



## INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL SHOOTING CONFEDERATION



## INTERNATIONAL RANGE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# RANGE OFFICER MANUAL

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DUTIES OF A RANGE OFFICER</b> .....	2
<u>Competitor Action</u> .....	2
<u>Patience</u> .....	2
<u>Control</u> .....	2
<u>Safety</u> .....	2
<u>Impartial</u> .....	2
<u>Similar Conditions</u> .....	2
<u>Range Equipment</u> .....	2
<b>RANGE OFFICER APPEARANCE</b> .....	2
<u>Dress</u> .....	2
<u>Appearance</u> .....	2
<u>Footwear</u> .....	2
<b>RANGE OFFICER EQUIPMENT</b> .....	2
<u>Personal Equipment</u> .....	2
<b>TRAINEE RANGE OFFICERS</b> .....	3
<u>Competency</u> .....	3
<u>Attitude</u> .....	3
<u>Experience</u> .....	3
<u>Pass Mark</u> .....	3
<b>CHAPTER 2: QUALIFYING AS A RANGE OFFICER</b> .....	4
<b>PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATION AS RANGE OFFICER</b> .....	4
<u>Provincial Institute of Range Officers</u> .....	4
<u>RO Attributes</u> .....	5
<u>Desire</u> .....	6
<u>Requirements for Trainee</u> .....	6
<b>CHAPTER 3: THE RANGE OFFICER'S DUTIES</b> .....	8
<u>Categories</u> .....	8
<u>Applying the Rules</u> .....	8
<u>Image and Attitude</u> .....	8
<u>Professional Attitude</u> .....	8
<u>Minor Infringements</u> .....	9
<b>THE RUNNING OF A CONTEST AS AN UMPIRE OR REFEREE</b> .....	9
<u>RO Actions at the Stage</u> .....	9
<b>CHAPTER 4: THE RANGE OFFICER'S AUTHORITY</b> .....	12
<b>GENERAL</b> .....	12
<u>Authority</u> .....	12
<u>Popularity</u> .....	12
<u>Range Discipline</u> .....	12
<u>Interests of the Sport</u> .....	12
<b>RESTRICTION OF THE RANGE OFFICER'S AUTHORITY</b> .....	13
<u>Right and Duty</u> .....	13
<u>Knowledge of the Rules</u> .....	13
<u>Criteria for Decisions</u> .....	13
<b>CHAPTER 6: SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES</b> .....	15
<b>SAFETY RULES IN GENERAL</b> .....	15

<u>Three Commandments</u> .....	15
<u>Primary Safety Rules</u> .....	15
<u>Regulative Safety Rules</u> .....	15
<u>Local Safety Rules</u> .....	15
<u>IPSC Safety</u> .....	15
<b>SAFETY PROCEDURES ON THE RANGE</b> .....	15
<u>Range Commands</u> .....	15
Safety on Firing Line .....	15
<b>SAFETY ON THE LINE</b> .....	16
<u>View of the Shooters</u> .....	16
Large Details .....	16
<u>Jammed Gun</u> .....	16
<b>SAFETY DURING THE COURSE OF FIRE</b> .....	17
<u>CoF Safety</u> .....	17
<u>Movement</u> .....	17
<u>View of CoF</u> .....	17
<b>IPSC RULES</b> .....	17
<b>CHAPTER 7: COURSE DESIGN</b> .....	18
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	18
<u>The Basis</u> .....	18
<u>Development</u> .....	18
Stereotype .....	18
<b>FACTORS TO CONSIDER</b> .....	19
<b>SAFETY</b> .....	19
<u>Competitor Ability</u> .....	19
<u>Standards Danger Areas</u> .....	19
<u>Pay Attention</u> .....	19
<u>Medium and Long Courses</u> .....	20
<u>Potential Danger Areas</u> .....	20
<b>CLARITY</b> .....	20
<u>Rationale</u> .....	20
<u>Procedure</u> .....	20
<b>PRACTICALITY</b> .....	20
<u>Apply the Rules</u> .....	21
<u>DVC</u> .....	21
<u>Reloads</u> .....	21
<u>Improvisation</u> .....	21
<u>Freestyle</u> .....	21
<u>Emphasis</u> .....	21
<u>Weak Hand</u> .....	22
<u>Concealed Targets</u> .....	22
<u>Penalty Targets</u> .....	22
<u>Placing Targets</u> .....	22
<b>VARIETY</b> .....	22
<u>Old Courses</u> .....	22
<u>Fun Shoots</u> .....	23
<b>DEVELOPING SKILL</b> .....	23
<u>Purpose</u> .....	23

<u>Statistics</u> .....	23
<u>Development Program</u> .....	23
<b>GENERAL</b> .....	23
<u>Promotion Of The Sport</u> .....	23
<u>Public Appeal</u> .....	23
<b>CHAPTER 8: RANGE PROCEDURE</b> .....	24
<b>DAILY STAGE INSPECTION</b> .....	24
<u>Between Squads</u> .....	24
<b>SHOOTING ORDER</b> .....	25
<b>SQUAD BRIEFING AND WALK-THROUGH</b> .....	25
<u>Briefing</u> .....	25
<u>Walk-through</u> .....	25
<b>TARGETS AND SCORING METHODS</b> .....	25
<u>Targets</u> .....	25
<b>PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATION</b> .....	26
<u>Penalties</u> .....	26
<u>Disqualification</u> .....	26
<b>SCORERS, PATCHERS AND DOPPIE PICKERS</b> .....	26
<u>RO Responsibility</u> .....	26
<u>Scoring and Patching</u> .....	26
<u>Scorers</u> .....	26
<u>Scoring from the Start</u> .....	26
<u>Doppie pickers</u> .....	27
<b>SCORESHEET CHECKLIST</b> .....	27
<u>Repeat Calls</u> .....	27
<u>Total</u> .....	27
<u>Cross Total</u> .....	27
<u>Circle</u> .....	27
<u>Procedurals</u> .....	27
<u>Penalties</u> .....	27
<u>Alterations</u> .....	27
<u>Signature</u> .....	28
<b>DISQUALIFICATIONS</b> .....	28
<b>ARBITRATION</b> .....	28
<b>CHAPTER 9: FIREARMS AND RELOADING</b> .....	32
<u>Introduction</u> .....	32
<u>Power</u> .....	32
<u>Factor</u> .....	32
<u>Calibre</u> .....	32
<b>MALFUNCTIONS</b> .....	32
<u>Focus</u> .....	32
<u>RO Responsibility</u> .....	32
<u>Benefit of Doubt</u> .....	32
<u>Competitor Experience</u> .....	32
<u>Standards Shoot</u> .....	32
<u>Revolver Jams</u> .....	33
<u>Semi Auto Jams</u> .....	33
<u>Pump, Bolt and Lever Action Jams</u> .....	34

<u>Misfires</u> .....	34
<u>Machine-Gunning In Semi-Autos</u> .....	34
<u>Broken Parts</u> .....	34
<b>WHEN TO DECLARE A GUN UNSAFE</b> .....	35
<u>Trigger Shoe</u> .....	35
<u>Broken Parts</u> .....	35
<u>Revolvers</u> .....	35
<b>RELOADING</b> .....	35
<u>Introduction</u> .....	35
<u>Advice</u> .....	35
<u>Chronograph</u> .....	35
<u>New Reloaders</u> .....	35
<u>On the Line</u> .....	35
<b>HOLSTERS/BAGS/CASES AND EQUIPMENT</b> .....	35
<u>Match Transport and Carry</u> .....	35
<u>Safety</u> .....	36
<u>Equipment Check</u> .....	36
<u>Holster and Equipment Position</u> .....	36
<u>Rules</u> .....	36

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1 Background. Range officers are the backbone of practical shooting. The best range officers are dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable people. They are absolutely essential to the success of any match or tournament. They provide consistency and safety in all IPSC competitions. For this reason IPSC supports IROA as well as the National range officer's institutions (NROI).

2 Desire. In IPSC it is very easy just to simply shoot and let others do the work. Those who decide to do more than just shoot often become range officers (RO). They wish to give back some of the enjoyment of shooting by helping to make shooting enjoyable. The goal is safe and efficiently run competitions. The better the officials the better the match. As ROs we strive to be the best: "The best of the Best".

### OBJECTIVES OF THIS MANUAL

3 The Manual. This Manual is intended to provide the trainee RO with the background essential to understanding what the RO does on the range and why. It does not replace the IPSC Competition Rules of which the RO must have a thorough knowledge. The IPSC Competition Rules are the basis for our sport and must be studied intensively. The RO Manual is intended to serve as a guide to:

- 3.1 Regions far from the established centres that do not have an "old hand" to guide them,
- 3.2 trainee ROs during their training period, and
- 3.3 for general guidelines for reference in case of doubt.

This Manual is available to all participants of the sport.

4 Practical Nature. It is emphasized that RO training is essentially applying the IPSC Competition Rules in practice and many aspects and facets thereof cannot be covered in a written course or in a lecture room.

5 It is accordingly not claimed that the contents of this Manual are exhaustive or that it covers all aspects of the knowledge required of an RO. Being a good RO is a lifelong journey of learning.

### RANGE OFFICER QUALITIES

6 Range Officer Qualities. Desire, good attitude, knowledge and objectivity are the qualities of a good RO.

7 Desire. You must really want to become an RO. If you don't have the time or inclination, don't do it. To be a good RO can be very rewarding but is hard work.

8 Attitude. The RO must always have a good attitude. If you lose your temper or become irritated quickly, think again before enrolling to become an RO.

9 Knowledge. The RO must have an above average knowledge of the IPSC Competition Rules, knowledge of firearms and good communication skills.

10 Objectivity. ROs treat all competitors the same – firmly and fair. They never allow the smallest perception of favouritism. They are consistently calm, confident and efficient. They never ever intimidate the competitor and are not intimidated by the competitor.

## DUTIES OF A RANGE OFFICER

11 Competitor Action. ROs are in charge of competitor action. They brief all competitors on the requirements of the particular stage and answer questions to clarify any misinterpretations of the course designer's intention.

12 Patience. The shooters should see ROs as part of the solution and not part of the problem, we are not there to punish. To this end a little patience and understanding helps. Not all shooters will approach the problem posed by the course in the same way, therefore, it is important that the RO listen to the shooters as much as he/she may want the shooters to listen to him.

13 Control. Once the RO is ready to start a squad he must take control and maintain control throughout. This includes spectators.

