



ISHS COMPETITION RULES V2

Structured September 2020
Revised April 2021

1. Core Focus of ISHS Competitions

ISHS Competitions are focused of defensive pistol shooting application.

Firearm types are not separated within divisions; all compete together without handicap. No power factor is recognised or separated in any division.

Practical shooting competition is a test of expertise in the use of practical defensive firearms and Equipment

ISHS competitions are freestyle in concept. 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. Therefore targets are engaged as first seen unless otherwise stipulated by a specific stage brief. Conducting a reload does not have to be conducted from behind cover.

Each competition is designed to focus on what we consider elements of a defensive use of a pistol. These elements are:

- Observation and decision making
- Weapon presentation
- Movement
- Fighting mindset

2. Divisions

Two divisions are recognised, Divisions are divided by shooters scoring over three past shoots and not by equipment. The difference between the divisions is solely based on how penalties are accrued on standard SD Cardboard targets

2.1 Standard Division

Mic +5s

2.2 Master Division

Master Class shoot penalties on ALL paper targets.

Alpha +0s

Charlie +1s

Delta +2s

Mic +5s

The Score Officer will congratulate/inform shooters if they are moved to Master class in the next competition.

All new shooters to start in Standard division, unless they ask to be bumped up. In order to be moved to master class, the competitor must attain 85% and above of the average high score.

3. Types of competitions

3.1 Level 1 Match

Consists of a minimum 4 stages. The total sum of individual stage results will be accumulated to declare a match winner

3.2 Shoot-Off Match

An event conducted separately from a level 1 match. Eligible competitors compete directly against each other by simultaneously shooting at separate but equal targets in a process of elimination. Shoot off matches may also involve the use of unfamiliar handguns depending on the stage. Shoot off matches are open only to competitors whose most recent three consecutive shoots reach 85% of the average high scores. Average High Scores are estimated by calculating an average of the top 20 competitor scores on average over three matches. Eligible competitors must have attended 5 Level 1 matches throughout the year to be eligible to compete in a shoot off match.

4. Competitor Equipment

4.1 Firearms

No compensated handguns

Handguns with optics will shoot the same division as the rest.

Optics must be considered carry optics with dimensions not greater than 2.5 inches (length) x 1.55 inches (height) x 1.25 inches wide

Weapon mounted light are permitted

Extended Magwells are permitted

Magazine capacity are not restricted – unless otherwise stated in the stage brief/plan.

Magazine lengths are restricted and a magazine that extends 2 inches further than the magwell are not permitted

4.2 Holsters

No Sticky Holsters

Concealed carry not preferred

No Speed holsters. (Trigger guard must be covered, and firearm must be covered up to the ejection port.

Rod in barrel type holsters are not permitted.

No holsters with the heel of the butt of the handgun that is below the top of the belt are to be used or shoulder rigs or holsters attached to a vest or plate carrier may be used except if the competitor is deemed by the Range Master to be a active serving law enforcement officer a serving military personnel, a currently employed private security officer or community patroller. The Range Master will remain the final authority in respect of the safety and suitability of using such equipment. The use of the above holsters by the indicated competitors will be subject to only compete in Standard divisions and shall only be permitted to use such holsters on Level 1 Matches.

4.3 Appropriate dress

No open shoes

Shirts tucked in, at least on carry side while on the line.

Female shooters should not wear low neckline tops.

4.4 Ammunition, power factors

No restriction

5. Course of fire

5.1 Firearm ready conditions

Firearm Ready Conditions

The ready condition for firearms will normally be as stated below.

Revolvers:

Single Action

hammer

fully down on an empty chamber

Double Action:

hammer fully down and all chambers may be loaded.

Semi auto handguns:

Single action

chamber loaded, hammer cocked, and the safety engaged.

Semi auto handguns with an empty chamber:

magazine inserted, and hammer fully down

Double action

chamber loaded, hammer fully down or de cocked.

Selective action

chamber loaded with hammer fully down, or

chamber loaded, and hammer cocked with external safety engaged

Striker fired/Safe Action

chamber loaded, handgun cocked,

external safety engaged if present

5.2 Range communication/commands

The following range commands are standardised

Pre shoot:

Next shooter on the line

Range is Hot, Eyes and Ears

Shooter, Load and make ready

Shooter Ready?

Standby

Beep/Buzzer

Interrupting shooting:

STOP! Cease Fire

MUZZLE! (Warning during shoot, shooting does not stop if minor)

FINGER! (Warning during shoot, shooting does not stop if minor)

Post Shoot:

Unload, show clear

Slide forward, Hammer Down, Holster

Range is Clear

5.3 Procedural penalties

+5s shooting out of Stage plan/brief sequence

Failure to engage a target that is to be scored or felled +10sec

Not moving and shooting according to a stage brief +5sec

Jungle lane – Run past target +20s

Jungle lane – May not retreat or move back to shoot a missed target

A hit on a steel plate or any other target that hits the foreground first before striking the target will be classed as a miss

5.4 Match disqualifications

The following actions will lead to a match disqualification:

1. Turning around on firing line with the muzzle breaking beyond 90 degrees of the side berms – DQ
2. Handling FA behind firing line – warning. DQ on second warning.
3. Failure to keep the finger outside the trigger guard during loading, reloading, or unloading. Exception: while complying with the “Make Ready” command to lower the hammer of a gun without a decocking lever, or while initially loading a revolver with a spurless hammer.
4. Holstering or placing a loaded firearm, in any of the following conditions

A single action:

Loading firearm with the safety not applied. If the primary safety on the firearm cannot be engaged due to the design of the firearm, and the hammer or trigger cannot be actuated in the condition the gun is in, the safety does not have to be applied. If the gun is completely empty, the safety need not be applied.

A double action or selective action pistol with the hammer cocked and the safety not applied.

A revolver with the hammer cocked

5. A shot, which travels over a backstop, a berm. Unless the shot was legitimately fired a shot at a designated target, which then travelled in an unsafe direction, will not be disqualified
6. Failure to keep the finger outside the trigger guard during movement.(Warning on first infringement DQ on second)

All persons are required to be in complete control both mentally and physically during all ISHS Competitions or attending any event at any shooting range as a spectator or competitor.

The use of illegal drugs, irrespective of how they are taken or administered, is considered to be an extremely serious offense.

Except when used for medicinal purposes, competitors and officials at matches must not be affected by drugs (including alcohol) of any sort during matches.

Any person, who in the opinion of the Range Master is visibly under the influence of any of the items described herein, will be disqualified from the match and may be required to leave the range.

5.6 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Competitors will be disqualified from a match for conduct which a Range Officer deems to be unsportsmanlike.

Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, dishonesty, failing to comply with the reasonable directions of a Match Official, or any behaviour likely to bring the sport into disrepute. The Range Master must be notified as soon as possible.