

## Advanced Firearms Course – Important Information

Your enrollment and participation in the Advanced Firearms Course does not guarantee that an unrestricted concealed carry license will be issued to you. Successful completion of the Advanced Firearms Course is just one of several requirements for the issuance of an unrestricted concealed carry license.

A permit-holder who has completed the Advanced Firearms Course must submit an amendment form to the Sheriff's Office in which he or she requests the issuance of an unrestricted concealed carry license. The submission of this amendment initiates a completely new investigation into the permit-holder's:

1. Background;
2. Character and fitness;
3. Mental health history;
4. Criminal history (any prior arrest will have a significant impact on whether an unrestricted concealed carry license will be granted);
5. Moral character;
6. Prior and/or current illegal use of controlled substances;
7. Immigration/naturalization status;
8. Military experience and discharge status;
9. Ability to follow directions and abide by the instructions of the Sheriff's Pistol License Office and the Licensing Officer/Judge.

This renewed background investigation is conducted despite the fact that one was completed at the time that the original hunting and target license was issued.

**Please be sure to carefully consider all of the above before enrolling in the Advanced Firearms Course, which is a significant investment in time and resources.**

Additional Note: All applicants taking the Advanced Firearms Course must receive a grade of 85% or more on the written portion of the examination (part 1). Any grade below 85% on the written examination is marked as a fail. Applicants who fail will not be permitted to continue to the firearms testing (part 2) necessary to complete the shooting range portion of the Advanced Firearms Course.

**SARATOGA COUNTY ADVANCED FIREARM COURSE FOR AN UNRESTRICTED  
PISTOL LICENSE INFORMATION SHEET**

An advanced training course has been developed in Saratoga County that will be a prerequisite for obtaining an unrestricted concealed-carry pistol license. Registration for this course, minimum proficiency requirements, and other important information are provided herein:

**I. COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

- \* Pre-registration and payment for the course is required. The course fee of \$200 must be submitted at the time of course registration to one of the listed certified instructors authorized by Saratoga County. The applicant will forfeit the fee if he or she fails to appear for the course.
- \* All applicants **MUST** have a valid "Hunting/Target" pistol license for at least 1 year prior to applying for this course.
- \* The applicant must present their valid pistol license and a photocopy of the license to the instructor when he/she arrives to attend the course.
- \* If a course participant is unsuccessful in showing firearm proficiency during the required qualification of live-fire he or she may reapply after 90 days. **There will be a \$50.00 administrative fee charged to reapply.**

**II. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

- \* The course will last a minimum of 8 hours and consist of (1) classroom instruction in the law; (2) best practices of safe handling, firing, storage, and maintenance of firearms; and (3) live-fire qualification. Students must attend the **ENTIRE** class to qualify.
- \* Enrollment of the class is limited to 15 students. Participants must take and pass the written examination consisting of 32 multiple choice and true/false questions. Students must score at least 85% in order to pass the written examination.
- \* Participants must also pass the live-fire qualification course on the range and score at least 85% on this course.
- \* Applicants must show they can safely operate, handle, and store their firearm at all times during their course participation. Any participant who fails to follow the best practices of firearm safety or otherwise acts in an unsafe manner will be summarily dismissed from the course without any refund of their \$200 application fee.

## **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS** (Continued)

- \* It is recommended that each applicant engage in substantial practice in the safe handling and firing of his or her firearm before registering for this course. Class instruction alone on safe and proficient ways to use a firearm may be insufficient for the applicant to properly prepare to pass the live-fire component of this course.
- \* If a course participant is unsuccessful in passing ***EITHER*** the written or live-fire portion of the course he or she will be required to retake the failed portion of the course no sooner than 90 days from the original course date. The \$50.00 administrative fee to reapply will be charged.
- \* If the participant fails to retake the shooting portion of the course between 90 and 180 days from the date of the original course he or she will be required to reapply for the entire course at which time the full-cost of the course will be charged.
- \* The lead instructor will award certificates of completion to each participant who successfully completes the course. A copy of the certificate must be presented with the applicant's *Firearms Amendment* application for an unrestricted concealed-carry pistol license.
- \* Certificates remain valid for up to 6 months from the date of course completion.
- \* ***SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ISSUANCE OF AN UNRESTRICTED CONCEALED-CARRY PISTOL LICENSE. THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH A LICENSE IS AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE LICENSING OFFICER.***

### **III. COURSE CURRICULUM**

- \* New York State Penal Law provisions including but not limited to the SAFE Act; Article 35 (justification of the use of force); reporting requirements for the theft or loss of a firearm or ammunition; where it is lawful to carry and possess a firearm; and proactive awareness of surroundings, home, and car while carrying a firearm. ***Classroom instruction on Penal Law Article 35 must be provided by an attorney licensed to practice in New York State.***
- \* Unrestricted concealed-carry requirements such as choosing the correct holster and location of the holster on your person.
- \* The safe operation and handling of your firearm including discussion on cartridge components and types of cartridges, malfunctioning ammunition, shooting stances, sight alignment, and drawing from the holster.

