

# UNITED KINGDOM PRACTICAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

## Proposed Amendments to the IPSC Action Air Competition Rules, January 2016 Edition

(Key code: ~~Deleted text~~ / new text / *comments*)

### Rule

1.2.1.4 The approved balance for an IPSC sanctioned match is a ratio of 3 Short Courses to 2 Medium Courses to 1 Long Course (see ~~Stage Ratio Chart~~ Approved Stage Ratios in Appendix A4).<sup>1</sup>

2.4.4 Projectiles, whether loose, packaged or contained in magazines or speed loaders, or anything containing propellant gas, must not be handled (~~nor can propellant gas be released~~) in a Safety Area under any circumstances ~~and magazines must have residual propellant gas released from them prior to them being taken into a Safety Area~~ (see Rule 10.5.12).<sup>1,10</sup>

### 2.8 Magazine Charging Areas<sup>2</sup>

2.8.1 A sufficient number of well ventilated Magazine Charging Areas should be provided for competitors to insert propellant gas into, and release it from, their magazines. They should include a table with the boundaries of the Magazine Charging Area clearly shown.<sup>2</sup>

4.1.5 Declaring a single, intact target to represent two or more targets by use of tape, paint or any other means ~~and/or attaching a mini target to a full size target~~ is prohibited.<sup>3</sup>

4.2.2 Paper targets must have scoring lines and ~~0.5 cm (mini targets 0.3 cm)~~ non-scoring borders clearly marked on the front of the target. However, scoring lines and non-scoring borders should not be visible beyond a distance of 10 meters.<sup>3</sup>

4.2.2.1 The front of paper no-shoots must include a sufficiently distinguishable non-scoring border. In the absence of perforations or other suitable markings, the Range Master must ensure that all affected no-shoots have a replacement ~~0.5 cm (mini targets 0.3 cm)~~ non-scoring border drawn or fitted thereon.<sup>3</sup>

4.2.3.2 By physically cutting targets from edge to edge to remove the portion deemed to be hidden by hard cover. Such targets must be fitted with a ~~0.5 cm (mini targets 0.3 cm)~~ replacement 0.3 cm non-scoring border, which must extend the full width of the edge of the cut scoring area (see Rule 4.2.2); or<sup>1,3</sup>

4.3.1.4 Rigid targets and no-shoots must be shot and fall, ~~or~~ overturn or self-indicate to score.

4.3.2.2 IPSC Action Air Mini Poppers are used to simulate IPSC Action Air Poppers placed at greater distances. The two sizes may be included together in the same target array provided that all Action Air Mini Poppers are placed at least 2 meters further rearwards of the most distant full size scoring Action Air Popper or no-shoot in that target array (i.e. if the most distant full size scoring Action Air Popper or no-shoot is 15m downrange, the nearest Action Air Mini Popper in the target array must be at least 17m downrange).<sup>1</sup>

4.3.3 IPSC Action Air ~~Stop~~ Plates<sup>6</sup>

#### Stop Plates<sup>6</sup>

4.3.3.1 For the sake of consistent time recording of the end of a competitor's attempt at a COF, the use of a ~~rigid~~ Stop Plate, complying with the specifications in Appendix C3, is recommended. Stop Plates must be clearly distinguishable from regular plates and they are subject to sensitivity calibration (see Appendix C1).<sup>6,9</sup>

4.3.3.2 ~~Rigid~~ Stop Plates do not recognize power and, with the exception of sensitivity calibration, are not subject to calibration or calibration challenges. If a ~~rigid~~ Stop Plate has been adequately and directly hit (i.e. with a full projectile diameter) but it fails to self-indicate, a Range Officer may declare range equipment failure and order the competitor to reshoot the course of fire, after the faulty Stop Plate has been rectified.<sup>9</sup>

4.3.3.3 ~~Rigid~~ Stop Plates which fail to self-indicate when initially hit, but which self-indicate when hit with a subsequent shot, are not subject to a reshoot.<sup>9</sup>

~~4.3.3.4 Rigid Stop Plates must not be used exclusively in a course of fire. At least one authorized scoring paper target or scoring popper (in addition to any paper or rigid no-shoots), must be included in each course of fire.<sup>6</sup>~~

#### Falling Plates<sup>6</sup>

~~4.3.3.4 Falling plates, not less than 15 centimeters square or in diameter, may be used.<sup>6</sup>~~

~~4.3.3.5 Falling plates do not recognize power and are not subject to calibration or calibration challenges.<sup>6</sup>~~

~~4.3.3.6 Falling plates must not be used exclusively in a course of fire. At least one authorized scoring paper target or scoring popper (in addition to any paper or rigid no-shoots), must be included in each course of fire.<sup>6</sup>~~

~~4.3.4.1 Rigid no-shoot poppers and plates must be designed to fall, ~~or~~ overturn or self-indicate when hit.<sup>6</sup>~~

