

AGC Holster Drawing Certification

Intent:

The purpose of this certification process is to allow select AGC Range Badge holders to be permitted to draw a loaded handgun from a holster in both private practice and for special events designated by the AGC EVP, including club events. This certification is NOT about personal protection at all. This certification would be best characterized as being primarily concerned with action shooting “games”.

Audience:

The “audience”, or qualified individual will be an “intermediate” handgunner as determined by the certifying instructor. This means that the student will have impeccable handling and safety habits. Marksmanship is not a prerequisite. A positive attitude IS required. Beginners are encouraged to practice both at home and at the range on their basic skills before attempting this certification. Taking the test or attending the classroom portion or the practical is NOT a guarantee of success.

The only passing score for the online test and practical will be 100%. There are no limits on the number of times the online test can be taken. There will be no “do-overs” on the practical on the same day. The successful candidate will also possess all of the proper equipment.

Please do not be intimidated by these requirements. We are here to help. Feel free to “audit” a session to see what it is about and ask questions.

Structure of Certification:

The certification will consist of three parts. The first part is to read the entire policy. Your learning of the information in the policy will be verified by an online test. The second part is a classroom portion where the rules of the policy will be covered, your gear will be inspected, and a quick demonstration of your ability will be assessed. The final part of the certification is a practical demonstration of skills in a stressful environment.

Administration:

The Chair of the Action Shooting Committee is responsible for the administration of this certification. The Chair is responsible for curriculum and testing procedure development and application. A certification may be revoked or suspended at anytime by the AGC EVP, the Action Shooting Chair, or their designee, including Club Range Officers or Match Directors.

After successful completion of all criteria, the member will be issued a special yellow badge with yellow lanyard and a serialized holographic sticker. The yellow badge and yellow lanyard must be clearly visible at any time the privilege of holster drawing is being exercised. No one is permitted to use a yellow lanyard that has not passed the appropriate certification process.

There is a one-time \$20 fee for the certification as of February 2016. This may change without notice by order of the Board of Trustees. Please go to the AGC website, click on “Online Purchases”, add the Holster Certification Fee to your cart and complete the

purchase. Please bring your receipt with you to certification and give it to the instructor along with your certificate of passing the test.

General Rules and Equipment:

- 1) Only strong-side, outside the waistband drawing from the hip will be permitted. No cross-draw, ankle holsters, thigh rigs*, and no drawing from any concealment.
*Thigh rigs will be permitted if issued by department or agency if LEO or MP for duty use.
- 2) Only gun-specific holsters of polymer, Kydex, or leather are permitted. Any leather holster must be form-fitted and retain a fully loaded firearm upside-down without a strap. (No nylon or other material).
- 3) Some form of retention is required. This can be passive retention as in friction holsters, or active retention holsters such as trigger guard, thumb-break, or twist retention. Multiple levels of retention are permitted.
- 4) The belt must be one designed for holster use. This can be a traditional-style belt, duty belt, or any belt specifically designed for use with an appropriate holster.
- 5) All shots must be aimed or have "sight picture". No shooting from the hip or other non-sighted shooting is permitted.
- 6) The certifying instructor has the final word on whether or not equipment is appropriate.
- 7) All other range rules are still applicable. A holster certification does not allow you to carry on AGC property nor keep a firearm holstered during a cease-fire during private practice.
- 8) You may only have a loaded gun holstered while on the firing line or when given the command to "make ready" or similar command by the RO.
- 9) Any gun with a safety must have it engaged at anytime it is holstered if the safety can be engaged when the pistol is not cocked.
- 10) Any gun with a hammer must have the hammer in the down position unless it is a single action pistol, in which case it must have the safety engaged (cocked and locked) while holstered after the command "make ready".
- 11) Private practice drawing is only permitted at the specifically designated locations at the far right of the pistol range.
- 12) The classroom and practical may be taken on different days to allow the member time to acquire appropriate equipment.
- 13) Classes must be taught in an approved classroom that permits drawing, and requires two instructors with a maximum of 5:1 for the classroom portion. Live fire must be a 1:1 instructor to student ratio.

14) Caliber used must conform to AGC pistol use on steel.

