



PCC handling and range commands

At the recently completed Optics Nationals, we held a short session with the staff on PCC handling and range commands. As the match began, it was clear that a simple range command worked for clearing PCC's as efficiently as handguns. There really is only one change in the range commands with these carbines, and that's on the "If Clear..." command.

The proper command is: "If clear, hammer down, flag." The word "flag" substitutes for the word "holster", and should not be any harder to learn than the commands for revolver. *Different, not difficult.* The competitor simply closes the bolt, pulls the trigger (dry firing the PCC), and then opens the bolt to insert the flag. After the flag is in the PCC, the muzzle goes straight up or straight down, and the range can be called clear. Simple and straightforward.

Another issue that we resolved in a fairly simple manner was casing and uncasing PCC's. The rules allow for this at any side berm or backstop, as long as the PCC is flagged, it's considered safe to handle (no sweeping, etc., of course). Casing and uncasing are the only things you can do at a side berm or backstop, however. If you need to fiddle with the gun, check the sights, etc., you must do that at a safe area or under the direct supervision of a range official. When the PCC competitor comes to the start position, the range command, "Make Ready" allows him to handle his carbine, load it, take a sight picture, and prepare for the stage, same as handgun. Someone needs to retain the flag for later use—we recommend the competitor hang onto it.

8.3.7.1, PCC: "If clear, hammer down, flag". While continuing to point the carbine safely downrange, the competitor must perform a final safety check of the carbine by closing the bolt on an empty chamber, pulling the trigger, and then inserting the chamber flag or locking the bolt open. The carbine must then be transported with the muzzle reasonably vertically up or down, while scoring is done, and then off the stage to a rack or case. Carbines may also be cased and transported off the stage in the case. When casing PCC's, the muzzle must point at a side berm or backstop. Failure to point the muzzle at a side berm or back stop during casing will result in a DQ per PCC 10.5.2.1

PCC 10.5.2.1 Failing to point the muzzle at a side berm or back stop during casing or uncasing, or sweeping any person with the muzzle of a PCC, whether loaded or not, even if a chamber flag is inserted. Side berms/backstops may be used for casing and uncasing only. All other gun handling with the PCC, e.g., sight pictures, turning dots on/off, etc., must be accomplished in a safety area or under the direct supervision of a Range Officer.