

THE INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL SHOOTING CONFEDERATION



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and

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The Rules

Herewith the first draft of I.P.S.C. rules for practical pistol competition. It has been reviewed and approved by I.P.S.C. ExCon. All members of I.P.S.C.-affiliated shooting clubs may submit such comments as they desire to their Regional (National) Directorate for collation. Regional Directors are requested to submit their official review of this draft to I.P.S.C. headquarters. Regions which do not review this draft prior to 1 November 1978 will be counted as approving the draft as it stands.

The second draft will be distributed before the year's end.

THE CONDUCT OF PRACTICAL PISTOL COMPETITION

Principles:

1. Accuracy, power, and speed are the equivalent elements of practical marksmanship, and practical competition must be conducted in such a way as to evaluate these elements equally (DVC).
2. The practical challenge must be diverse. It is not necessary to invent a new course of fire for every contest, but no one course of fire may be repeated enough to allow it to become the definitive measure of practical skill.
3. Practical shooting is *freestyle*. No course of fire may prescribe a shooting position, nor may a contestant be required to load his piece in any prescribed way. Circumstances may be created, however, (barriers, physical limitations, simulated disabilities, et cetera) which will force a shooter into certain stances or positions. In essence, the problem is posed in general, and the contestant solves it in particular.
4. The practical challenge must be realistic. Courses of fire must follow a practical rationale, and simulate reasonable hypothetical situations in which weapons might be reasonably used. ("That could never happen" is a valid objection to any practical course of fire.)

AUSTRALIA	AUSTRIA	BELGIUM	DENMARK	FINLAND	FRANCE	GERMANY	THE NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY	RHODESIA	SOUTH AFRICA	SOUTHWEST AFRICA	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND	
	THE UNITED KINGDOM			THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			

5. Weapon types are not separated. Double- and single-actions, revolvers, auto pistols and single shots all compete together without handicap. This consideration does not apply to the power of the weapons, as power is an element to be recognized and rewarded. Neither does it apply to a stipulated reload, which may be placed at a specific point in any course of fire.

6. Practical competition is open to all decent citizens, without regard to occupation. It may specifically not be limited to public servants.

7. Practical competition is normally conducted using practical targets, which reflect the general size and shape of such objects as the weapon used may reasonably be called upon to hit in its primary intended use.

8. Practical competition assumes a graduated difficulty of challenge, and no shooting problem nor time limit may be protested as prohibitive. Note that this does not apply to non-shooting problems, such as weights to be lifted nor obstacles to be surmounted.

Rules:

1. Pistols used in competition shall be serviceable and safe. If any pistol is observed to be unserviceable or unsafe, it shall be withdrawn at the request of the contest director.

2. In any single contest, a contestant must use the same pistol in all stages of the contest; except that a contestant may use another pistol of the same type, action, and caliber as that with which he commenced the contest if his starting pistol becomes unserviceable during the contest.

3. All types of pistols will compete together. No contest will be restricted to any type of pistol, and the same conditions of time, distance, or scoring shall apply to all pistols equally.

4. There shall be no restrictions on weight of pistols or weight of trigger pull.

5. There shall be no restrictions on sights, sight radius, length of barrel, or number of rounds loaded.

6. Extension magazines for auto pistols (containing a larger than normal number of rounds) are permitted only on reload, and may not be carried in the pistol in its ready condition.

7. No entrant shall wear or use two pistols.

8. The general lower limit of pistols used in competition is the 9mm Parabellum cartridge. Action type shall not be restricted.

9. In cases where metal targets are used which may be damaged by excessive penetration, the club conducting the contest may prohibit cartridges that may damage the equipment. Metal piercing and incendiary or tracer ammunition is prohibited.

10. Pistols must start from a mechanical condition of readiness appropriate to their design. In general, single-action autos will start cocked and locked, double-action autos will start hammer-down and unlocked, revolvers will start hammer-down. However, unusual designs may be started in other ways. Selective double-action autos may start cocked and locked, the Browning BDA and the Tokarev may start from half-cock, and other exceptions may be made as new designs demand.

11. A premature shot, in the holster or into the ground closer to the firing line than two meters, shall disqualify the entrant for the entire match.

12. Optical sights shall not be banned, but must be used throughout the entire contest if the entrant desires to use them at all.

13. Every championship event held in any section in one calendar year shall be different from every other. All courses shall place proper balance between speed and accuracy.

14. The power requirements of competition pistols shall be established by means of a ballistic pendulum, and scored as "major caliber" and "minor caliber." A major caliber piece must move the pendulum as much or more than the standard charge for 45 ACP, and a minor caliber must equal or surpass a standard 9mm Parabellum. The pendulum shall be used as a guide, and close decisions will be settled by the course director.