### **5.1 Action Air Handguns Firearms<sup>1</sup>**

5.1.2 Approved Action Air Handguns are those which fire ~~plastic~~ projectiles of 6 mm diameter (also see Rule 5.5.4). Self-loading pistols must have a magazine containing the projectiles and propellant in a single, detachable unit, they must have a retractable slide, and they must operate with a blowback action.<sup>4</sup>

5.1.7 Competitors must use the same handgun firearm and type of sights for all courses of fire in a match. However, in the event that a competitor's original handgun firearm and/or sights become unserviceable or unsafe during a match, the competitor must, before using a substitute handgun firearm and/or sights, seek permission from the Range Master who may approve the substitution provided he is satisfied.<sup>1</sup>

5.1.7.1 The substitute handgun firearm satisfies the requirements of the relevant Division; and<sup>1</sup>

5.2.7.2 A holster with the heel of the butt of the handgun below the top of the belt (see Appendix E3b);<sup>1</sup>

5.5.1 Competitors at an IPSC ~~Action Air~~ match are solely and personally responsible for the safety of all and any projectiles which they bring to the match. Neither IPSC nor any IPSC Officers, nor any organization affiliated to IPSC, nor the officers of any organization affiliated to IPSC accepts any responsibility whatsoever in this regard, nor in respect of any loss, damage, accident, injury or death suffered by any person or entity as a result of the lawful or unlawful use of any such projectiles.<sup>1</sup>

5.5.4 Projectiles made of any material other than ~~plastic~~ polymer or biodegradable materials such as starch or bio-plastic are prohibited at IPSC Action Air matches (see Rule 10.5.15).<sup>4</sup>

5.6.1 The maximum power factor of projectiles in all Divisions is two Joules or the maximum power factor specified by law in the Region hosting a match, whichever is lower (see Rule 10.5.15). Officials may use a chronograph to randomly conduct compliance tests of projectiles used by competitors through the competitor's handgun at any time.<sup>1</sup>

### **5.8 Official Match Propellant<sup>5</sup>**

~~5.8.1 Organizers of Level IV or higher matches must, and organizers of Level III or lower matches may, make available propellant gas for purchase at the match by all competitors. Full details of the brand and type of propellant gas must be posted on the official match website not less than 6 months prior to the commencement of the match.<sup>5</sup>~~

~~5.8.2 Such propellant gas is deemed to be competitor equipment (see Section 5.7), therefore malfunctions will not be grounds for a reshoot and/or an appeal to Arbitration.<sup>5</sup>~~

9.4.2 Each hit visible on the scoring area of a paper or self-indicating rigid no-shoot will be penalized minus 10 points, up to a maximum of 2 hits per no-shoot.

10.5.5 Allowing the muzzle of a handgun to point at any part of the competitor's body during a course of fire (i.e. sweeping). A disqualification is not applicable if sweeping occurs while drawing or re-holstering a gun, or while taking action under Rule 8.3.6.1, provided the competitor's fingers are clearly outside the trigger guard.<sup>7</sup>

10.5.12 Handling projectiles, ~~releasing propellant gas, or having a magazine or anything~~ containing propellant gas, in a Safety Area, contrary to Rule 2.4.4.<sup>1, 10</sup>

- 10.5.12.1 The word "handling" does not preclude competitors from entering a Safety Area with projectiles or propellant gas in magazines or speed loaders or propellant gas containers on their belt, in their pockets or in their range bag, provided the competitor does not physically remove the loaded/charged magazines, ~~or loaded~~ speed loaders or propellant gas containers from their retaining or storage device while within the Safety Area.<sup>1,10</sup>

## 12.5 Glossary

Projectile	A <del>plastic pellet</del> of 6mm diameter <u>pellet made of polymer or biodegradable materials such as starch or bio-plastic.</u> <sup>4</sup>
Shot	A projectile which <del>passes</del> <u>is driven</u> completely through the barrel of a firearm <u>by propellant gas.</u> <sup>7</sup>
Uprange	The general area of a stage, shooting bay or range, rearwards of the default maximum safe angle of fire (see Rule 2.1.2), where the muzzle of a firearm must not be pointed during a course of fire (exception: see Rules <u>10.5.2 and 10.5.6.</u> ) <sup>1</sup>

### APPENDIX C1: Calibration of IPSC Action Air Poppers

Replace all instances of "handgun" with "firearm".<sup>1</sup>

### APPENDIX C3: IPSC Action Air Stop Plate (Important Construction Notes)

The Stop Plate, if used, must be a circular target, not less than 15 centimeters diameter, securely anchored to the ground, not less than 5 meters from the most likely final shooting location in the COF. The Stop Plate must be clearly distinguishable from regular plates and contain visual electronic indicators to confirm it has been hit, and it must be connected by wires or other means to a timer where the time of the final shot is recorded.

