

Getting Started in IDPA

Below are some excerpts from the IDPA rulebook that you really should focus on before shooting your first match. It will explain the intent of IDPA as well as what equipment you need and what division you will be competing in. If you have any questions, please let us know and we will help you out! Also please make sure you read through the entire rulebook so you have an idea of the rules of the sport.

1.2 Principles of Shooting IDPA

1.2.1 Equipment Principles

Allowed equipment will meet the following criteria:

- A. Concealable: All equipment (except flashlights) will be placed so that it is not visible while wearing a concealment garment, with your arms extended to your sides, parallel to the ground.
- B. Practical: All equipment must be practical for all day concealed carry self-defense, and worn in a manner that is appropriate for all day continuous wear.

1.2.2 Participation Principles

- A. Competitors will not attempt to circumvent or compromise any stage by the use of inappropriate devices, equipment, or techniques.
- B. Competitors will refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct, unfair actions, and the use of illegal equipment.
- C. The IDPA Rulebook is not intended to be an exhaustive description of all allowed and disallowed equipment and techniques. Shooter equipment and techniques should comply with the basic principles of IDPA and be valid in the context of a sport that is based on self-defense scenarios. A reasonable application of common sense and the IDPA Founding Concepts will be employed in determining whether a device, technique, or piece of equipment is permitted under the IDPA rules.
- D. At its core, IDPA is a self-defense scenario based sport. The props used to create the Course of Fire (CoF) are often incomplete but represent buildings, walls, windows, doorways, etc. The CoF will indicate available shooting positions. The props will be defined in the CoF walk through.
- E. Individual rehearsals of a CoF, including air gunning and taking sight pictures, are not permitted within the CoF boundaries.
- F. Shooting from behind cover is a basic premise of IDPA. Competitors will use all available cover in a CoF.
- G. IDPA is a shooting sport based on concealed carry. All courses of fire will be shot using a concealment garment unless stipulated otherwise.
- H. In any single contest, a shooter must use the same firearm on all stages unless the firearm becomes unserviceable.
- I. Re-shoots are allowed for stage equipment failures or SO interference.
- J. English is the official language of IDPA. Range commands used in all matches regardless of location or nationality of participants, will be in English. The English rulebook prevails.

1.2.3 Course of Fire Principles

- A. One issue critical to the long-term success of this shooting discipline is that problems shooters are asked to solve must reflect self-defense principles. The IDPA founders agreed upon this when they set out to structure IDPA guidelines and principles. IDPA should help promote basic sound gun handling skills and test skills a person would need in a concealed-carry encounter. Requirements such as the use of cover while engaging a target, reloading behind cover, and limiting the number of rounds per string were all based upon that principle.
 - “String of Fire” refers to a section of the course of fire that is initiated by a start signal, and ends with the last shot fired. There may be more than one string in a stage.
 - “Cover” refers to a position where a shooter can engage targets with a portion of their upper and lower body behind an object such as a wall.
- B. A CoF should test a competitor’s shooting skills. Allowances will be made for physically challenged or disabled shooters. Match Directors should always attempt to make the CoF accessible for all shooters.
- C. While we recognize that there are many schools of thought in training for self-defense concealed carry, the primary focus of IDPA is in the continuing development of safe and sound gun handling skills that are universally accepted.
- D. IDPA rules will be equally enforced for all classifications of IDPA members.

8 EQUIPMENT RULES

8.1 Firearms - General

8.1.1 Division Summary

- A. IDPA is divided into 6 regular divisions that are entirely separate. None of the following divisions compete against any other division:

Stock Service Pistol (SSP)	Enhanced Service Pistol (ESP)	Custom Defensive Pistol (CDP)
Compact Carry Pistol (CCP)	Revolver (REV)	Back Up Gun (BUG)
- B. BUG is a required division for Tier 1 matches and is an optional division for Tier 2 – Tier 5 Sanctioned matches.
- C. Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) is an optional Specialty Division for Tier 1 – Tier 5 matches.

8.1.2 Specialty Divisions (SPD) are an optional division for all matches. These additions must be published in all Sanctioned Match announcements and the addition of specialty division(s) inclusion is not subject to appeal or arbitration

- A. Double action, double action only and striker fired semi-automatic firearms compete in SSP, CCP, PCC, or BUG. Any firearm that can be used in SSP can be used in ESP or CDP, depending upon the cartridge used.
- B. Single action semi-automatic firearms compete in ESP, CCP, CDP, PCC or BUG, depending upon physical size and cartridge used.
- C. Revolvers are classified by loading method and ammunition power and compete in BUG depending upon physical size and cartridge used.

