



IDPA Rules Clarifications

version 2014-12-17

01- The Founding Concepts of IDPA Our main goal is to test the skill and ability of the individual. Equipment that is designed with no application for daily, concealed carry is not permitted in this sport.

Question: Does this mean anything marketed with the word “Competition” is not allowed?

Answer: No. Using the word “Competition” in the marketing of the product does not eliminate the product from IDPA as long as it meets all other IDPA requirements.

Rule 3.5.1. Cover extends back from the center of the target body -0 zone to the point of the physical barrier up range to infinity.

Question: Are non-threat targets considered cover that can be used when shooting threat targets?

Answer: No.

NEW

Rule 3.9. Under no circumstances may a shooter leave a “position of cover” with an empty weapon. A “position of cover” is defined as any fixed location in a stage from which the shooter is required to engage targets from cover. The boundary marking the “position of cover” is the line of cover defined by the last target to be engaged from that position.

Question: Shooter engages multiple targets at cover and finishes engaging and moves to next shooting position. Slide is in battery and in this specific case, ESP, hammer back ready to fire. Shooter gets to new shooting position and engages the next target, pulls the trigger and gun does not fire. Shooter initiates failure drill (Tap/Rack Assess) drops mag, seats new mag and racks slide, chamber was empty (but closed), gun was empty when shooter moved previously but did not know because slide did not lock back on empty chamber. Is a penalty assessed for violation of 3.9?

Answer: In this specific situation, no penalty is earned. The shooter is not required to count rounds to know whether the gun has a round in the chamber.

Rule 3.9.3. A firearm is deemed loaded when the magazine is fully seated and the slide is fully forward or the revolver cylinder is closed.

Question: Can this mean what it says?

Answer: Rule 3.9.3 is amended to read: A firearm is deemed loaded when the magazine is fully seated and the slide is fully forward or the revolver cylinder is closed, and it contains at least one unfired cartridge in the chamber, magazine, or cylinder.

Rule 3.9.4. Advancing or moving while reloading behind cover is defined as either lifting a foot off the ground or sliding a foot along the ground. The shooter may pivot on one foot or move the torso, as long as the pivot foot does not lift or slide.

Rule 3.9.4.1. Exception: The shooter may shoot around both sides of a Bianchi barricade or barrel, including shifting their feet and knees without penalty.

Question: Can I be performing the reload while slicing the pie (and repositioning the feet) to see that last target?

Answer: No. When the shooter is on his/her feet, all reloads initiated behind cover must be completed without sliding or lifting a pivot foot of the shooter’s choice. The shooter may pivot on the pivot foot as desired, like in basketball, and the other foot may move in any manner. This rule applies to all standing reloads initiated behind cover, no matter where in the target engagement the reload is done.

Exception: When a shooter needs to reload after shooting around one side of a Bianchi barricade or a single set of stacked barrels, before shooting around the other side of a barricade/barrels, the shooter may reposition one or both feet while reloading.

Rule 3.10. At no time is it permissible to fire while holding a magazine, speed loader/moon clip, or loose ammunition. Holding shall be defined as touching, grasping or supporting a magazine, speed loader/moon clip, or loose ammunition.

Question: What is the penalty for holding a magazine while shooting?

Answer: Unless stated in the specific rule, violating a rule is a Procedural Error penalty. Willful or repeated violations warrant a FTDR penalty.

Rule 3.17. If an SO determines that a shooter was allowed to start in an incorrect start position, a reshoot is required and no penalty is assessed.

Question: When can a shooter request a reshoot when a stage is started in an incorrect start position?

Answer: When a stage is started in an incorrect start position and the shooter notices but the SO does not notice, the shooter must request a reshoot immediately following the holster command and prior to the scoring of targets.



Rule 3.19.3. Holster Location: The shooter's holster location must remain on the same side of the body throughout the entire course of a match.

Question: Can ammunition carriers be moved during a match?

