

“From the Holster” CCW/Self-Defense RSO Program

I. BACKGROUND

The El Dorado Gun Club (EDGC) hosts a wide variety of shooting disciplines and activities. Each of these is different from the next, in terms of the course of fire, the equipment used, the skills exercised, the rules followed, and the experience of the participants.

This diversity of activity is one of EDGC’s strengths, but it also places heavy demands on the Range Safety Officers (RSOs) who are supervising these activities.

In addition to having a strong background in the discipline they are supervising (to include a knowledge of the skills, rules and equipment), Range Safety Officers must be knowledgeable about the unique safety issues associated with the particular discipline, and must properly control the shooters and range environment to ensure safety and efficiency. Additionally, an RSO must be capable of safely conducting the activity with shooters of varying skill levels, ranging from novice to expert.

As a result of these demands, a degree of specialization is required for RSOs supervising certain shooting activities at EDGC. While a basic RSO certification is sufficient to supervise certain activities where environmental controls and procedures are in place to help mitigate risk (i.e., Open Pistol or Open Rifle), RSOs supervising activities that involve greater risk, including dynamic movement, less-restricted angles of fire, and drawing from the holster, must be trained to a different standard. In the same way that we wouldn’t expect a basic-certified, “Open Pistol RSO” to run the Trap Range, with its unique requirements and procedures, we cannot expect the same RSO to safely run a USPSA match or CCW/Self-Defense practice.

II. SCOPE

This document will address the selection, training and evaluation criteria for an EDGC RSO to become certified to supervise Concealed Carry (CCW)/Self-Defense training activities that involve drawing a firearm from a holster. Individuals who want to become certified to supervise action pistol activities (Action Pistol RSO) will have to meet different requirements, described in another document.

A prospective candidate must first meet the selection criteria, then successfully pass the required training and evaluation before he/she can become certified to supervise CCW/Self-Defense activities at EDGC (“CCW/Self-Defense RSO”).

Once an individual is certified as a CCW/Self-Defense RSO, he/she must comply with the currency requirements listed in Section VI. to maintain the certification.

III. **CCW/SELF-DEFENSE RSO**

Becoming CCW/Self-Defense RSO is a privilege, not a right. That “privilege” places an extraordinary amount of responsibility on the shoulders of the CCW/Self-Defense RSO (with no material or financial compensation).

Qualified persons who desire to become a CCW/Self-Defense RSO will contact the SRM. Candidates who meet the selection criteria will advance to the Knowledge and Skill blocks. Candidates who pass the Knowledge and Skill blocks will then enter the CCW/Self-Defense RSO Training Program.

At this time (June 2021) the maximum number of Lead CCW/Self-Defense RSO’s is five (5). A Lead CCW/Self-Defense RSO’s can reserve CCW/Self-Defense sessions and are responsible for the conduct of their shooters, assistants and all activity (drills, safety protocols, etc.) during their session. The SRM has the discretion to raise or reduce the number of Lead CCW/Self-Defense RSO’s.

There is no maximum number of Assistant CCW/Self-Defense RSO’s. Assistant CCW/Self-Defense RSO’s cannot reserve a range for a CCW/Self-Defense session and must work directly under a Lead CCW/Self-Defense RSO. Assistant RSO’s must complete the same Selection and Training requirements as a Lead CCW/Self-Defense RSO. When there is an opening for a Lead CCW/Self-Defense RSO an Assistant RSO can apply for the position.

IV. **SELECTION CRITERIA**

CCW/Self-Defense practice sessions must be Safe, Practical and Rewarding. To ensure these elements are experienced, a candidate must be committed to becoming a CCW/Self-Defense RSO. Meeting the Selection Criteria is the candidate’s first opportunity to demonstrate their commitment.

The selection criteria for CCW/Self-Defense RSO training include the following:

- Minimum of 21 years of age
- EDGC Member for a minimum of twelve months
- Active EDGC RSO
 - “Active EDGC RSO”, for this document, is defined as: The candidate has hosted a minimum of eight (8), three-hour Open Pistol, Open Rifle or Trap sessions during the previous twelve-month period, including having hosted a minimum of two sessions within the four months prior to applying.
 - The intent of this requirement is to demonstrate sustained commitment.
 - No history of cancellations or failures to show without proper notification/coordination for scheduled volunteer sessions.
- Attended a minimum of four (4) CCW/Self-Defense practice sessions within the four months prior to applying.