- 8.1.3 Magazine Loading: All magazines must be loaded to division capacity at the start signal throughout the match except in the following cases:
- A. If a magazine is used that holds less than division capacity, the shooter will load all magazines to the capacity of the lowest magazine throughout the match.
 - B. The stage description may require reduced magazine loading.
 - C. In the Revolver division, the shooter must load the revolver and all loading devices with the same number of rounds throughout the match unless the above loading exceptions apply.

8.1.4 Division Capacity

SSP, ESP, SPD 10 rounds

CDP, CCP 8 rounds

REV, BUG-S 6 rounds

BUG-R 5 rounds total

In all semi-auto divisions except BUG-S, the shooter will also start with one additional round in the chamber, unless the stage description requires otherwise.

8.1.5 Loading Device Count

- A. A "loading device" is a magazine, speed loader, or moon clip.
- B. Shooters starting with 8 or more rounds in all loading devices are allowed to start with the loaded firearm plus two additional loading devices.
- C. Shooters starting with 6 or 7 rounds in all loading devices are allowed to start with the loaded firearm plus three additional loading devices.
- D. Shooters starting with 5 or fewer rounds in all loading devices are allowed to start with the loaded firearm plus four additional loading devices.
- E. No additional loading devices beyond the above limits may be used during a string.

8.1.6 Unserviceable Firearm Rule

- A. In any single match, a shooter must use the same firearm for all stages unless it becomes unserviceable.
- B. If the shooter determines that the firearm has become unserviceable, he will notify a Safety Officer who will notify the Match Director.
- C. Once the shooter declares the firearm is unserviceable, it may not be used for the duration of the match.
- D. The shooter may continue the match at the next start signal. Previous strings may not be re-shot.
- E. Any same-division legal replacement firearm may be used.
- F. If the replacement firearm magazines do not allow the same loading capacity as the original firearm, the shooter may adjust the magazine loading to suit the replacement firearm, following the magazine loading rules in Section Modifications for All Divisions

8.1.7 Allowable Modifications for All Divisions

The following modification rules apply to firearms in all divisions.

- A. Storage locks may be disabled or removed.
- B. Magazine disconnects may be disabled or removed.

- C. Lasers that are incorporated into the firearm or sights are allowed if they comply with all other division rules and the laser is not activated during a string of fire. Tape may be used to prevent the laser from projecting.
- D. An extended magazine release button may not be oversized in diameter or protrude more than 0.2" out from the frame. The measurement is taken at the rear most part of the magazine release, where it exits the frame. When the magazine release area is recessed into the grip frame, the grip frame to the rear of the recess is used as the base of the measurement.

8.1.8 Non-IDPA-Legal Features and Modifications for All Divisions

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

- A. Compensators of any type including hybrid or ported barrels.
- B. Add-on weights. This includes (but is not limited to) weighted magazines, tungsten guide rods, brass magazine wells, weighted grips, and weighted grip plugs.
- C. Heavy and/or cone style barrels without a barrel bushing except as allowed in ESP, CCP, BUG and CDP divisions with length restrictions.
- D. Sights of non-standard configuration (ghost rings, Bo-Mar ribs, etc.).
- E. Disconnecting or disabling of any safety device including (but not limited to): manual safeties, grip safeties, firing pin, striker, and hammer blocking safeties, 1911 series 80 firing pin safeties, 1911 Swartz safeties. 1911 series 80 frames may be used with series 70 slides or vice versa. Revolver actions may not be modified so that the hammer can fall when the cylinder is open. F. Lights mounted on firearms.
- G. Rail mounted lasers and bolt-on trigger guard mounted lasers are not allowed.

8.2 Firearms - Divisions

8.2.1 Stock Service Pistol Division

(SSP) Handguns permitted for use in SSP must:

- A. Have a minimum annual production of 2,000 units. Discontinued models must have had a total production of 20,000 units
- B. Be semi-automatic
- C. Be double action, double action only, or striker fired
- D. Use 9 mm (9x19) or larger cartridges.
- E. Weigh 43.00 oz. or less unloaded, with the heaviest magazine inserted.
- F. Fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 ¾" x 6" x 1 5/8" with the largest magazine inserted.

8.2.1.1 Start Condition

- A. Selective DA/SA firearms will start hammer down.
- B. Firearms with a hammer de-cocking lever or button will have their hammer de-cocked using the lever or button.
- C. If the hammer must be lowered by pulling the trigger and manually lowering the hammer, the hammer will be lowered to the lowest position possible.
- D. Manual safeties may be engaged at the shooter's discretion.

