

# IPSC HANDGUN RULES, JANUARY 2006 EDITION

## RULE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the Rules listed below are highlighted with additional words/rules shown in **bold** text, and deleted words in ~~strikethrough~~.

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### Global changes:

1. All instances of “match official” to be changed to sentence case “Match Official”.
  2. “Firearm” to replace “Handgun” except where “Handgun” is more logical.
  3. “No-Shoot(s)” to replace “Penalty Target(s)”, and associated wording adjusted accordingly.
- 1.2.1.2 "Medium Courses" must not require more than 16 rounds to complete and no more than 3 shooting locations. Course design and construction must not require more than 9 scoring hits from any single location or view, nor allow a competitor to ~~eliminate a location or view in the course of fire by shooting all available targets at an earlier location or view~~ **shoot all targets in the course of fire from any single location or view.**
  - 1.2.1.3 "Long Courses" must not require more than 32 rounds to complete. Course design and construction must not require more than 9 scoring hits from any single location or view, nor allow a competitor to ~~eliminate a location or view in the course of fire by shooting all available targets at an earlier location or view~~ **shoot all targets in the course of fire from any single location or view.**
  - 1.2.1.4 The recommended balance for an IPSC match is a ratio of 3 Short Courses to 2 Medium Courses to 1 Long Course. **Where possible, it is further recommended that no single COF in a match represent more than 15% of the total match points available.**
- 2.1.3 Minimum Distances – Whenever metal targets **or metal hard cover** are used in a course of fire, precautions must be taken so that competitors and match officials maintain a minimum distance of 7 meters (22.96 feet) from them while they are being shot. Where possible, this should be done with physical barriers. If Charge Lines are used to limit the approach to metal targets, they must be placed at least 8 meters (26.25 feet) from the targets so that the competitor may inadvertently fault the line and still be outside the 7 meter (22.96 feet) minimum distance (**see Rule 10.4.7**). **Care should also be taken in respect of metal props in the line of fire.**
  - 2.3.6 **If the Range Master (in consultation with the Match Director) deems that climatic or other conditions have, or are likely to, seriously affect the safety and/or conduct of a match, he may order that all shooting activities be suspended, until he issues a "resume shooting" directive.**
- 2.6 **Unloading/Loading Station**
    - 2.6.1 **If it is possible that some competitors arriving at a range where an IPSC match is being held may be in possession of a loaded firearm on their person (e.g. law enforcement officers etc.), match organizers should provide an Unloading/Loading Station to enable such competitors to safely unload their firearms prior to entering the range, and to safely load their firearms again on departure from the range. The Unloading/Loading Station should be conveniently located outside the entrance to the range (or outside the portion of the range allocated to the IPSC match), it should be clearly sign-marked and it should include a suitable impact zone.**
  - 4.1.4.1 Cover provided to hide all or a portion of a target will be considered hard cover. When possible hard cover should not be simulated but constructed using impenetrable materials (**see Rule 2.1.3**). Whole paper targets must not be used solely as hard cover.
  - 4.1.4.2 Cover provided merely to obscure ~~the view of~~ targets is considered soft cover. Shots which have passed through soft cover and which strike a scoring target will score. Shots that have passed through soft cover before hitting a penalty target will be penalized. All scoring zones on targets hidden by soft cover must be left wholly intact.
- 4.4 Frangible **and Synthetic** Targets