Any of the following will result in an immediate halt to the certification process and may result in suspension or termination of holster drawing privileges:

- 1) Bad attitude or arguing with the instructor or RO.
- 2) Any range rule violation or violation of any holster use rules.
- 3) Defective, broken, or inappropriate equipment.
- 4) Any accidental or negligent discharge.
- 5) Dropping your firearm whether it is loaded or unloaded.
- 6) Your finger within the trigger guard before you acquire a sight picture.
- 7) Loaning or accepting anyone else's certification badge or lanyard.
- 8) Any other determination by the instructor that certification should not be granted.
- 9) Any appeal of an instructor or ROs decision can be made to the Action Shooting Chair and / or the AGC EVP. Further appeals can be made to the entire Executive Committee. Executive Committee decisions can be appealed to the Board of Trustees. The decision of the Board is final. You must send your request to be heard by contacting the AGC Secretary at least two weeks in advance of either the Executive Committee or Board of Trustee meetings.
- 10) Anyone failing any part of the certification process may try again another day, but no less than one week later. (No same day do-overs).

Classroom Curriculum:

- I. Welcome / Administrative information
- II. No ammunition in the classroom! / Safety briefing
- III. Course overview
- IV. Rules
 - a. Applicable Range Rules
 - b. Holster drawing specific rules
- V. Explanation and demonstration of appropriate equipment
 - a. Holsters - Both gun and magazine
 1. Retention
 - a. Level I - Friction only
 - b. Level II – Index finger, thumb-break, twist, plus Level I
 - c. Level III – Usually a hood, strap, or shroud, plus Level II
 2. Placement
 - a. Strong side only
 - b. Grip at waist only for men, hip or waist for women
 - c. No concealment or clothing that could snag
 3. Material can only be polymer, form-fitted leather or Kydex-type and must be specifically designed for your handgun

- VI. Explanation and demonstration of proper drawing technique. **Bold** are the “four steps”
 - a. **Strong hand goes to gun**
 - b. Weak hand stays at side or goes to chest / ready position
 - c. Release retention if level II or above
 - d. **Draw gun with trigger finger indexed along slide**
 - e. Strong hand brings gun to chest
 - f. **Weak hand grips gun**
 - g. Extend arms or “press” out
 - h. **Acquire sight picture**
 - i. –Alternately, strong hand may join the weak hand at or near full extension.
–Remember, this is not self-defense
 - j. –Stance is optional, but isosceles triangle is preferred for games.
- VII. Students practice with their own equipment until they and the instructor are comfortable
- VIII. Explanation and demonstration of clearing firearm for re-holstering during sanctioned games

Practical:

The practical course of fire will include dry firing, single shot draws, firing to lock-back, and multiple shot draws with reload. Instead of a scoring target, the steel torso will be used at 10 yards. Safety and proper technique are the only requirements for the course of fire. Marksmanship and speed are mostly irrelevant as long as missed shots are hitting the impact berm.

Instructor: Proceed all timer starts with “Is the shooter ready?” ... “Stand by.” Alternately you may break the draw down into steps and then graduate to just a command of “draw” or “up”. It is the instructor’s discretion to adapt this as long as the minimum requirements are met. This section is a guideline rather than a specific requirement that must be followed verbatim.

Phase I – Standard Drills

Pistols: No ammunition, no magazines inserted unless you have a magazine disconnect.

Two Hand Strong

Command –Make ready.

Command – When instructed, draw and dry fire one round, holster. Repeat for a total of 10 times at will.

When compete have the shooter show clear, hammer down / decock and holster.

Pistols: Fill 1 magazine – Capacity or at least 10 rounds

Two Hand Strong

Command – Load and make ready.

Command – When instructed, draw, and fire one round. Holster and repeat for a

total of 10 times.

Command – Show clear, hammer down / decock and holster.

Pistols: Fill 2 magazines – Instructor's discretion – Must achieve lock-back at least twice.

Two Handed Strong

Command – Load and make ready.

Command – When timer starts, draw and fire (instructor discretion) X rds. in X secs., decock, engage safety, and holster.

Command – When timer starts fire X rds. in X secs.

Command – Reload, decock, engage safety, holster.

Repeat for second magazine

Pistols: Fill to instructor's discretion – Must perform at least two hot reloads.

Two Handed Strong

Command – When timer starts draw and fire X rds. in X secs., perform hot reload.

Command – Show clear, drop hammer / decock and holster an empty firearm.

Phase II - Shooting all targets / plates – having to clear condition 1 before holstering. This phase is optional, but fun and should be offered if time allows.

Pistols: Fill 2 magazines to instructor's discretion.

Two Handed Strong

Command – Load and make ready.

Command – When timer starts – Draw and fire until all plates are hit /down using both magazines if needed. Do not continue past 2nd magazine.

Command – Reload both magazines if needed, decock, holster.

Repeat for second string of all plates / targets.

Done!

Instructor and student sign certification.

Student gets badge from office.