14 Safety. Safety is of prime importance in our sport and overrides all other considerations. Any safety infringement is dealt with in terms of the IPSC Competition Rules.

15 Impartial. An RO is impartial. Always maintain the same standard throughout a match. This is especially important when it comes to scoring targets, especially where the outside diameter of a bullet hole is touching the next highest scoring line. Don't nit pick, just make sure it is ***touching and not just close***. Remember if the shooter did not earn the higher points don't give it just to avoid some unpleasantness. Most shooters will want to get the best possible result but will accept the decision of the RO. You can only score what you see, not what is supposed to be there.

16 Similar Conditions. Each competitor must be given the same conditions in which to compete. That means if a plate must be painted or a target must be changed to give each competitor an equal opportunity, do it or get someone to do it.

17 Range Equipment. Remember, you are representing the host organisation on that range and have certain responsibilities. For example, it is the host organisation's responsibility (Range Master) to calibrate poppers and to ensure the range equipment functions properly (Match Director). Where this is not always possible, you can ensure that the popper will go down when hit properly and the equipment functions correctly. This saves time by avoiding range equipment failure and the resulting re-shoots. You are co-responsible to take care of the range and the range equipment for the time that you are in charge of that stage.

## RANGE OFFICER APPEARANCE

18 Dress. IROA ROs will primarily be identified by the shirt and cap they wear. Full detail of the IROA RO dress is in the Member Handbook.

19 Appearance. Secondly they will be identified by their neat and well-dressed appearance. Clothes and footwear will always be clean and in good repair. No unshaven appearance.

20 Footwear. An RO is on his feet most of the day and it must be borne in mind that he will be running behind competitors and be expected to keep up. Comfortable running shoes with sufficient "tread" are recommended. Socks will be worn. Sandals will only be worn if the range is on the beach next to the sea.

## RANGE OFFICER EQUIPMENT

21 Personal Equipment. An RO should have the following on the range with him as standard part of his own equipment:

21.1 Copy of the stage/course of fire.

21.2 Clipboard and pen.

- 21.3 IPSC Competition Rules - handgun, rifle or shotgun as applicable.
- 21.4 Scoring overlay.
- 21.5 Timer.
- 21.6 Staple gun.
- 21.7 Water/liquid to prevent dehydration.
- 21.8 Sunblock/sunscreen.
- 21.9 Mosquito repellent.
- 21.10 Cold or rain weather clothing.

## **TRAINEE RANGE OFFICERS**

22 Competency. The RO assessment is intended to establish whether the candidate is competent to assume the responsibilities of an RO, an expert in a specialised field in a practical and much faceted sport that is still continuously developing.

23 Attitude. Past experience has shown that even though a candidate may have extensive knowledge gained from many months or even years on a range, this is not sufficient. He must think as an RO, as opposed to thinking like a competitor. This capability cannot be taught, it comes from experience.

24 Experience. At the same time it is necessary that the RO have general background experience and knowledge that by its very nature cannot be included in a Manual like this.

25 It is essential that the candidate be familiar with the contents of this Manual and does not merely browse through it. This is not without reason. It must be accepted that to a greater or lesser extent the whole sport revolves around the RO and this naturally entails responsibility. Just as the shooter who does not put in real effort to practice remains mediocre, so the RO who is not prepared to put in time and effort will be a mediocre one, and he would be doing himself and the sport a favour were he rather to stay out of officiating.

26 Pass Mark. Overriding all other considerations is the fact that any sport has its own injuries and, disregarding moral and legal considerations, slackness in safety can absolutely not be accepted. It will, therefore, be appreciated that a high pass mark is called for in both the practical and theoretical assessments.



## **CHAPTER 2: QUALIFYING AS A RANGE OFFICER**

### **PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATION AS RANGE OFFICER**

1 Each Region must ensure that suitable individuals receive training as ROs. The Regional NROI concerned is to assist their associations and clubs in every way in the training of the nominated individuals and conduct training courses for the potential ROs. During this time these individuals can be considered as Range Safety Officers.

2 Regional associations and its clubs are, therefore, urged not to nominate a person as trainee RO who does not have the minimum attributes. It must be stressed that qualifying as an RO entails more than just simply knowing this Manual and the IPSC Competition Rules by heart and being able to pass written examinations. If a verbatim knowledge of these notes and the IPSC Competition Rules were all that was required, a non-shooter who had never been on a range would be able to pick up this Manual and the IPSC Competition Rules, and become a qualified RO with a little study, something that certainly would not be to the advantage of the sport. It is for this reason that the appointment of an RO takes time, and over the period until he qualifies there is a high “drop out” rate. Many people start with the best intentions, but realise that to succeed requires a commitment greater than they are able or willing to make.

### **NATIONAL RANGE OFFICER INSTITUTE [NROI]**

3 National Institute of Range Officers. All Regions should have an RO association [NROI]. The NROI carries out the following activities:

- 3.1 Conducts range officer training in accordance with international standards.
- 3.2 Certifies national range officers.
- 3.3 Advises the Regional Director on aspects relating to the safe conduct of IPSC competitions.
- 3.4 Advises the Regional Director on rules of competition.
- 3.5 Maintains a register of all national range officials.
- 3.6 Manages the national range official maintenance programme.

4 Start-up. Should the Region not have such a body the Region may approach IPSC for assistance. IROA will, in conjunction with the Regional executive, assist such a Region as follows:

### **IROA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NROI PROGRAMS**

5 New Region and/or NROI. A new Region has to have its own NROI to be able to host IPSC matches at all levels. The recommended procedure is set out below.

- 5.1 The organization is customarily named the National Range Officers Institute (examples: NROI Canada, NROI Norway, NROI United States, etc.).
- 5.2 The Regional Director usually appoints the President or Chairman of the (NROI).
- 5.3 The organization creates its own identifying logo and colours. The IROA shield and scales may be used but the actual IROA logo or gray striped shirts may not be used.
- 5.4 The funding for the operation of the NROI usually comes through the Regional Director.

6 NROI Range Officer Training. The NROI is responsible for the training of National Range Officers in accordance with international training standards. IROA has developed a Range Officer

Training Seminar which is designed for the training of National Range Officers and this material is available from IROA free of charge to all Regions.

## 7 NROI Range Officer Qualifications and Rank

### 7.1 **Range Officer** qualifications for NROI accreditation

Must be a current member of IPSC  
Must successfully complete an IROA or NROI Level I Seminar  
Must earn 15 supervised Match Points (work in IPSC matches under supervision of a certified IPSC Range Official).

### 7.2 **Chief Range Officer** qualifications for NROI accreditation

Must be a current member of IPSC.  
Must be a certified IPSC Range Officer.  
Must be recommended in writing by a certified Chief Range Officer or Regional Director.  
Must have a minimum of 28 (total accumulated) match points, of which 15 must be at Level III matches.

### 7.3 **Range Master** qualifications for NROI accreditation

Must be a current member of IPSC.  
Must be a certified IPSC Chief Range Officer.  
Must be recommended in writing by a Certified Range Master or Regional Director.  
Must have a minimum of 55 (total accumulated) match points of which 15 as CRO/RM at Level III or higher matches.

7.4 **NROI Annual Maintenance of Certification.** All NROI Officials should require six Match Points per year to maintain their accreditation

### 7.5 **Match Points** are awarded as follows:

Level I match.....1 point  
Level II match.....2 points  
Level III match.....3 points  
Level IV match.....4 points  
Level V match.....5 points

Any official not attaining their required maintenance match points for the calendar year may re-certify for the next year, at their Level, by attaining 3 supervised match points.

## **RO ATTRIBUTES**

8 RO Attributes. It must be accepted that not all shooters are suitable material for ROs. A candidate must have at least the following attributes.

9 Leadership in an "aggressive" sport where the weak and timid are not often found.

10 Experience as a competitor in the sport.

11 Reasonable knowledge of firearms and a smattering of ballistics, the latter because a RO is required in terms of the IPSC Competition Rules Chapter 5 to be able to identify unsafe ammunition.

12 The ability (and willingness) to convey knowledge to others (who are going to use that knowledge as his opponents - thereby creating his own competition).

- 13 Safety-consciousness and particularly the ability to foresee when a safety problem may arise.
- 14 Willingness to make the sacrifice as an active participant not only to put in the additional time and effort required to RO but also to accept that this is to a greater or lesser extent to the detriment of his own shooting.
- 15 The ability to handle "difficult" situations firmly and yet diplomatically (the latter perhaps with the qualification "if possible" ... safety comes first).
- 16 Desire. Before we go any further, the first step should be the candidates *desire* to become an RO. Past experience has shown that other reasons such as being "nominated" or any such reason where peer pressure is used to "motivate" the prospective candidate, usually results in an unmotivated RO within a short period of time.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINEE**

- 17 The candidate should be at least 21 years old. This may vary from Region to Region.
- 18 The club or association recommends a person of suitable potential to the Regional association as trainee RO. In this way there is a process of screening of candidates.
- 19 The candidate must have been shooting level II matches for at least a year. This may vary from Region to Region.
- 20 He then serves an apprenticeship under a qualified RO after first taking a shortened and or verbal examination of the IPSC Competition Rules. During his apprenticeship he must attend level II matches in his capacity as trainee RO, where he will run ranges under supervision of qualified ROs. In this period there is a dual selection process going on. On the one hand the shooters and RO body decide if they want and will accept the trainee RO and on the other if the trainee will accept the demands that officiating will make on him with respect to time, effort, personal sacrifices, etc. This may vary from Region to Region.
- 21 After accumulating 15 match points:
- 21.1 he attends an RO course, conducted by IROA or the Regional NROI, which is concluded with a written assessment for which the pass mark is 75%, and
- 21.2 is examined in the practical aspects by an CRO on the range during a level II match.

The Regional NROI then advises the Regional association if the candidate is found to be competent.

- 22 The new RO is then placed on the Region's register of qualified ROs and is issued with a certificate, insignia, apparel, etc as appropriate to the Region.

## **INTERNATIONAL RANGE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION (IROA)**

27 Background. It is accepted practice that all matches and tournaments of level III and above have to have IROA match officials. Range officers have to meet certain requirements to be appointed as and remain IROA match officials. This is available off the IPSC website and the IROA Member Handbook and will not be repeated here. It is important, however, to take note of the purpose and goals of IROA. This is also available in the Member Handbook.