- CPR Certification
- Documented training in traumatic wound care and tourniquet application
- Physically able to conduct a CCW/Self-Defense practice session.
 - Includes the ability to provide close proximity supervision to participating shooters at all times, and the ability to physically intervene to stop a dangerous situation from progressing.
- CCW permit holder
 - This requirement may be waived if the candidate has applied for and been denied a CCW permit because the Sheriff or Police Chief (where the candidate resides) does not issue CCW permits or is excessively restrictive in their issuance.
- Four years of documented experience working “from the holster,” such as:
 - Armed law enforcement officer
 - CCW permit holder
 - Action pistol (i.e., USPSA, IDPA) participant (minimum of six (6) matches yearly)
 - EDGC CCW/Self-Defense practice participant (minimum often eight (8) practices yearly)
 - Attended an average of 16 hours of self-defense-oriented pistol training annually, over a period of four years (64 hours total), with at least 16 of these hours being completed in the twelve months immediately prior to application.
 - EDGC reserves the right to disqualify training from consideration that is deemed inappropriate, insufficient, or of low quality.
- Successful passage of required knowledge and skill tests
 - General: There are four Knowledge and Skill blocks that are tested. Each block must be successfully passed before progressing to the next block. The entire testing process may take place on the same day or over a series of days.
 - Grading: Passing score for a written or oral test is 85%. Passing score for the marksmanship test is 80%. A candidate is permitted two attempts to pass the Block 4 Test (Marksmanship). The other three blocks (Firearms Knowledge, Applied Knowledge, Handling and Manipulation) may only be attempted once.
 - Candidates who pass the written or oral/hands-on tests with a score between 85% and 99% must obtain and present the correct answers (via “open book” and/or Q&A) before advancing to the Marksmanship block.
 - Remediation: If the candidate fails any of the blocks, they have failed “Selection” and must wait a minimum of 30 days before reapplying. A second failure at Selection results in a minimum 180 day waiting period before reapplying.
 - Block 1 Test (Firearms Knowledge)

- Using a diagram, candidate will “fill in the blanks” concerning the nomenclature and function of the major components and controls of semiauto pistols and revolvers
- Block 2 Test (Applied Knowledge)
 - Pass a written and/or oral evaluation (85% passing score) on EDGC: *From the Holster: Rules, Policies and Procedures*
- Block 3 Test (Handling and Manipulation)
 - Pass a hands-on and oral evaluation using the candidate’s everyday carry (EDC) firearm, holster and clothing (cover garment)
 - The test will assess basic gun handling skills, to include:
 - Presentation from the holster and holstering
 - Concealed and Open carry
 - Ready positions
 - Loading and unloading semiauto pistols and revolvers
 - Reloading semiauto pistols and revolvers
 - Clearing malfunctions in semiauto pistols and revolvers
- Block 4 Test (Marksmanship)
 - B-8 target, 20 rounds, 15 yards, 10 minutes
 - Pistol must be on the candidate’s CCW permit or inspected and passed by the EDGC Senior Range Manager (SRM)
 - Safety violation(s) will result in a DQ and cause the candidate to fail Block 4
 - Trigger pull must meet factory specs for make and model
 - Acceptable sighting systems
 - Iron sights
 - Optical (“Red Dot” style) sights
 - Lasers
 - Start position: Pistol is loaded and holstered, shooter stands facing the target with hands at sides or in front of the body.
 - Audible start signal
 - Course of fire
 - The shooter has 10 minutes to fire twenty (20) rounds from the 15-yard line while standing, freestyle
 - No outside shooting support may be used i.e. sandbag, vertical barricade, stock on pistol, etc.
 - No alibis
 - Multiple mags may be used
 - Shooter must remain standing
 - Shooter may re-holster between shots
 - Scoring
 - Pass/Fail

- Hits outside of the black bullseye (X, 10 and 9-ring) are scored as a MISS. Bullet hole must break the outside circle of the bullseye to be a hit.
- Shots fired over the 10-minute time limit are scored as a MISS.
- Shooter must achieve a minimum total of 16 bullseye hits to pass (80%).
 - The candidate is allowed two attempts to pass (attempted within the same hour). If the candidate fails to pass the second attempt, they have failed the Marksmanship block.