8.2.1.2 SSP Permitted Modifications (Inclusive list):

- A. Sights may be changed to another notch and post type. Slides may not be machined to accept different style sights.
- B. Grips may be changed to another style or material that is similar to factory configuration and do not weigh more than 2.00 oz. more than the factory standard weight for that model.
- C. Magazine releases, slide stops, safety levers, de-cocking levers, hammers, and triggers, that are stock on one SSP legal firearm may be used on another SSP legal firearm from the same manufacturer provided they are drop in replacements. Parts in this list must come factory installed on standard production firearms. Special parts that are available installed only from a factory custom shop are not eligible in SSP.
- D. Recoil spring guide rods and dual spring recoil systems made of material that is no heavier than stainless steel.
- E. Frames may be replaced with identical frames from the same manufacturer.
- F. A slip-on grip sock and/or grip tape, skateboard tape, etc. may be used.
- G. Internal action work may be used to enhance trigger pull as long as safety is maintained (no visible external modifications allowed).
- H. Internal reliability work.
- I. Aftermarket extractors and pins may be used.
- J. Internal accuracy work.
- K. Replacement of barrel with one of factory configuration that uses the original cartridge.
- L. Plastic plugs may be used to fill the opening behind the magazine well.
- M. Custom finishes may be applied.
- N. Stock slide cover plates may be refinished.
- O. Slides may be engraved. Engraving is defined as etching into the slide of logos, letters, and graphics no deeper than the original factory logos.
- P. Stippling and texturing may be performed on readily replaceable parts of the grip frame such as replaceable back straps and replaceable grip panels.
- Q. Aftermarket magazines may be used provided they do not weigh more than 1.00 oz. over the same capacity factory magazine.
- R. Aftermarket magazine base pads may be used provided they do not make the magazine weight more than 1.00 oz. over the same capacity factory magazine.
- S. Magazine base pads may be modified by reshaping, texturing, or adding bumper pads provided that they do not make the magazine weigh more than 1.00 oz. over the same capacity factory magazine.
- T. Magazines that are longer than stock may be used provided they meet all other division requirements.

8.2.1.3 SSP Excluded Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

- A. Externally visible modifications other than those listed in the Permitted Modifications section.
- B. Aftermarket or visibly modified magazine releases, slide stops, safety levers, de-cocking levers, and hammers.
- C. Robar-style grip reduction.
- D. Add-on magazine well opening.
- E. Slide inserts to accommodate a different recoil assembly design.
- F. A barrel that uses a different cartridge that is not offered in the original factory model.

- G. Customization of the slide by adding front cocking serrations, tri-top, carry melts, and high power cuts.
- H. Compensated/ported firearms with non-compensated/ported barrels installed.
- I. Checkering or stippling on non-readily replaceable parts of the grip frame.
- J. Aftermarket slides.
- K. Removing material from the magazine well opening.
- L. Aftermarket grip tang extensions or beavertails.
- M. Disabling the slide stop.

8.2.2 Enhanced Service Pistol

Division (ESP) Handguns permitted

for use in ESP must:

- A. Be semi-automatic.
- B. Use 9 mm (9x19) or larger cartridges.
- C. The unloaded firearm with the heaviest magazine must weigh 43.00 oz. or less.
- D. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" x 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ ".

Firearms originally sold as compensated/ported models may be used in ESP with non-compensated/ported barrels installed.

8.2.2.1 Start Condition:

- A. Single action only firearms will start with the hammer cocked and the safety engaged.
- B. Selective DA/SA firearms may start cocked and locked or de-cocked, at the shooter's discretion.
- C. DA, DAO, or striker fired firearms with a de-cocking lever or button will be de-cocked using the lever or button.
- D. DA, DAO, or striker-fired firearms may have a manual safety engaged at the shooter's discretion.

8.2.2.2 ESP Permitted Features and Modifications (Inclusive list):

- A. Sights may be changed to another notch and post type. Slides may be machined to accept different style sights.
- B. Grips may be changed provided they do not weigh more than 2.00 oz. more than the factory standard weight for that model.
- C. A slip-on grip sock and/or grip tape, skateboard tape, etc. may be used.
- D. Robar-style grip reduction.
- E. Action work may be used to enhance trigger pull as long as safety is maintained.
- F. Reliability work.
- G. Aftermarket extractors and pins may be used.
- H. Internal accuracy work.
- I. Replacement of barrel with one of factory configuration that uses a stock or non-stock cartridge.
- J. Plastic plugs may be used to fill the opening behind the magazine well.
- K. Aftermarket triggers and trigger work that result in the trigger being forward or rearward from the stock trigger position.
- L. Externally visible trigger over travel stops.

