ initiative. This pillar picks up where the New Members' Orientation leaves off, but can help members honestly assess their marksmanship skills before participating in any one of our shooting events, competitions or firearms courses.

Successfully completing "**The Standards**" not only gets members awarded Qualification recorded and published in our national Marksman Register, but also affords members the ability to:

- Accurately assess their current level of marksmanship skill, and safe handling and operation knowledge;
- Establish a baseline from which they can work to further develop or refine their marksmanship skills; and, subsequently, track their progress;
- Participate in officially sanctioned NAAGA shooting events and competitions; and
- Conduct friendly, unofficial, competition with family, friends. and other NAAGA members.

This pillar is referred to the "**Gold Standard**" because it is hard! To qualify as either a Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced Marksman in NAAGA, you must be squared away! Our "**Standards**" are considerably more challenging than most all other Gun Clubs and, therefore, could be considered the "**Gold Standard**" of proficiency standards.

To obtain a qualification rating (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced), members must successfully demonstrate: (1) a full knowledge of all firearm safety rules; (2) practical competency in each enumerated firearm operation skill (loading and unloading); and (3) marksmanship proficiency by shooting the predetermined course. Performance is measured against pre-determined par scores, and any shooter who meets or exceeds those scores is entitled to the corresponding recognition awards for that rating (Qualification).

Successful completion of the Qualifier (“Standards”) allows members to participate in NAAGA’s shooting events and competitions.

B. General Guidelines

All rules and requirements for this qualification course are listed below.

Platforms

Any semi-automatic pistol, revolver, AR-15 style, or shotgun and all calibers may be used.

Sights

Any fixed sights may be used. Red dot or magnifier optics are not permissible.

Targets

Pistol

NOVA Dynamic Training Group’s *PPI: F.A.S.T.E.R.*[™] (Fundamentals, Accuracy, Speed & Emergency Reload Targets) are to be used. Targets are provided by the certified NAAGA RSO or Firearm Instructor administering the Qualifier.

Rifle

NOVA Dynamic Training Group’s PPIII: Rifle Target are to be used. Targets are provided by the certified NAAGA RSO or Firearm Instructor administering the Qualifier.

Shotgun

Conventional B-27 targets are to be used.

Timers

When time restrictions are specified, the certified NAAGA RSO or Firearm Instructor administering the Qualifier will act as timekeeper, and manage the timer sequences and start/stop signals.

C. Parameters and Limitations

The National Proficiency Standards, although high in shooting requirements, are limited in scope, and are not to be confused with Certification Standards observed in official NAAGA firearm courses. Shooting the National Proficiency Standards is simply a diagnostic and rating tool. Participation in, practice of, and completion of shooting the National Proficiency Standards will rate and “qualify” a member as being able to shoot at a level respective of his/her performance, but does not certify or grant the member to administer, oversee, or instruct any NAAGA event, competition, or training course.

The Marksmanship Proficiency Standards & Qualifier (A.K.A. - “National Proficiency Standards” or “Standards” or “Standards Qualifier” or “Qualifier”) is NOT a course, but rather an exercise. There is no formal “training” or firearm instruction that goes forth in shooting the National Proficiency Standards. It is an exercise that merely evaluates a member’s ability to perform basic shooting skills in a controlled, “low-to-no stress” environment. The “Standards” should be viewed as a “qualifier” used to determine a member’s level of marksmanship in relationship to pre-determined par averages, and serve as the starting point in further developing or refining said member’s shooting skills.

The member’s performance is rated on the level of skill he/she currently possesses prior to, or at the time of, the Qualifier being administered.

In the Standards Qualifier, the shooter will have to:

- Recite the five (5) Basic Firearm Safety Rules;
- Recite the five (5) Fundamentals of Marksmanship;
- Using a Snap Cap™, demonstrate the complete loading and unloading procedure(s) for the firearm(s) which he/she will use to shoot the Proficiency Standards without violating any of the 5 Basic Safety Rules;
- Demonstrate an “Emergency Reload;”
- Shoot the Standards’ Course of Fire; and
- Demonstrate the 3 steps to “Make and Show Cleared.”

This initiative does not evaluate whether a member can recognize pre-assault indicators, select and implement appropriate defensive tactics, or determine what level of force—if any—is appropriate in response to a threat. It does not evaluate one-handed reloads, drawing with the reaction hand, drawing and shooting from a seated position, low-light or flashlight-assisted shooting, multiple assailants, shooting while moving, identifying cover or concealment, shooting at moving targets, or any other defensive shooting concepts.

