

IPSC RULES COMMITTEE

PROPOSALS FOR THE 2026 IPSC ASSEMBLY

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

Proposal A

That the rules common to all IPSC Disciplines be amended as shown on Pages 2-3.

Proposal B

That the rules common to more than one IPSC Discipline be amended as shown on Page 4.

Proposal C

That the IPSC Shotgun Competition Rules be amended as shown on Page 5.

Proposal D

That the IPSC Action Air Competition Rules be amended as shown on Pages 6-9.

Proposal E

That Action Air Long Gun be adopted as a new IPSC Discipline in accordance with the Competition Rules as shown in Annex A and that the Action Air Rifle and Action Air Pistol Caliber Carbine Disciplines be deleted.

Proposal F

That Multi Gun be adopted as a new IPSC Discipline in accordance with the Competition Rules as shown in Annex B.

Proposal A

Rules Common to All IPSC Disciplines

All Disciplines

2.2.7 ~~Windows and Ports—Must be placed at a height reachable by most competitors, with a sturdy platform being available for use by others, if requested, without penalty.~~

Windows and Ports – As range equipment must present the challenge fairly and equitably to all competitors, they must be placed at a height which should reasonably allow for differences in competitor's height and physical build, so that competitors are able to safely engage targets through them. Should a competitor's lack of height and/or disability restrict their ability to safely engage targets through the window or port, a platform will be provided for them to use, without penalty, providing that they request it prior to beginning their attempt at the course of fire. The Range Master will have final authority concerning all such requests. The platform must be sturdy, stable and safe to use.

Reasons:

(a) To ensure competitive equality for competitors of different heights.

(b) To control the use of props for people that do need it and disallow those that do not.

Handgun, Shotgun and .22LR Handgun

5.1.11 Firearms offering "burst" and/or fully automatic operation (i.e. whereby more than one round can be discharged on a single pull or activation of the trigger) are prohibited. Firearms fitted with either a trigger where one round is discharged upon pulling the trigger and another round discharged upon releasing the trigger, or a forced reset trigger (a trigger that operates by using the firearm's own cycling action to mechanically force the trigger forward after each shot is discharged, thereby resetting it much faster than a conventional semi-automatic trigger, which relies on the competitor to consciously release the trigger), are also prohibited (see Rule 10.5.16).

Rifle, Mini Rifle and Pistol Caliber Carbine

5.1.11 Firearms offering only "burst" and/or fully automatic operation (i.e. whereby more than one round can be discharged on a single pull or activation of the trigger) are prohibited. Firearms fitted with either a trigger where one round is discharged upon pulling the trigger and another round discharged upon releasing the trigger, or a forced reset trigger (a trigger that operates by using the firearm's own cycling action to mechanically force the trigger forward after each shot is discharged, thereby resetting it much faster than a conventional semi-automatic trigger, which relies on the competitor to consciously release the trigger), are also prohibited (see Rule 10.5.16).

Action Air Handgun

5.1.11 Firearms offering "burst" and/or fully automatic operation (i.e. whereby more than one projectile can be discharged on a single pull or activation of the trigger) are prohibited. Firearms fitted with either a trigger where one projectile is discharged upon pulling the trigger and another projectile discharged upon releasing the trigger, or a forced reset trigger (a trigger that operates by using the firearm's own cycling action to mechanically force the trigger forward after each projectile is discharged, thereby resetting it much faster than a conventional semi-automatic trigger, which relies on the competitor to consciously release the trigger), are also prohibited (see Rule 10.5.16).

Action Air Rifle and Pistol Caliber Carbine

5.1.11 Firearms offering only "burst" and/or fully automatic operation (i.e. whereby more than one projectile can be discharged on a single pull or activation of the trigger) are prohibited. Firearms fitted with either a trigger where one projectile is discharged upon pulling the trigger and another projectile discharged upon releasing the trigger, or a forced reset trigger (a trigger that operates by using the firearm's own cycling action to mechanically force the trigger forward after each projectile is discharged, thereby resetting it much faster than a conventional semi-automatic trigger, which relies on the competitor to consciously release the trigger), are also prohibited (see Rule 10.5.16).