Rigid plates which can accidentally turn edge-on or sideways when hit are expressly prohibited. Using them may result in the withdrawal of IPSC sanction (see Rule 4.3.1.1).<sup>6</sup>

### APPENDICES D1 to D4

4. Max. distance of handgun and allied equipment from torso 50mm (see Rule 5.2.5)<sup>1</sup>

### APPENDIX D2: Action Air Standard Division

8. A handgun in its ready condition (see Section 8.1), but unloaded and without an empty magazine inserted or empty cylinder closed, must fit wholly within the confines of a box which has internal dimensions of 225mm x 150mm x 45mm (tolerance of +1 mm, -0 mm).<sup>1</sup>

### APPENDIX D3: Action Air Classic Division

9. The handgun is placed inside the box (and ultimately removed) by the competitor with the slide ~~or revolver barrel~~ parallel to the longest side of the box. Rear adjustable sights may be slightly depressed during insertion but the slide must be fully forward when the gun is seated inside the box.<sup>1</sup>
13. Magazines accessible to a competitor during a COF must not contain more than 10 projectiles at the Start Signal. Additionally, magazines must not extend more than 20mm below the lowest point of the magazine well when inserted. Violations will result in the competitor being relegated to Open Division.<sup>8</sup>

### APPENDIX E2: Diagram of Equipment Position

Foremost limit for gun, holster and ~~all~~ allied equipment behind the hip bone at the Start Signal. The diagram also displays arms "hanging naturally" (see Rule 8.2.2).<sup>1</sup>

### APPENDIX E5: Sample Equipment Check Sheet<sup>1</sup>

*New Appendix added (see below).*

**APPENDIX E5: Sample Equipment Check Sheet**

**Competitor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

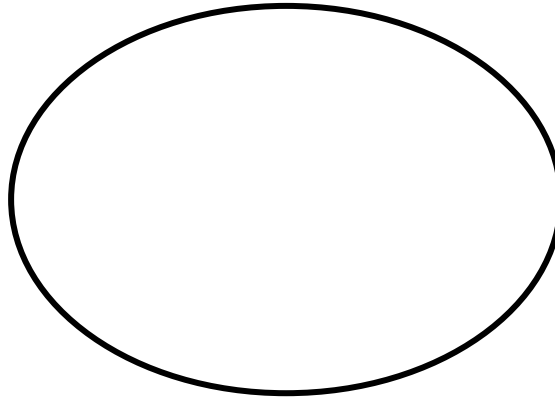
**Competitor #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Squad #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Division:** Open / Standard / Classic / Production

**Category:** L / J / S / SS

**Gun Make:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Serial #:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Front of Belt**

(Legend: **H**=Holster, **P**=Pouch, **M**=Magnet)

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Verified</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Verified</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Verified</b>
<b>1</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>21</b>	
<b>2</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>22</b>	
<b>3</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>23</b>	
<b>4</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>24</b>	
<b>5</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>25</b>	
<b>6</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>26</b>	
<b>7</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>27</b>	
<b>8</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>28</b>	
<b>9</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>29</b>	
<b>10</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>30</b>	

## Reasons for the Proposed Amendments

1. Consistency with other IPSC Competition Rules, primarily Handgun.
2. Most, if not all, propellant gas is flammable and we should ensure that we cannot get a situation where the insertion of propellant gas into, and release of it from, magazines is done in an area where the gas could "pool" and present a possible safety hazard.
3. There is only one type of paper target approved for use in IPSC Action Air matches. This is the IPSC Action Air Target, which is of the same dimensions as the IPSC Mini Target used in other IPSC Disciplines. However, there is no such target as the IPSC Action Air Mini Target.
4. To permit the use of projectiles made of materials other than plastic.
5. Restrictions on the carriage of propellant gas on board passenger aircraft.
6. To permit the use of falling plates.
7. A competitor that uses a rod or other tool under Rule 8.3.6.1 to ensure that no projectile remains in the gun might, under the current IPSC Action Air Competition Rules, be subject to disqualification for the following safety infraction(s):
  - (a) Sweeping (Rule 10.5.5) while poking a rod down the barrel from the muzzle end to ensure that no projectile remains in the gun.
  - (b) Having an accidental discharge ("A shot which occurs while actually loading, reloading or unloading a firearm" – Rule 10.4.3) if a projectile passes completely through the barrel due to a competitor poking a rod down it from the breech end (Glossary definition of "Shot - A projectile which passes completely through the barrel of a firearm").

The two proposed amendments eliminate the possibility of a competitor being disqualified for taking these actions.

8. The January 2016 Edition of the IPSC Action Air Competition Rules removed the previous requirement that all magazines used in Classic Division must fit inside the box when inserted in the handgun. Consequently, there is no longer any limit on the length of magazines used in Classic Division. The proposal brings Classic Division in line with Standard Division in this respect.
9. The use of "rigid" in each rule is superfluous, as it is covered in Section 4.3.
10. The proposal brings the IPSC Action Air Competition Rules in line with the IPSC Competition Rules for other IPSC Disciplines where the offence is one of "handling".