IV. **TRAINING PROGRAM**

When a CCW/Self-Defense RSO candidate meets the selection criteria in Section III of this document, he or she enters the Training Program.

- General: The training program consists of four blocks: Apprenticeship; Written/Oral/Hands-On Testing; Qualification Course of Fire, and Blind Course of Fire.
- Grading: Each block must be successfully passed/completed before progressing to the next block.
- Remediation: If a candidate fails any block, he or she must return to Block 1 (Apprenticeship) for an indeterminate amount of time before being allowed to advance to Block 2 again.
- Block 1 (Apprenticeship)
 - The Candidate must serve as an assistant RSO for a minimum of eight (8) "From the Holster" practice sessions (apprenticeship sessions for the candidate).
 - These sessions must include opening and closing the session
 - A minimum of two (2) sessions must be with a different supervising CCW/Self-Defense RSO.
 - There is an art to supervising a CCW/Self-Defense practice as well as protocols that must be adhered to.
 - During their apprenticeship, candidates will be evaluated on their ability to:
 - Plan, organize and hold a CCW practice session
 - Anticipate, prevent, and correct range safety errors and hazards
 - RSO/supervise training sessions that incorporate dynamic drills for groups as large as ten (10) shooters
 - Objectively judge a shooters skill level
 - Inspire trust and confidence in subordinate shooters, fellow RSO's and SRM and LRM
 - Additionally, candidates will be evaluated on their:
 - Leadership during a CCW/Self-Defense practice session
 - Leadership during chaotic, unscripted situations
 - Professionalism

- Interpersonal skills
- Competency (gun handling, marksmanship, knowledge of self-defense tactics and law, etc.)
- Interaction with, and supervision of, subordinate shooters
 - Selected subordinate shooters will be asked to evaluate the candidate's competency, leadership and professionalism.
 - Subordinate evaluations will be conducted through the SRM. Evaluations can be written and/or oral. Oral evaluations will be conducted individually, for privacy
- Block 2 (Written, Oral, and Hands-On Testing)
 - Grading: A CCW/Self-Defense RSO candidate must score 85% or higher. Candidate has one attempt to pass.
 - Subjects tested will include:
 - Firearm safety
 - Dynamic range management
 - Marksmanship
 - Gun handling
 - California Laws of Self-Defense
 - Armed Self-Defense: Strategy, Tactics, Skills
 - Books and Documents on the required reading list in Section VIII
 - Candidates who pass the written or oral/hands-on tests with a score between 85% and 99% must obtain and present the correct answers (via "open book" and/or Q&A) before advancing to the Qualification Course of Fire.
- Block 3 (Qualification Course of Fire)
 - Course is shot from concealed carry. The shooter wears his/her every day concealed carry clothing, pistol and holster. Safety violation(s) will result in a DQ and cause the candidate to fail Block 3.
 - NOTE: The qualification must be shot with a semiautomatic pistol, even if the candidate normally carries a revolver for CCW. This is to ensure the candidate is capable of supervising shooters armed with semiautomatic pistols, which constitute the overwhelming majority of firearms used by students at EDGC
 - Start position: Pistol is loaded and holstered, shooter stands facing the target with hands at sides or in front of the body, unless a different position is specified
 - IDPA target
 - Audible start signal
 - Course of fire (25 rounds total)
 - Stage 1: (10/5 yards, 6 rounds, 12.0 seconds, two magazines: one with 2 rounds and one with 4 rounds)
 - Load 2 round mag first
 - Shoot 2 rounds body freestyle