15. In general, all firing problems will be started with the pistol holstered and safe, hands clear of equipment as directed by the course director. Other positions for the pistol may be stipulated (table top, drawer, pack, purse, etc.) as long as the piece does not start in the firing hand.

16. No contest shall require the use of a particular type of holster, nor shall any holster type which is permitted in any contest be barred from any other contest; however, in contests requiring a draw from a concealed condition, the degree of concealment may be specified and ruled upon by the club conducting the contest. Cross-draws are specifically allowed.

17. Holsters used in practical competition shall be of design appropriate for prolonged comfortable wear, and shall retain the pistol firmly against a withdrawal force greater than its own weight. If a holster incorporates a security device (retaining strap, e.g.) it shall be employed in its secure mode for each draw in competition.

18. Every competitor will be permitted to shoot any course of fire as many times, for record, as any other competitor. He may do so with the same weapon or he may shoot the course once with one type of weapon and again with another. One entry fee will be charged for each contestant, allowing the same number of runs for each.

19. Holsters must be practical, sensible for extended wear, and comfortable enough to fit them for daily use.

20. There shall be no restrictions upon the stance, position, or technique adopted by any contestant, except that no firing for score shall be conducted from an artificial rest.

21. "Normal Ready" designates a position in which the pistol is holstered and safe, and neither hand touches the pistol, holster, belt, body, spare magazine, nor spare ammunition. Spare ammunition must be carried in a manner suitable for continuous wear. Starting positions for the hands may be varied at discretion, as long as they do not allow a "cocked draw."

22. Once the ready position is assumed, it may not be changed before the firing signal. "Creeping" (moving the hand towards the pistol in the ready position) is subject to penalty in score or forfeiture of a bout.

23. Pistols will not be loaded except when directed by contest officials.

24. During loading and unloading, and during remedial action in the event of a malfunction, the muzzle of the pistol must be directed downrange.

25. After completing any firing problem, no shooter may leave his firing position until directed by a safety officer.

26. In the event that a pistol cannot be unloaded due to a broken or failed mechanism, the shooter will notify the contest director, who will take such action as he thinks best and safest.

27. On courses requiring the contestant to run, pistols must be safe during movement, i.e., hammer fully down with all revolvers and double-action autos without Condition One override, and Condition One (cocked and locked) with single action autos. Fingers must be outside the trigger guard.

28. During a contest, shooters not firing will refrain from handling their pistols except as necessary to the task at hand. The normal condition of pistols not actually engaged is holstered and unloaded.

29. On paper targets, a shot, the outside diameter of which touches any part of a scoring ring counts for the value of the ring. Radial tears in the paper extending outside the actual bullet diameter do not count.

30. If a shooter fires after the signal to cease firing, he shall lose the maximum value of each shot so fired, to be subtracted from his total score.

31. If a shooter has more hits on his paper than allowed in a given string, the maximum value for each excess shot shall be subtracted from his score, except when it can be established to the satisfaction of the contest director that the hits in question are of a different caliber from that used by the contestant in question, or when it can be positively proved that another contestant was guilty. In the latter case, the contestant whose target was fired upon by another contestant will be allowed to fire the stage over.

32. If a shooter fires before the firing signal, he shall forfeit the exchange in a man-against-man bout, or he shall lose the maximum value of one hit on a paper target.

33. When balloon targets are used, a balloon which is hit, but merely deflates rather than bursting, shall not count as a hit.

34. When electric timing is used in man-against-man bouts, hits separated by five one-hundredths of a second or less shall be ruled a draw.

35. In man-against-man bouts, simultaneous hits shall count as a draw for each contestant. If correct action is taken, but no shots are fired, as in the Balloon Option, neither contestant shall score a point, but the bout shall resume as if no action had taken place.

36. Ties shall be broken in a manner decided upon by the club conducting the contest. However, this shall always be done by shooting, not by chance.

37. It shall be the responsibility of each contestant to keep account of his score along with the scorekeeper. If there is an error in the scorekeeper's final tally, it shall be the responsibility of the contestant to protest the final results prior to awarding of prizes. Failure to file a protest with the scorekeeper prior to the above time nullifies any claims made thereafter.

38. Targets for practical competition may be either reactive or paper. If reactive, they should be so designed that major and minor calibers can be appropriately evaluated.

If paper, they should be I.P.S.C. Metric Standard, Item or Option, and of mottled, dull colors.

37. The proper balance of speed and accuracy will depend upon the nature of the test, but neither speed nor accuracy will be rewarded without interdependence.