- 28 The Purpose and Goals of IROA

“IROA has five main responsibilities:

1. Education:

The preparation, development, maintenance and distribution of match official training materials which reflect the current and future requirements of IPSC match.

The training, certification, maintenance and evaluation of IROA instructors.

The identification and training of national match officials who exhibit a high level of competence, an exemplary attitude, and a personal commitment to the safety and quality of IPSC matches to join the ranks of IROA.

The promotion of programs and policies to assist the Regions of IPSC in the installation and development of National Range Officer Institutes using the IROA model and standards.

## 2. Membership:

a) Criteria for Membership.

b) Annual Maintenance of Membership.

c) The introduction of benchmark systems to facilitate the development, deployment and promotion of IROA Officials in an equitable and orderly fashion subject to match requirements and individual experience and expertise. Such systems to recognize the importance of constructive but critical feedback to enhance individual development and improvement.

d) To devise and employ a fair and just system to discipline IROA officials with the understanding that IROA officials must set a very high standard as an example to NROI officials and IPSC competitors at all times.

## 3. Administration:

The creation and maintenance of current records of IROA Officials including their ranks and historical performance.

To set and administer codes of conduct as well as minimum standards for attitude and appearance to maintain the IROA image throughout IPSC.

Install and maintain a system to provide IROA officials with appropriate identification, apparel, equipment, and compensation (where applicable).

## 4. Operations

To provide IPSC Regions/NROI with technical and practical support to assist them in delivering high quality international matches.

To provide IPSC matches with high quality crews of IROA officials to help ensure matches are conducted as safely as possible and to provide logistical support to ensure orderly operation, including the actual construction of the stages if necessary.

To inspect and maintain targets, props, range conditions and any other aspects of matches as may be deemed necessary.

To direct and control the consistent application of the IPSC Competition Rules to constantly strive for the highest level of equity in competition and the enjoyment of the competitors.

## 5. Consultation

To advise IPSC on all matters relating to rule changes and match operations including safety, firearm and equipment development and competitor actions.

To provide the Regions with current and effective expertise to assist them with the development and maintenance of their NROI organizations.

To provide IPSC with appropriate research, opinions and evidence as may be required.”

The IROA Member Handbook

**29** IROA Accreditation, Status Progression and Maintenance Policy. These details are to be found in the Member Handbook and will not be repeated here.

## CHAPTER 3: THE RANGE OFFICER'S DUTIES

1 Categories. The duties of the RO may be broadly divided into four categories:

1.1 Primary safety.

1.2 The running of a competition as a range officer.

1.3 Providing a firm foundation for the sport.

1.4 The advancement of the sport.

2 Applying the Rules. At all times remember that ROs only apply the Rules, they never interpret them. Interpretation is done by the IROA Council and IPSC.

3 Image and Attitude. Before getting into specifics let's take time to consider the following. As an RO, you are a key element in your Region's Safety Plan. Your actions will help to shape the future of the sport and to the shooters on the line YOU represent your NROI and IPSC. That is why we are concerned about

3.1 Image. As an RO you are invested with considerable responsibility and authority. How you handle the job shapes the image of our sport. The impression you make must be a positive one.

3.2 Professional Attitude. Practical Shooting is a sport that challenges you to develop self-control. You need it to control and integrate body and mind when you are shooting. You need it as an RO when you are interacting with a shooter.

4 Professional Attitude. To be a successful RO you need to develop a professional attitude. You convey this by your body language and handling of the shooter on the range/stage you are allocated to:

4.1 You are CALM ... because you know the Rules, the job and how to run a stage.

4.2 You are COURTEOUS... Each shooter, from beginner to master is treated with the same calm and courteous manner, despite any emotional outbursts on their part.

4.3 You are in COMMAND... When people of various skills are running around with loaded firearms, someone has to be in command. We expect the shooter to be in **control** of his firearm and himself. You are in **command** of the stage, the shooter and the action.

4.4 You are THINKING AHEAD... You are thinking SAFETY and are alert to head off potential safety problems BEFORE they occur.

4.5 You are KNOWLEDGEABLE... about the Rules and principles of the sport, about firearms and about your job.

4.6 You are OBJECTIVE... There is never a whisper of favouritism concerning your actions. Each shooter is treated with the same courteous impartially.

4.7 YOUR JOB... You are responsible for seeing that the CoF is run fairly and consistently. In order to do that, your instructions must be CLEAR, TO THE POINT AND EXACTLY THE SAME FOR EACH GROUP OF SHOOTERS.

**YOUR GOALS... PROFESSIONALISM - SAFETY - OBJECTIVITY - SAFETY - FAIRNESS - SAFETY - CONSISTENCY - SAFETY - KNOWLEDGE - SAFETY - CONFIDENCE – SAFETY**

5 All this is brought together in one easily understood document known as the IPSC Range Officer's Creed. Read this often as it embodies all that a range officer must strive to be.

## PRIMARY SAFETY

6 It is reiterated that **the RO's primary duty is to control competitor behaviour primarily and the range secondarily in a manner that ensures the total safety of competitors and spectators at all times.**

7 Safety before diplomacy! However, this does not excuse bad manners!

8 Fortunately the RO does, normally, not have much argument about his decision on safety infringements. He should, however, ensure that he builds up a reputation that he does not tolerate any infringement by consistency, and inflexibly reacting to even a minor safety infringement.

9 Minor Infringements. Once you allow a minor infringement to go by unchecked you have set a precedent. The tendency of your shooters will be to chance their luck until you draw the line. When you do this, you are not doing it from a position of strength as you are hampered by the precedent you had set.

10 A particular word of warning regarding "the person in authority". A junior RO is sometimes reluctant to react to safety infringements of, for example, his senior RO, team member, "A" grade shooter, chairman, etc. You should, if anything, react more severely to this person's infringements as

10.1 he **does** know better and you know it,

10.2 the other shooters will notice this leniency and know that you did not react simply for personal reasons and "bang" goes your authority.

11 It is also stressed that as far as the infringement of safety rules is concerned, the RO has no discretion but **MUST** disqualify the transgressor.

## THE RUNNING OF A CONTEST AS A RANGE OFFICER

12 Disregarding the design of the course, the manner in which the RO handles a shoot is the single determining factor that decides whether the shoot is a success or a failure. The RO's objectives after safety are to assist the competitor through the CoF safely and to ensure that the competitor and spectators enjoy the shoot.

13 He takes control of the range and maintains that control - if he loses control the shoot deteriorates into a shambles with little enjoyment for any competitor and often with unpleasant undertones. This control, in the broad sense, is what is later on referred to as range discipline.

14 Never lose sight of the fact that the purpose of the sport is to test the competitor's ability to **shoot** in a simulated hypothetical situation. The operative word is SHOOT!

15 Penalties. In conducting any shoot, the RO should not lose sight of the rationale the designer had in mind when he set the CoF, and he should apply penalties etc, accordingly. The RO's primary purpose is **not** to see how many penalties he can award against a competitor. The principles underlying the allocation of penalties are clearly defined in the Rules and the RO should apply these principles rigidly. Do not be petty.

16 RO Actions at the Stage. The following "rules" may be applied to ensure that a competition is conducted harmoniously: [see Rule 3.2]

16.1 Explain the course to the competitors clearly and concisely and ensure that they understand it. Invite questions.

16.2 Explain the scoring method and penalties clearly and definitely. The competitor must be able to work out from this what category of shoot it is and how he should approach it. Again, invite questions.

16.3 Ensure that competitors can define firing points clearly if penalties are attached to overrunning or stepping a fixed firing point.

16.4 Ensure that competitors can clearly define targets and particularly penalty targets.

16.5 Ensure that competitors can hear your commands clearly.

16.6 Ensure that competitors can check their scores and times, if at all possible, while there is still time to raise a question if they wish to.

16.7 Treat all competitors equally and impartially, irrespective of personal knowledge of them and/or their range manners, or your personal feelings towards them. As officials, we must not only be fair, but we must be seen to be fair.

17 If there is an infringement of the Rules, the competitor must be so informed:

17.1 In a pleasant manner, and

17.2 if the infringement is serious, the RO should warn or disqualify the competitor immediately.

17.3 Be courteous and friendly; you need not be a bully to be strict.

17.4 When taking an individual shooter under command (in any CoF other than standards), try to establish rapport and set him at ease; endeavour to establish the attitude that you are going through the course together, NOT that you are going to try to catch him out.

17.5 Above all, be strict but fair.

## IPSC RANGE OFFICER'S CREED

As an IPSC Range Officer, I shall conduct all competitions with the safety of the competitors, spectators and fellow Range Officials first and foremost in my thoughts and actions. I shall always be courteous while maintaining firm control over my range and areas of responsibility. I will always strive to be totally fair and impartial in my judgements.

1. **Safety shall always be my primary goal**, with efficiency and speed of the competition as secondary factors.
2. **It is a privilege and an honour to serve as a Range Officer** and I shall act accordingly.
3. **It is my duty to assist all competitors** in their attempts to accomplish their goals and not to hinder them by undue harassment and authoritarian behaviour.
4. **I shall put aside personal prejudices** and act as an impartial judge at all times.
5. **I shall keep my opinions to myself** and shall not be critical of any individual beyond the field of contest.
6. **I will thoroughly familiarize myself with all current regulations**, match rules and attendant subjects.
7. **I will be firm and fair** in all judgemental calls made during the course of a stage, and be prepared to state in a clear and concise manner my reasons for such calls to the particular competitor or any Range Official.
8. During the course of a stage, **my attention shall be clearly focused on the particular competitor** I am assigned to observe, and I shall not permit my attention to be misdirected or lax.
9. Prior to and during a stage, **I shall never consume any alcoholic beverage or narcotic**. I understand that if I violate this rule, I may be suspended or barred from serving as a Range Official in the future.
10. **I shall confer only with my fellow Range Officers** and Match Officials concerning the behaviour of any competitor and any decisions to be rendered.
11. **I shall exercise due consideration for the personal emotions of any competitor**, and shall act in a manner so as not to embarrass or disturb the competitor any more than is absolutely necessary.
12. **I shall strive to never give even the appearance of wrongdoing.**



## CHAPTER 4: THE RANGE OFFICER'S AUTHORITY

### GENERAL

1 Authority. "The RO has complete authority on the range." As imposing as it may sound, this may be meaningless if the RO does not act accordingly.

2 Popularity. The RO is not on the range to win a popularity contest and it is inevitable that his decisions will from time to time be unpopular. This does not excuse bad manners.