- 4.4.2 Synthetic targets (e.g. "self-sealing" targets etc.), sometimes used by indoor ranges, must not be used at Level III or higher matches. However, subject to the prior written approval of a Regional Directorate, synthetic targets may be used at Level I and II matches held within their Region.
- 5.2.8.1 Competitors deemed by the Range Master to be permanently and significantly disabled may be given special dispensation in relation to the type and/or placement of their holster and related equipment, and the Range Master will remain the final authority in respect of the safety and suitability of using such equipment at IPSC matches.
- 5.5.4 Metal piercing, incendiary and/or tracer ammunition is prohibited at IPSC matches (see Rule 10.4.10).
- 5.5.6 Any ammunition deemed unsafe by a Range Officer must be immediately withdrawn from the match (See Rule 10.4.10).
- 5.5.7 Ammunition must not discharge more than one bullet or other scoring projectile from a single round.
- 5.8 Official Match Ammunition
- 5.8.1 When match organizers make official match ammunition available for purchase by competitors at a match, the Match Director must, both in advance in official match literature (and/or on the official match website), and by way of a sign certified by him and posted at a conspicuous place at the point of sale, clearly identify which manufacturer/brand, specific cartridges and load descriptions are deemed to be rated, by Division, as either Minor or Major power factor, as the case may be. The subject rounds will usually be exempt from Rule 5.6.3 testing by chronograph, subject to the following conditions:
- 5.8.1.1 The competitor must obtain, and retain for the duration of the match, an official receipt from the match organizers (or their nominated vendor at the match) evidencing details of the quantity and description of the subject ammunition purchased at the match, and said receipt must be produced on demand by any match official, failing which the provisions of Rule 5.8.1 will not apply. Ammunition not purchased from the match organizers (or their nominated vendor at the match) will not enjoy the provisions of Rule 5.8.1, regardless of whether or not such ammunition appears, for all intents and purposes, to be identical to official match ammunition.
- 5.8.1.2 Official match ammunition purchased by competitors is deemed to be competitor equipment (see Section 5.7), therefore malfunctions will not be grounds for a reshoot and/or an appeal to Arbitration.
- 5.8.1.3 Official match ammunition must not be restricted solely for sale to, and/or use by, competitors representing the host country and/or the vendor.
- 5.8.1.4 Official match ammunition must be approved by the Regional Director of the Region in which the match is being held.
- 5.8.1.5 Match Officials reserve the right to conduct chronograph or other tests on all and any ammunition, at any time, and a reason need not be given.
- 5.8.2 Where possible, match organizers (or their nominated vendor at the match) should make available a test firing bay, supervised by a Range Officer, where competitors can function test a small quantity of official match ammunition of the same batch through their firearm(s) prior to purchase.
- 6.1.2 Standard Exercise – A course of fire consisting of **one or more** ~~than one~~ separately timed component strings. Scores, with any penalties deducted, are accumulated on completion of the course of fire to produce the final stage results. ~~Standard Exercises must only be scored using Virginia Count or Fixed Time.~~ The course of fire for each component string may require a specific shooting position, procedure and/or one or more mandatory reloads. Only one Standard Exercise of a maximum of 24 rounds is allowed in IPSC sanctioned Level IV or higher matches.

6.5.1 All competitors must be individual members of the IPSC Region in which they normally reside. Residency is defined as the Region where the individual is ordinarily domiciled for a minimum of 183 days of the twelve months immediately preceding the month in which the match begins. Ordinarily domiciled condition is a physical presence test and does not relate to citizenship or to any address of convenience. The 183 days need not be consecutive or the most recent 183 days of the twelve month period. **In any case, match organizers must not accept any competitor from a foreign Region unless the Regional Director of that Region has confirmed the competitor's eligibility to participate in the subject match.**

6.5.3 **At Regional and Continental Championships, only competitors who satisfy the residency requirements stated in Rule 6.5.1 are entitled to be recognized as the Regional or Continental Champion, by Division and/or by Division/Category, as the case may be. However when determining Regional or Continental Champions, match results of competitors from outside the applicable Region or Continent must not be deleted from the match results, which must remain wholly intact. For example:**

#### **Region 1 Open Division Championships**

**100% Competitor A - Region 2 (declared as Overall Match and Division Champion)**

**99% Competitor B - Region 6**

**95% Competitor C - Region 1 (declared as Region 1 Champion)**

7.2.1 The Range Master has authority over all match officials ~~except~~ **other** than the Match Director (**except when the Match Director is actually participating as a competitor at the match**), and is responsible for decisions in matters concerning conduct and discipline.