Reasons:

(a) To prohibit the use of "forced reset" triggers.

(b) February 2026 Rules Interpretation.

6.6.2.1 Persons serving as the Match Director, Range Master or Deputy Range Master are prohibited from competing (whether in the pre-match or main match) in Level IV and V matches at which they are officiating. They may compete in Level III matches, subject to the prior approval of the Regional Director of the Region in which the match is being held. They may compete in Level I and II matches.

Reason – October 2025 Rules Interpretation.

9.11.1 The official scoring programs for all Level IV or higher matches are the latest versions of the Windows® Match Scoring System (WinMSS) and the IPSC ESS, unless another scoring program is approved by the IPSC President. By the end of December 2027, Regions must only use the latest version of the IPSC ESS scoring program for any Level III or higher matches that they host, unless another scoring program is approved by the IPSC President. For other level matches, no other scoring program can be used without the approval of the Regional Director of the host Region.

Reason – To use the same scoring program for all IPSC Level III or higher matches, for consistency and to comply with WADA’s requirement to maintain a database of all athletes.

12.5 Glossary

Compensator Any device fitted to, ~~the muzzle end of a barrel~~ or an integral part of, a firearm designed to counter reduce muzzle rise or recoil by diverting away escaping gasses.

Reason – Manufacturers have developed compensators that are not fitted to the barrel (e.g. they are part of the slide).

12.5 Glossary

Slide The upper part of a self-loading pistol that moves backward and forward during firing, ejecting empty cartridge cases, chambering new rounds and cocking the hammer or striker. It also provides a mounting platform for open and optical/electronic sights.

Reason – To define “slide”.

Appendix A2: IPSC Recognition

3. Individual Categories:

(g) Lady Junior - Competitors of the female gender who are under the age of 21 until the 31st December of the year in which they become 21 years of age. A Lady Junior has the option of electing to shoot in Lady Category, but not in both. If there are insufficient competitors for Lady Junior Category to be recognized, all competitors registered in this Category will automatically be transferred to Lady Category.

Reason – To permit a Lady Junior to shoot in Lady Category.

Proposal B

Rules Common to More Than One IPSC Discipline

All Disciplines Except .22LR Handgun

Appendix A2: IPSC Recognition

4. Team Categories:

(m) Teams by Family.

Family Teams consist of two members, one being either a Grand Junior, Lady Grand Junior, Super Junior, Lady Super Junior, Junior or Lady Junior and the other either a parent or grandparent of the Grand Junior, Lady Grand Junior, Super Junior, Lady Super Junior, Junior or Lady Junior. Notwithstanding Rules 6.4.2 and 6.4.2.1, one of the team members may also be a member of a Regional Team and the two team members may compete in different Divisions and a female individually registered as "Lady" may participate as the Lady Grand Junior, Lady Super Junior or Lady Junior provided that she satisfies the appropriate age limit. Family Team results will be calculated by adding the match percentiles attained by the two members. There may be more than one Family Team entered per Region. A legally adopted Grand Junior, Lady Grand Junior, Super Junior, Lady Super Junior, Junior or Lady Junior and their adoptive parent or grandparent qualify as Family Team members. A Guardian of a Grand Junior, Lady Grand Junior, Super Junior, Lady Super Junior, Junior or Lady Junior does not qualify as a Family Team member.

Reason – To clarify the position regarding adoptions and guardians.

Handgun

Appendices D1-D6

14. Weight(s) attached to barrel or frame that extend more than 2 mm beyond the muzzle

Action Air Handgun

Appendix D

8. Weight(s) attached to barrel or frame that extend more than 2 mm beyond the muzzle

Reason – Manufacturers have developed weights attached to the frame that extend beyond the muzzle.

