

Basic Firearms Proficiency Exam

The purpose of the firearm proficiency exam IS NOT to teach beginners how to handle and use a firearm. It is intended to establish and identify a base proficiency level among those who already shoot. It is important that this be understood, as the exam is to be considered a test of what you already know, not to teach fundamentals to those without a solid level of existing experience. That being understood, there are a number of things you will be expected to know and have prepared for before the exam.

- **Know, understand, and practice basic firearms safety.** Redundant as it may seem to state such obvious basics, there is no substitute for absolute safety. Reminding each other of the basics is as necessary now as it was the first time we handled a firearm. Experience brings confidence, but it can also bring complacency. Never allow that to happen.

1. Assume every gun to be loaded.

- Consider any firearm you have not just unloaded to be loaded and treat it accordingly.

2. Control the muzzle—point guns in a safe direction.

- You must decide what the safest available muzzle direction is and keep your firearm pointed in that direction. Never point a firearm at yourself or others.

3. Trigger Finger—keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.

- The natural instinct when picking up a firearm is to put your finger in the trigger guard. DON'T! This could cause an accidental discharge if the gun is loaded.

4. Target—be sure of your target and beyond.

- Never point your firearm at something you do not intend to shoot. Make sure you positively identify what you are shooting at and know what lies in front of and beyond it.
- Do not use telescopic sights as a substitute for binoculars when identifying persons, animals or objects.

- **Be familiar with the full operation of your firearm.** This means you are to know what cartridge is correct for it and have selected correct ammunition for firing. This means you know how to load and unload your firearm safely and correctly. This means you know the features of your firearm, its safety functions, and how to use them correctly.
- **Have your firearm ready to test with.** This means you have sighted in your firearm, know what it feels like when discharged, and have practiced with it to an extent that you feel comfortable and confident with its use.
- **Be familiar with a few basic but specific Range Safety Rules:**
 - Firearms will remain holstered or otherwise secured when not on the designated firing line.
 - Firearms will remain holstered or otherwise secured while on the designated firing line unless otherwise instructed. This will be designated in the following manner:
 - **FIRING LINE IS COLD**—means all firearms must be holstered or otherwise secured in a manner that there is no physical ability to discharge them. This is the only time anyone will ever be allowed forward of the firing line for ANY reason—no exceptions.
 - **FIRING LINE IS WARM**—means loading your firearm is permitted and the firing line is preparing to commence firing.
 - **FIRING LINE IS HOT**—means the firing line is cleared to fire.
 - **CEASE FIRING**—means stop firing **IMMEDIATELY**, bring your firearm to a safe position regarding muzzle and trigger discipline, and await instructions from the Range Master. (ANYONE may declare a cease-fire if they see anything that may be questionable to safety.)
 - Observation of general safety practices are everyone’s responsibility. If you observe any unsafe act, the individual committing the act needs to be notified of the violation immediately, as does the Range Master. Disciplinary actions may vary according to severity of the infraction, but may include the violator being asked to leave immediately.
 - The Range Master has final authority in all matters regarding safety and function of the range.

Everyone participating in the Firearm Proficiency Exam will be expected to know and understand the points outlined above prior to arrival. All are implemented for the purpose of maintaining safety. There will be no exceptions made where firearms and personal safety are concerned. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that eye and ear protection be utilized. It is not “required”, as you are responsible for making your own decisions and will be accountable to yourself for the loss of either sight or hearing as a result of neglect.

Basic Handgun Qualification

Basic handgun qualifications will take place on a 7-Yard range. The target will be 18"x18", and blank with the exception of a colored aiming dot marking the center. Firing will be timed to 1-minute, during which a full magazine up to 10 rounds will be fired (higher capacity magazines are to be loaded to 10 only—more is not necessary for evaluation purposes and conserving ammo is important to everyone during the current shortage). Revolvers will be gauged at one full cylinder.

Timed at 1-minute, this allows for between 6 and 10 seconds between shots—ample time to place every shot in a carefully aimed manner. The purpose of this exercise is to evaluate your consistency of breath control, trigger squeeze, and sight alignment. There are no point-rings or bulls-eye objectives. So long as all rounds are on the target, the shot group location on the target is not critical. Firing during both heats of the basic handgun qualification will take place from a drawn—ready position, not from a holstered ready position. Later courses will address holstered draw—fire exercises, awkward positions and situational effects. This qualification will not be covering those.

The handgun qualification will consist of two heats. The first will be your choice of stance with your preferred grip. 100% hits on the target with 100% grouped inside the 6" grouping template are required. The second heat will be your choice of stance with your non-dominant hand. This can be a two-hand grip so long as your handgun is controlled and fired from your non-dominant hand. 100% hits on target with 80% accuracy inside the 6" grouping template are required.

****Basic Handgun Qualification will be required for any further participation in later, more advanced handgun workshops and events.**

Basic Rifle Qualification

Basic rifle qualification will take place on a 100-Yard range. The target will be 18"x18", and blank with the exception of a colored aiming dot marking the center. Firing will be timed to 2-minutes, during which 5 rounds will be fired. The additional minute added to the time is being allowed for rifles using a fixed magazine that may have a capacity of less than five rounds to allow for reloading. All magazines capable of five or more will load no more than five rounds.

As with the handgun qualification, the purpose of this exercise is to evaluate your consistency of breath control, trigger squeeze, and sight alignment. Again, there are no point-rings or bulls-eye objectives. So long as all rounds are on the target, the shot group location on the target is not critical.

The Basic Rifle Qualification will contain two categories with independent evaluation according to the rifle sight system used. Telescopic optics must group within a 3" template with all rounds fired. Non-telescopic sights must group within a 6" template with all rounds fired.

Basic Rifle Qualification will contain only one heat firing from a position of preference so long as it utilizes only natural support, personal gear such as a rolled jacket, or a fixed attachment of the rifle (bi-pod). Benches, sleds, or any other form of mechanical support is forbidden.

Optional Advanced Rifle Qualification may be pursued immediately if your 5-shot group falls within a 1.5" template for telescopic sights or a 3" template for non-telescopic sights. To obtain Advanced Rifle Qualification, the original target will be reset. An additional 5-shot group will be fired. The second group must also be within a 1.5" template for telescopic sights or 3" template for non-telescopic sights, AND be grouped no farther from the first group than the measure of the template used—center-to-center of each group.

****Basic Rifle Qualification will be required for any further participation in later, more advanced handgun workshops and events.**