In fact, regardless of their performance and ranking in the Qualifier Standards, all members are directed to take additional training beyond mere participation in these qualification exercises. Members are strongly encouraged to take additional firearms training at least three times per year. Firearm and tactical skills are perishable and can only be maintained with ongoing training and practice.

NAAGA Chapters and NAAGA Certified instructors are required to proctor the Proficiency Standards as-is, without any change, amendment or exception.

VIII. RESOURCES

1. NAAGA Waiver of Liability Form
2. Ability, Opportunity, Jeopardy and Preclusion (AOJP) Factors
3. Concealed Carry Resources
4. Form 4473



**NATIONAL
AFRICAN-
AMERICAN
GUN**
ASSOCIATION

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, INDEMNIFICATION, AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I have voluntarily agreed to participate in a course of instruction in the use of firearms or other shooting activity given by the National African American Gun Association (hereinafter referred to as "NAAGA").

I hereby acknowledge the risks and dangers that exist in my use of any and all firearms and/or defensive tactics and techniques related to my participation in shooting activities. I understand and acknowledge that shooting activities are inherently dangerous and involve both known and unanticipated risks which could result in damage or destruction of property and physical or emotional injury, including, without limitation, paralysis, death, or damage to myself, to property, or to third parties. The risks include, but are not limited to, flying bullets, flying debris, noise, being shot by another, shooting myself or others; partial or total loss of eyesight or hearing; inhalation or other harmful contact with lead or other contaminants; burns and scarring; and being struck by flying or falling objects. I fully understand that participation in these dangerous shooting activities is voluntary and I agree to and do assume these risks. I acknowledge that this list is not inclusive of all possible risks associated with my participation in these shooting activities and that this list in no way limits the extent of this *Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, Indemnification, and Hold Harmless Agreement*.

I hereby acknowledge and agree that at all times I will abide by all NAAGA range rules; all procedures enforced by the NAAGA Range Safety Officers; and all range rules of any shooting range at which NAAGA is presenting a course of instruction in the use of firearms or other shooting activity.

In consideration for the course of instruction in the use of firearms; use of a shooting range, other facility, or land for such instruction; observation; and other training and services of NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members, and agents, I hereby fully acknowledge, understand, and agree to release, and, on behalf of myself, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, and assigns hereby do release NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members, and agents from any and all claims, demands, or causes of action of which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or assigns may now have or have in the future against NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members, and agents on account of personal injury, property damage, death, or accident of any kind, arising out of or in any way related to the course of instruction in the use of firearms or other shooting activity provided by NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members,

and agents, or my use of any equipment, shooting ranges or other facilities in connection with the course of instruction or shooting activity, and however the injury or damage is caused, including, but not limited to, any alleged negligence of NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members, and agents. I further agree that I will not bring a civil action against NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members, and agents based upon any of the foregoing. I understand that I will be solely responsible for any loss or damage including, but not limited to, death or paralysis, that I may sustain while participating in a NAAGA course of instruction in the use of firearms or other shooting activity, and that by signing this Agreement, I relieve NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members, and agents of any and all liability for such loss, damage or death.

I do hereby further agree to indemnify and hold harmless NAAGA, its instructors, officers, directors, employees, members, and agents from any and all claims, demands, damages, expenses, causes of action, attachments of property, liability, injury, death, or financial compensation which may occur in the present or future related to my participation in any and all activities arising out of, related to, or connected with the discharge of firearms; my participation in the course of instruction in the use of firearms or other shooting activity; my presence on or use of any shooting ranges or other facilities used by NAAGA for its course of instruction in the use of firearms or other shooting activity; and any and all acts or omissions committed by me.

