

## Welcome to the UKPSA

The following few pages are intended to help you to get the most out of your membership of the United Kingdom Practical Shooting Association (UKPSA). It gives some background information about many aspects surrounding the UKPSA and shooting in practical events, regardless of the chosen discipline. Whilst it does provide a lot of the basic information, we would encourage you to ask questions online and seek clarification from your fellow competitors as you progress through your IPSC career.



## How the UKPSA operates

The UKPSA is the governing body of International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) practical shooting in Great Britain. It administers the sport, sanctions all levels of national competition, selects the National Teams, organizes safety training courses and maintains discipline and rules within the sport.

Founded in 1977, the UKPSA represents Practical Shooting on the British Shooting Sports Council and maintains close liaison with other shooting organizations, representing the interests of the sport and of its members to all authorities.

The UKPSA is administered by a council consisting of seven executive officers, namely the President, Vice President, Chairman, Regional Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer together with Regional Organizers, Discipline Secretaries and other co-opted members. All members of the council are shooters, who are experienced in IPSC shooting.

The UKPSA is a registered charity and has three Trustees comprising of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All active practical shooters who join the UKPSA automatically become members of IPSC, allowing them the opportunity to shoot in any IPSC match in any discipline anywhere in the world.

## Benefits of UKPSA membership

Along side this information, you have been sent your membership card. You may be required to show this card when attending sanctioned matches (to help prove your eligibility to enter if not confirmed by other means) or may even be asked to show it to your firearms licensing department to prove membership of the UKPSA, as further justification of your good reason for owning certain firearms.

As a member of the UKPSA, you are also covered by our insurance policy for your shooting activities throughout the United Kingdom. As with any legal insurance documents, you should be conversant with your coverage before utilizing it, to ensure your activities are protected. Full details of this policy can therefore be found on the UKPSA forum, or at the following address: <http://www.ukpsa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Corporate-Schedule-1856872-UK-Practical-Shooting-Association-2019.pdf>

As a member you may speak, vote, introduce proposals and also stand for office at general meetings of the Association should you wish. You have the right to consult the minutes of the Association and also to attend Council meetings as an observer. There is an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in January of each year, and your attendance to this is encouraged. The AGM provides a good opportunity to update yourself on UKPSA activities, meet likeminded competitors, and vote in matters affecting your association.

Members of the UKPSA may also qualify for classification awards, hold titles and trophies and be selected to the National Squads or to UKPSA teams at overseas competitions in other IPSC member states. Members also have the experience and expertise of the Association and their fellow members to call upon, generally via the Forum (see below), if advice or support is needed. Indeed the UKPSA welcomes novice shooters and equally represents shooters of all ages and abilities, and specifically recognizes junior, lady, and senior classes and actively supports National teams for both men and women alike.

The UKPSA has regional reps, who are available to assist you in numerous ways. They can direct you to established clubs in your area, help provide advice on setting up new clubs, upgrading existing facilities, and many of them also hold positions on working committees with the local licensing authorities in their area, so can often assist with matters in this regard too.

## The IPSC

The International Practical Shooting Confederation has its own website which contains information about practical shooting worldwide. You can visit the site at [www.ipsc.org](http://www.ipsc.org). IPSC also have their own Forum known as the Global Village. You may join the forum and take part in the many discussions about all aspects of practical shooting. This is a great source of information for international competitions.



Visit <http://ipsc.invisionzone.com> to sign up

## Competitions

There are five levels of IPSC competition, three levels of competition are held in the UK on a regular basis. You are encouraged, before entering your first competition, to familiarize yourself with the rules of that discipline. At level II and above, it is required that you have passed a safety course, and a component of this is coverage of the rules of that IPSC discipline. A working knowledge of the rules will allow you to maximize your potential in any competitions you enter, and assists in maintaining the impeccable safety record practical shooting has.