Answer: No. the same exact location for magazine pouches, speed loader pouches, moon clip pouches, and/or ammunition carriers in pockets must be used for every stage in a single match, unless otherwise specified in a stage description.

Rule 3.20. Flashlight Usage Rules

Question: Please clarify if a flashlight can be used prior to shooting to recharge night sites.

Answer: Yes, the shooter's flashlight may be used to recharge night sights any time after the start signal, but not prior.

Rule 5.5. Failure To Do Right (FTDR): Adds twenty (20) seconds to total score and is assessed for use of inappropriate devices and unfair actions. Note: The FTDR is intended to be used solely as a penalty for deliberate attempts on the part of the shooter to circumvent or violate the competition rules to gain a competitive advantage. It should not be assessed for inadvertent shooter errors or in cases where it is obvious that the shooter gained no competitive advantage by their actions. In these cases, the shooter should be assessed a PE rather than an FTDR. All FTDRs must be approved by the MD.

Question: If the last shot requiring a reload is not taken due to a jam, is this still a FTDR?

Answer: No, if there is a jam that cannot be fixed on the line, an FTDR penalty is not appropriate.

Incomplete Stage scoring is used in this case. However, under normal circumstances not reloading to fire the last one or more rounds in a stage is an FTDR penalty.

NEW

Rule 6.7. Seventy-five percent (75%) of all shots required in a match must be fifteen (15) yards or less. No shots longer than twenty-five (25) yards may be required in scenario stages. 35-yard shots are only allowed in standard stages and limited to 6 rounds per stage.

Question: Is the intent of this to say “Shots beyond 25yds and no longer than 35yds are allowed in standard stages and limited to 6 rounds per stage.”?

Answer: Scenario stages may have shots up to 25 yards from the shooter. Standards stages may have shots up to 35 yards from the shooter. Standards stages will not require more than 6 shots per stage at targets that are further than 25 yards from the shooter.

Rule 6.13. Only one (1) non-threat target may be used for every three (3) threat targets in any string of fire. Stage designers may use one non-threat for 1 to 3 threats, 2 non-threats for 4 to 6 threats and 3 non-threats for 7- 9 threats, etc.

Question: Can humanoid shaped vision barriers be used in a stage?

Answer: No. Stage designers may elect to use props as vision barriers (barrels, chairs, cardboard painted the appropriate color, etc.). Humanoid shapes of any kind either partial or whole may not be used as vision barriers, soft cover or hard cover. Tactical dummies or mannequins may still be used as props, but not as vision barriers, soft cover or hard cover.

NEW

Rule 6.21. No “weak-hand only” reloading shall be permitted. Exception: See Permanently Physically Disabled Shooters section.

Question: What does this mean?

Answer: Weak Hand Only strings will not be designed that require the shooter to use only the weak/support hand to reload the firearm. Both hands can always be used for malfunction clearance, safety issues and reloading, no matter which hand or hands are required to shoot the string.

NEW

Rule 8.1.7. Non-IDPA-Legal Modifications for All Divisions

The following features and modifications are not allowed in any division unless otherwise specifically allowed in the rulebook.

Rule 8.1.7.4. Sights of non-standard configuration (ghost rings, Bo-Mar ribs, etc.).

Question: Are Advantage Tactical sights, XS Big Dot sights, or the Triple Diamond sights considered notch and post type sights?

Answer: Yes. Advantage Tactical sights, XS Big Dot sights, and Triple Diamond sights are notch and post sights, and they may be used in any division provided all other division rules are met.

UPDATED

Rule 8.2.1.4. SSP Excluded Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

Rule 8.2.1.4.1. Externally visible modifications other than those listed in the Permitted Modifications section.

Question: Is the CZ Custom Shop Accu-Shadow or Shadow-Target allowed in SSP?

Answer: Since the CZ Custom Shop is not an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer), the CZ SP-01 Accu-Shadow and Shadow-Target will not be deemed SSP legal, based on the externally visible modifications made to the slide by a non-OEM.

