

# STEEL CHALLENGE: LET'S TALK ABOUT CLASSIFICATION!

I get a lot of questions about the Steel Challenge Shooting Association (SCSA) Classification System. My intention is to try to **simplify the Steel Challenge Classification System** and answer any questions you may have. The full classification policy is listed below:

BY STEVE FOSTER

## STEEL CHALLENGE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

**ALTHOUGH** similar to the USPSA classification system in concept, the Steel Challenge classification system is independent of the USPSA classification system and has its own policies, as follows:

1. Only stages that bear "SC" numbers (SC-101, SC-102, etc.) are used for classification.
2. A minimum of four stages per division are required for classification.
3. Stages will not be included in the classification calculation until the activity fee for that match has been paid by the club hosting the match.
4. If you have shot a stage more than once, your best stage time will count.
5. A stage time is the aggregate time for the stage from a match (total of the best 4 of 5, or 3 of 4, times for the stage in a match).
6. Only stages shot in the current or previous two calendar years are used for classification.
  - o All classifiers are included in the initial classification run on July 4, 2016, without regard to the two calendar year limit. This was done so that competitors who had a high score from a match more than two calendar years ago, and before this classification system was released, would get the classification those scores earned.



7. Your classification percentage can go down; however, once you earn a classification (A, B, etc.) it will not go down.
8. Stages that have been assigned a default of 30 seconds per string (120 seconds on a 5-string stage, 90 on a 4-string stage) are considered DNFs and are not included in your classification calculation.
9. Your classification percentage is calculated as follows:
  - o Your total time for all classifier stages that you shot is added up
  - o The total "peak times" for the stages you shot is added up
  - o Your percentage is defined as total\_peak\_time/total\_stage\_time
  - o Your percentage is mapped to a classification
10. USPSA headquarters cannot process manual corrections to scores. If a score or division is incorrect, contact the match director and request corrected scores be uploaded. If a score cannot be corrected, USPSA staff can mark it



The Steel Challenge Classification System overview is located at the following link:  
<https://steelchallenge.com/classificationSystem.php>

"invalid" (not to be used in classification)

11. Classifications are calculated early Wednesday morning on a weekly basis. This time was chosen to minimize the chances of a classification changing during a match.

## CLASSES

Class	Range
GM	$\geq 95\%$
M	$\geq 85\%$
A	$\geq 75\%$
B	$\geq 60\%$
C	$\geq 40\%$
D	$\geq 0\%$



# The Place For PCC

## CLASSIFICATION STAGES

Abbrev	Stage
SC-101	5 to Go
SC-102	Showdown
SC-103	Smoke & Hope
SC-104	Outer Limits
SC-105	Accelerator
SC-106	The Pendulum
SC-107	Speed Option
SC-108	Roundabout

## PEAK STAGE TIMES USED FOR CLASSIFICATION

	Division	SC-101	SC-102	SC-103	SC-104	SC-105	SC-106	SC-107	SC-108
CO	Carry Optics	13.0	10.0	10.0	14.0	11.0	13.0	13.0	10.0
ISR	Iron Sight Revolver	13.5	12.0	10.5	14.5	13.5	13.5	14.0	11.5
LTD	Limited	13.0	10.0	10.0	14.0	11.0	13.0	13.0	10.0
OPN	Open	12.0	9.0	9.0	13.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	9.0
OSR	Optical Sight Revolver	12.0	10.5	10.5	14.0	14.0	14.0	12.5	10.0
PCCI	PCC Iron	11.5	9.0	8.5	12.5	10.0	11.5	11.0	9.0
PCCO	PCC Optics	11.0	8.5	7.5	12.0	9.5	10.5	10.5	8.5
PROD	Production	13.5	10.5	10.5	14.5	11.5	13.5	13.5	10.5
RFPI	Rimfire Pistol Iron	11.0	9.5	8.5	13.0	10.0	12.0	11.5	9.0
RFPO	Rimfire Pistol Open	9.5	8.0	7.5	11.0	9.0	10.0	10.5	8.0
RFRI	Rimfire Rifle Iron	11.5	9.0	8.5	12.5	10.0	11.5	11.0	9.0
RFRO	Rimfire Rifle Open	11.0	8.0	7.5	12.0	9.5	10.0	10.0	8.0
SS	Single Stack	13.5	10.5	10.5	14.5	11.5	13.5	13.5	10.5

## CLASSIFICATION DIVISIONS

Abbrev	Division
CO	Carry Optics
ISR	Iron Sight Revolver
LTD	Limited
OPN	Open
OSR	Optical Sight Revolver
PCCI	PCC Iron
PCCO	PCC Optics
PROD	Production
RFPI	Rimfire Pistol Iron
RFPO	Rimfire Pistol Open
RFRI	Rimfire Rifle Iron
RFRO	Rimfire Rifle Open
SS	Single Stack

## COMMON QUESTIONS:

**Q: Do I have to be a member of USPSA to be classified?**

A: Yes. You need to have a USPSA number for you to be classified.