- M. Hammer and other trigger action parts to enhance trigger pull.
- N. Checkering, serrating, and stippling.
- O. Reshape trigger guard.
- P. Extended and/or ambidextrous thumb safety.
- Q. Extended beavertail grip safety.
- R. Ambidextrous or right side magazine releases.
- S. Extended, trimmed, and/or ambidextrous slide releases.
- T. Heavy or cone style barrels on firearms with barrel lengths of 4.25" or less.
- U. Recoil spring guide rods and dual spring recoil systems made of material that is no heavier than stainless steel.
- V. Slide inserts to accommodate a different recoil assembly design.
- W. Modification of the magazine well and add-on well extensions.
- X. Custom finishes and engraving may be applied.
- Y. Aftermarket slide cover plates.
- Z. Slides with front cocking serrations, tri-top, carry melts, and high power cuts.
- AA. Grip tang extensions or beavertails
- BB. Swenson style thumb shields and frame mounted thumb shields.
- CC. Aftermarket safeties.
- DD. Aftermarket magazine base pads may be used provided they do not make the magazine weight more than 1.50 oz. over the same capacity factory magazine.
- EE. Magazine base pads may be modified by reshaping, texturing, or adding bumper pads provided that they do not make the magazine weigh more than 1.50 oz. over the same capacity factory magazine.
- FF. Magazines that are longer than stock may be used provided they meet all other division requirements.

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

- A. Removal of material from the exterior of the slide other than front cocking serrations, tri-top, engraving, carry melts, and high power cuts.
- B. Trigger shoes.
- C. Disabling the slide stop.

8.2.3 Custom Defensive Pistol

Division (CDP) Handguns permitted

for use in CDP must:

- A. Be semi-automatic.
- B. Use .45 ACP cartridges.
- C. Weigh 43.00 oz. or less unloaded, with the heaviest magazine inserted.
- D. Fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 8 ¾" x 6" x 1 5/8" with the largest magazine inserted.

Firearms originally sold as compensated/porting models may be used in CDP with non-compensated/porting barrels installed.

8.2.3.1 Start Condition:

- A. Single action only firearms will start cocked and locked. (hammer cocked, safety engaged).

- B. Selective DA/SA firearms will start cocked and locked or de-cocked. This is at the shooter's discretion, including firearms using the SSP into CDP rule.
- C. DA, DAO, or striker fired firearms with a de-cocking lever or button will be de-cocked using the lever or button.
- D. DA, DAO, or striker-fired firearms may have a manual safety engaged at the shooter's discretion.

8.2.3.2 CDP Permitted Features and Modifications (Inclusive list):

- A. Sights may be changed to another notch and post type. Slides may be machined to accept different style sights.
- B. Grips may be changed provided they do not weigh more than 2.00 oz. more than the factory standard weight for that model.
- C. A slip-on grip sock and/or grip tape, skateboard tape, etc. tape may be used.
- D. Robar-style grip reduction.
- E. Action work may be used to enhance trigger pull as long as safety is maintained.
- F. Reliability work.
- G. Aftermarket extractors and pins may be used.
- H. Internal accuracy work.
- I. Replacement barrels of factory configuration in .45 ACP.
- J. Plastic plugs may be used to fill the opening behind the magazine well.
- K. Aftermarket triggers and trigger work that result in the trigger being forward or rearward from the stock trigger position.
- L. Externally visible trigger over travel stops.
- M. Hammer and other trigger action parts to enhance trigger pull.
- N. Checkering, serrating, and stippling.
- O. Reshape trigger guard.
- P. Extended and/or ambidextrous thumb safety.
- Q. Extended beavertail grip safety.
- R. Ambidextrous or right side magazine releases.
- S. Extended, trimmed, and/or ambidextrous slide releases.
- T. Heavy or cone style barrels on firearms with barrel lengths of 4.25" or less.
- U. Recoil spring guide rods and dual spring recoil systems made of material that is no heavier than stainless steel.
- V. Slide inserts to accommodate a different recoil assembly design.
- W. Modification of the magazine well and add-on well extensions.
- X. Custom finishes and engraving may be applied.
- Y. Aftermarket slide cover plates.
- Z. Slides with front cocking serrations, tri-top, engraving, carry melts and high power cuts.
- AA. Grip tang extensions or beavertails
- BB. Swenson style thumb shields and frame mounted thumb shields.
- CC. Aftermarket safeties.
- DD. Aftermarket magazine base pads may be used provided they do not make the magazine weight more than 1.50 oz. over the same capacity factory magazine.