3 Range Discipline. Range discipline is essential and it is something that is only built up over a period of time by the consistent conduct of the RO in bringing meaning to the words "the RO has complete authority on the range".

3.1 By the very nature of his duties and of the sport the Range Officer must apply his discretion in many instances and he should not be afraid to do so, provided it is done fairly and impartially.

3.2 If he does not do so it would simply mean that the RO has no authority on the range whatsoever.

3.3 A climate in the sport in which such a situation could develop could only be the direct result of having weak ROs, using the word in its wide sense.

4 The RO is in no different position to the referee or umpire in any other sport in the sense that he is human, as such fallible, and may make a wrong decision, but he is judged on his overall "performance" and not by single instances.

5 The whole question, therefore, boils down purely and simply to range discipline in the sense that shooters should know that the RO makes a decision based on what he sees, and that he applies the IPSC Competition Rules fairly and consistently. Shooters can appeal and the decision can be reversed.

6 This acceptance of the RO's authority starts at club level and works up. A man who has a weak RO in his club, with whom he can argue (even if it is with his tongue in his cheek) and get away with it, is likely to do the same on higher levels of competition.

7 Interests of the Sport. If the RO were to award a penalty against a shooter for a minor procedural error from which he gained no real advantage and have completely disqualified a second shooter who deliberately tried to exploit a previous decision of the RO, to the extent of not only gaining a major and unfair advantage but completely negating the problem the designer of the course set for shooters to overcome, the RO would have been acting in the interest of the sport, albeit harshly.

8 This does not imply that the RO may apply and exercise his discretion unfettered by any discipline or control. But it is NOT for the individual competitor to dispute the RO's ruling with a view to altering his own or, as is more often the case, some other competitor's score. The word "sportsmanship" hopefully has some meaning in this sport too.

9 It is not to say that a competitor may not enquire about and discuss a penalty awarded against him with his RO before he leaves the line. The RO should have an open mind to the competitor's point of view but it is then for him to make his decision and motivate it briefly to the competitor, mentioning the relevant Rule and the specific part of the briefing. He should not permit further haggling or argument after that.

10 However, if the RO cannot motivate his ruling and has to hide behind the answer: "I am the RO and what I say goes" it is pretty certain that his decision was an arbitrary and undefendable one.

## THE RANGE OFFICER'S AUTHORITY

11 Control over the RO. The fact that the RO's decision is final as far as the shooter is concerned does not, however, mean that the RO is a law unto himself and can do just what he likes. The RO is subject to the control of and even, if need be, disciplinary action by senior authorities above him up to the Regional association if NROI, or IROA if an IROA official. The Rules are very clear on this.

12 Right and Duty. In the first instance the best control is self-control and good judgement. It should be borne in mind that the counterpart of a right is a duty and the greater the right, the greater the duty. The more power you are given, the greater the discretion with which you should employ these powers. Needless to say, an RO with these more-or-less unlimited powers who is inclined to think and act like a dictator does the sport no good. It is re-iterated that the RO must appreciate that where on the one hand he has the right to act with wide discretion, there is a corresponding duty on him to ensure that he does not abuse this right.

13 The RO in IPSC is in the unique position in as much as our sport needs to be controlled more strictly than most other amateur sports, therefore

13.1 the RO is invested with more powers than his counterpart in other sports, and

13.2 to ensure that safety and discipline on the range is maintained IPSC is structured to uphold the authority of the RO.

14 Knowledge of the Rules. The RO himself is as much subject to the Rules as are the competitors, with the difference that he is assumed to know them. Just as it would be an utter shambles if in say a football match the referee started applying the rules of tennis, our sport would be in shambles if every RO started applying different rules or his own pet interpretation of what he thinks the rule should be. The RO has to make his decisions in accordance with the Rules and a ruling which is clearly incorrect not only makes the RO in question look pretty stupid but is an embarrassment all round, as

14.1 the competitor justifiably objects and wants the ruling reversed,

14.2 the organised sport is in a dilemma, for

14.2.1 on the one hand, and in order to maintain discipline, the door cannot be opened for reversal of RO decisions for just any reason, but

14.2.2 on the other hand, fairness obviously calls for the aggrieved competitor to be compensated.

15 Criteria for Decisions. The RO **must** therefore know the Rules and apply them! Note that the RO only applies the Rules and does not interpret them. But further than this, all decisions made by the RO have to meet with certain requirements and if they do not, they are suspect. These criteria are:

15.1 He must not have acted with ulterior motives or male fide e.g. when there is perhaps some doubt, penalise a competitor simply because he does not like him or because the RO's sympathy lies with another team.

15.2 He must, in a matter where he has discretion, actively apply his mind to the alternatives. He cannot simply take the easy way out and decide on the first alternative that comes to mind, (an "exception" to this is matters relating to safety when the RO has to act **immediately** and **without hesitation**). This is why he has to know the Rules and apply the correct one.

15.3 His decision must not lead to grossly unfair results. Unreasonableness on its own is often difficult to establish unless it is so gross that either ulterior motives or a lack of application of his mind to the problem becomes apparent. Shooters will soon realise if the RO becomes unnecessarily

dictatorial and unreasonable, he will find himself in the position that even his better decisions become suspect in the minds of others.

15.4 He must, in case of a dispute, afford the competitor an opportunity to present his side of the story. This may, particularly in instances where safety is involved, not be possible **before** the RO makes his decision and acts, in which case it should be done at the first opportune moment. If the RO is then persuaded that his decision was wrong, be big enough to admit it and rectify the matter as best he can under the circumstances.

15.5 An RO in charge of a stage is exactly that, he is in command irrespective of his status.

16 In this we have dealt only with the RO. The shooter can go to arbitration on any ruling except scoring where the Range Master has final say.

17 Finally, those ROs who do not visibly demonstrate the quality of an RO as reflected in this Manual will rarely be promoted or allowed to officiate independently at major matches.

## CHAPTER 5: SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES

### SAFETY RULES IN GENERAL

1 The safety rules the RO works to are the foundation on which he builds further to discharge his primary duty, namely to ensure safety at all times. The basis of safety in IPSC lies in the RO applying the IPSC Competition Rules diligently, constantly, conscientiously and consistently. A thorough knowledge of the Rules is essential for all ROs. Safety rules fall into four categories, namely the three commandments, primary safety rules, regulative safety rules and local safety rules.

2 Three Commandments. The three basic, capital rules, which may be called the three commandments, contravention of which leads not only to disqualification of but also to disciplinary action against the transgressor, viz.

2.1 The RO has complete authority on the range.

2.2 Only point a firearm at that which you wish to see destroyed.

2.3 No firearm may be handled except on the firing line and on the command of the RO, the exception being a designated safety area.

3 Primary Safety Rules. The "Three Commandments" are supplemented with a number of primary safety rules, the contravention of which leads to match disqualification without discretion on the part of the RO, such as the following:

3.1 Allowing the muzzle of the firearm to point at any part of the competitor's body.

3.2 Dropping a firearm during a CoF, or during loading, unloading or reloading, whether loaded or not.

3.3 Being under the influence of liquor or drugs on the range.

See Rule 10.5 of the IPSC Competition Rules for detail.

4 Regulative Safety Rules. There are usually a number of regulative safety rules, some of which are obviously always applicable and some that are designed purely as the occasion demands, e.g. at a shotgun match shotguns must be carried muzzle up, placed on racks until called to the line, etc.

5 Local Safety Rules. Each club is free to formulate its own safety rules (provided they are accepted and approved by the local Regional body) and they do not necessarily correspond to the IPSC Competition Rules. However, the club has to ensure that its rules meet with IPSC Competition Rules to be able to host IPSC matches. It follows that visitors to a club may work to different local rules, and novices may be completely unfamiliar with safety rules. The RO should therefore ensure that all shooters are familiar with the local safety rules - do not take anything for granted.

6 IPSC Competition Rules. The IPSC Competition Rules were designed to fit any level of competition, where you have to cope with a number of shooters from different clubs, associations, Regions and countries and languages. It is essential that each RO shall know the IPSC Competition Rules and coach any new member who will be attending a match.

### SAFETY PROCEDURES ON THE RANGE

7 Range Commands. Do not deviate from the wordings and use of recognised IPSC range commands. USE ONLY THEM AND DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY ANYTHING FROM THEM.

8 Safety on the Firing Line. Ensure that every shooter is safe before leaving the firing line.

8.1 In all cases when the shooter presents his firearm after the command "unload and show clear" look into the chamber and magazine well to ensure that they are both empty. At this stage the shooter is still under your command and it is your responsibility to ensure that when he leaves the line his firearm is in a safe condition. This responsibility will minimally end when you declare his firearm clear and he takes responsibility [if clear, hammer down, holster] and subsequently the range clear.

8.2 When dealing with a squad on the line (multiple shooters), it is good policy in the case where firearms are carried cocked and locked, (between strings during a standards exercise) to have the shooters on the line turn and face the RO once they have holstered. This will make visual inspection easier, especially when the squad is required to move to another distance. This also has the added advantage that shooters who are wearing ear protection can see you, and you can ensure that the shooters are paying attention during the briefing.

8.3 Once they are off the line and no longer under the direct surveillance of the RO, shooters are tempted to fiddle with firearms. Bear in mind that however strict range discipline may be, it is something which may still occur and is aspect to which the RO should be alert.

8.4 Safety areas must be set up to allow shooters to not only bag and unbag, but also for inspecting or working on firearms. Clubs must set up safety areas for all matches; this will contribute to preventing the problem mentioned above. It is good policy to have the rules governing the safety areas displayed in these areas.

9 Check. The RO should automatically check

9.1 that the range is clear, and

9.2 that non-shooters are safely behind the firing line before giving the command to load and make ready. It should be second nature.

## **SAFETY ON THE LINE**

10 View of the Shooters. The RO should always stand in such a position that he has a clear view of all shooters in the squad under his control.

11 Large Squads. An RO cannot control and supervise a large squad [standards] on his own. He should:

11.1 make use of sufficient assistant ROs to ensure that there is a RO watching each three/four shooters at most, and

11.2 **Not** attempt to operate a manual timing system as well as watching the line, and

11.3 not give the command to load before he has passed to the back of the line.

12 Jammed Firearm. Pay close attention to a shooter clearing a jammed firearm. The shooter very often tends to point the firearm to his weak side, either down the line or at his own body. This naturally also applies on any other courses, but in that case there should not be anybody near where he may point the firearm.

