

Vale Steel Challenge

Steel Challenge is a sport which measures the shooter's ability to engage targets with speed and accuracy while observing firearm safety at all times. It is a worldwide competition administered and sanctioned by the Steel Challenge Shooting Association ([SCSA](https://www.steelchallenge.com/)).

Steel Challenge is one of the most inviting shooting sports for new shooters and especially juniors. That is because the rules are simple, the game is easy to understand, the equipment can be very basic and inexpensive, and the matches are always family-friendly.

This game is often described as "The drag-racing of the shooting sports" because the emphasis is on speed and the targets are relatively large. Beginners can be successful and enjoy the game very quickly, but it takes a great deal of effort and practice to achieve faster times and higher proficiency.

All eight of the official stages are normal for our matches. These stages are standardized across the globe so everyone who participates in the sport can compare their performance and track their relative rank against everyone else (see [SteelRankings.com](https://www.steelrankings.com/)).



New Shooter Information

If you are a new shooter or parent of a prospective new shooter, please read this section:

You are welcome to come shoot this match, BUT PLEASE DO NOT BUY ANY GUNS, AMMO, OR GEAR FIRST. You can come and watch a match before you play, but you will have more fun if you dive right in.

We will provide you with a rifle or pistol and all the magazines and ammo you will need to shoot your first match. No charge, no obligation, no kidding -- we love introducing new shooters to the sport.

Steel Challenge is a great match to get you started in the shooting sports or to hone your skills as an advanced shooter. For an introduction to the sport, please watch this video:

<https://youtu.be/fni4BlduAYY?si=ydg8bksIIb6n5Rzm>

Safety and Equipment

Snake River Sportsmen Club operates a COLD range, which means all firearms will be unloaded and not handled outside the designated safety area or other areas at the direction of the Range Safety Officer.

Eye and hearing protection are mandatory to be worn by everyone at all times once a match has started. This includes spectators that may not be participating but are only watching.

Any rimfire (.22LR) pistol, rifle, or revolver, or center fire (9mm, .380, or .45 ACP) semi-automatic pistol, center fire double action revolver, or PCC (pistol-caliber carbine) is allowed.

5 magazines or 6 speed loaders are recommended.

Rimfire pistols and rifles as well as PCCs start at “low ready”. For center fire pistols, any rigid side draw holster covering the trigger and in good condition is acceptable. NO cross draw, pocket, or shoulder holsters!

Kids ages 8 to 17 are welcome and always shoot free, but must be supervised by a responsible adult for the entirety of the match. This is also a great match for seniors and for people with certain kinds of physical impairment because this is not a “run-and-gun” sport.

Check our [calendar](#) or our [club page on PractiScore.com](#) for match dates and times.



Safety Rules

We follow the [SCSA](https://scsa.org/rules) rule set, which you are encouraged to review:

- <https://scsa.org/rules>

Some of the **more important rules and common issues** are listed below:

- Please watch this safety briefing prior to arrival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwO1cyPQqoc>
- Firearms must be cased, holstered or locked open until it is your turn to shoot and you are under the command of the Range Safety Officer.
- All firearms are to be pointed in a safe direction downrange at all times and roughly parallel to the ground. This is sometimes called “the 180 rule.”
- Only load when instructed to do so.

- Your firearm must be unloaded and hammer down (for center fire) at the end of your stage. Methodically remove the magazine, rack the slide, drop the hammer (except for rimfire), all while keeping the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
- Do not point your muzzle at yourself or anyone else (aka don't "sweep" anyone).
- Anyone observing unsafe conditions must loudly call "cease fire." If cease fire is called or something else unusual happens (for example squib load, hang fire), stop and wait for instruction.
- Finger off trigger unless you are actually shooting.
- No unsportsmanlike conduct (see SCSA rules Section 10).
- Dress appropriately – pants and sturdy shoes are a must (see SCSA rules Section 5).
- The safety area is for holstering, dry firing, getting situated. Do not handle live ammunition in the safety area.

Please see the [Range Operations Guide](#) for further details.