## **COURSE CURRICULUM** (Continued)

- \* The written examination will follow classroom instruction. The instructor will collect all answer sheets and written test questions from each participant upon completion of the test. Participants may not retain the test questions.
- \* **All cell phones will be collected by the instructor at the beginning of the course and returned at its conclusion. Cell phone use during the course is strictly prohibited.**

## **IV. LIVE-FIRE COURSE - GENERAL PROCEDURES**

- \* Participants must arrive on the range at the stated time with the properly registered firearm that they intend to use for qualification.
- \* Participants must have their firearm unloaded and properly secured in either a suitable hard or soft case. The weapon must be clean and in safe operating condition.
- \* Participants are required to have 150 rounds of commercially produced center-fire ammunition. **Rim-fire ammunition is not acceptable.**
- \* Participants are required to use suitable eye and ear protection at all times while on the range without exception.
- \* Participants may use any semi-automatic pistol or revolver with a barrel length of 8" or less. **Only center-fire pistols are authorized.**
- \* Participants must bring a holster or other carry device (e.g. fanny pack, hand bag) suitable for carrying his or her firearm in a concealed manner.
- \* All firearms will be inspected by an instructor to verify that is in proper working order and adheres to the requirements specified herein.
- \* Upon instruction from the range officer the participant will approach the firing line and place his or her carry device and unloaded firearm on the table.
- \* Participants will not load their firearm until directed to do so by the instructor.

## **LIVE-FIRE COURSE - GENERAL PROCEDURES** (Continued)

- \* When directed to do so by the instructor the participant will prepare their firearm for live-fire by either loading a magazine (semi-automatics) or speed loader (revolvers).
- \* Upon inspection and direction by the instructor the participant will stand at the firing line with their loaded firearm and come to the low-ready position (firearm pointed downrange towards target at 45 degree angle).
- \* Each participant shall be allowed to fire 1 qualification course for practice prior to taking the actual qualification course. The same procedures and course-of-fire as the actual qualification course will be utilized.
- \* The qualification course will begin upon the instructor's command. Each participant will have 2 opportunities to achieve a passing score on the live-fire portion of the course.
- \* All malfunctions are to be cleared by the participant under the direct supervision of an instructor.
- \* No "alibis" are allowed.
- \* Upon the "cease fire" command from the instructor the participant will remove the magazine from the firearm and lock the slide to the rear (or open the cylinder and remove any remaining ammunition in the case of a revolver); perform a safety check of the firearm to ensure a safe and unloaded weapon and have its condition as such verified by an instructor; close the slide or cylinder after confirming a safe and unloaded weapon; secure the safe and unloaded weapon in its carrying case or holster; and step away from the line with all equipment.
- \* Any participant who witnesses unsafe behavior may call "cease fire" at any time.
- \* If both attempts at completing the live-fire course are unsuccessful the participant will be required to retake that portion of the course as described herein.

V. **COURSE OF FIRE**

- \* The live-fire portion of the course shall utilize the *NRA AP-1* target and shall be scored utilizing the *NRA Action Shooting Pistol Rules, Section 4.2* (see below).
- \* In the event a participant is unable to fire the specified number of rounds during the time allowed for any portion of the live-fire course he or she will be required to continue to the next course of fire and the number of rounds fired during the previous course of fire and their corresponding scores will be counted at the conclusion of the live-fire course. Failure to fire the prescribed number of rounds in the time allotted for any of the courses-of-fire will not result in the automatic disqualification of a participant.

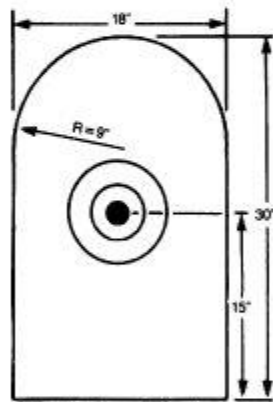
**4. TARGETS**

**4.1 Official Targets-**In NRA Sanctioned competition, only targets printed by NRA Licensed Manufacturers, bearing the Official Competition target seal will be used. Use of an additional aiming mark or marking is prohibited.