Rule 8.2.1. Stock Service Pistol Division (SSP)

Rule 8.2.1.1.6. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 3/4" x 6" x 1 5/8".

Rule 8.2.2 Enhanced Service Pistol Division (ESP)

Rule 8.2.2.1.4. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 3/4" x 6" x 1 5/8".

Rule 8.2.3. Custom Defensive Pistol Division (CDP)

Rule 8.2.3.1.4. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 3/4" x 6" x 1 5/8".

Question: All IDPA boxes are not the same size. At one local club the wood box measures very close to spec in width but 1/16" under spec in length, at another local club the box measures slightly under spec in both length and width.

Answer: The IDPA gun test box has an allowed dimensional tolerance of -0" and +1/16". Boxes outside this tolerance range may not be used in IDPA matches for equipment checks or for "gun in the box" starts.

- The width of an IDPA gun test box can be from 8 3/4" to 8 13/16".
- The height of an IDPA gun test box can be from 6" to 6 1/16".
- The depth of an IDPA gun test box can be from 1 5/8" to 1 11/16"

Rule 8.2.1.3.4. Recoil spring guide rods and dual spring recoil systems made of material that is no heavier than stainless steel.

Question: Is as an extended guide rod in a G34/35 SSP legal?

Answer: No. Guide rods extended beyond factory length are not allowed in SSP.



Rule 8.2.1.4. SSP Excluded Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

Rule 8.2.1.4.1. Externally visible modifications other than those listed in the Permitted Modifications section.

Question: Some polymer guns are coming from the factory with interchangeable back straps of different sizes and shapes. Are aftermarket back straps allowed in ESP or SSP?

Answer: Aftermarket back straps are allowed in ESP, but not SSP since they are non-factory parts and would be visible external modifications.

Rule 8.2.1.1.6. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 3/4" x 6" x 1 5/8".

Rule 8.2.2.1.4. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 3/4" x 6" x 1 5/8".

Rule 8.2.3.1.4. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 3/4" x 6" x 1 5/8".

Question: What does "fit in the box," mean?

Answer: The firearm must be fully assembled, magazine inserted, slide in battery, and must fully fit into the box with the lid shut. An adjustable rear sight may be compressed to fit into the box, and the lid may be held shut with light pressure, but not enough force to flex a part on the firearm, flex the box or the lid, or indent the box or lid material.

Rule 8.2.2.2. ESP Permitted Features and Modifications (Inclusive list):

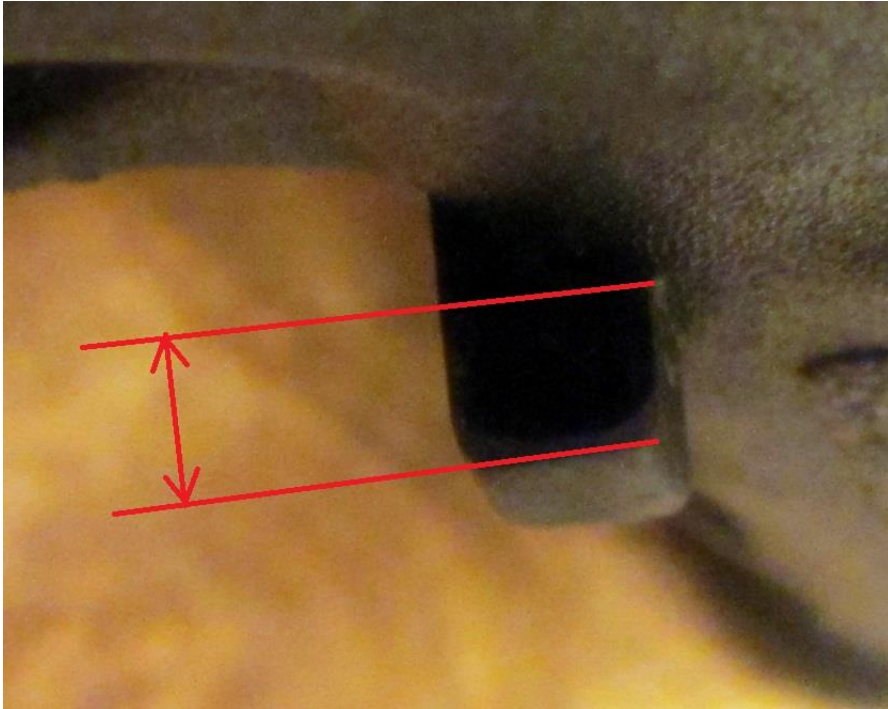
Rule 8.2.2.2.18. Extended magazine release (button may not be oversize in diameter or protrude more than 0.2" out from the frame).

