



**SSAA (SA) Inc**

## **Holster Qualification Manual**

### **Action Shooting**

## Introduction

Action shooting is a generic term used to describe a number of shooting disciplines that share a common element of drawing a loaded handgun from a holster at the commencement of a course of fire.

These disciplines have been popular for some years and have been adopted in various forms by SSAA Inc independently, or by arrangement with international controlling bodies. Additionally, many SSAA Clubs have adopted International formats which are controlled by other Associations in Australia.

This manual describes a generic programme of prerequisites, training, assessment and on-going skills maintenance applicable to SSAA (SA) Inc Clubs.

Whilst these activities have some inherent risks, it is incorrect to say that action shooting is a risky sport. In common with all shooting sports and many other sports, the strict application of training, drills and practice under supervision is necessary to mitigate these risks.

Each SSAA (SA) Inc Club is responsible for ensuring that their club members have sufficient training and have the necessary knowledge and skills to remain safe at all times.

Each participant must be aware of his or her firearm safe handling obligations and practice them at all times.

This manual describes the training and experience that a member must have achieved before being accepted for holster training and the necessary knowledge base, drills and assessments that are required for the holster qualification.

Whilst there is a large degree of commonality between holster uses, each shooting discipline has a unique set of rules which govern how shooting is conducted and the competitive elements of the discipline such as the structure of matches. Hence, discipline specific aspects must be added to the common core described in this manual.

## Scope

Qualification in accordance with this manual is applicable to the following SSAA National Disciplines when shot within SSAA (SA) Inc Clubs.

- Action Match (including Steel Challenge)
- Combined Services (if applicable)
- Law Enforcement Activities – Australian Police Service Match
- Practical Shooting
- Single Action

**Qualification under this scheme should not be assumed to be acceptable for participation in registered events conducted under the authority of IPSC, SARPA or SASS.**

**Acknowledgement:** Some content, including photos, sourced from Pistol NZ “Holster Qualification Course Training Manual.”

## **Administration**

All functions associated with holster training and qualifications are in the hands of the relevant SSAA (SA) Inc Club.

These will include:

- The administration and record keeping of all aspects.
- The selection and training of members for Holster Qualification.
- The appointment of one or more appropriate Holster Trainer/Assessors.
- The issue of an appropriate SSAA (SA) Inc Holster Qualification Card.

## **Holster Trainer/Assessor**

The appointed Holster Trainer/Assessor(s) must be an accredited Firearm safety Instructor, a Range Officer and be Holster Qualified for the appropriate disciplines.

## **Eligibility for Holster training and qualification**

To be eligible to begin holster qualification training, a person must:

- be the holder of a current SSAA membership Card and
- be a member in good standing of the relevant SSAA (SA) Inc Club and
- must be the holder of a South Australian Firearms Licence for Category H firearms, Category 1 Club and
- must have completed Club handgun training and probation and
- have participated in the appropriate handgun competition, without holster use, to the satisfaction of the Club or Discipline Captain or Holster Trainer/Assessor as appropriate and
- be invited by the relevant Club or Discipline Captain or Holster Trainer/Assessor to participate.

## **Holster training programme**

The Holster Training and Assessment will include training in:

- the required approved holsters and associated equipment for the selected discipline
- how to wear the approved equipment for that discipline
- a test and assessment of the holster and associated equipment selected by the applicant (including handgun retention by the holster)
- a demonstration of the holster related actions by the Holster Trainer/Assessor (simulation without ammunition)
- trials of holster related actions by the applicant (simulation without ammunition)

The final two simulations without ammunition to include, but not be limited to:

- loading handgun and applying safety catch where applicable
- holstering the handgun
- drawing from the holster and engaging a target
- unloading and showing clear
- re-holstering

The student must perform simulations until the Holster Trainer/Assessor is satisfied that it is appropriate to proceed to live firing

## Live fire exercises.

The Holster Trainer/Assessor is to demonstrate basic exercises of loading, holstering, drawing, firing, unloading, showing clear, re-holstering

The Student is to perform basic exercises of loading, holstering, drawing, firing, unloading, showing clear, re-holstering at least three times, to the satisfaction of the instructor

Supplementary exercises including elements of a competition course of fire may be included at the discretion of the Holster Trainer/Assessor

## Holster competency assessment

The Student is to complete a short course of fire to include reload and/or barrier and/or weak hand at the discretion of the Holster Trainer/Assessor.

## On-going competency

Member retraining and re assessment is required for other disciplines or types of handgun, or for changes in discipline rules. A complete a reassessment exercise if not participating for a period of 12 months or more.

## Holster Training Resources and information

### Equipment and wearing it

In all cases, the minimum relevant equipment will include a belt which holds one or more holsters and suitable ammunition carriers.

With the exception of gun belts for Single Action, belts must be at waist level and where possible through the trouser belt loops. (Female shooters may be permitted to wear the holster belt lower than waist level.)

Holster positions typical of most disciplines are illustrated below and include conditions requiring the grip of the handgun to be at or above belt level and restrict the angle of the barrel from vertical. This angle typically, not pointing more than 1 metre from the shooters feet when standing relaxed and in no case at any part of the shooters body.





## **Handguns**

Action Match (including Steel Challenge), Combined Services, Law Enforcement Activities – Australian Police Service Match, Practical Shooting

Semi-auto handguns (May be single action, double/single action or double action).

Double action revolvers.

A variety of sights may be fitted, depending on the particular discipline rules.

Single Action shooting revolvers must be original or close replicas of single action revolvers of the Wild West or Australian Colonial period.