Handgun, .22LR Handgun and Action Air Handgun

- 5.2.3 Unless otherwise specified in the written stage briefing, the belt carrying the holster and all allied equipment must be worn at waist level. The belt or the inner belt or both must be either permanently sewn at the waist, or secured with a minimum of three belt loops attached to shorts or trousers. Spacers fitted to the inside of the belt that increase the distance that a belt extends away from a competitor's body are prohibited.

Reason – To prohibit the use of belt spacers (see picture below).



Handgun and Multi Gun (if the new IPSC Discipline is approved)

Appendices D2 (Standard Division) and D3 (Classic Division)

1. Minimum power factor for Major ~~+70~~ 160

Reason – To encourage the use of Major Caliber by reducing the Minimum power factor for Major to the same as Open Division.

Proposal C

Shotgun

- 6.2.5.1 A competitor who fails to satisfy the maximum distance of cartridges from his ~~body belt~~ (see Rule 5.2.5) requirement after the Start Signal will incur a warning for the first offense. Subsequent occurrences in the same match will result in the competitor being placed in Open Division, if available, otherwise the competitor's scores will not be entered into match results. Competitors already registered in Open Division who fail to comply with the above requirement after the Start Signal will incur a warning for the first offense, but will not have their scores entered into match results for subsequent occurrences in the same match. A competitor who fails to satisfy the equipment or other requirements, with the exception of that listed above, of a declared Division after the Start Signal, will be placed in Open Division, if available, otherwise the competitor's scores will not be entered into match results. Competitors already registered in Open Division who fail to comply with the requirements, with the exception of that listed above, of Open Division after the Start Signal will not have their scores entered into match results. This rule does not apply for measurements done under Rule 5.2.5, either before (see Rule 6.2.3) or after the competitor has shot the stage.

Reason – Alignment with the change to Rule 5.2.5 approved at the 2025 IPSC Assembly.

- 8.7.1 ~~Competitors are prohibited from taking a sight picture and/or dry firing prior to the Start Signal. Violation will result in a warning for the first occurrence and one procedural penalty for each subsequent occurrence in the same match. Competitors may, while pointing their firearm directly at the ground in front of them, adjust electronic sights.~~
Competitors are prohibited from taking a sight picture with a loaded firearm prior to the Start Signal. Violation will result in a warning for the first occurrence and one procedural penalty for each subsequent occurrence in the same match.
- 8.7.1.1 If match organizers also prohibit taking a sight picture with an unloaded firearm prior to the Start Signal, competitors must be advised in the written stage briefing. Violation will result in a warning for the first occurrence and one procedural penalty for each subsequent occurrence in the same match.
- 8.7.1.2 When permitted, competitors taking a sight picture with an unloaded firearm prior to the Start Signal must only do so on a single target, to verify that their sights are prepared as required. Competitors who test a targeting sequence or a shooting position while taking a sight picture will incur one procedural penalty per occurrence.

Reason – Alignment with all the other long gun Disciplines (Rifle, Mini Rifle, PCC, AA Rifle and AA PCC).

Appendix D: Shotgun Divisions

17. The use of bipods permitted – No.

All subsequent Special conditions to be renumbered.

Reason:

- (a) To prohibit the use of bipods.*
- (b) May 2026 Rules Interpretation.*

Proposal D

Action Air

All Action Air Disciplines

Stop Plates

(The Rules for AA HG are shown, with appropriate changes to AA Rifle, AA PCC and AA Long Gun (if adopted)).