- Reload while moving to 5-yard line, shoot 1 round head freestyle
 - Using strong-hand-only, shoot 3 rounds body
- Stage 2: (10 yards, 6 rounds, 13.5 seconds, three magazines loaded with 2 rounds each)
 - Unloaded pistol (with slide forward) on top of barrel
 - Candidate stands behind barrel facing down range with wrists above shoulders
 - Three 2 round mags on top of barrel (no stacking)
 - Upon audible start signal, load and shoot 2 rounds body freestyle
 - Repeat load and shoot 2 rounds body freestyle
 - Repeat load and shoot 2 rounds body freestyle
- Stage 3 (7 yards, 5 rounds, 12.5 seconds, one magazine loaded with 5 live rounds and 3 dummy rounds)
 - Instructor will load the mag. The first and last rounds are live rounds.
 - Upon audible start signal, diagonally step backwards, left or right, one step, while drawing and shoot 5 rounds body freestyle. All non-firing rounds must be cleared via “tap and rack”
- Stage 4 (5 yards, 2 rounds, 1.25 seconds, one magazine loaded with 2 rounds)
 - Begins with pistol indexed on target
 - At signal, fire 2 rounds on body freestyle. First round must be fired within .25 seconds of audible start signal
- Stage 5 (2 yards, 6 rounds, 5.0 seconds, one magazine loaded with 6 rounds)
 - Box Drill, two IDPA targets
 - Candidate faces up range with wrists above shoulders
 - Upon audible start signal, candidate turns, draws and shoots drill freestyle
 - Shoot 2 rounds body on first target
 - Shoot 2 rounds body on second target
 - Shoot 1 head on second target
 - Shoot 1 head on first target
- Scoring
 - Scored as Pass / Fail
 - All rounds must be fired at or under par time for the respective stage
 - All hits must be in the “down zero” (-0) body and head circles (no misses permitted)

- Remediation: The candidate is allowed three (3) attempts to pass. If the candidate fails to pass the third attempt, they have failed the Qualification Course of Fire.
- Block 4 (Blind Course of Fire)
 - When the candidate passes the Qualification Course of Fire he or she moves to a “Blind Course of Fire.” This unpublished course of fire will test the candidate’s ability to adapt and perform on demand. Safety violation(s) will result in a DQ and cause the candidate to fail Block 4.
 - General characteristics:
 - 10-20 rounds total
 - Distances from 3-20 yards
 - Multiple targets (1-4)
 - Multiple strings of fire (1-4)
 - Scored as Pass/Fail

V. **CERTIFICATION**

After successfully completing the Training Program the candidate must be certified by the SRM. As part of certification process, the SRM has the option of conducting an oral interview with the candidate. When a candidate is certified, the certification is forwarded to The Board of Directors for their review.

VI. **CURRENCY**

In order to remain certified, a CCW/Self-Defense RSO must meet the following yearly requirements:

- Work a minimum of eight (8) CCW/Self-Defense sessions as RSO or Assistant RSO
 - Under special circumstances Open Pistol or Open Rifle sessions can be substituted for some of the CCW/Self-Defense sessions
- Pass a Qualification Course of Fire
- Attend a Self-Defense oriented pistol course or seminar (minimum 4 hours)

VII. **AUTHORITY**

The Board of Directors has ultimate authority over approval or disapproval of CCW/Self-Defense RSO’s.

- The Senior Range Manager has the authority to waive, modify or change Selection and Training criteria.

VIII. **REQUIRED READING AND VIEWING LIST:**

Items may be added to, or deleted from, the required reading list at the discretion of the SRM.

- El Dorado Gun Club publications
 - *EDGC RSO and RSO Apprentice Duties and Responsibilities*
 - *From the Holster: Rules, Policies and Procedures*
- Books/Publications on Mindset
 - *Principles of Personal Defense*, by Jeff Cooper
 - *Jeff Cooper’s Color Code of Awareness*
 - Handout provided by EDGC SRM

- *Col. Boyd's OODA- LOOP*
 - Handout provided by EDGC SRM
- Books/Publications on the Law of Self-Defense
 - *The Law of Self-Defense*, by Andrew Branca
 - *California Department of Justice: California Firearms Laws Summary*
 - Candidates are only responsible for the section titled, "Use of Lethal Force in Self-Defense" on pages 8-10 of this publication
 - Available at:
<https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/firearms/pdf/cfl2016.pdf>
 - *Firearm Safety*, California Department of Justice
 - Available at: <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips>
- CCW Specific Books/Publications
 - *Concealed Carry Class*, by Tom Givens
 - *CCW Handouts*
 - Provided by EDGC SRM
 - CCW Videos
 - Provided by EDGC SRM
- Books/Publications on Marksmanship and Gun Handling
 - *The Art of Modern Gunfighting*, by Scott Reitz
 - *Marksmanship and Gun Handling Handouts*
 - Provided by EDGC SRM
 - Marksmanship and Gun Handling Videos
 - Provided by EDGC SRM