13 Exercises with a potential safety problem must be strictly controlled.

14 Caution should also be exercised when a squad that is shooting [standards] is interrupted.

## **SAFETY DURING THE COURSE OF FIRE**

15 CoF Safety. Before proceeding with any CoF, the RO must satisfy himself that it is a safe course, both in design and as it has been set up. He should walk the course specifically to determine that

15.1 the angle of fire from all points is safe,

15.2 any point at which a possible accidental shot may be fired (e.g. over barricade, in a tunnel, etc.) is angled in such a manner that no harm can be done by a stray shot.

If he is not satisfied, he must take it up with the RM immediately.

16 Movement. A shooter on the move

16.1 should in the case of a semi-auto, have the safety on and in the case of a revolver, have the hammer down, and

16.2 **must** have his finger out of the trigger guard, when moving from one shooting station, area, or position to the next.

17 View of CoF. The RO must pay particular attention in any CoF where he cannot see the entire course from the starting position. Care must be taken to ensure that patchers and scorers are out of the shooting bay before the next shooter is started. It is recommended that

17.1 a constant and fixed number of persons is used throughout the shoot (e.g. scorer and 2 patchers)

17.2 a head count is done each time before a shooter is taken under command.

17.3 individual patchers and scorers are not replaced without the permission of the RO, and

17.4 that a safety officer is in position with the specific duty to ensure:

17.4.1 that the previous shooter is out, and

17.4.2 that nobody wanders into the course at any time (for instance to check a buddy's score).

17.5 The RO remains behind until the last shooter or patcher has finished and walks to the starting position with the all the competitors etc in front of him.

## **IPSC COMPETITION RULES**

18 The IPSC Competition Rules form the basis of the sport and this Manual must be seen as amplifying the Rules for the RO. Only the newest version of the Rules is used in any match or tournament at all levels of practical shooting. The Rules are available from the IPSC website [www.ipsc.org](http://www.ipsc.org) for the price of downloading and printing them.

19 It is expected of all ROs and trainee ROs that they will be very familiar with the IPSC Competition Rules and keep them updated with the changes that will appear from time to time.

## CHAPTER 6: COURSE DESIGN

### INTRODUCTION

1 Course design is a facet of RO duties which is not always given the attention it deserves. All too often it has been a case of quickly sitting down and jotting down a few notes and lo! a new course!!! Genius at work!

2 The Basis. A properly designed course is the basis

2.1 of an enjoyable and stimulating shoot,

2.2 that can be conducted safely and without hitch and argument, and

2.3 that sustains the shooters' interest and enthusiasm by challenging his ability without crippling penalties on unrealistic targets.

3 Development. Course design also determines the development of the sport and it is particularly in this field where the RO who has the necessary imagination and ingenuity to design courses that pose new challenges and problems, can make a vital contribution.

4 Stereotype. It is of the utmost importance that the RO as course designer does not fall into the rut of simply rehashing old and stale courses and/or presenting stereotype courses week after week. Nothing can dampen enthusiasm and kill interest in the sport more effectively.

5 The sport does not need gimmicks to make a challenging CoF; it needs imagination and serious thought. Applying the principles of course design in the IPSC Competition Rules will enable you to keep the CoF ever young and challenging and interesting.

### IPSC ORIGINS

6 The principles below originate from the IPSC Constitution and define the nature of IPSC marksmanship. They are accepted by all the members of IPSC as conditions of membership. They are also the foundation of all good course design.

7 Practical competition is **open to all reputable persons** without regard to occupation; it may specifically not be limited to public servants.

8 **Accuracy, power and speed are the equivalent elements of practical shooting** and practical competition must be conducted in such a way as to evaluate these elements equally.

9 **Firearm types are not separated, all compete together without handicap.** This does not apply to the power of the firearms as power is an element to be recognised and rewarded.

10 Practical shooting competition is a **test of expertise in the use of practical firearms and equipment.** Any item of equipment, or modification to equipment, which sacrifices practical functionality for a competitive advantage contravenes the principles of the sport.

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

12 The challenge presented in practical competition **must be realistic.** Courses of Fire must follow a practical rationale, and simulate sensible hypothetical situations in which firearms might reasonably be used.

13 Practical competition is **diverse**. Within the limits of realism, problems are constantly changed, never permitting unrealistic specialisation of either technique or equipment. Courses of Fire may be repeated, but no course may be repeated enough to allow its use as a definitive measure of practical shooting skill.

14 Practical competition is **freestyle**. In essence, the competitive problem is posed in general and the participant is permitted the freedom to solve it in the manner he considers best within the limitations of the competitive situation as provided.

## **FACTORS TO CONSIDER**

15 In addition to the guidelines published in the IPSC Competition Rules (Chapter 1 and 2), there are a number of factors to take into account when designing a CoF, i.e.

15.1 Safety

15.2 Clarity

15.3 Relevance

15.4 Variety

15.5 Training

## **SAFETY**

16 As has been stressed throughout this Manual, safety is the primary function of the RO and this is as much a consideration in designing a course as it is in running a CoF.

17 Competitor Ability. A major factor that should be taken into account is the ability of the competitors participating. There will obviously be different standards for the different levels of matches and tournaments as specified in the IPSC Competition Rules. Our members are a cross section with different levels of skill. Don't design a shoot to give the top shooters in the club a real challenge and completely demoralise the shooter who has only recently graduated from the beginner's grade. By and large the intermediate shooters make up the bulk of our members, let's keep them enthusiastic, they too can develop into the top shooters if we keep them in the sport long enough.

18 Standard Exercise. The exercise where a squad is on the line (Standards) is where particular attention is required for the following reasons:

18.1 you often have the experienced shooter and the less experienced shoulder to shoulder within approximately 1,5m of each other,

18.2 what might be easy for the experienced shooter may be beyond the capabilities of the less experienced shooter who is now making an all-out effort to match the better shooter, and

18.3 it is particularly on the standard exercise where shooters work to tight times, and under stress the accidental discharge is most likely to result in a disqualification.

19 Pay Attention. It follows that in designing a CoF the RO should pay particular attention to the following:

19.1 any exercise which entails a change in stance or shooting position, such as starting strong or weak side on, back to target, etc.,

19.2 weak hand shooting,



19.3 any exercise where the time limits become very tight, having regard to the ability of the shooters in question, and

20 Medium and Long Courses. Points to bear in mind when designing a medium or long course are, amongst others:

20.1 any physical obstacle that the competitor has to go over or under,

20.2 falling plates and other metal equipment which may cause a ricochet or splinter,

20.3 any target so placed that a competitor who, under the stress of competition, may be inclined to overrun and then shoot back at or a target placed close to a line along which a competitor is likely to move and which is not close to a side stop, and

20.4 weak hand shooting.

21 Particular Problem Areas. This list of problem that the course designer has to bear in mind is never ending. It is not suggested that all problem activities should be avoided at all costs, for that is clearly not always practical. But the course designer should at least have been aware of the potential problems and weighed this against such factors as the experience of the shooters, the competence of the RO concerned, the number of spectators, etc.

## **CLARITY**

22 Rationale. One unfortunately often sees courses which are unsatisfactory simply because the course designer himself was not clear on what he wished to achieve. This happens when there is no rationale behind the design of the course.

23 Procedure. For this reason it is strongly recommended that the course designer goes about the design of a course in the following way:

23.1 find a situation (in broad outline) which you regard as being adaptable to a practical shooting course,

23.2 analyse this situation and determine what skills you would test (shoot from an uncomfortable position, crouch, etc),

23.3 define the rationale most suitable to such a course, and

23.4 then design the course on paper.

24 The course designer should have a clear picture in mind of the basic types of courses with their variations. These are set out clearly in chapter 1 of the IPSC Competition Rules.

## **RELEVANCE**

25 IPSC shooting should be paid more than just lip service. Your aim should be to take a relevant situation and reduce this to a CoF. One is naturally handicapped to a very large extent by 3 factors, namely:

25.1 restrictions imposed by safety considerations,

25.2 the challenge faced by each competitor must be the same which in turn makes it difficult to introduce an element of surprise, which to a restricted degree can be overcome with reactive targets etc., and

25.3 the number of shooters involved, as owing to the time involved with scoring and patching, the course itself has to be kept short and sweet.

26 Apply the Rules. However, because concessions have to be made to relevance, it does not mean that relevance goes by the board; if anything it means that greater effort must be made to achieve it.

27 DVC. Remember that the sport developed from and is based on balancing accuracy, power and speed.

27.1 Power more or less takes care of itself. The scoring values presently used ensure this and encourage the use of firearms and ammunition that meet the power factor.

27.2 The emphasis should be on the balancing of the speed and accuracy and as a rough rule of thumb it can be taken that a 25cm group within the A in 5 seconds is preferable to a 5cm group in 8 seconds. With the Comstock scoring method of score divided by time this is more or less automatically accommodated.

27.3 Herein lies the principal difference between practical shooting and precision shooting. In precision shooting the entire emphasis is placed on accuracy.

27.4 Emphasize speed of shooting with accuracy rather than deliberate type shooting, although all shooters should be capable of deliberate placing of shots in their own time.

28 Reloads. Forced reloads are limited to standard exercises in order not to limit the firepower of a firearm or interfere with a shooter's natural training.

29 Improvisation. As few restrictions as possible should be placed on technique, stance, etc., in order not to limit freedom of improvisation. The shooter should rather be asked to solve a given problem as best he can, which means that the following should be avoided as far as possible:

#### Fixed Firing Positions

\*By simply using vision barriers, simulated and real hard cover, and other props that restrict the movement of the competitor, while still allowing options, regarding the manner or sequence in which the problem can be overcome, impractical competitor behaviour can be prevented, while still retaining the approach stipulated in the freestyle principle of the IPSC Competition Rules.

\*If the beginner does not feel confident to hit As beyond 5m it is just as well that he knows this. If the experienced shooter is good enough to engage targets at an acute angle, or score on difficult shots at greater distances, this will be the reward for his ability, while the beginner can still fulfil the stage requirements, albeit in a longer time, when having to move closer to the barriers to get the shot.

30 Freestyle. Bear in mind the following IPSC principle:

"IPSC matches are freestyle. Competitors must be permitted to solve the challenges presented in a freestyle manner and to shoot targets on and "as and when visible" basis ...

31 Emphasis. The emphasis should be on shooting, not on

31.1 athletic feats such as a long sprinting course, scaling of high walls, crawling underneath a very low tunnel etc.