EE. Magazine base pads may be modified by reshaping, texturing, or adding bumper pads provided that they do not make the magazine weigh more than 1.50 oz. over the same capacity factory magazine.

FF. Magazines that are longer than stock may be used provided they meet all other division requirements.

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

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

C. Disabling the slide stop.

8.2.4 Compact Carry Pistol

Division (CCP) Handguns permitted

for use in CCP must:

A. Be semi-automatic.

B. Use 9 mm (9x19) or larger cartridges.

C. Barrel length 4 3/8" or less.

D. The unloaded firearm with the heaviest magazine must weigh 38.00 oz. or less.

E. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 7 3/4" x 5 3/8" x 1 3/8".

8.2.4.1 Start Condition

A. Single action only firearms will start cocked and locked. (hammer cocked, safety engaged).

B. Selective DA/SA firearms may start cocked and locked or de-cocked, at the shooter's discretion.

C. DA, DAO, or striker fired firearms with a de-cocking lever or button will be de-cocked using the lever or button.

D. DA, DAO, or striker-fired firearms may have a manual safety engaged at the shooter's discretion.

8.2.4.2 CCP Permitted Features and Modifications (Inclusive list):

CCP firearms must comply with all Enhanced Service Pistol (ESP) features and modifications, and equipment restrictions.

8.2.5 Revolver Division (REV)

Revolvers will be categorized into one of the two following sub-categories:

Stock Revolver or Enhanced Revolver

8.2.5.1 Stock Revolver handguns permitted for use must be:

A. Any revolver that uses .38 Special or larger cartridges with a rimmed case and is not loaded with moon clips.

B. The unloaded firearm must weigh 43.00 oz. or less.

8.2.5.2 Enhanced Revolver handguns permitted for use must be:

A. Any revolver that uses .357 magnum or larger cartridges with rimmed or rimless cases.

B. The unloaded firearm must weigh 50.00 oz. or less.

- C. May be loaded via speed loader or full moon clip.

8.2.6 Stock and Enhanced Revolver requirements:

8.2.6.1 The use of trimmed (shortened) ammunition is not allowed.

8.2.6.2 Ammunition used must match the cartridge listed on the firearm with the following exceptions: A. .38 special in .357 magnum

- B. .44 special in .44 magnum
- C. .45 Auto Rim or .45 GAP in .45 ACP
- D. .45 ACP or .45 GAP in .45 Colt
- E. .40 S&W in 10mm

8.2.6.3 Barrel length must be 4.25" or less.

8.2.6.4 Revolvers must be loaded to the division capacity of 6 rounds in the cylinder. Higher capacity 7 and 8 round revolvers are permitted, but may only load 6 rounds.

8.2.6.5 Stock and Enhanced Revolver Permitted Modifications (Inclusive list):

- A. Sights may be changed to another notch and post type. The frame and barrel may be machined to accept different style sights.
- B. Action work to enhance trigger pull as long as safety is maintained (smoothing the trigger face, removing the hammer spur, use of over travel stop, conversion to DA only and addition of ball detent are considered action work and are permitted).
- C. Grips may be changed to another style or material that is similar to factory configuration, provided they do not weigh more than 2.00 oz. more than the factory standard weight for that model. D. Grip tape, skateboard tape, etc. may be used.
- E. Cylinder latches may be changed to another factory offering from the firearm manufacturer.
- F. Chamfer the rear of the chambers.
- G. Shortening of factory barrels.
- H. Re-barreling to another factory offering for that model.
- I. Firearms converted to accept moon clips may be used in Stock Revolver provided moon clips are not used.
- J. Custom finishes.

8.2.6.6 Enhanced Revolver Additional Permitted Modifications (Inclusive list):

A. Cylinder latches may be modified or replaced, but may not protrude past the frame in any direction and may not be thicker than $\frac{3}{8}$ " as measured from the side plate of the frame. B. Conversion to accept moon clips.

C. Stock and Enhanced Revolver Excluded Modifications (Non-Inclusive list):

- D. Oversize or heavy barrels.
- E. Hogue Big Butt grips and similar are not allowed. The maximum grip dimensions allowed are:
- F. 5.00" maximum height, measured from the bottom of the hammer opening in the frame to the bottom of the grip, $2\frac{3}{8}$ " maximum depth, $1\frac{5}{8}$ " maximum width.