**Q: If I am classified in USPSA as an A Class, what is my classification in SCSA?**

A: Your classification in USPSA has no bearing on your classification in SCSA or vice versa.

**Q: Do I need to be a member of USPSA to participate in a Level II match or higher?**

A: Yes. You need to be a member to participate in these events. At this

time, Level I matches do not require you to be a USPSA member, but it is highly encouraged. As of January 2019, Level II matches or higher will require membership.

**Q: What is your opinion of the benefit of the Steel Challenge Classification System?**

A: There are two main benefits of the classification system. One, you can track your performance as a shooter; this helps in goal setting and the self-motivation process. Two, if the required number of entries is reached for recognition at Steel Challenge Matches there will be awards given.

**Tier 1 (club)** – minimum of three, but I don't know of anyone who gives out awards at club matches.



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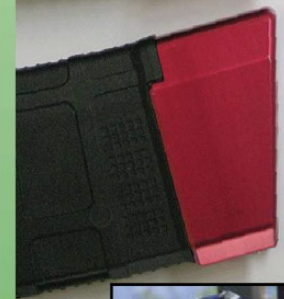
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with Xtra  
power spring



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## DESIGN

Every PCC pattern (except Glock) uses a thumbscrew-and-gasket lock system.  
Easy on, easy off, NO TOOLS.

## QUALITY

Everything is CNC'd in-house, by shooters! 100% made in USA.

**Tier 2 (state)** – minimum of five is recommended, but Match Director can use any schedule he wants.

**Tier 3 (area or higher)** – 10 or more per class.

## Q: What is a category, division, classification?

A: A division is the type of equipment used in a match; i.e., Single Stack is a 1911 style gun with a set guidelines of magazine capacity, holster location etc. A Classification is the level of proficiency achieved in a division; GM or Grand Master is the highest level of classification. Category is meant for special recognition such as “Junior” where competitors are under the age of 18.

## Q: How many stages do I need to shoot in order to be classified?

A: Four stages need to be shot at a SCSA (Steel Challenge Shooting Association) affiliated event. Note: all eight current Steel Challenge stages are ‘classifiers’ at affiliated match events.

## Q: Why haven't I seen the scores posted for my classification updated?

A: The classification system is updated once a week on Wednesday at 8a.m. EST. If you shot a match on Saturday and it is Tuesday,

you need to be patient and wait a day. If it is the Wednesday after the match and you still have not seen your times updated, contact the match director. Some common setbacks include that payment to SCSA has not been made for the scores to be posted. If you see 0/0/00 by the match, that means the activity fee hasn't been paid yet and those results won't be used for classification until they are.

## Q: When do peak times change?

A: At a minimum, the peak times are reviewed and evaluated once a year. If a change needs to be made, there is no current limitation on when these changes can be made. The initial classification system was implemented on July 4, 2016 and there have been two updates to peak times for certain divisions. These updates are made typically after the World Speed Shooting Championship.

## Q: I still don't understand the math for classification, can you explain it to me?

A: Let us use an example and we will assume this is our first match and we are not

classified. We are going to focus on PCCO this year. Here is a breakdown for all stages, classifications, and Classification times for each Classification, for PCCO;

I shot my local SCSA match and they are affiliated with USPSA. My times are as follows:

**Five to Go = 12.15 secs**

**Smoke and Hope = 8.02 secs**

**Outer Limits = 14.00 secs**

**Accelerator = 9.25 secs**

**The Pendulum = 10.54 secs**

**Roundabout = 9.12 secs**

There are two different ways to look at classification: 1) what is my classification on a stage, and 2) what is my total classification for the division? In the First Example, in order to find your classification on a stage you take your Peak Time for the division and Stage and divide it by the time you shot. In our example, you would take your time for Five to Go (12.15) and divide it by the Peak Time for the division and stage (11.00) to get

	Division	Five to Go	Showdown	Smoke and Hope	Outer Limits	Accelerator	The Pendulum	Speed Option	Roundabout	Total
PCCO	PCC Optics	SC-101	SC-102	SC-103	SC-104	SC-105	SC-106	SC-107	SC-108	Total
95%	GM	11.00	8.50	7.50	12.00	9.50	10.50	10.50	8.50	78.00
85%	M	11.55	8.93	7.88	12.60	9.98	11.03	11.03	8.93	81.90
75%	A	13.28	10.26	9.06	14.49	11.47	12.68	12.68	10.26	94.19
60%	B	16.60	12.83	11.32	18.11	14.34	15.85	15.85	12.83	117.73
40%	C	23.24	17.96	15.85	25.36	20.07	22.19	22.19	17.96	164.82
0%	D	37.19	28.74	25.36	40.57	32.12	35.50	35.50	28.74	263.72
		74.38	57.48	50.72	81.14	64.24	71.00	71.00	57.48	527.44