## Postal Leagues

The UKPSA runs a number of Postal Leagues throughout the summer and winter. These are open to all (including non UKPSA members) and are free to enter. They are ideal for practicing your practical and gun handling skills within your club environment. To find out more about the UKPSA Postal Leagues visit <https://www.ukpsa.co.uk/postal-league/ukpsa-postal-leagues/>

## Level I

Held at club level this is a match supported by but not sanctioned by the UKPSA. The organiser may allow non UKPSA members to participate and set their own level of prizes, if any. These may take the form of a club shoot or be part of the UKPSA Open Leagues in the various disciplines.

## Level II

These matches are sanctioned by the UKPSA; the course of fire would have been reviewed by and approved by a UKPSA course reviewer. All competitors taking part must be current members of the UKPSA and possess a competition license for the discipline or disciplines that is/are being shot at the match. Depending upon the size of the event, and its attendance, the level of prize giving at these events may vary.

## Level III

These are our National Championship competitions. These are of a higher standard than Level II and the course of fire is approved by IPSC. Again, only UKPSA members with a competition license may take part at this level. These matches are open to competitors from across the globe too. Likewise, members of the UKPSA may take part in Level III matches abroad, it is important to note that this must be agreed, in writing with the Regional Director before you can compete. For Regional director sign off procedures please visit <https://www.ukpsa.co.uk/out-of-region-sign-off-policy/>. Levels of prize giving at level 3 matches are a much grander affair, with multiple prizes and trophies for different divisions and categories of shooter within those.

## Level IV & Level V.

These are matches that are solely authorized by IPSC. These are continental matches such as the European Championships, or World Championships. Again you need to the permission of the Regional Director to take part in these competitions as the UKPSA will be allocated a number of "slots" or places at the event and you will need to apply early if you wish to shoot. Often the Slots are restricted to the teams that are going to be entered.

## Entering Competitions

There are a number of matches taking place throughout the year in the various recognized disciplines, and these are published on the UKPSA Forum, distributed to you via email, and publicised on the UKPSA website and Facebook. These will often link you to a registration site such as Practiscore or Shoot 'n' score it. On these sites, you will receive brief details of the competition and its location, the course of fire, how to enter each match, the cost of entry, ammunition requirements and any other pertinent details.

## Information about UKPSA Events

In the main, you will get your information by logging onto the UKPSA Forum at <http://ukpsa.invisionzone.com>. This is open to members only and access will only be granted when you have completed the membership process. Here all sorts of topics are discussed and it is a gold mine of information and advice for new members in particular. Information about competitions and results are also published. If you go to the Forum there are instructions on how to sign up and log in to gain access - this is password protected, so please sign up using a password you will be able to recall.

The UKPSA also has an active Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/583650372019208/>, as well as a number of discipline specific groups, where up to date information is posted along with photos from the many UKPSA events taking place. Please visit and like our page to automatically receive information from Facebook.

Aside from the above, when you subscribed via the Go membership system, you will have selected some opt ins, if you agreed, you will receive news from the UKPSA via email, and the UKPSA website [www.ukpsa.org](http://www.ukpsa.org) is also a good location to find out the latest activity.

Coverage of UKPSA teams and events is also increasingly being undertaken by gunroom.tv. Whilst it is not necessarily a means of all future news, they may run announcements from time to time, and publicise some major events. There is also a lot of past coverage available, so visiting their dedicated UKPSA channel at [www.gunroom.tv/channel/ukpsa/](http://www.gunroom.tv/channel/ukpsa/) will give you a good insight into the practical shooting community and competitions held so far that they have covered.



## Training Courses

The UKPSA is committed to maintaining the highest standards of training, and ensuring that all shooters are trained to a common syllabus. This reinforces our excellent safety record. Safety courses are run by volunteer instructors who are experienced in and accredited by the UKPSA for that discipline. There are two safety courses that run, one for long firearms (shotgun, mini rifle etc.) and one for short firearms (LBP, LBR and Action Air).