Rule 8.2.3.2. CDP Permitted Features and Modifications (Inclusive list):

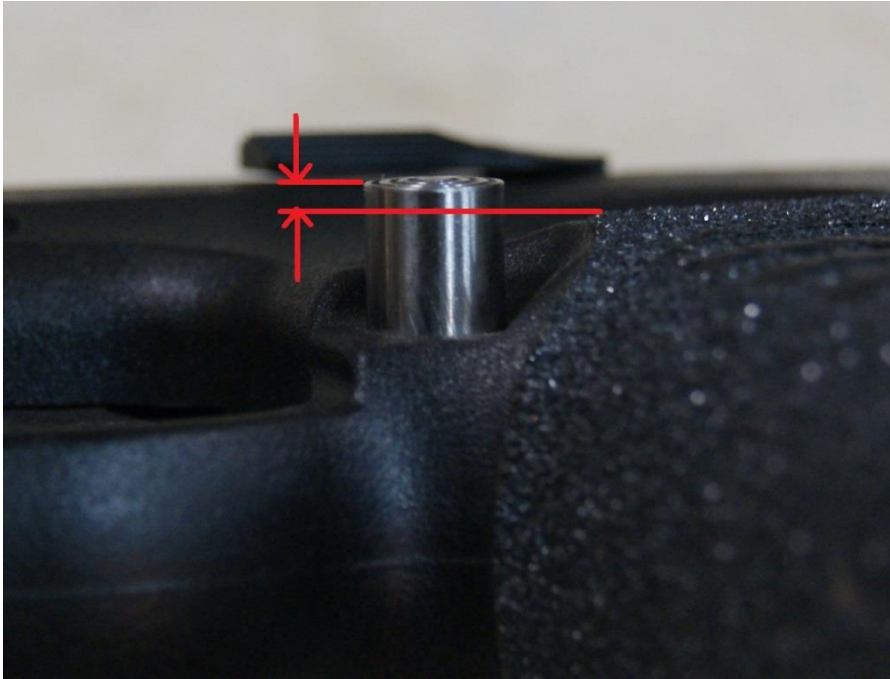
Rule 8.2.3.2.18. Extended magazine release (button may not be oversize in diameter or protrude more than 0.2" out from the frame).

Question: What is the measurement point for magazine releases?

Answer: The measurement is taken at the rear most part of the magazine release, where it exits the frame.



When the magazine release area is recessed into the grip frame as shown, the grip frame to the rear of the recess is used as the base of the measurement.



Rule 8.2.2.3. ESP Excluded Features and Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

Rule 8.2.2.3.2. Removal of material from the exterior of the slide other than front cocking serrations, tri-top, engraving, carry melts, and high power cuts.

Rule 8.2.3.3. CDP Excluded Features and Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

Rule 8.2.3.3.2. Removal of material from the exterior of the slide other than front cocking serrations, tri-top, engraving, carry melts, and high power cuts.

Question: Is this slide machining allowed in IDPA?