31.2 technicalities such as overstepping a line by a fraction, etc., or

31.3 involved, detailed instructions which make the test more one of memory than of shooting.

32 Weak Hand. If weak hand only is called for

32.1 this should be at the end of the course,

32.2 from that point onwards the competitor should continue with the weak hand, performing all functions without any assistance from the strong hand or arm, until the course is completed, and

32.3 handling the firearm or equipment with the strong hand does entail very heavy penalties (procedural error for every occurrence). See rule 10.2.8 for exceptions.

33 Concealed Targets. Concealed or partially concealed targets (hard and soft cover) are permissible, in fact even desirable.

34 Non Shoot Targets. Where non shoot targets are used, be aware of shoot throughs. Remember targets are impenetrable and shots that pass through one target and go on to strike another cause endless problems for the RO. Avoid this situation at all costs. Bear in mind that not all competitors will approach the problem in the same way and allow for this.

35 Placing Targets

35.1 Place targets as close to the backstop as possible.

35.2 Ensure shots don't result in direct hits on concrete, rocks and inadequately stacked tyres.

35.3 All shots at the target from any possible shooting position must be contained in the shooting bay, especially shots fired from kneeling and prone positions.

35.4 Shots fired by shooters of all physical heights must be contained in the shooting bay.

35.5 Steel targets must be placed at least 7m from the closest overrun of the competitor. The steel must be placed square to the shooting position to prevent ricochets. Splatter to the sides and front will cause raggedness in targets placed close to the steel. Place solid traps to catch possible side splatter from the steel. This is why shooting glasses is essential to ROs, competitors and spectators.

35.6 Ground level targets placed away from the backstop or berm must have adequate bullet traps placed to catch any possible ricochets. This can be in the form of sand filled tyres, sandbags, hay bales, etc. Check for the bullet strike and adjust the bullet traps until they adequately contain the shots.

35.7 Target frames are constructed of wood. Keep metal to a minimum especially the close range targets. Metal frames holding the wood must be kept as far away from the shootable areas as possible.

## **VARIETY**

36 Little can be added to what was said in Chapter 4: Providing a Firm Foundation for the Sport, other than to stress the importance of avoiding stereotype courses.

37 Old Courses. There is no objection to using old courses provided that:

37.1 no course is shot repeatedly and allowed to become a definitive measure of practical skill - if this is constantly practised it loses all value;

37.2 if such a course is used, it is scrutinised fully, and if necessary amended to comply with the principles of course design.

38 Fun Shoots. On the club range "fun shoots" should not be neglected. Balloon, numbers, dart board shoot, etc., keeps alive the fun during off times.

## **DEVELOPING SKILL**

39 Purpose. The purpose of developing practical shooting skills is to

39.1 to improve proficiency in the handling of the specific firearm,

39.2 to fix a pattern of automatic reaction, in other words, to train the shooter to react subconsciously, and

39.3 to develop engagement logic.

40 It is therefore immediately apparent that

40.1 Standard Exercise provide the foundation of shooting proficiency but are a means to an end and not an end in itself, and

40.2 Long Courses, the Man vs. Man, Short Courses, etc., together with Standard Exercises form an integrated whole and should be viewed as such.

41 Statistics. In order to do this effectively the RO or training officer needs statistics reflecting what progress is made, identifying weaknesses, etc. The simplest way to obtain this information is to use score sheets.

42 Development Program. A program may be undertaken as a specific project. This will probably be done as a matter of course in the case of beginners in the established clubs and also by the newer clubs that are not yet fully committed to competition. It will normally be found that the RO has to take the initiative and somehow integrate the league, practice of published courses for matches, championships, etc., into such a program.

43 To achieve this it becomes doubly important

43.1 that the RO is conscious of the problem,

43.2 analyses the results of shoots to identify areas of weakness which require special attention, and

43.3 designs courses and exercises that supplement the league, etc.

44 The average member may not even be aware that he is, in effect, being put through an advanced training course if the RO does his homework and introduces courses and exercises dictated by the needs, but the results will be there.

## **GENERAL**

45 Promotion of the Sport. A very important point in promoting the sport is course design. All the aspects mentioned here are to be borne in mind when designing a CoF, together with aspects that may improve the spectator appeal of the course being designed.

46 Public Appeal. In order to interest potential sponsors etc. the sport must appeal to the public. It is sponsorship that will eventually enable the association to increase its facilities and membership. A vital issue in obtaining better spectator appeal is the use of reactive targets, which obviously register when hit. This enables spectators to follow a competition and observe the difference between individual skills.

## CHAPTER 7: RANGE PROCEDURE

### STAGE PROCEDURE

1 The efficient management of a stage and correct use of personnel and procedures provides optimum performance. The RO must plan the administration of his stage so that it requires the minimum time and effort to get the squad through without rushing them or appearing unprofessional.

2 Three officials are preferred to run an efficient stage.

**The Range Officer.** Watches the firearm and general safety. The Range Officer carries the timer and maintains a position within 'reach' of the competitor.

**The Scorekeeper.** Watches for any procedural faults, etc. and records the scores.

**The Stage Organiser.** Gets the next competitor ready to go (briefing, answer questions, etc) and keeps the shooting order.

3 "On Air" and "Off Air" Time

**"On Air".** This time belongs to the competitor - from "Load and Make Ready" to "Range is Clear" (normally 1 - 2 minutes).

**Note that this differs from the definition of the CoF. The CoF begins with "load and make ready" and ends with completion of the holster portion of "If clear, hammer down, holster"**

**"Off Air".** This time belongs to the Range Officials. This time is used for all the other functions such as scoring, taping, etc. (4 - 5 minutes). A good "rule of thumb" is a minimum of 10 competitors per hour, (6 minutes per competitor).

4 Management Tips. Use the "Stage Organiser". He announce the shooting order and get the next competitor ready on the line before the Range Officer returns from scoring.

In local matches, use competitors to help tape targets, pick up plates, reset the equipment, etc after they have shot.

### DAILY STAGE INSPECTION

5 Stage Inspection. The first thing a range officer must do on getting to his stage is to inspect it to see that it is set up according to the published CoF. If not, set up the stage according to the shoot booklet and briefing. If there are differences clear this out with the Range Master before the first competitor starts. If you think that something on the stage or the CoF needs changing, clear it with the Range Master first; you may inadvertently change the layout and cause endless trouble with arbitration and reshoots.

6 RO Pack. Check that your RO pack is complete and that you have enough spare targets, sticks, patches, etc for the day. Be a low maintenance range officer.

7 Cleanliness. Clean up the area and make sure that a rubbish bin or bag is available. Clear up after every squad and make certain that your stage is neat and tidy.

8 Between Squads. Check the targets, replace them if necessary, repaint the plates, take the score sheets to stats if nobody has collected them yet. Make certain that you drink enough water in winter and summer.

## SHOOTING ORDER

9 The shooting order must be the same for all squads in a match to ensure consistency and fairness.

10 IROA has a shooting order that works well, is easy to understand and is fair to all. See the shooting order in the IROA Member Handbook. It is recommended that it be used at all levels of competition. The RM must determine decide on this shooting order before the match starts to ensure consistency.

## SQUAD BRIEFING AND WALK-THROUGH

11 Briefing. The IPSC Competition Rules are specific on what should be included in the briefing for each stage and that a copy be displayed for the competitors to read on the stage. However, it is essential that the Chief Range Officer for the stage read the briefing verbatim to each squad. The same person reads the same information in the same way for every squad, ensuring consistency and fairness in the briefing.

12 Walk-through. After reading the briefing, take the squad on a walk through the stage, demonstrating the moving and reacting targets and starting position. Show the moving and reacting targets only once per squad. Allow five minutes for them to view the stage and try the activating and other equipment, depending on the size of the squad. After this only allow the competitors on the stage for patching and picking up. Only the next competitor to shoot must be allowed on the starting position and to 'practice' but allow that competitor sufficient time to view the stage again without wasting time. Make this clear to the competitors during the walk through. Rule 8.7.5.

13 Equipment Check. Part of the due diligence that every RO should do as a matter of course is to check competitor equipment on the stage. This equipment check is to ensure conformance to the Division requirements and does not replace the equipment check on registering for the competition. The equipment check can be a cursory scan of the competitors before the briefing starts or a formal check per stage as part of match arrangements. In the case of a formal equipment check per stage, an equipment check sheet may be used. See Appendix A for an example.

## TARGETS AND SCORING METHODS

14 Targets. The only targets that are used in matches and tournaments are:

- 14.1 the IPSC cardboard/paper target,
- 14.2 the pepper popper and "classic" popper,
- 14.3 20cm and 30cm round, and 15cm and 30cm square metal plates for handgun only,
- 14.4 the universal target,
- 14.5 the A4/A and A3/B paper targets, and
- 14.6 round and rectangular plates ranging in size from 15cm x 15 cm to 30cm x 45 cm for rifle and shotgun.

The description of the targets can be found in the Appendices in the Rules.

15 In any competition conducted under IPSC Competition Rules only the official IPSC targets may be used. For this reason it is suggested that only these targets are always used so that shooters are familiar with the targets when competing in any IPSC match or tournament.

16 The IPSC targets and their scoring are clearly indicated in each copy of the Rules.

17 The scoring lines on all targets must not be visible beyond ten metres, preferably a perforation method of marking the lines. All targets, including non-shoot targets, are to have a non-scoring border of 5mm in width.

## **PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATION**

18 The RO must make a clear distinction between penalties and disqualification.

19 Penalties. Penalties are simply that. The shooter is penalised for making a procedural error, dropping shots etc., resulting in points being deducted from his score.

20 Disqualification. Completely different from the penalty, the disqualification is a disciplinary measure for a major transgression, usually an infringement of safety rules. This usually entails losing the score for the entire match, literally "being sent off the field".

21 When a shooter is not disqualified but is stopped from shooting is when he may be injured during a stage, and the RO considers it detrimental to his health to allow him to continue, or the RO suspects that a bullet may be stuck in the barrel, or the shooter has lost his glasses or ear muffs, etc. This all has to do with competitor safety.

## **SCORERS, PATCHERS AND CASE PICKERS**

22 RO Responsibility. Scorers and patchers assist the RO, which means

22.1 that he remains responsible for their actions and, therefore, for their mistakes, and

22.2 has an obligation towards them.

