

CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

NUMBER 90

OCTOBER 2018

Annual Firearms Qualification Only

At the July 9, 2018 Constables Education and Training Board (Board) meeting, the Board voted to eliminate the 20-hour Annual and Advanced Firearms Training Courses and replace it with a 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) approved this change at its September 12, 2018 meeting. Constables will sign up for a 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course through the Constables Certification, Education and Training System (CCETS), as they would for any other training.

The 2019 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course will consist of a written test, administrative procedures, safety brief and firing the Constable Qualification Course (CQC) of fire. **There will be no practice of the CQC.** A Student Firearms Study Guide will be available in CCETS; constables must review and study this Guide prior to attending a 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course. The written test will be on the material in the Student Firearms Study Guide at the start of the 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course.

Constables are strongly encouraged to practice the CQC, **for time**, prior to signing up for a 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course. The CQC can be found on the PCCD website at:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/training/Documents/Constable%20Education%20and%20Training/Constable%20Forms/Constables'%20Qualification%20Course%20of%20Fire.pdf>.

Scoring will only take place at the end of each Phase. Constables are strongly encouraged to practice prior to attending a 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course. Constables should assess their strengths and weaknesses when shooting the CQC and focus their practice on what sections of the CQC they need to improve upon. Constables are encouraged to practice together, and see if their local association will conduct a range day to practice the CQC, or find a local firearms instructor for shooting assistance.

Firearms Failures

At the August 9, 2018 Board meeting, the Board approved the attached Policy regarding firearms failures during the CQC. This Policy was also approved by the PCCD at its September 12, 2018 meeting. The policy states:

**Constables' Education and Training
Board Members:**

**Board Chair – Thomas S. Brletic
Board Vice Chair - Craig Westover**

**Francis C. Peitz, Jr.
Rodney D. Ruddock
Major William P. White
John Bruno**



**Charles H. Ramsey
Chairman, PCCD**

**Derin Myers
Acting Executive Director,
PCCD**

**John Pfau
Manager,
Bureau of Training Services**

2. Firearms qualification.

- a. A constable who fails either phase of the qualification course of fire on their first attempt, will not be provided any remediation training by the firearms instructors.*
- b. The firearms certification of a constable who fails to attain a passing score in a retest of a written examination or practical skill proficiency examination shall cease immediately on the date of the failure. The constable will not be firearms certified until that constable attends a second firearms qualification course in its entirety and completes it successfully to obtain a firearms qualification. The constable shall bear financial responsibility for the second firearms qualification course.*

This Policy change states that the firearms certification would end the day of the firearms failure. A constable will not be firearms certified until they pay to attend a second 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course and successfully complete the second Course.

To recap, there will be **no remedial training** if a constable fails a Phase of the CQC. Constables will be allowed a second attempt at passing the failed Phase; however, there will be no remediation provided by the instructors. Also, constables should bring 120 rounds of qualification ammunition, in case of failure. No training ammunition will be provided at the 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course. If a constable fails the 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course after two attempts, the constable will have failed the Course and will have to pay prior to enrolling in another 4-Hour Annual Qualification Course.

Second Weapons

During the 2019 4-Hour Annual Qualification Courses there will be **no qualification of second weapons**. Due to time constraints, only primary weapons will be allowed for qualification. The Board Regulations regarding New Weapons (Title 37§ 431.47(d)) or Malfunction of Weapons (Title 37, §431.47(f)) will still apply. The Board is aware of the importance for a constable to be qualified with a second weapon and is looking to make second weapon qualification available in 2020. If a constable has successfully qualified with a second weapon in 2018, the constable is qualified with that second weapon until December 31, 2019.

Confirmation Letters

Constables are strongly encouraged to **read the confirmation emails or letters** that are sent once a constable signs up for training. A constable should receive a confirmation email or letter 30 days prior to the scheduled training. Please note that there are changes in the required and recommended equipment for training.

Weapon-Mounted Lights

There are no restrictions on weapon-mounted lights unless the light becomes a distraction to the user, impedes their ability to clear a malfunction or creates a safety issue at which an instructor can have the constable remove the light from the weapon.

Fitness and Firearm Reminders

It is important to be fit on the firearms range, both physically and mentally. If a constable is feeling under the weather due to a cold/flu or some other medical condition, and has an upcoming firearms training class scheduled, they may want to reschedule to a class later in the year. Constables who currently wear glasses or contacts, should have their eyes checked before attending an Annual Firearms Qualification Course. This will help to alleviate any potential qualification or firearms safety issues that may arise on the range due to these conditions.

Training Schedules and Student Materials

Starting in 2019, PCCD will no longer provide any printed versions of the Constables' Training Schedule. If a constable has marked email as their preferred contact method, they will receive an email with a link to the 2019 Training Schedule. Due to the many changes for 2019, PCCD will not be releasing the 2019 Training Schedule until December 3, 2018. It will be available thru CCETS and as a PDF on the PCCD webpage.

Additionally, there will be no student CDs distributed for any Continuing Education or Annual Firearms Qualification Courses. All student materials will be available for downloading or printing thru CCETS.