**OFFICIAL TARGET DIMENSIONS**

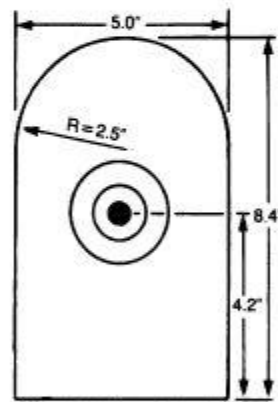
**4.2 Precision Target Events-NRA AP-1** (paper or cardboard). The target will be of the configuration and dimensions described in Fig. 1. Targets may be made of paper or cardboard. All scoring lines will be of low visibility. (Refer to Sec.14 for scoring procedures) The cardboard target must have printed on it the words "NRA AP-1 Official." Cardboard used must have no treating for weather or other purpose.

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X Ring: 4" diam. = Tie breaker  
 A Ring: 8" diam. = 10 points  
 B Ring: 12" diam. = 8 points  
 C Remainder: = 5 points

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 Fig. 1-Precision Target, NRA AP-1 (Trademarked as the "Bianchi Target") (Paper or cardboard)



X Ring: 1.12" diam. = Tie breaker  
 A Ring: 2.24" diam. = 10 points  
 B Ring: 3.36" diam. = 8 points  
 C Remainder: = 5 points

X Ring: 1.12" diam. = Tie breaker  
 A Ring: 2.24" diam. = 10 Points  
 B Ring: 3.36" diam = 8 Points  
 C Ring: Remainder = 5 Points  
 Fig. 2-Precision Target, NRA AP-2 (Paper), reduced.

**COURSE OF FIRE** (Continued)

\* **Practice Round - 50 rounds (qualification course)**

\* **Qualification**

**15 YARD LINE: 8 rounds in 40 seconds with a reload.**

**10 YARD LINE: 12 rounds in 40 seconds with a reload.**

**\*NOTE\* - For revolver or semi-automatic with 5 round capacity this course of fire will be 12 rounds in 60 seconds with a reload.**

**7 YARD LINE: Total of 18 rounds fired in 2 phases:**

**PHASE 1: 6 rounds in 2 round increments.**

**\*NOTE\* - For revolver or semi-automatic with 5 round capacity it shall be acceptable to reload to complete this course of fire (e.g. 2 rounds, 2 rounds, reload, 2 rounds).**

**PHASE 2: 12 rounds in 40 seconds with a reload.**

**\*NOTE\* - For revolver or semi-automatic with 5 round capacity this course of fire will be 12 rounds in 60 seconds with a reload.**

**3 YARD LINE: 12 rounds fired in 2 phases:**

**PHASE 1: 6 rounds in 2 round increments.**

**\*NOTE\* - For revolver or semi-automatic with 5 round capacity it shall be acceptable to reload to complete this course of fire (e.g. 2 rounds, 2 rounds, reload, 2 rounds).**

**PHASE 2: 6 rounds in 6 seconds.**

**\*NOTE\* - For revolver or semi-automatic with 5 round capacity it shall be acceptable to reload to complete this course of fire (i.e. 5 rounds in 5 seconds, reload, 1 round in 1 second).**

**VI. NON-QUALIFICATION SKILL DEMONSTRATION**

\* Participant will practice drawing from concealment from his or her holster utilizing a range-supplied training firearm that is incapable of discharging a live round.

\* Participant will utilize the aforementioned range-supplied training firearm that is incapable of discharging a live round to draw and simulate firing 5 rounds on an *NRA AP-1* target.

**VII. COMPLETION OF THE COURSE**

- \* The written examination will be scored prior to any live-fire. Participants who do not achieve a passing score on the written examination will not be allowed to continue to the live-fire portion of the course.

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND CLERICAL**

- \* As some of the courses of fire are time-specific it is recommended that participants are familiar with the use of speed clips when using a revolver prior to attending this course. In the event a participant chooses to use a semi-automatic pistol it is recommended that they are familiar with changing magazines in a timed setting.
- \* Targets for scoring are not required to be saved for submission to Saratoga County. Ranges that choose to do so may at their own discretion.
- \* Saratoga County does not conduct registration for the course. As such, questions pertaining to this topic should be directed to the individual organizations that provide the course. A list of these organizations is located for review at:

[www.saratogacountysheriff.org/pistol-permits-2/](http://www.saratogacountysheriff.org/pistol-permits-2/)