8.2.2 The competitor assumes the start position as specified in the written stage briefing. Unless otherwise specified, the competitor must stand erect, facing downrange, with arms hanging naturally by the sides. **A competitor who attempts or completes a course of fire where an incorrect start position was used may be required by a Range Official to reshoot the course of fire.**

8.3.5.1 **When conducting Standard Exercises, Range Officials may issue other interim commands on completion of the first string, in order to prepare the competitor for the second and subsequent strings (e.g. "Reload if required and holster"). Any such interim commands to be used must be clearly stated in the written stage briefing.**

8.3.7.1 Self-loaders – release the slide and pull the trigger (without touching the hammer **or** decocker, if any).

8.6.1.1 **Competitors confined to wheelchairs or similar devices may be given special dispensation by the Range Master in respect of mobility assistance, however, the provisions of Rule 10.2.11 may still apply, at the Range Master's discretion.**

8.6.4 *Renumber as 8.3.4.1*

9.1.4 Unrestored Targets – If, following completion of a course of fire by a previous competitor, one or more targets have not been properly patched or taped ~~in preparation~~ for the competitor being scored, **the Range Officer must judge whether or not an accurate score can be determined.** ~~or~~ If there are extra scoring hits or questionable penalty hits thereon, and it is not obvious to the Range Officer which hits were made by the competitor being scored, the affected competitor must be ordered to reshoot the course of fire.

9.1.4.1 **In the event that patches or tape applied to a restored paper target are accidentally blown off by wind, muzzle blast or another reason, and it is not obvious to the Range Officer which hits were made by the competitor being scored, the competitor will be required to reshoot the course of fire.**

9.1.7 **Target sticks are neither Hard Cover nor Soft Cover. Shots which have passed wholly or partially through target sticks and which hit a paper or metal target will count for score or penalty, as the case may be.**

9.2.4.1 A competitor's score is calculated by adding the highest value stipulated number of **required overall** hits, minus penalties. The overall stage results are not factored, and competitors are ranked by the actual net points achieved by them.

- 9.4.5 In a Virginia Count **Course of Fire** or a Fixed Time Course of Fire:
- 9.4.6 In a Fixed Time Course of Fire:
- ~~9.4.6.1 Overtime shots (i.e. shots fired after the signal to cease fire has been given), will each be penalized the value of the maximum scoring hit available on that target, except in the case of disappearing targets.~~
- 9.4.6.1 Overtime shots are shots fired at the targets after the signal to cease fire has been given. Overtime shots will not count for score.**
- 9.4.6.2 Where static scoring paper targets are used, it is assumed that overtime shots result in the highest value hits visible on the targets, so these are ignored for scoring purposes. For example, on a stage with 1xA, 6xC and 1xD hits, where 2 overtime shots have been fired, the 2 highest hits (i.e. 1xA and 1xC) are ignored, with the final score being 5xC and 1xD hits.**
- 9.4.6.3 Where static paper penalty targets are used, it is assumed that all hits occurred within the specified time, and will count in the scoring process, subject to Rule 9.4.2.**
- 9.5.2 If the bullet diameter of a hit on a scoring target touches the scoring line between two scoring areas, **or the line between the non-scoring border and a scoring area**, or if it crosses multiple scoring areas, it will be scored the higher value.
- 9.5.4.1 Enlarged holes in paper targets which exceed the competitor's bullet diameter will not count for score or penalty unless there is visible evidence within the remnants of the hole (e.g. a grease mark, striations or a "crown" etc.), to eliminate a presumption that the hole was caused by a ricochet or splatter.**
- 9.5.6 A competitor who fails to shoot at **the face of** each scoring target in a course of fire with at least one round will incur one procedural penalty per target for failure to shoot at the target, as well as appropriate penalties for misses (see Rule 10.2.7).
- 9.5.7 Hits visible on a scoring or penalty paper target, which are the result of shots fired through the rear of the target, will not count for score or penalty, as the case may be.**
- 9.7.7 In the event that an original score sheet is lost or otherwise unavailable, the competitor's duplicate copy, or any other written or electronic record acceptable to the Range Master, will be used. If the competitor's copy, or any other written or electronic record, is unavailable, or is deemed by the Range Master to be insufficiently legible the competitor will be required to reshoot the course of fire. If the Range Master deems that a reshoot is not possible for any reason, the competitor will incur a zero time and score for the affected course of fire.**
- 9.8.2 After all competitors have completed a match, the provisional stage results should be published and posted in a conspicuous place **at the shooting range** by the Stats Officer for the purpose of verification by competitors.
- 9.8.4 Competitors who are scheduled (or otherwise authorized by a Match Director) to complete all courses of fire in a match in a period of time less than the full duration of the match (e.g. 1 day format in a 3 day match etc.), are required to check their provisional match results in accordance with the special procedures and time limits specified by the Match Director (e.g. via a website), failing which scoring appeals will not be accepted. The relevant procedure must be published in advance in match literature and/or by way of a notice posted in a conspicuous place at the shooting range prior to commencement of the match (also see Section 6.6).**
- 10.1.4 Procedural penalties cannot be nullified by further competitor action. For example, a competitor who fires a shot at a target while faulting a line will still incur the applicable penalties even though he subsequently shoots at the same target while not faulting the line.**
- 10.2.1 A competitor who fires shots while any part of their body is touching the ground beyond a Fault or Charge Line will receive 1 procedural penalty **for each occurrence**. However, if the competitor has gained a significant advantage **on any target(s)** while faulting, the competitor ~~will~~ **may instead** be assessed 1 procedural penalty for each shot fired **at the subject target(s)** while faulting ~~instead of a single penalty~~. No penalty is assessed if a competitor does not fire any shots while faulting a line.

