

USPSA CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose

The United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and ethical environment for all participants. This Code of Conduct defines the standards of behavior expected from all USPSA members and participants in USPSA activities. Adherence to this Code is essential to protect the integrity of the sport and ensure a positive experience for everyone involved.

Application

This Code of Conduct applies to:

1. All USPSA members (individual and club)
2. All participants in USPSA sanctioned events
3. USPSA staff, contractors, and volunteers
4. Board members, committee members, and officials
5. Spectators and guests at USPSA events

Relationship to Bylaws and Other Policies

This Code of Conduct is subordinate to the USPSA Bylaws and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with them. In the event of any conflict between provisions of this Code and the Bylaws, the Bylaws shall prevail. This Code is also intended to work in conjunction with other specific USPSA policies and procedures.

Core Values

USPSA members and participants are expected to embody the following core values:

1. **Safety:** Prioritizing the physical safety of all persons at all times
2. **Integrity:** Acting honestly and ethically in all aspects of participation
3. **Respect:** Treating all persons with dignity and courtesy
4. **Fairness:** Supporting equal opportunity and fair competition

5. **Responsibility:** Taking personal accountability for one's actions and their consequences

Standards of Conduct

Safety and Compliance

All USPSA members and participants shall:

1. Adhere to all safety rules and protocols established by USPSA and host venues
2. Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding firearms
3. Report safety concerns immediately to appropriate officials
4. Never participate while impaired by alcohol, drugs, any substance, or medical condition that could affect safe participation
5. Follow all match official instructions regarding safety
6. Maintain control of firearms and equipment to ensure safety of all persons

Sportsmanship and Fair Play

All USPSA members and participants shall:

1. Compete honestly and ethically
2. Treat match officials with respect
3. Follow established procedures for appeals and challenges
4. Win with humility and accept defeat with dignity
5. When interacting with fellow competitors, be respectful, helpful, and kind
6. Maintain self-control at all times during competition and USPSA events

Respect and Inclusion

All USPSA members and participants shall:

1. Treat all persons with respect regardless of age, race, gender, nationality, ability, or experience level
2. Refrain from any form of discrimination, harassment, or intimidation
3. Use appropriate language and avoid profanity or offensive gestures

4. Welcome new participants
5. Contribute to a positive and supportive environment

Organizational Integrity

All USPSA members and participants shall:

1. Refrain from actions that would bring disrepute to the organization or sport
2. Behave in a manner that reflects positively on the sport of practical shooting
3. Disclose potential conflicts of interest if engaged or considered to be engaged in official business with USPSA
4. Handle organizational resources responsibly
5. Maintain confidentiality of sensitive information about members or the organization if such information is received, regardless of how it was obtained
6. Follow the decisions and policies established through proper governance channels, while using appropriate avenues for proposing changes or expressing concerns
7. Provide accurate information in all USPSA-related matters

Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors are expressly prohibited:

1. **Violation of Opportunity to Participate**

- Denying or threatening to deny any eligible individual the opportunity to participate in USPSA administrative activities or sanctioned events without just cause
- Any discrimination that prevents eligible participants from equal access to USPSA programs, events, or activities

2. **Unsafe Firearms Handling**

- Pointing firearms in unsafe directions
- Loading firearms outside designated areas
- Violating established safety rules and procedures

- Failing to follow Range Officer safety commands

3. Nonconsensual Physical Contact and Threatening Behavior

- Any intentional nonconsensual physical contact directed toward members, volunteers, staff, or bystanders
- Using threatening language or conduct
- Any nonconsensual sexual conduct, pattern of unwelcome sexual advances, or other inappropriate sexually oriented behavior

4. Causing Credible and Material Risk

- Any act, conduct, or omission that causes a credible and material risk to the safety of USPSA members or others present during USPSA activities
- Disregard for established safety protocols that endangers others

5. Fraud and Misrepresentation

- Any act of fraud, deception, or dishonesty in connection with any USPSA-related activity
- Knowingly providing false information including name, date of birth, age, or credentials on USPSA membership applications or event entries
- Deliberate falsification of scores or classifications

6. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- Cheating or attempting to gain unfair advantage
- Interfering with another competitor's performance
- Exhibiting disruptive behavior during competitions
- Refusing to follow Range Officer instructions

7. Disrespectful or Abusive Behavior

- Physical or verbal abuse of any person
- Threatening or intimidating behavior

- Discrimination or harassment based on protected characteristics
- Bullying or hazing activities
- Malicious criticism or personal attacks

8. Organizational Misconduct

- Misuse of USPSA funds, equipment, or resources
- Unauthorized use of USPSA logos, trademarks, or materials
- Personal attacks or defamation against USPSA employees, volunteers, and non-elected committee members, that go beyond legitimate criticism of policies, decisions, or elected officials
- Improper influence of USPSA processes or decisions

9. Other Prohibited Actions

- Criminal activity at USPSA events or while representing USPSA in an authorized capacity
- Retaliating against those who report Code violations
- Deliberately damaging facilities or property
- Any other conduct determined by the Board to be detrimental to USPSA
- Any other acts deemed unsafe according to USPSA rules

Free Expression

USPSA respects members' rights to express their opinions freely, including on social media and public forums. This Code does not seek to police general member expression or legitimate criticism offered in good faith. However, personal attacks, defamation, or communication that constitutes prohibited conduct as defined in this Code may be subject to review and potential disciplinary action.

Reporting Violations

1. Any person who believes this Code has been violated should report the alleged violation to one of the following, selecting the most appropriate channel based on the nature of the violation:

- The Match Director or Chief Range Officer (for competition-related incidents occurring during an event)
- The Section Coordinator or Area Director (for violations within a specific Section or Area)
- The USPSA National Office (for general violations or organizational concerns)
- The Discipline Committee (for serious violations or when other channels have not adequately addressed the concern)"

2. Reports should include:

- Date, time, and location of the incident
- Names of persons involved and witnesses
- Description of the alleged violation
- Any supporting evidence or documentation

3. USPSA prohibits retaliation against anyone making a good faith report of a Code violation.

Enforcement and Discipline

1. Alleged violations will be processed according to Section 3.08-3.10 of the USPSA Bylaws.

2. The Discipline Committee will:

- Investigate reported violations
- Determine if a violation occurred
- Ensure due process for all parties involved

3. Potential sanctions include:

- Verbal or written warning
- Required education or training
- Probation with specific conditions

- Suspension from participation for a defined period
 - Match disqualification or score invalidation
 - Revocation of classification or credentials
 - Termination of membership
 - Permanent ban from USPSA activities
4. Factors considered in determining sanctions include:
- Severity of the violation
 - Prior history of violations
 - Impact on others and the organization
 - Acceptance of responsibility
 - Willingness to make amends
5. Appeals of disciplinary decisions shall follow the process outlined in Section 3.10 of the USPSA Bylaws.

Special Provisions for Officials and Leaders

USPSA Board Members, Officers, Staff, Range Officers, and Committee Members shall:

1. Exercise additional care to model appropriate conduct
2. Maintain high standards of professionalism
3. Use their positions solely for the benefit of USPSA and its members
4. Make decisions impartially and without favoritism
5. Disclose and recuse themselves from matters where conflicts of interest exist

Amendments

This Code of Conduct may be amended by the USPSA Board of Directors in accordance with the amendment procedures outlined in the Bylaws.