- 1.2.1.1 Short Courses – Must not require more than 12 scoring projectiles to complete. Course design and construction must not require more than 9 scoring hits from any single location or view.
- 1.2.1.2 Medium Courses – Must not require more than 24 scoring projectiles to complete. Course design and construction must not require more than 9 scoring hits from any single location or view, nor allow a competitor to shoot all targets in the course of fire from any single location or view.
- 1.2.1.3 Long Courses – Must not require more than 32 scoring projectiles to complete. Course design and construction must not require more than 9 scoring hits from any single location or view, nor allow a competitor to shoot all targets in the course of fire from any single location or view.
- 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 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). Stop Plates are non-scoring and any projectile fired at the Stop Plate is excluded from the number of projectiles specified in Rules 1.2.1.1, 1.2.1.2 and 1.2.1.3.

Reason – There has been some confusion about whether the number of projectiles specified in Rules 1.2.1.1 to 1.2.1.3 includes a projectile fired at the Stop Plate.

- 3.2.1 A written stage briefing consistent with these rules and approved by the Range Master must be posted at each course of fire prior to commencement of the match. This briefing will take precedence over any course of fire information published or otherwise communicated to competitors in advance of the match, and it must provide the following minimum information:
- Scoring targets (type & number);
 - Target distances;
 - Minimum number of projectiles ~~to be scored~~ required;
 - Number of scoring hits for paper targets (if not the default);
 - ~~The~~ Firearm ready condition (see Section 8.1);
 - Competitor ready condition (see Rule 3.2.2, Section 8.2 and Appendix E1/E2);
 - Start position;
 - Time starts: audible or visual signal;
 - Time stops: last shot and/or Stop Plate;
 - Location of Stop Plate (if used);
 - Procedure.

Reason – To streamline Rule 3.2.1 and use wording consistent with that adopted for the non-Action Air Disciplines at the 2025 IPSC Assembly.

Tracer units

5.5.7 The use of tracer units is prohibited.

12.5 Glossary

Tracer Unit A device fitted to a firearm that illuminates projectiles in flight, making them visible, especially in low-light conditions.

Reason – To prohibit the use of tracer units.

- 9.5.7 Hits visible on a scoring paper target or no-shoot, which are the result of shots fired through the rear of that or another scoring paper target or no-shoot, and/or hits which fail to create a clearly distinguishable hole through the front of a scoring paper target or no-shoot, will not count for score or penalty, as the case may be. Exception: this does not apply to scoring paper targets or no-shoots that are either mounted on, or situated directly in front of, objects constructed using impenetrable materials, which prevent the creation of a clearly distinguishable hole.

Reason – Due to the Action Air Competition Rules limiting the maximum power of a projectile, in the above situation the projectile lacks sufficient power to penetrate the wood behind the paper target. As a result, competitors may be scored as a miss, even though they clearly hit the scoring zone of the paper target, as seen in 2025 AAWS II.

- 9.10.3 When a Stop Plate is used in a COF, the competitor must shoot and hit the Stop Plate ~~with his final shot after engaging the other targets in the COF~~. A competitor is permitted to shoot and hit the Stop Plate and then engage/reengage the other targets, provided that he reengages and hits the Stop Plate ~~with his final shot after engaging the other targets in the COF~~. A competitor who fails to shoot at and hit the Stop Plate ~~with his final shot after engaging the other targets in the COF~~ will receive a zero score for the subject stage.

Reason – As seen in 2025 AAWS II, competitors may rapidly fire several shots at the Stop Plate, but if the last shot misses, they receive a zero score for the stage. According to the Rules, the Stop Plate is non-scoring, and the competitor has already hit all the required scoring targets in the course of fire, so a zero score is unreasonable. Furthermore, when fired rapidly at the Stop Plate, the interval between the shots can be as short as 0.1 second, making it difficult to determine by the Range Officers whether the hit on the Stop Plate was the last shot, which often leads to disputes.

12.5 Glossary

Shot (2) The cycling of the action by propellant gas whilst loading, reloading or unloading a firearm.

Reason – Apart from the unloading a firearm, this situation may also occur within the COF when a competitor is not engaging a target. Since the projectile can't create a strike hole in the ground or other obstacles and the sound of firing is very quiet. RO is impossible to determine whether a projectile has been fired, as seen in 2025 AAWS II.