- 10.4.10 Using metal piercing, incendiary and/or tracer ammunition (see Rule 5.5.4), and/or using any ammunition which has been deemed unsafe by a Range Official (see Rule 5.5.6).**
- 10.5.5 Allowing the muzzle of a handgun to point at any part of the competitor's body during a course of fire (i.e. sweeping). ~~other than while drawing from a holster or re-holstering.~~ **A match disqualification is not applicable if sweeping occurs while drawing or re-holstering a gun, provided the competitor's fingers are clearly outside the trigger guard.**
- 10.6.2 A competitor who is deemed by a Range Officer to have intentionally removed or caused the loss of eye or ear protection in order to gain a competitive advantage will be disqualified. ~~for unsportsmanlike conduct.~~
- 10.6.3 Other persons may be expelled from the range for conduct which a Range Officer deems to be unacceptable. Examples of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to, failing to comply with the reasonable directions of a Match Official, interference with the operation of a course of fire and/or a competitor's attempt thereof, and any other behavior likely to bring the sport into disrepute.
- 11.5.2 Submissions – The Committee ~~may will then~~ require the appellant to personally give further details of the submission and may question him on any point relevant to the appeal.
- 11.5.3 Hearing – The appellant ~~may will then~~ be asked to withdraw while the Committee hears further evidence.
- 11.5.4 Witnesses – The Committee ~~may will then~~ hear match officials as well as any other witnesses involved in the appeal. The Committee will examine all evidence submitted.
- 11.5.7 ~~View~~ **Inspect** Area – The Committee may ~~view~~ **inspect** any range or area related to the appeal and require any person or official they regard as useful to the process to accompany them.

12.5 Glossary

- Berm – A raised structure of sand, soil or other materials used to contain bullets and/or to separate one shooting bay and/or COF from another.**
- Compensator – A device fitted to the muzzle end of a barrel to counter muzzle rise (usually by diverting away escaping gasses).**
- May – Entirely optional.**
- Must – Mandatory.**
- Prototype – A handgun in a configuration which is not in mass production and/or is not available to the general public.**
- Should – Optional but highly recommended.**
- Tie-down rig – A holster where the lower section is strapped or rigidly attached to a competitor's leg.**
- View - A vantage point available at a location (e.g. one of the ports, one side of a barricade etc.).**
- Will – Mandatory.**

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