

# IPSC Sanctioning Committee

## - Best Practise Hints October 2016 -

Dear Stage Designers,

Reviewing and (hopefully) approving your Level III – V match packages can be a tedious and thankless task for our Sanctioning Committee members.

It would be so much more fun, easier, and faster, if you would read and observe the following notes.

### General

- 1. Please, do not submit match packages in compressed formats such as .zip, .rar etc.** Our system will not accept those for safety reasons. Also, do not use specialized program files (CorelDraw, CAD programs, etc.) as we won't be able to open your submissions.
  2. In order to make life easier for our sanctioning team, please, always **compile your stage designs in ONE SINGLE document**, so that we only need to scroll down (or change tables in Excel files).
  3. When sending your match package, **ALWAYS quote ALL RELEVANT MATCH DETAILS (Match ID number, Match Name, Region, Discipline, Match Date)** as listed in the mail you have received after requesting sanctioning.
- A. **Overview** (tick off boxes to make sure you have observed everything!)
- Does the match have 12 stages minimum?  
*We no longer grant one-time exemptions. Chrono or Shootoff do not count for the ratio!*
- Is the ratio (6 – 4 – 2 etc., see IPSC Rules App. A4 "Stage Ratios") **correct**?

### B. Stage Descriptions

*Stage descriptions must contain all information required in IPSC Rules 3.2.1. Remember ( S ) refers to Shotgun, ( R ) to Rifle only!. Nothing else is necessary ...*

- **Targets** (type & number);  
Please, identify them properly in the stage descriptions, you may, of course, use abbreviations (IT, IMT, IP, IMP, PL in the drawings).
- (Number of) **Rounds to be scored**; ( S ) stated for guidance only  
We no longer use "Scoring"
- ( S ) Number of **scoring hits for paper target**
- ( S ) **Ammunition type**
- The **firearm ready condition**;  
- Although common and certainly not against the rules, we try to eliminate all unnecessary information from the stage descriptions.  
"Loaded and holstered" is the default and therefore it does not have to be mentioned.  
For any deviation from the norm, please, use only the following terminology:  
"**Chamber empty, magazine inserted**" (+ where the handgun is located, e.g. "on the table", or "holstered")

"Chamber and magwell empty" (+ where the handgun is located, e.g. "on the table", or "holstered").

- **Start position;**
- **Time starts:** audible or visual signal; (Time Stops-Last Shot is unnecessary!)
- **Procedure.**

**Correct target types?** (e.g.no "Metric", no "Pepper" Poppers, no clays in HG etc.) There is no need to mention or count no-shoots! We do not accept IMAGES of illegal targets,e.g. Metric, PepperPopper

**Correctly named?**

(no "Classic" but "IPSC" Targets, no "Penalty" Targets but "No-Shoot" Targets etc.)

We have IPSC (paper) Targets, IPSC Mini (paper) Targets, IPSC Poppers, IPSC Mini Poppers, IPSC (metal) Plates. You need to identify those properly in the Stage descriptions. You may use abbreviations in the drawings only.

**Correctly located?**

(Mini Targets (paper or metal) must always be placed at least 2m further downrange from the farthest FULL paper or metal target in that resp. target array. See Rules 4.2.1-paper and 4.3.2.2-metal)

**All targets numbered?**

This facilitates communication with the sanctioner doing the COF review

**Correct Course Type** (Short 12 / Medium 24 / Long 32. No more Standards!) Specifying Course types is not mandatory, however, if done they must be correct)

**Correct number of targets/hits/points in descriptions?**

Make sure to compare the stage description with the illustration

**All targets/target arrays ACCEPTABLE?** (see document "TARGET ARRAY BOOK (TAB)" elsewhere on this forum)

**No stage names** Using stage names is not illegal, but discouraged. They are unnecessary and sometimes even unacceptable.

### C. Text

Stage descriptions should be short and to the point. You need to omit (or **delete**) all unnecessary information, such as:

"Rules: IPSC Rule Book, latest ed." (or similar, no other option!)

"Time Stops – Last Shot" (no other option in Handgun IPSC)

"Comstock" (there is no other scoring option)

"in any order", "freestyle" (Rules offer no other option)

"after the signal, draw firearm ..." (is unnecessary)

"after the signal, load the gun" for unloaded starts (is unnecessary)

"metal must fall to score" is already stipulated by the Rules (in case of metal no-shoots this requirement would even be wrong!)

"... while observing the Fault Lines" (is unnecessary)

"Penalties according to current IPSC Rule Book" (no other option)

Instead of "Gun holstered in ready condition" use "Gun loaded & holstered"

Instead of "Magazine inserted and empty chamber" use "Gun loaded with empty chamber"

"... with safeties applied" is again unnecessary as non-compliance is an automatic DQ.

Under "Procedure" simply use:

"At the start signal engage targets from within the designated area"

All of above OK?

Check for **unacceptable requirements**. Examples:

“Metal targets must be shot from A. Then proceed and shoot all targets as visible...” *This is still around!*

*In this context, make sure no one is required at any time to cross a Fault Line in order to engage targets further downrange.*

**By that same logic, start locations must always be INSIDE the demarcated area**

There are **no BOXES** in Handgun IPSC (not even starting boxes). Remove all mention of BOXES.

Start should be “at A” or, better still, “anywhere inside A”. Starts facing downrange should have “heels against A”, starts facing uprange “toes against A”.

Requirements such as “from Box A engage targets T1, and T5, from Box B engage T2 and T4 etc.” are not acceptable for a Level III or higher match.

“Colour Memory” (*shooter draws a colour card or rolls dice to determine “shoot” or “no-shoot” targets, or “scoring” and “hard cover”*) **is not part of IPSC.**

Unacceptable props (military hardware, live animals etc.), or such that cause penalties, safety issues or unacceptable requirements. Examples:

*“Stepping on any of the clays (landmines) on the ground will incur 1 Procedural”*

*“Shots hitting the floor outside a mobile backstop will incur a DQ” etc.*

All of above OK?

#### D. Safety Issues

Check your stages designs for apparent safety concerns, e.g. no room for RO in narrow corridors, shots fired in the direction of too closely positioned metal props, etc.

*Be careful of potential safety hazards (even if legal by the Rules), e.g. loaded starts with the competitor facing UPRANGE*

Safety OK?

If you observe all of above, your match will be usually approved and sanctioned within a very short period of time.

Please, bear in mind that some months are more hectic in that respect, as hundreds of matches will come in for sanctioning, e.g. before the start of the European and PanAmerican seasons. Make sure to send at your earliest convenience. Don't wait until the last minute or you will risk losing that match (matches are deleted from the IPSC Calendar, if not sanctioned 14 days prior to Match Day 1).

We are always willing to help you, so don't hesitate to ask!

Juergen Tegge  
IPSC Sanctioning Committee Director