Answer: Yes. With respect to slide machining, SSP, ESP and CDP, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) firearms with extensive slide machining are approved for use in IDPA if they meet all other requirements for their respective Divisions. For slide machining, an OEM product is defined as a complete firearm product, with specific model part numbers or sku's catalogued as stock items by the manufacturer and have a minimum annual production of 2,000 units for that specific model. Discontinued models must have had a total production of 20,000 units for a specific model. IDPA HQ is working on a process and document to be available on www.idpa.com to allow OEMs to identify firearms that meet this requirement.

Rule 8.2.2.3. ESP Excluded Features and Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

Rule 8.2.2.3.2. Removal of material from the exterior of the slide other than front cocking serrations, tri-top, engraving, carry melts, and high power cuts.

Rule 8.2.3.3. CDP Excluded Features and Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

Rule 8.2.3.3.2. Removal of material from the exterior of the slide other than front cocking serrations, tri-top, engraving, carry melts, and high power cuts.

Question: Is the Lone Wolf 21T slide legal in CDP or ESP?

Answer: The model LWD-SLIDE21T is not allowed due to the large cutout in the top. Model LWD-SLIDE21TS is allowed.

Rule 8.2.4. Enhanced Service Revolver Division (ESR)

Rule 8.2.4.1.4. Have a barrel length of 4.2" or less (as measured from the front of the cylinder).

Rule 8.2.5. Stock Service Revolver Division (SSR)

Rule 8.2.5.1.4. Barrel length of 4.2" or less (as measured from the front of the cylinder).

Question: This rule removes the current production S&W 686 and Ruger GP-100 4.2" guns from competition as both companies measure from the forcing cone to the end of the barrel. The GP 100 barrel measured from the forcing cone is 4.2", from the cylinder 4.212".

Answer: Starting with this clarification of 2014-02-16, IDPA will measure revolver barrels from the forcing cone to the end of the barrel.

Rule 8.2.5.3.2. Hogue Big Butt grips and similar are not allowed.

Question: what does “and similar” mean?

Answer: The maximum grip dimensions allowed are:

- 5.00” (127mm) maximum height, measured from the bottom of the hammer opening in the frame to the bottom of the grip
- 2 3/8” (60.3mm) maximum depth.
- 1 5/8” (41.3mm) maximum width

If any dimension is exceeded, the grip is not allowed. Measurements will be taken as shown below:

Height Measurement: 5.00” (127mm) maximum



Depth Measurement: 2-3/8" (60.3mm) maximum



Width Measurement: maximum 1-5/8" (41.3mm) maximum



Rule 8.3.2.1.2. If the competitor's ammunition fails to make power factor, the competitor will have the option to chronograph three additional rounds through his/her own firearm or another firearm of maximum barrel length for the division. Prior to each shot, the muzzle of the firearm will be elevated to move the powder charge to the rear of the case.

Question: can revolver ammunition be chronographed using a semi-auto firearm with the maximum barrel length allowed for the revolver division?

Answer: A firearm used for chronograph purposes must be legal in the same division as the shooter's firearm.

Rule 8.4. Belts: Belts may be no wider than 1 ¾ inches/44.5mm or thicker than 5/16 inches/7.94mm and must pass through a minimum of all but two of the pant loops.

Question: Must pants have belt loops?

Answer: Yes, pants, shorts, skirts, kilts, etc., must have belt loops.

Ex. 8.5.1.17. Not Legal, fails dowel test and 8.3. Illegal belt



Question: Does this mean the belt shown is always disallowed?

Answer: No. When either the inner or the outer belt is worn by itself and meets the criteria of rule 8.4 it is allowed.

NEW

Rule 8.6.2. Magazine Carrier Rules -Magazine carriers must:

Rule 8.6.2.1. Be suitable for concealed carry and all day continuous wear.

Question: Are the Ghost 360 magazine pouches which carry magazines in a “bullets out” configuration allowed in IDPA?

Answer: No. “Bullets out” magazine pouches protrude from the belt considerably more than normal magazine carriers and are not suitable for all day carry.

Rule 8.6.2.6. Magazine carriers with screws or knobs that extend past the outer face of the carrier are not legal.