### **Common aspects:**

Each discipline involves loading a handgun in a designated loading area, applying a safety catch where applicable and holstering the loaded firearm, **all under the individual instruction and supervision of a Range Officer.**





The following may apply as appropriate:

- Single action semi-automatic handguns will be holstered with a round chambered, action cocked and safety catch applied.
- Double/single action semi-automatic handguns will be holstered with a round chambered and the hammer “dropped” using the safety catch/de-cocking lever.
- Single action semi-automatic handguns (striker fired like Glock or S&W M&P) will be holstered with a round chambered.
- Double action revolvers will be holstered with rounds chambered in all chambers, hammer forward (un-cocked) and any retaining devices used.
- Single action revolvers will normally be holstered with rounds chambered in all but one chamber and the hammer down on the empty chamber. Rules may permit loading all chambers where the revolver is fitted with a “transfer bar” or similar safety system which prevents the firing pin from contacting the primer unless the trigger is pressed to the point of discharge.

Following the completion of a stage, either holstering whilst loaded (under the conditions above) or unloading, showing clear and holstering unloaded will be required, all again under the direct instruction and supervision of the Range Officer.





At all times, muzzle direction control must be enforced and at no time, other than in the act of firing, is a finger to be placed inside the trigger guard. The shooter should look down at the holster when placing the handgun in it.

### The 5 Stage Draw for all except single action shooting

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p>Take a firm grip of the butt with the trigger finger extended and outside of the trigger guard. Non shooting hand must never be extended in front of the muzzle. If placed to the centre of the body as shown, possible muzzle sweeping is prevented and it allows for a quick, positive free style double grip to be taken.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p>Draw the pistol, immediately pointing the muzzle downrange with the finger out of the trigger guard.  The non shooting hand still restrained from moving forward.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p>As the muzzle breaks the 45 degree angle, or higher, the shooter may disengage the safety catch. (If fitted)  Then, if shooting free style, take a firm, two handed grip.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3 &amp; 4</b></p> <p>Take a sight picture and bring the trigger finger into the trigger guard lightly resting on the trigger.  When satisfied with the sight picture, take the shot and subsequent shots as appropriate.</p>

# Draw variations for Single Action Shooting

## Strong hand, right side holster

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p>Take a firm grip of the butt with the trigger finger extended and outside of the trigger guard.</p> <p>Non shooting hand must never be extended in front of the muzzle.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p>Pistol is drawn, with finger remaining outside trigger guard.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p>Weak hand follows to pistol</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p>Weak hand cocking</p>



**5**

Aim and fire, repeating the process for all 5 rounds (or 6 if permitted)



**6**

Once finished, commence re-holstering empty pistol by withdrawing weak hand and moving down towards holster



**7**

Look into holster whilst re-holstering



## Strong hand, cross draw holster



**1**

Start position, facing down range or another nominated direction.



**2**

Rotate body so that barrel direction will not be to the rear and will comply with discipline rules.

Commence draw by taking a firm grip of the butt with trigger finger outside the trigger guard.

Weak hand placed so as to prevent it being swept by muzzle.



**3**

Draw and take up two hand hold, trigger finger still outside trigger guard.



**4**

Cock pistol with weak hand.



**5**

Aim and fire, repeating the process for full 5 rounds.(or 6 if permitted)



**6**

Re-holstering using weak hand to assist, look into the holster and ensure that the muzzle direction does not breach discipline rules.

## SSAA (SA) Inc

### Holster Qualification Training and Assessment – Progress Checklist

**Club:** ..... **Trainee:** .....

**Prerequisite Eligibility Check for Holster Training - ..... Discipline**

SSAA membership number:	Club Membership No/Checked:
SA firearms Licence No Cat H1:	Completed Handgun training/probation: <span style="float: right;">Y/N</span>
Participated Discipline Shoots*: <span style="float: right;">Y/N</span>	Recommended by**:

\* Without the use of a holster.

\*\* Club/Discipline Captain or Holster Trainer/Assessor

#### Holster Training Assessment By Stages

Holster Competency Assessment	Date	Trainer/Assessor To Initial
Trainee demonstrates a satisfactory knowledge of the characteristics, function, handling and use of the handgun chosen for this discipline		
Trainee presents with appropriate Belt, Holster & Accessories, properly worn		
Demonstrates that holster retains handgun during match type activities		
Performs simulated draw, aim, fire, re-holster without ammunition		
Follows the direction of Trainer/Assessor without exception		
Keeps muzzle pointed in safe direction at all times		
Keeps finger outside trigger guard until past 45 degrees		
Performs simulated loading, holstering, drawing, firing, unloading, showing safe, re-holstering without ammunition (at least three times)		
Performs live firing exercises including loading, holstering, drawing, aiming, firing, unloading, showing clear and re-holstering (at least three times)		
Keeps muzzle pointed in safe direction at all times		
Keeps finger outside trigger guard until past 45 degrees		
Was accurate to a level acceptable to Trainer/Assessor		
Supplementary exercises, specify:		
Demonstrates a satisfactory knowledge of match procedures		

Qualification Card Issued by:..... Holster Trainer/Assessor

Signature:..... Date: ...../...../.....

# SSAA (SA) Inc Holster Proficiency Qualification Card

**South Australia**  
**QUALIFICATION CARD**



SSAA # \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

ISSUE DATE: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_


Issuing FSI: \_\_\_\_\_ FSI Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Holster Proficient

- Single Action
- Combined Services
- Action Match
- Practical Match
- LE Activities

**South Australia**  
**QUALIFICATION CARD**

*Joe Shooter*



SSAA # *123 456*

CLUB: *S50 Gun Club*

ISSUE DATE: *1 / 1 / 18*

Issuing FSI: *Bill Trainer* FSI Signature: *[Signature]*

Holster Proficient

- Single Action
- Combined Services
- Action Match
- Practical Match
- LE Activities