8.2.7 Back Up Gun (BUG)

The Back Up Gun division is a required division for Tier 1 matches, and is an optional in Tier 2 – Tier 5 matches at the Match Director's discretion, BUG is reported as a single division.

The Back Up Gun division may also be used to create a specialty BUG only match. Match directors may prescribe conditions for courses of fire such as the start condition, holster use, and reloads on the clock.

Handguns permitted for use in BUG are categorized into one of the following sub-categories:

- A. Semi-Automatic BUG.
- B. Revolver BUG.
- C. Other Special Sub-Categories as defined by the MD.

8.2.8 Semi-Automatic BUG (BUG-S)

Handguns permitted for use in BUG-S must:

- A. Be semi-automatic.
- B. Be single action, double action, double action only, or striker fired.
- C. Use .380 ACP or larger cartridges.
- D. Barrel length of 3 1/2" or less.
- E. The unloaded firearm with the heaviest magazine must weigh 26 oz. or less.
- F. The firearm with the largest magazine inserted must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 6 1/2" x 4 5/8" x 1 3/8".

8.2.8.1 Start Condition:

- A. Single action only firearms will start cocked and locked. (hammer cocked, safety engaged).
- B. Selective DA/SA firearms will start cocked and locked or decocked at the shooter's discretion.
- C. When decocking is desired, firearms with a decocking lever or button will be decocked using the lever or button.
- D. When decocking is desired, if the hammer must be lowered by pulling the trigger and manually lowering the hammer, the hammer will be lowered to the lowest position possible.
- E. Shooters will start with 1 round in the chamber and 5 rounds in the magazine.

8.2.8.2 BUG-S Permitted Features and Modifications

Semi-automatic BUG must comply with all ESP features and modifications, and equipment restrictions.

8.2.9 Revolver BUG (BUG-R)

Handguns permitted for use in BUG-R must be:

- A. Any revolver that uses .38 or larger cartridges with a rimmed case and is not loaded with moon clips.
- B. The use of trimmed (shortened) ammunition is not allowed.
- C. Barrel length of 2 1/2" or less.
- D. The unloaded firearm must weigh 26 oz. or less.
- E. Be loaded to the division capacity of no more than 5 rounds in the cylinder.
- F. The firearm must fit in the IDPA gun test box measuring 6 1/2" x 4 5/8" x 1 3/8".
- G. Revolver BUG Modifications: Revolver BUG must comply with all Stock Revolver features and modifications, and equipment restrictions.

8.2.10 Specialty Divisions (SPD)

- A. IDPA encourages shooters to practice their gun handling skills with commonly carried firearms. Many everyday carry firearms do not fit into the 6 competition handgun divisions.
- B. IDPA allows clubs to add “Specialty Divisions” for scoring. This division allows cartridges smaller than 9 mm, carry optics, activated lasers, mounted lights, and other firearms which do not fit into the other competition divisions to participate in matches.
- C. All other IDPA equipment rules apply for holsters and loading device holders as well as their placement on the body. Match Directors also have the option to allow junior shooters with .22 rimfire firearms to begin strings at low ready in lieu of requiring a holster. D. All IDPA membership rules apply.
- E. Specialty Division classifications are based on the shooters highest classification of regular IPDA divisions.
- F. Clubs are not required to implement this provision, and Match Directors are allowed discretion with implementation so that match quality remains high.

8.3 Ammunition

The following rules apply to ammunition used in IDPA matches.

- A. Metal piercing, incendiary, and tracer ammunition is prohibited.
- B. Clubs may prohibit cartridges that may damage metal targets.
- C. All ammunition must use a single projectile.

8.3.1 Ammunition Power

The goal is to compete with commonly available ammunition. The minimum power factors are:

SSP, ESP, CCP	125
CDP	165
Stock REV	105
Enhanced REV ..	155
BUG	95

Calculate the power factor by multiplying the bullet weight in grains by the bullet velocity in feet per second (fps), divide by 1000, and ignore numbers to the right of the decimal. For example, a 230.1 grain bullet at 794.7 fps: $230.1 \times 794.7 / 1000 = 182.86047$, or 182 power factor.