23 Scoring and Patching. Scoring and patching are both tedious and thankless jobs and the RO should ensure that

23.1 patchers are given appropriate breaks,

23.2 there are sufficient people who understand and have experience of scoring so that this duty may be rotated, and

23.3 the scorer gets recognition for the work and that he or she is not simply taken for granted.

It is a small courtesy that takes no effort specifically to introduce a scorer by name at the start of the stage briefing.

24 Scorers. If more than one scorer is going to be used in any event (and this is desirable) the RO should get together with the scorers before the event and make sure

24.1 that they understand how the score sheets are to be completed,

24.2 that the same method of scoring will be used by all, and

24.3 that they understand the signals the RO will give for penalties, procedurals, etc.

25 Scoring from the Start. With patching and scoring on a long course the scorers and patchers often start working from the start while the competitor is still shooting, particularly where the event is run to a tight time-schedule. There is no objection to this **PROVIDED** that the squad is briefed accordingly, it is ensured that they do not move forward too quickly, for instance where the course entails shooting in the direction of the berms, and that a nominee of the shooter accompanies the scorer to verify that the score is recorded correctly.

26 Case Pickers. "Case pickers" are something of a problem, firstly as far as safety is concerned and secondly administrative. Safety wise

26.1 on a long course case pickers should be controlled to ensure that they do not get over zealous and ahead of the RO, which principally happens where the terrain is such that cases may easily be lost. This requires the RO staying with the competitor and he cannot amble along at his leisure.

26.2 on a standards stage they must stay 10m behind the firing line and not move up before the "Range is Clear" command has been given.

Administratively because the time taken to hunt the missing few cases can make a stage run behind schedule quite quickly. Picking up cases can always be done later and must not delay the running of the stage.

### **SCORESHEET CHECKLIST**

27 Below are some best practices to help ensure accurate and complete scoresheets.

28 Write CLEARLY.

29 Always use numbers, NEVER use hash marks.

30 Repeat Calls. Verbally repeat ALL scoring calls (hits or penalties) and time so the RO knows you recorded them correctly.

31 Total. Total all the columns.

32 Cross Total. Cross total the total hits, misses, non-shoots and procedural penalties to make sure they correctly add up to the stage round count.

33 Circle. After you cross total the hits, CIRCLE the shot count number to show you checked this.

34 Procedurals. If procedural penalties are recorded, write down the reason for the procedural penalty with the rule number to avoid questions later.

35 Penalties. Do NOT write anything in the penalty boxes except penalties!

36 Warnings. If you issue a warning to a competitor, write down the reason for it and the rule number to avoid any doubt. Remember the Stats Officer will inform the Range Master, who will follow it up in case of repetition of the same fault.

37 FOCUS on the scoresheet, NOT on the target! The easiest way to avoid scoresheet errors is to focus only on the scoresheet and avoid looking over the RO's shoulder while he scores a target. Always let the RO do his job and call the score, while the scorer does his job and writes down the accurate score.

38 Alterations. Initial any alterations you might have made on the scoresheet and ensure the shooter also initials the alterations.

39 Feedback. Once you have completed and checked the scoresheet, talk the shooter through it. Put the completed scoresheet in front of the shooter, and then call everything out. For example, *12 Alfa, 2 Charlie, total of 14 hits. No penalties and your time was 5.73 sec.* And don't forget to also write down the time of day.



40 Signature. After the shooter has reviewed the scoresheet, have them sign it. Make sure that YOU sign the scoresheet after you have checked the time and score and don't forget to record the time of day.

41 This all seems so simple, but we make far too many errors on scoresheets. The shooter showed up to shoot, paid his entry fee, shot his match and deserves an accurate accounting of his score. Scoring is often approached more casually at lower level matches, but this is where good habits start. Taking a little more time to double check makes the stats job easier and ensures the shooter gets an accurate score.

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

42 A disqualification [DQ] is the severest sanction that can be applied during a competition and is applied at all levels. Such sanction is not lightly applied but it occurs in many competitions. The reasons for a DQ are all linked to safety infringements or possible safety infringements and are intended to ensure rigid compliance to safety. The IPSC Competition Rules are clear on this and will not be discussed here.

43 DQs are not something that a range officer actively seeks out, it usually finds you. It is always as a result of competitor action, owing to a safety infringement by the competitor that may be his own error or caused by poor course design [DQ trap]. This is why good course design is so important. It is not something that we want to do but do not hesitate if it happens. Condoning a breach of safety will have repercussions later as the competitor may possibly repeat it later and other competitors will judge you on this and it will make enforcing any of your decisions later very difficult.

44 RO Action. The range officer must stop the competitor immediately an unsafe action takes place. Unload and show clear, and then explain to the competitor the reason for the DQ. Usually the competitor knows what went wrong and accepts gracefully. In all cases, the Chief Range Officer for that area and the Range Master should be called. While you are waiting for either or both of them, complete the DQ documentation that should be in your stage pack. Make specific mention of the IPSC Rule and the circumstances of the DQ and be doubly sure that the time of day is entered on the score sheet and DQ form. Ask the competitor to wait there until the Range Master or Chief Range Officer arrives. This is so that the Range Master can be aware of what is happening on the range, ensure that the competitor is satisfied, and may rectify any misjudgement that you may have made before it escalates.

45 A DQ is unpleasant at the best of times; therefore handle the competitor with the necessary patience and tact. Do not become involved in an argument with the competitor, ask him to wait for the Range Master and carry on with the next competitor.

46 If you have more than one DQ on your stage for the same action investigate and determine what the cause is. Get the Range Master and discuss this with him to find a solution. Do not do this on your own as this may change the conditions of the shoot for all subsequent competitors and cause a reshoot for those that have completed the stage already. This is a decision that only the Range Master must take.

## **ARBITRATION**

47 It may happen that the competitor wants to dispute your decision on any matter except for scoring. This is the right of the competitor to do this, do not take exception if this happens to you.

48 To start with you must have a complaint that cannot be settled. More often than not you can use your Chief Range Officer or Range Master to settle disputes without having to go through the arbitration process. This is always the first step in settling any dispute.

49 The procedure is that the competitor must complete the necessary request that should be part of your RO pack and hand it to the Range Master within one hour of the occurrence, failing which the

arbitration fails. The Range Master will handle this further and you will carry on with the rest of the squad. You may be called to explain to the arbitration committee what happened. You abide gracefully with whatever the arbitration committee decides.

## **HOW TO BE A BETTER RANGE OFFICER**

50 Always have a clear, written stage briefing (approved by the RM) and read it out to each and every squad. Read it. Do not take it from memory. Also ensure that a copy is posted at the stage entrance so competitors can also read it.

51 Please do not give a stage briefing or issue range commands while holding a cigarette or cigar.

52 If a competitor wants to ask you a question about the stage, ask the competitor to wait while you assemble the entire squad and your fellow ROs before you reply. In this way everybody hears the same question and the same answer. If you think the question and answer might influence the conduct, procedure, scoring and/or application of penalties for the stage, summon the CRO or RM.

53 If a rule issue arises, don't quote rules from memory. Always have a rulebook with you and look up the answer, then show the competitor the applicable rule. If you are in doubt, summon the CRO or RM.

54 If you must DQ a competitor please apologize to the competitor. The competitor's actions caused the DQ and you really hate to DQ a competitor.

55 If the competitor is upset about a DQ, remain calm. Give him your reasons and offer to summon a more senior official to assist. He has every right to make an appeal according to the Rules.

56 Enjoying friendly talks with the squad is good but, when the competitor comes to the line, it's down to business. Give the range commands clearly and focus fully on the competitor only.

57 During scoring, if a competitor challenges a scoring call, don't just dismiss him - the difference between an A and a C can mean the difference between 1st and 2nd place. Take out your scoring overlay and take the time to carefully check the challenge, but only score what you can actually see. Never give a hit on a "benefit of doubt" basis, as you have more than one competitor to consider.

58 After scoring a competitor, stay downrange and be the last person to return to the start position. In this way you can ensure that the stage is clear before you start the next competitor.

## **Debugging a Stage and Being Prepared**

### **Safety**

59 Check every possible angle of fire to ensure that the stage will be safe for each competitor, official and spectators.

60 Check the range surface for dips, bumps, rocks and other irregularities that may potentially cause a competitor injury.

61 Check that all props a competitor might use for support (including doors and ports) are strong and durable enough for the intended purpose and for the duration of the match.

62 Check that targets are not placed too high whereby shots passing through them will leave the shooting bay.

63 Ensure there is sufficient room for the RO to monitor safe competitor action without interfering with the competitor.

## **Scoring**

64 Check every possible angle of fire to ensure there are no shoot-throughs, remembering to consider short and tall competitors.

65 If there are partial targets on the stage, make sufficient and identical sets of spares in advance to ensure consistency and more efficient replacement.

## **Consistency**

66 Secure each target stand and popper to the range surface.

67 Mark paper target stands/sticks with the precise angle, location and layout of targets. Take digital photos if possible [your cell phone].

68 Make a written note of the sequence and presentation of all Scoring and Penalty Targets, especially overlapping and adjacent ones.

69 Record the height of "non-standard length" sticks used to hold paper targets, in case they get shot and need to be replaced, and have spares ready.

## **DQ Traps**

70 Ensure targets don't encourage a competitor to inadvertently run past them while shooting and therefore break the 90 degree angle.

71 With a table start, use a non-slip surface to prevent the firearm moving when the competitor reaches for it and ensure the table itself is securely anchored.

72 It's better to use a rear starting line (i.e. heels against rear) rather than a starting box, to minimise the chance of competitors tripping.

73 Use strongly braced barricades rather than charge or fault lines to further minimise the chance of tripping.

## **Supplies**

74 Have spare cable lengths for activators of moving targets in case they get shot and broken.

75 Have plastic covers for the targets ready if the weather looks rainy.

76 Have at least one spare battery for your timer and, if possible, a spare timer.

77 Have an ample supply of buff, white and black patches for paper targets, plus white and black paint for poppers and plates.

## **Watch What Needs To Be Watched**

78 Watch the firearm during loading, reloading, unloading and movement.

79 Do not watch the shooter's feet. If there are charge or fault lines, your assistant RO should be watching.

80 Never look at the timer until after you issue the "Range Is Clear" command. If you are holding the timer properly, it will pick up the shots but, as you approach the final array, move it closer to the competitor, because the only time that really counts is the one from the last shot.