Members are encouraged to enrol on a safety course as, although it is not mandatory for level I competitions, it provides a good level of basic skills to improve your competency and safety. Members should note you may be required to travel to an affiliate club who will host the safety course if you do not have a UKPSA instructor based at your own club. Safety courses generally take two days to complete but can be taught in modular fashion depending on how the instructor wishes to deliver the course.

Please register your interest to participate in a UKPSA Safety Course by completing the Training Enquiry Form which, can be found on the UKPSA website <https://www.ukpsa.co.uk/safety-courses/>

Once you have passed a Safety Course you are then qualified to enter any Level II and above competition, a UKPSA Competition License for the requisite discipline will be issued. A non UKPSA member passing the safety course can join the Association within 6 months and gain their competition license with no further training, after this period further training or a validation check will be necessary.

For more information regarding UKPSA Training and details on the UKPSA Competition Licence system, particularly maintaining its currency once you have qualified, please visit the UKPSA website and download the UKPSA Training Guidance Handbook <https://www.ukpsa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UKPSA-Training-Guidance-Revision-02-October-2019-Uncontrolled-Copy.pdf>

## **NROI**

Other training courses, such as those required for qualifying as Range Officials and Instructors are also run. Dates for these are posted on the Forum, Facebook page and the website as they are announced.

## Grades and UK Championships.

The reason for the IPSC Classification System (ICS) is to have the ability to rank competitors both nationally and internationally and to provide Regions with their own vehicle for true peer-to-peer recognition. ICS is a dynamic system. Classifications may move up or down based on a competitor's performance.

Classifications are calculated by Divisions. Competitors may submit scores for each Division in which they wish to be classified.

Individual records are calculated by comparing a Competitor's stage hit factor to the highest hit factors for the ICS stage. The competitor's result will be their hit factor divided by the top average hit factor for that stage. As competitors record their scores, the class percentages might change to reflect better times at the top. This method accurately reflects all performances relative to each other.

A competitor achieves initial classification after 4 scores. Classification will be based on the average of the best 4 scores of the most recent 8 submitted.

In order to maintain a Classification, competitors must keep current IPSC membership (automatic as part of UKPSA membership) and submit scores for a minimum of two Classification Stages or one Classifier Match each calendar year. Competitors may be removed from the ICS system at the end of the second consecutive year where no scores are submitted.

The British Champions are awarded purely from the Level III Championship matches where the total of your scores are added together. The Annual Handgun and Long Barrel Firearm Champions are determined from a series of LII matches.

## NITSA

The Northern Ireland Target Shooting Association has partnered up with the UKPSA to facilitate full bore handgun shooting for UKPSA members. The rules for UKPSA members at NITSA can be found at <https://www.ukpsa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/NITSA-Rules-2.pdf>

There are a series of competitions held over at NITSA, including a monthly level I competition, and a range of handguns available only to UKPSA members for these, or just for practice.

Detailed procedures for the use of this facility can be found by joining the UKPSA handgun facebook group.

## Safety

It goes without saying that safety is always paramount in practical shooting, and the UKPSA actively prioritizes safety above any other consideration. In line with the strict safety requirements, eye and ear protection are mandatory for all UKPSA matches. Only one shooter completes a course of fire at a time, strictly supervised one on one, by a trained and qualified Range Officer. It is not unusual on occasions for there to be two or even more officials supervising one individual shooter. Infraction of any significant safety rules invokes immediate disqualification from the match. Overall, to date, all practical shooting disciplines have an exceptional safety record.

## Shop

UKPSA branded merchandise such as gun slips, targets, and stickers/badges etc are available for you to purchase from the UKPSA shop. Please visit the website and go to the shop to look.

<https://www.ukpsa.co.uk/ukpsa-shop/>

## UKPSA Clothing

Clothing, such as competition shirts and mid layers with the UKPSA logo embroidered or printed upon them are available to purchase by members. At the moment these are ordered as demand requires, and posts are published online on Facebook and the website when a new order is being compiled. Going forward, once the processes are finalized, these will be available to purchase from the UKPSA Website, but a date for this is not yet finalized as yet.