Question: does this include magazine carriers with nearly flush machine screws on the outer face?

Answer: Magazine carriers with tension screws on the outer face like the ones pictured below are allowed if the adjustment screw(s) require a tool to change tension, the screws protrude less than 0.125" (3.18mm) from the outer face of the magazine carrier, and they meet all other magazine carrier requirements. Additionally, all tension screws anywhere on a magazine carrier must require a tool for tension adjustment.



Rule 9.0.1. IDPA shooters are divided into six (6) separate Classifications so that shooters may compete against others of like skill. These Classifications are Novice, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, Master, and Distinguished Master. New IDPA members are Unclassified until they shoot their first IDPA Classifier in a Division. There are two ways to classify shooters, one by shooting the Classifier, and two by being promoted based on performance in a Sanctioned Match.

Rule 9.2.4. For local matches it is sufficient to shoot a Classifier in the Division most often entered. A shooter may compete in club matches in a Division where a Classification is not current within twelve months or the shooter is Unclassified, where the highest Classification presently held in any division will be used.

Rule 9.5.2. A shooter's highest and lowest Classification in a firearm category can only differ by one Classification level. When a shooter's highest classification in a firearm category increases, there may only be one level difference between the highest and lowest classification in that category. Divisions in which the shooter is Unclassified are also affected by this rule if the highest Classification attained is Marksman or above.

Question: Does the equity promotion apply to unclassified shooters?

Answer: It was always the intent that the Equity Promotion would apply to all divisions in a category, including divisions in which the shooter is unclassified. Thus, as soon as a shooter attains Marksman in a category, they are no longer Unclassified in any division in that category. To make this more clear the following amendments are in effect immediately.

Amend 9.0.1 to say: IDPA shooters are divided into six (6) separate Classifications so that shooters may compete against others of like skill. These Classifications are Novice, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, Master, and Distinguished Master. New IDPA members are Unclassified in a division until they shoot their first IDPA Classifier in that Division or receive an Equity Promotion in that division. There are three

ways a shooter's classification can change, one by shooting the Classifier, two by being promoted based on performance in a Sanctioned Match, and three by an Equity Promotion.

Amend 9.5.2 to say: A shooter's highest and lowest Classification in a firearm category can only differ by one Classification level. When a shooter receives a match performance promotion or shoots a classifier, the Equity Promotion rule is applied to all Divisions in that category. Divisions in which the shooter is Unclassified also receive an Equity Promotion by this rule if the highest Classification attained is Marksman or above.

The rest of the rules in this section still apply and are not amended.

Classification Example For One Shooter Over Time

SSP	ESP	CDP	SSR	ESR
Classifier Sharpshooter 09-01-2013	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified
Classifier Sharpshooter 10-10-2013	Equity Marksman 10-10-2013	Equity Marksman 10-10-2013	no change Unclassified	no change Unclassified
Classifier Sharpshooter 11-10-2013	no change Marksman	no change Marksman	no change Unclassified	no change Unclassified
no change Sharpshooter	no change Marksman	no change Marksman	Classifier Novice 4-4-2014	no change Unclassified
no change Sharpshooter	no change Marksman	no change Marksman	Match Bump Marksman 5-5-2014	Equity Novice 4-4-2014
no change Sharpshooter	Classifier Expert 6-3-2014	Equity Sharpshooter 6-3-2014	no change Marksman	no change Novice

Yellow boxes are Classifiers or Match Bumps.