I expressly agree that this *Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, Indemnification, and Hold Harmless Agreement* is intended to be as broad as is permitted by the laws of the state in which NAAGA is presenting a course of instruction in the use of firearms or other shooting activity. I further agree that if any provisions of this agreement are held to be invalid, nevertheless, the balance of the agreement shall continue in full force and effect. I have had sufficient opportunity to read this *Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, Indemnification, and Hold Harmless Agreement* and fully understand its terms. I understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing this agreement freely and voluntarily and intend my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Participant Name (Print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Type: Cell _____ Work _____ Home _____

If Participant is under 18 years old: Parent/Guardian Consent

I, as parent or guardian of the above minor under 18 years of age, hereby consent, on behalf of the said minor, to the terms and conditions set forth in this *Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, Indemnification, and Hold Harmless Agreement*.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

From <https://www.useofforce.us/3aojp/>

Step One—The Central Ideas: Ability, Opportunity, Jeopardy, and Preclusion

. The use of lethal force that can end in homicide is justified in the situation of immediate, otherwise unavoidable danger of death or grave bodily harm to the innocent. — Massad Ayoob

That statement by Mr. Ayoob, one of the premier authorities on these matters, is a succinct summary of the basic elements of any justifiable use of force in self-defense. Essentially, it is very simple: In order to determine justifiability, the courts want to know that you *had to do what you did*. Since “had to” is a pretty subjective judgment, it is legally defined, usually in the following way:

Ability

Your attacker must have the ability—the physical, practical ability—to cause you harm. Common sense applies here, as does context. A gun gives your attacker ability (lethal ability, in fact); a knife gives ability as well. Indeed, most weapons qualify, all the way down to glass bottles, baseball bats, and screwdrivers. While the latter are not *designed* as weapons, if they are applied as such, they can certainly kill you just as dead.

Other “ability” considerations include disparity in size or physical power between you and your attacker—a very large man versus a very small man, a strong man versus a cripple, a trained fighter versus a bookworm, a man versus a woman, all can apply. And don’t forget disparity in numbers—four men attacking one can very easily kill or cripple, unless that one is a Hollywood action hero.

Most of the above are valid lethal force scenarios, but non-lethal force uses the same standard. Just about anyone can punch you and break your nose, or break your arm, or bruise your stomach.

In short, common sense is a more or less effective guide on this point. The important question is simply whether, as far as you know, the attacker has the ability to harm you—kill or maim you, if you respond with lethal force, or lesser degrees of danger for equivalently lesser uses of force.

Opportunity

Although opportunity can be viewed as a subset of ability, it is an equally important criterion. Basically, while your attacker may very well have the *ability* to cause you harm, it means nothing unless he also has the *opportunity* to do so—right here and right now. After all, there are probably countless criminals in the world who “could” kill you and might do so, given the chance; but they aren’t standing in front of you at this moment, so they don’t have that opportunity.

The biggest consideration here is range or proximity. Although a man with a gun is considered dangerous at any reasonable distance, a man with a knife standing 300 feet away is not, simply because he cannot stab you from that far away. Yet there is another factor, as well. If he were standing mere yards away, he *still* probably couldn't reach you with his knife, but because it would *only take him moments* to approach you and change that, he would still be considered dangerous. A common police standard is to assume that a knife-wielding assailant is capable of covering 21 feet and striking with the blade in 1.5 seconds. Mull on that time span.

Some other considerations may apply when it comes to Opportunity. For instance, is a knife-wielding assailant behind a locked door a threat? Probably not. Therefore, if you were to shoot him through the door, that would not be justifiable. On the other hand, if he started—successfully—breaking the door down, then he would promptly become dangerous again. Again, use common sense.

Jeopardy

The most subjective factor of the AOJP analysis is the jeopardy requirement, sometimes called “imminent jeopardy.” This criterion requires that, in your specific situation, a “reasonable and prudent” person would have believed himself to be in immediate danger.

In other words, jeopardy is what distinguishes between a *potentially* dangerous situation and one that is actually dangerous. Hundreds of times every day, you walk by people who *could* punch or stab or shoot you. The reason you aren't “defending” yourself against them is because you have no reason to think that they are actually about to attack you. (Why would they?)

On the other hand, if someone screams a threat and points a gun at you, any sane person would expect that behavior to indicate an intent to cause you harm.

It's important to recognize that you cannot *actually know* this person's intent; you are not a mind reader. All you can judge is his outward appearance and demeanor, which, in that case, are consistent with harmful intent. If it turns out that he was joking, or lying, or the gun was fake, or he wouldn't actually have pulled the trigger, nothing changes, because you could not have known those things.

The other important qualifier to remember is that the jeopardy must be *immediate*. A general threat to your well-being in the distant future is meaningless, but “I'm gonna kill you right now!” is meaningful.