## Equipment Check Sheet

Competitor number \_\_\_\_\_ Squad \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Front

(Original position of firearm marked “X” and loading device carriers marked “O”)

Stage	Verified	Stage	Verified	Stage	Verified	Stage	Verified
1		11		21		31	
2		12		22		32	
3		13		23		33	
4		14		24		34	
5		15		25		35	
6		16		26		36	
7		17		27		37	
8		18		28		38	
9		19		29		39	
10		20		30		40	

## CHAPTER 8: FIREARMS AND RELOADING

1 Introduction. It is accepted that the RO is normally an experienced shooter who is familiar with the working principles and has practical knowledge of the firearms he is likely to encounter on the range, as well as the principles and practice of reloading. This basic knowledge is not covered in these notes but the RO must have be able to know when to declare a firearm or ammunition unsafe, may expect questions from competitors and club members and should have some idea of what to answer.

### FIREARMS AND CALIBRES

2 IPSC is not restricted to handguns. The sport consists of three disciplines, which are practical handgun, rifle and shotgun. It must, however, be accepted that most events are restricted to handguns and shotguns as rifle ranges are less common than pistol ranges. The Handgun, Rifle and Shotgun Rules, Tournament and Grand Tournament rules are available from the IPSC website.

3 Power. The minimum power accepted in competition is called minor and is specified in each set of the IPSC Competition Rules. The power is expressed in the term factor, which is calculated for every firearm at each major match, often on a sample basis at smaller matches too.

4 Factor. The factor is calculated as follows: (bullet weight in grains x velocity in feet per second [fps]) divided by 1000. Or grams c velocity in meter per second divided by 1000.

5 Calibre. The only restriction on firearms is the calibre. This is in recognition of the fact that practical shooting is designed to balance the three elements - power, speed and accuracy. Any of the accepted calibres can be classified as major should they meet the requirements for major factor within the Rules. There are restrictions in the various divisions for good reasons.

6 All firearms, be they revolvers, semi-automatics, single action, double action, single shot, pump action, bolt action, falling block, lever action, etc may be used in the sport. Practice has, however, proven that the semi-automatic's fast reloading ability has taken over in especially the open division, with the other actions prevalent in the other divisions.

7 The velocity of a bullet is measured with a chronograph.

### MALFUNCTIONS

8 Focus. In this Manual we are concerned with the malfunctions in firearms that are likely to occur on the range. The safety precautions below are recommended.

9 RO Responsibility. The primary responsibility to ensure that his firearm (and ammunition) is in safe working condition rests on the shooter. However, firearms also fall under the blanket authority of the RO and he may declare any firearm unsafe and therefore ban it from the range.

10 Benefit of Doubt. In the interest of safety, the benefit of the doubt, if any, is NOT given to the shooter. A firearm that has malfunctioned is suspect! Satisfy yourself completely that it is functioning properly before giving it the OK. You are entitled to rely on the assurance of an experienced competitor that his firearm is now in order.

11 Competitor Experience. The RO will of necessity be guided in his conduct to a degree of the experience of the shooter. In the case of an inexperienced competitor the RO should, if the shooter appears to be in doubt how to handle the problem, pay particular attention to safety. Stand closer to prevent inadvertent unsafe movement to you the RO, the competitor himself and the rest of the squad and spectators.

12 Standard Exercises. In the case where a firearm malfunctions during a Standard Exercise:

12.1 the shooter should under no circumstances fiddle with the firearm but simply stand still and raise his weak hand to draw the RO's attention to the problem (except in the clear case of a jam);

12.2 once the squad has shot the exercise, the other shooters should be made suitably safe and the competitor with the errant firearm - which he will still have in his hand, pointing down range - be asked to step 1 or 2 paces forward with the RO and be given permission to rectify the malfunction.

12.3 Once the malfunction is rectified, the shooter should then be allowed to continue.

### 13 Revolver Jams

13.1 Under recoil an improperly crimped bullet may move forward in the case.

13.1.1 In the actions where the cylinder rotates clockwise, the cylinder may be opened and the defective round ejected without problems.

13.1.2 A bullet may be jammed between the cylinder and the barrel straddling the flash gap. This bullet will have to be pushed back into the case and this should NOT be done in haste on the line. In the case of revolvers where the round comes up from the opposite side, the protruding bullet will have to be pushed back into the case far enough to get past the barrel before the cylinder can be swung out and the round ejected.

13.2 A small foreign object (shaving of lead, etc.) may be lodged between the cylinder and the barrel; normally a little force will allow the cylinder to rotate.

13.3 Proud primers may prevent the cylinder from revolving.

13.4 Revolvers shoot loose and wear. The revolver's timing does not then allow the cylinder to line up or lock up.

### 14 Semi Auto Jams

14.1 Normally a jam is the result of failure to feed or eject. The steps to be taken are:

14.1.1 Ensure that the firearm is pointed down range.

14.1.2 Remove the magazine.

14.1.3 Open the action and lock open.

14.1.4 Remove the jammed case or round from the magazine or action.

NB. Since it is necessary to get the action open and considerable force is sometimes required, a common error is that the shooter may turn the arm in line with the barrel or even turn the firearm sideways and drop his elbow or forearm in line with the barrel or even turn the firearm to point at another person. Ensure that the firearm always remains pointed in a safe direction.

14.2 Action not closing properly is commonly caused by

14.2.1 a bullet not seated deeply enough. When attempting to eject this round, the bullet may remain stuck in the barrel and pull out of the case, spilling the powder charge into the working parts of the firearm. The firearm should be cleaned thoroughly before further use.

14.2.2 a build-up of foreign matter (dirt, lead, shavings, etc.) against the ridge of the chamber;

14.2.3 a loose primer may fall out and prevent the action from opening all the way.

14.2.4 the case may exceed the chamber dimensions and thus fail to chamber fully.

## 15 Pump, Bolt and Lever Action Jams

15.1 These actions seldom jam but when they do it is usually owing to faulty ammunition and cannot be easily fixed on the firing line. Take special care with these actions to ensure safety in clearing the jam.

15.2 Lever actions are seldom seen in practical shooting matches.

15.3 Pump actions are common in shotgun matches

15.4 Bolt action firearms are seen in rifle matches.

## 16 Misfires

### Revolvers

16.1 A weak main spring. This can be felt when cocking the firearm. A shooter sometimes deliberately slackens off the tension for a lighter trigger pull.

### Semi Auto, Pump, Bolt and Lever Action Firearms

16.2 A weak hammer or striker spring.

16.3 A proud primer. This may also occur in the revolver but is not common owing to the revolver's stronger hammer action and the fact that a proud primer would usually cause the cylinder to jam.

16.4 Certain primers may cause misfires as they are either too hard or too soft for use in a particular firearm.

16.5 Defective ammunition.

17 Machine-Gunning In Semi-Autos. The following are causes of the firearm firing full automatic:

17.1 A defective sear.

17.2 Proud primers.

17.3 A loose primer may also cause a premature shot as the action slams closed, although this will be a single shot and not machine-gunning.

17.4 The selector lever on semi auto rifles has moved to automatic. This is handled under the Rifle Rules. [no score for the stage, etc]

18 Broken Parts. This subject is far too wide to cover in these notes and is in any event not a subject for the RO, other than to be able to identify a firearm that is out of action owing to a broken part. The most common parts that break are:

Firing pin

Blown barrel

Extractor

Sights

Sear

Slide stop

## WHEN TO DECLARE A FIREARM UNSAFE

19 Trigger Shoe. A firearm fitted with a trigger shoe wider than the trigger-guard (or a trigger wider than the trigger-guard). This is mandatory for handgun in terms of the IPSC Competition Rules but different for rifle and shotgun.

20 Broken Parts. A firearm with any broken part and in particular semi auto firearms with defective sear which fires double or a string, or

20.1 hammer follow, and

20.2 malfunctioning safety catch.

21 Revolvers. A revolver with play in the fore and aft movement of the cylinder, or with excessive rotational play in the cylinder.

Note. It is peculiar to revolvers occasionally to spit lead to the side, even with a firearm in good working order.

## RELOADING

22 Introduction. ROs should be familiar with the common principles of reloading, in particular common mistakes in reloading. ROs should also be familiar with the calibres normally encountered on the range. This is because the RO may have to declare a shooter's ammunition unsafe and should have some knowledge of reloading.

23 Advice. An RO who is not perfectly familiar with the load for a particular calibre and bullet weight should under no circumstances advise a competitor on reloading the cartridge but refer them to an experienced reloader or to the reloading tables.

24 Chronograph. Although the RO might not be expert in identifying a heavy load by sound and by pressure signs on a fired case, he should know the formula to compute F factor ratings and the use and operation of a chronograph. Every RO should make a point of running the chrono at a major match for the wealth of experience gained from it.

25 New Reloaders. When a member starts reloading, the RO should by way of a friendly, informal chat satisfy himself that the new reloader does adhere to the safety rules for reloading.

26 On the Line. On the line the RO should be alert to:

26.1 Overloads.

26.2 Uncharged rounds.

While the experienced shooter will probably immediately detect this, the inexperienced shooter will not and the RO should be alert to this potential problem and stop a shooter immediately he notices a problem. Always watch for the shooter who lowers his firearm with a puzzled expression.

## HOLSTERS/BAGS/CASES AND EQUIPMENT

27 Transport and Carry During a Match. Most shooters transport their firearms in a bag or case. In any match the firearm is readied in a Safety Area. Handguns are then carried in the holster that serves as a safety device. Rifles and shotguns are cased or bagged immediately after finishing the stage, preventing shooters tampering or playing with them between stages, or slung vertically, or shouldered vertically. It is mandatory that a chamber flag be inserted to rifles and shotguns after the last range command "Open Action".



28 Safety. Holsters must be practical and safe. The holster should hold the pistol firmly in position at all times. The RO is entitled to check a holster at any time during a match. Bags or cases must similarly hold the firearm safely and securely.

29 Equipment Check. Holsters, trigger pull and equipment for Standard, Modified and Production Divisions should be checked before a match starts. Identify a specific RO for this, preferably one who knows what to look for. See the Appendices to the IPSC Competition Rules for the detail.

30 Holster and Equipment Position. ROs must particularly note the position of holsters and allied equipment that they comply with the Rules. Do not hesitate to request a shooter to rectify any such equipment before they attempt the stage. Do this consistently from the Level I Match up to Level V Matches.

31 Rules. For a detailed description of the holster/bags/cases and similar equipment rules, refer to IPSC Competition Rules Chapter 5.