8.3.2 Official Chronograph Procedure

Chronograph is conducted with the competitor present. Ammunition is pulled and/or bagged prior to arriving at the chronograph stage. The chronograph official will use the competitor-supplied firearm, and the following procedure will be used:

- A. If two of the three rounds meet or exceed the required power factor, the ammunition is in compliance. Prior to each shot, the muzzle of the firearm will be elevated to vertical (if range rules permit) to move the powder charge to the rear of the case, thus giving the competitor every chance to achieve maximum velocity.
- B. A bullet will be pulled and weighed using a powder scale. If two rounds exceed the highest velocity for the caliber and power factor, pulling the bullet and weighing is optionally waived.
- C. A competitor whose ammunition fails to make power factor will be allowed to shoot the match, but their total score will be a disqualification.

8.4 Belts

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

8.5 Holsters

The following criteria apply to IDPA legal holsters.

- A. Must be suitable for all day concealed carry, and worn on each stage regardless of the start position.
- A. Must be a strong side hip holster worn inside the waistband (IWB) or outside the waist band.
- B. Must be worn on an IDPA legal belt.
- C. Must prevent activation of the trigger while holstered.
- D. Must carry the firearm in a neutral (vertical) or muzzle rear cant.
- E. Adjustable cant holsters are legal if bolts must be removed and repositioned for cant adjustment. IWB holsters are exempt from this rule.
- F. Must hold the firearm with enough tension to allow the wearer to complete normal daily tasks without fear of losing the firearm.
- G. Must be constructed of normal thickness common holster making materials (leather, Kydex, plastic, nylon, etc.).
- H. For male shooters, the holster must carry firearm so that the entire front strap (to the trigger guard) is at or above the top of the belt. IWB holsters are exempt from this rule.
- I. The shooter's holster location must remain on the same side of the body throughout the entire course of a match.
- J. Must be positioned on the belt so that the center of the trigger pad is behind the centerline of the body.
- K. For IDPA purposes, the centerline of the body originates in the center of the armpit and goes straight down.
- L. All retention devices on the holster must be used.
- M. Retention devices may be permanently removed or permanently disabled, but not temporarily disabled for a match.
- N. The front edge of the holster may not be more than 1 ¾ inch below the breech face (autos) or 1 inch below the rear of the cylinder (revolvers).
- O. Holsters may be modified to meet IDPA rules.
- P. Holsters with screws or knobs that extend past the outer face of the holster are allowed if the adjustment screw(s) require a tool to change tension, the screws protrude less than 0.125" from the outer face of the holster, and they meet all other holster requirements. Additionally, all tension screws anywhere on a holster must require a tool for tension adjustment.
- Q. For male shooters only, the holsters must fit the shooter's body such that a ¾ inch diameter dowel placed between the shooter and the firearm anywhere above the belt contacts both the shooter and the firearm simultaneously.
- R. A holster may be legal for some shooters but not legal for other shooters due to different body shapes.
- S. A holster may be legal if worn snugly but illegal if sagging away from the body.
- T. For women shooters only, a dropped and offset (DOH) holster may be used. Concealment and cant rules apply.

- U. For women shooters only, when viewed from the front, a women's holster may not tilt out away from the body further than vertical, unless the shooter's body touches the grip of firearm.

8.5.1 Non-Permitted Holsters (Non-Inclusive list):

- A. Cross-draw carry
- B. Shoulder holsters
- C. Small of the back carry
- D. Appendix carry
- E. Pocket carry

8.6 Ammunition Carriers

8.6.1 General Ammunition Carrier Rules

- A. Instead of using ammunition carriers, shooters may carry spare loading devices in their pockets. Shooters may mix carry methods.
- B. One ammunition carrier per allowed ammunition feeding device may be worn on the belt. Each individual pouch in a multi-pouch carrier counts as one. One additional ammunition carrier may be worn behind the centerline of the body for the purposes of loading at the start of a stage. This carrier must be empty before the "Stand By" command.
- C. Ammunition carriers may be modified to meet IDPA rules.
- D. For male shooters only, ammunition carriers must hold the loading devices such that a 3/4 inch dowel placed between the shooter and the device contacts both the shooter and the device simultaneously.

8.6.2 Magazine Carriers

- A. Must be suitable for concealed carry and all day continuous wear
- B. Must be worn on an IDPA legal belt
- C. Must cover 2" of the magazine as measured from the top of the cartridge rim down the back flat of the magazine tube
- D. Must cover the entire outer face of the portion of the magazine inside the carrier. The outer face is the side away from the shooter's body
- E. Must hold the magazine within 10° of vertical relative to the belt. (80° to 100° relative to the belt).
- F. Screws or knobs that extend past the outer face of the carrier are allowed if the adjustment screw(s) require a tool to change tension, the screws protrude less than 0.125" from the outer face of the magazine carrier, and they meet all other magazine carrier requirements. Additionally, all tension screws anywhere on a magazine carrier must require a tool for tension adjustment. G. "Bullets out" magazine pouches are not allowed.
- H. Magazine carriers must be worn in a location on the belt so that the front edge of the carrier or magazine is behind the shooter's hipbone.
- I. The same exact location for magazines, magazine pouches, and/or ammunition feeding devices in pockets must be used for every stage in a single match, unless otherwise specified in a stage description.