	Five to Go	Showdown	Smoke and Hope	Outer Limits	Accelerator	The Pendulum	Speed Option	Roundabout	Total
Peak Time	11.00		7.50	12.00	9.50	10.50		8.50	59.00
My times	12.15		8.02	14	9.25	10.54		9.12	63.08
Classification %	90.53%		93.52%	85.71%	102.70%	99.62%		93.20%	93.53%
Classification	Master		Master	Master	GM	GM		Master	Master

2017 Alabama Steel Challenge Championship	12/01/17	SC-101	PCC Optics	7.86	11.00	Used for classification
SIG SAUER World Speed Shooting Championship 2018	6/12/18	SC-102	PCC Optics	6.48	8.50	Used for classification
Strong Point Shooting Complex	5/12/18	SC-103	PCC Optics	6.54	7.50	Used for classification
2018 Extreme Powersports Georgia Steel Challenge Championship	6/07/18	SC-104	PCC Optics	10.88	12.00	Used for classification
Griffin Gun Club Inc	6/01/18	SC-105	PCC Optics	7.98	9.50	Used for classification
Strong Point Shooting Complex	5/12/18	SC-106	PCC Optics	8.83	10.50	Used for classification
North Florida Steel Challenge Championship	4/20/18	SC-107	PCC Optics	9.13	10.50	Used for classification
2017 Alabama Steel Challenge Championship	12/01/17	SC-108	PCC Optics	6.68	8.50	Used for classification
Total Times for PCC Optics				64.38	78.00	

Steel Target Paint South Carolina Steel Challenge Championship	10/26/17	SC-101	Rimfire Rifle Open	11.22	11.00	Used for classification
Castlewood Rod & Gun Club	6/10/18	SC-102	Rimfire Rifle Open	8.26	8.00	Used for classification
US Steel Shoot 2018	3/27/18	SC-103	Rimfire Rifle Open	8.28	7.50	Used for classification
US Steel Shoot 2018	3/27/18	SC-104	Rimfire Rifle Open	13.24	12.00	Used for classification
Steel Target Paint South Carolina Championship	5/18/18	SC-105	Rimfire Rifle Open	9.76	9.50	Used for classification
US Steel Shoot 2018	3/27/18	SC-106	Rimfire Rifle Open	10.46	10.00	Used for classification
Georgia State Steel Match 2018	2/02/18	SC-107	Rimfire Rifle Open	11.38	10.00	Used for classification
Steel Target Paint South Carolina Championship	5/18/18	SC-108	Rimfire Rifle Open	8.76	8.00	Used for classification
Total Times for Rimfire Rifle Open				81.36	76.00	

your classification percentage, which would be (12.15/11.00), or 90.53%. This classification percentage between 85% and less than 95% is MASTER classification. A Pro Tip – The stages you have a lower classification on are the ones you should practice.

In order to determine your total classification, you take the sum of all of the times you shot and divide by the peak time for the stages. In our example, the total Peak time for the six stages shot is 59.00 seconds as illustrated above. The total times I shot for the six stages in the match is 63.08 seconds. My classification for this match is (59.00/63.08), or 93.53%. This is between 85% and less than 95%, or MASTER classification.

After you shoot your next match, your classification will update and keep the lowest time for every stage of each match for classification purposes.

The Peak Time is 78.00 seconds. My total time for my best stages shot in competition is 64.38 seconds, which is GM time. In theory, if I shot my personal best times all in one match it would be a 64.38. As a point of reference, my best total match time with PCCO was 67.59. You can find your classifications at the following link: <https://steelchallenge.com/steel-challenge-classification.php>.

**Q: I am a Master in RFR0, how do I know how much time I need to take off my classification times to become a Grand Master?**

**A:** After looking at your classification you need to drop 1.56 seconds! The math can be seen in the previous page graph.

In order for you to be a GM, you have to shoot 95% or greater of the peak time. The peak time is 76.00 seconds. 95% of 76.00 is actually  $(76 * (1 + (1 - .95)))$  or 79.8 Seconds for a GM time. This means you need to drop 81.36 (current classification time) – GM time 79.8, or 1.56 seconds somewhere and you will be a Grand Master. ■



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