Valid Match Registration Examples For The Same Shooter Over Time

Match Type/Date	SSP	ESP	CDP	SSR	ESR
Local 10-15-2013	SSP-SS	ESP-MM	CDP-MM	SSR-SS	ESR-SS
Sanctioned 10-15-2013	SSP-SS	no	no	no	no
Local 11-15-2013	SSP-SS	ESP-MM	CDP-MM	SSR-SS	ESR-SS
Sanctioned 11-15-2013	ESR-SS	no	no	no	no
Local 4-10-2014	SSP-SS	ESP-MM	CDP-MM	SSR-NV	ESR-SS
Sanctioned 4-10-2014	SSP-SS	no	no	SSR-NV	no
Local 5-10-2014	SSP-SS	ESP-MM	CDP-MM	SSR-MM	ESR-NV
Sanctioned 5-10-2014	SSP-SS	no	no	SSR-MM	no
Local 6-10-2014	SSP-SS	ESP-EX	CDP-SS	SSR-MM	ESR-NV
Sanctioned 6-10-2014	SSP-SS	ESP-EX	no	SSR-MM	no
Local 11-15-2014	SSP-EX	ESP-EX	CDP-EX	SSR-MM	ESR-NV
Sanctioned 11-15-2014	no	ESP-EX	no	SSR-MM	no
Local 6-10-2015	SSP-EX	ESP-EX	CDP-EX	SSR-EX	ESR-EX
Sanctioned 6-10-2015	no	no	no	no	no

2013 Match Administration Clarifications

Rule: 1.2.1. Match Tiers - Matches will be categorized by tiers, with a local monthly club match being tier one (1) and a national level match being tier five (5).

Question: What happens if one of the match requirements for a sanctioned match becomes unusable?

Example: Tier 4 match requires a chronograph. What happens if the chronograph stage is thrown out?

Answer: As long as a match started with all the tier requirements met in good faith, the match sanction and tier will stand and not be downgraded should one or more tier requirements be later thrown out, e.g. when a stage is thrown out, etc.

Rule: 1.2.3. Awards At Tier two (2) and higher matches, trophies will be awarded based on number of contestants per class and division (including DQs and DNFs, but not including no-shows) and go to the top fifth of those competitors. One (1) award should be awarded for every five (5) shooters entered in a particular division and class. Sanctioned matches must give trophies or plaques for the Division Champions as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placements. The remaining awards (4th place and on and subcategories) may be medal or medallions, etc.

Question: Do we really have to give out a third place trophy for a class and division with only three people entered?

Answer: No. Ignore the example in the rulebook in the gray box of rule 1.2.3. At Tier two (2) and higher matches, awards will be given based on number of contestants per class and division (including DQs and DNFs, but not including no-shows) and go to the top one-fifth of those competitors. Tier two and higher matches will provide one award for 1 to 5 entrants, two awards for 6 to 10 entrants, three awards for 11 to 15 entrants, four awards for 16 to 20 entrants, etc.

Tier two and higher matches must give trophies or plaques for the Division Champions as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placements, if there are enough entrants to warrant these awards based on the one-fifth rule above. The remaining awards (4th place and on, and subcategories) may be medals or medallions, etc., when there are enough entrants to warrant them based on the one-fifth rule above.

Rule 1.2.3. Awards

Question: The old 'DM's win everything or they win nothing' rule doesn't seem to have been carried over from the old rule book.

Answer: Distinguished Masters are only eligible to win their Division Champion award and any specialty awards that may be applicable like High Senior, High Law Enforcement, etc. All DM scores must be included in the match results with all the other shooters' scores.

1.2.4.11. On the day of the match, your age determines the category:

- Junior Member (12th birthday through 17 years of age)
- Typical Member (18th birthday through 49 years of age)
- Senior Member (50th birthday through 64 years of age)
- Distinguished Senior Member (65th birthday and older)

Question: Can 18-21 year old shooters shoot a match without a parent or guardian present?

Answer: Yes, if allowable based on range policies, federal, state, and local law. Junior members must have a parent or guardian present.

Rule: 2.2. IDPA Safety Officer Qualifications

Rule: 2.2.2.1. Be at least 21 years of age and be able to lawfully possess a firearm under the laws of your country of residence.

Question: Can an 18-21 year old shooter become a certified SO?

Answer: No. A shooter may not become a certified SO until they turn 21, but they can attend an SO class and work Tier 1 matches for experience without a certification.