8.6.3 Speed Loader and Moon Clip Carrier Rules

- A. Be suitable for concealed carry and all day continuous wear.

- B. Speed loader carriers must either be of open top configuration that covers at least 45% of the diameter and 100% of the cartridge height when viewed from the front, and must retain the speed loader by tension or retain the speed loader with a snap or Velcro closure. Side cuts are permitted for thumb and index finger access only.
- C. Moon clip carriers must either be of open top configuration that covers at least 45% of the diameter and 100% of the cartridge height when viewed from the front, and must retain the moon clip by tension and a stud that protrudes through the center of the clip, or retains the moon clip with a snap or Velcro closure.
- D. Moon clips may not be retained in the carrier by 3 or less cartridges. Side cuts are permitted for thumb and index finger access only.
- E. Two speed loaders/moon clips may be worn directly in front of the holster. The speed loaders/moon clips worn in front of the holster must be within 1" of each other, and the speed loader/moon clip nearest the holster must be within 1" of the revolver pouch of the holster.
- F. The shooter may wear additional speed loaders/moon clips behind the hipbone on the weak side or behind the holster.
- G. The same exact location for speed loaders, speed loader pouches, moon clips, moon clip pouches, and/or ammunition feeding devices in pockets must be used for every stage in a single match, unless otherwise specified in a stage description.

8.7 Duty Gear Exemption

This duty gear exemption is for patrol type gear worn by uniformed personnel, not undercover, plainclothes, or investigative type gear.

Police and military personnel are allowed to use their duty rigs as follows:

- A. The duty holster must be a strong side belt or thigh holster with at least one retention feature.
- B. All retention features of the holster must be used.
- C. All belt equipment holders must be present, though the shooter may decide which belt equipment is present.

Police and military personnel using the duty gear exemption are exempt from:

- a. Using concealment garment
- b. Holster design and placement requirements (other than listed above)
- c. Ammunition carrier design and placement requirements
- d. Belt design and placement requirements

The duty gear exemption is available for Tier 1 matches only.

8.8 Miscellaneous Equipment

8.8.1 Knee Pads & Elbow Pads

Hard shell kneepads and elbow pads are not allowed.

Soft shelled pads, braces, and tape may be worn throughout a match without being concealed, provided they are worn for each stage of the match. Pads, braces, and tape worn under concealment garments may be put on and removed as the competitor sees fit.

8.8.2 Cleats

Cleated shoes may be worn so long as the cleats are made entirely from a rubber compound that you can push your fingernail into. No hard plastic or metal cleats are permitted.

8.8.3

Gloves
Gloves
may
be
used.

8.8.4 Flashlights

Only hand held lights may be used in IDPA competition. For Physically Disabled shooters, refer to Physically Disabled Shooters Section.

Lights may not be attached to the shooter's hand, wrist, or arm in any fashion.

Rings or straps that go around any part of the shooter's body (finger, palm, wrist, etc.) are not allowed.

Lanyards may be present, but may not be used.

Police and military personnel using the Duty Gear Exemption with a firearm mounted light may not activate the mounted light, and are otherwise subject to the same hand held flashlight usage rules as other competitors. See rule 3.17.

8.9 Concealment Garments

8.9.1 Concealment garments hide the holster, firearm, ammunition carriers, and loading devices from view.

8.9.2 To see if the garment is legal, the competitor stands with their arms straight out to their sides, parallel to the ground. If the standing SO cannot see the previously listed equipment from the front, sides, or rear, then the concealment garment is legal.

8.9.3 Concealment garments may not be modified with plastic zip ties, wire, metal, Styrofoam, cardboard, or any similar material that would stiffen the garment or pockets. Patches may not be placed on concealment garment pockets. Use of standard laundry starch is acceptable.

8.9.4 Weights may not be attached to concealment garments, but items may be placed in pockets.

8.9.5 Pocket flaps may be inserted into pockets.

8.9.6 Specially made pockets for magazine stowage after a reload may not be used.