

PA HOLSTER ACCREDITATION – CANDIDATES NOTES

NOTES for CANDIDATES – PART TWO



PA Holster Accreditation is **MANDATORY** for the PA 'Holster' events, i.e.:

- PA Service Pistol
- Action Pistol
- WA1500

No current PA Holster Accreditation – You cannot compete in these events!

COMPONENTS OF A SAFE DRAW

PREREQUISITES (i.e. your equipment must be safe and serviceable)

- **Suitable Clothing**
 - Your upper garments need to be reasonably close fitting – this is to prevent the firearm from becoming snagged.
- **Suitable holster/belt**
 - The holster must properly 'fit' the firearm
 - The holster must retain the firearm – if the firearm falls out of the holster during the event you can be disqualified!
 - The holster/belt combination must be firm (no wobbling)
- **Position of holster**
 - **Strong side only!**
 - The holster is to be positioned square on the hip and not allow the holstered firearm to be directed at your leg, nor more than one metre from your body when standing normally
 - The holster should hold the holstered firearm such that the barrel is directed **forwards** at all times.



SAFETY CRITERIA

- **The barrel direction is CRITICAL at all times! This includes:**
 - When loading the firearm
 - When holstering the firearm
 - When drawing the firearm
 - (WA1500) when racking the slide of a pistol
 - When assuming the appropriate firing position
 - When changing position/s within a course of fire
 - At the completion of a series, and
 - If you have any problem during a course of fire
 - Eye and ear protection is **mandatory** for all the PA 'holster' events
 - Suitable clothing
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PROCEDURE

NOTE:

BOTH HOLSTERING AND DRAWING THE FIREARM ARE ONE-HANDED OPERATIONS!

1. Load and holster
 - a. At no time is the barrel to be directed at any part of your body
 - b. Load and holster – **HOLSTERING MUST BE A ONE HAND OPERATION!**
 - c. Having holstered the firearm to your satisfaction:
 - i. It must **remain holstered** until the series starts, or under direct instruction of the Range Officer.
 - ii. **Do not** touch the holstered firearm.
2. Assume the appropriate START POSITION for the chosen match/s.
3. Off-hand to 'tummy pat' – the off-hand **STAYS** in the tummy pat **at least** until the firearm has fully cleared the holster and you have raised the firearm above 45°.
4. Firmly engage hold on grip while firearm is still in the holster – trigger finger remains clear of trigger and trigger guard.
5. Raise firearm to clear the holster – take care that the firearm is not directed to the rear.
6. When firearm is clear of holster, raise to firing position.
7. **ONLY** when firearm is above 45°:
 - a. may the off-hand come from the tummy pat,
 - b. may the safety be released on a semi-automatic pistol,
 - c. may the finger come to the trigger guard.



Note: For WA1500, Semi-automatic pistols do not have a round in the chamber when holstered – i.e. after drawing the action needs to be racked to feed the first round. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE PISTOL BE IN A SAFE DIRECTION (downrange) WHEN THE ACTION IS RACKED!**

8. Come to the firing position.
 9. **ONLY THEN**, operate trigger.
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MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE

LACK OF PREPARATION

- Unsuitable clothing snagging the firearm as it is drawn from the holster.
- Tension between firearm and holster too much, or too little.
- Incorrect belt width and or stiffness allowing the holster to 'wobble'.
- Incorrect positioning of holster
 - At the side of the hip is correct, best and safest.
 - **NEVER** allow the barrel to be directed at any part of your body
 - **NEVER** allow the barrel to be directed to the rear
 - Barrel direction of the holstered firearm must be within one metre forward of the competitor's feet when standing normally or in drawing stance.

ALLOWING TRIGGER FINGER NEAR TRIGGER GUARD TOO SOON

1. Preferably when the firearm is pointed at the target, but **NEVER** before the firearm has been raised **AT LEAST 45°**

RACKING THE PISTOL (WA1500)

- Not keeping the firearm directed down-range.

USING THE OFF-HAND TO STEADY THE HOLSTER

- The tummy pat will prevent this.
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THE START POSITIONS

'CREEPING'

For all of the start positions, you must remain in the specified start position until after the series time has commenced – do not move your hands until the target/s begin to turn to face you, or the appropriate acoustic signal is given.

PA SERVICE PISTOL

Your hands must be clearly at least shoulder high.

ACTION PISTOL

Three matches (**Practical, Falling Plate and Moving Target Modified**) use the same START POSITION as for PA Service Pistol: i.e. hands shoulder high.

For the **Barricade Event** the starting position will be with the firearm holstered and the whole palms of both hands on the face of the barricade. The start position for this event does not specify where your hands must be on the barricade, only that the **palms of both hands are on the face of the barricade.**

WA1500

Competitor must start in the standing position. Competitor's hands may not touch the firearm or the holster before the targets start to turn or other fire commands are given.



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GOING FROM the START POSITION to the SHOOTING POSITION

STANDING – CLEAR OF SUPPORT (SP, AP, WA1500)

- Straight forward
 - Tummy pat with off-hand
 - Raise firearm from holster – strong hand only, always.
 - Raise firearm to target
 - Finger clear of trigger guard until at least 45°
 - Off-hand remains at tummy pat until firearm at least 45°

Note: for WA1500 semi-automatic pistol the firearm **MUST** be directed towards the target when racking the action!

STANDING – RIGHT BARRICADE (SP, AP)

- Straight forward
 - Tummy pat with off-hand,
 - Raise firearm from holster – strong hand only, always.
 - **NEVER** allow the muzzle to be directed at the weak hand!

STANDING – LEFT BARRICADE (SP, AP)

- Straight forward
 - Tummy pat with off-hand
 - Raise firearm from holster – strong hand only, always.
 - Transfer firearm to left hand (for a right-handed shooter)

The following are bit more complicated:

PRONE (SP, AP, WA1500)

- The barrel direction must be in a safe (downrange) direction
 - Tummy pat with off-hand
 - Raise firearm from holster – strong hand only, always.
 - Firearm raised at least 45° **BEFORE** you start to lower your body
 - (SP, AP) When in position release the safety, if applicable
 - WA1500 pistol, when in position rack slide and, if applicable, release the safety.

SITTING (WA1500)

- The barrel direction must be in a safe (downrange) direction
 - Tummy pat with off-hand
 - Raise firearm from holster – strong hand only, always.
 - Firearm raised at least 45° **BEFORE** you start to lower your body
 - Where applicable, when in position release safety
 - (Pistol) When in position rack the slide and, if applicable, release the safety.

KNEELING (WA1500)

- The barrel direction must be in a safe (downrange) direction
 - Tummy pat with off-hand
 - Raise firearm from holster – strong hand only, always.
 - Firearm raised at least 45° **BEFORE** you start to lower your body
 - Where applicable, when in position release safety
 - (Pistol) When in position rack the slide and, if applicable, release the safety
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