Finally, it's essential to understand that the “immediate jeopardy” condition can go away at the drop of a hat. On the one hand, if you are attacked, beaten, and left lying in an alley, you are *not* justified in shooting your attacker in the back as he walks away, because he will have ceased to be a threat. On the other hand, if he turns around and comes back for more, then the immediate jeopardy resumes. Jeopardy can cease suddenly and unexpectedly if your attacker surrenders or

clearly ceases to be a threat (if you knock him unconscious, for instance, or he tries to run), and continuing to use force in such situations can change your action from legal self-defense to illegal battery in moments.

Preclusion

Preclusion is not so much an individual consideration as it is an all-encompassing lens through which to view your actions. More complex than the others, it is nevertheless just as important. It is the idea that, whatever the situation, you are expected to use force *only as a last resort*—that is, only when the circumstances *preclude* all other options.

In other words, even when the ability, opportunity, and jeopardy criteria are satisfied, and knowing that you must clearly do *something* to protect yourself, the use of force, particularly lethal force, may only be that “something” if you have no other safe options.

The word “safe” is key there, because at no time does the law ever require you to choose an action that endangers yourself. If you can run away or retreat, you should, but if doing so would put you in harm’s way, you are not required to do so.

Preclusion is the factor that is missing in most self-defense arguments, and thus the reason most fail. You must remember that you bear the burden of proof; until you prove otherwise, the law merely sees two equal citizens in a dispute. You can say, “He tried to hit me,” but then the police and the courts will ask, “Why didn’t you _____?” You must have no options to offer to fill in that blank—there must have been no other courses of action you could have taken to maintain your safety except the use of force. Otherwise, you’re just fighting because you want to, and that’s a crime.

Does the Preclusion standard mean that an ultimatum like “give me your money or I’ll hurt you” requires you to, well, give him your money? Unless you honestly believe that he may hurt you anyway, yes. The law values “life and limb” above property. Or you can refuse, but you may not respond with a fist. He’s giving you a choice, which, by definition, means that you still have options other than force.

The point is simply that you must exercise self-restraint to the greatest extent possible. One vital aspect of this requirement concerns the *appropriateness* or *degree* of the force you employ, or how well suited your response is to the threat itself. If a man punches you, you probably cannot justifiably shoot him, because that’s a lethal response to a non-lethal attack. If a three-year-old punches you, you probably cannot do anything at all. If, on the other hand, a 300-pound boxer punches you, you may be justified in responding with deadly force, because his fists can be deadly as well.

Always remember:

- . The threat must be current, immediate, and unavoidable.
- . Your level of force must be appropriate to the threat.
- . Your use of force must stop when the threat ceases.

If at any point you smudge the first, exceed the second, or forget the third, you are running the risk of a criminal indictment—and if the results are glaring (e.g., you killed him), it's nearly certain.

Knock your attacker over—then keep stomping on him while he's down and not moving? Bad. Pull a knife and slash—and keep slashing when your assailant pulls away? Uh-oh; now you're not only breaking the rules, you're leaving “defensive wounds,” a signature of cuts and marks which forensics experts will use to prove that *he* was an unwilling victim.

CONCEALED CARRY RESOURCES

LEGAL RESOURCES

Gun Laws of the United States (by State)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_laws_in_the_United_States_by_state

Concealed Carry Laws in the United States

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concealed_carry_in_the_United_States

Concealed Carry Permit Information (by state)

https://www.usacarry.com/concealed_carry_permit_information.html

Concealed Carry Reciprocity Maps (for all states)

https://www.usacarry.com/concealed_carry_permit_reciprocity_maps.html

<https://www.concealedcarry.com/dynamic-ccw-permit-reciprocity-map-builder/>

Concealed Carry Reciprocity Apps for Cell Phones

CCW

Concealed Carry Tools

USA Carry

Firearms Legal Defense Insurance

<https://www.uslawshield.com/> - a NAAGA corporate sponsor

Felony Convictions and Misdemeanor Convictions for Domestic Violence - Restoration of Firearms Rights (by State)

<http://ccresourcecenter.org/resources-2/restoration-of-rights/>

ARTICLES ON CONCEALED CARRY

USA Carry Articles

Concealed Carry

<https://www.usacarry.com/category/articles/concealed-carry/>

Concealed Carry for Women

<https://www.usacarry.com/category/articles/ccw-for-women/>

General Firearms Information

<https://www.usacarry.com/category/articles/general-firearm/>

Self Defense

<https://www.usacarry.com/category/articles/general-firearm/>

Training

<https://www.usacarry.com/category/articles/training/>