In fact, in the situations covered by Rules 10.4.1 to 10.4.8, due to the reasons mentioned earlier, the RO may also find themselves in an uncertain situation, which could prevent them from invoking the above rules to make a ruling.

Example: During a COF, a competitor was moving with no available target to shoot at. The RO observed the slide cycling, but due to the previously mentioned condition of the firearm and the noisy environment, the RO could not rely on circumstantial evidence to determine whether a bullet had been discharged through the barrel. Therefore, the RO clearly knew that the slide cycling was caused by the competitor's action or a firearm malfunction, but was unable to invoke the above rules to make a ruling.

Action Air Rifle and Action Air Pistol caliber Carbine

- 8.1.3 Courses of fire may require ready conditions which are different to those stated above. In such cases, the required ready condition must be clearly stated in the written stage briefing. If a course of fire requires that a self-loading long gun be prepared with an empty chamber, after the Start Signal the first projectile must be chambered by manipulation of the action of the firearm, not by trigger action. Violations will incur one procedural penalty.

Reason – We have found in recent competitions that a competitor took advantage of an Option 3 ready condition. Where the competitor first worked the action to cock the firearm, before loading a magazine; since an action air firearm would fire once it is cocked and regardless of whether the chamber is loaded. The competitor effectively loaded the chamber by use of the trigger. The Action Air Handgun Competition Rules already contain such clause (Rule 8.1.3), and we would like to add a similar clause to the AA Rifle and AA PCC Rules.

Action Air Handgun

Proposal

Add a new Handgun Optics Division, as shown below.

<u>Action Air Handgun Optics Division</u>		
1.	<u>Maximum handgun size</u>	<u>No</u>
2.	<u>Maximum magazine length</u>	<u>141.25 mm / 170 mm in single stack guns (see Appendix E1)</u>
3.	<u>Maximum projectile capacity</u>	<u>Yes, see below</u>
4.	<u>Max. distance of handgun and allied equipment from belt</u>	<u>50 mm (see Rule 5.2.5)</u>
5.	<u>Rule 5.2.10 / Appendix E2 applies</u>	<u>Yes, see below</u>
6.	<u>Optical/electronic sights</u>	<u>Mandatory, see below</u>
7.	<u>Compensators, ports, sound and/or flash suppressors</u>	<u>No, see below</u>
8.	<u>Weight(s) attached to barrel that extend beyond the muzzle</u>	<u>No</u>

Special conditions:

9. Magazines accessible to a competitor during a COF must not contain more than 24 projectiles at the Start Signal. Violations will result in the competitor being relegated to Open Division.
10. Appendix E2 will consider the slide, not the optical sight, as the foremost limit behind the hip bone.
11. Only porting of inner barrels is prohibited. Slides and outer barrels may be ported.
12. Only handguns fitted with one optical/electronic sight may be used in Optics Division.
13. Optical/electronic sights must be mounted on the upper rear of the slide either in addition to, or replacement of, the rear open sight. Milling of the slide is permitted to install the optical/electronic sight

Reason – There is interest in adding a new Action Air HG Optics Division, following the approval of a non-Action Air Handgun Optics Division at last year's IPSC Assembly.

Action Air Rifle

- 5.1.8.1 The mounting or detaching of barricade stops, ~~or~~ vertical front grip or a bipod is not considered a significant modification of a firearm.

APPENDIX D: Action Air Rifle Divisions

Special conditions:

10. Only one bipod is permitted per course of fire, provided that the maximum extended leg length does not exceed 90 cm (35.5 inches) and it does not raise the centerline of the barrel more than 90 cm (35.5 inches) above the surface on which the bipod stands with both legs fully extended. Bipods may be removed during a course of fire and changed between courses of fire. In addition, they may also be lengthened and/or shortened during a course of fire, provided that:
 - (a) The maximum height/length is not exceeded; and
 - (b) Parts are not added to, or removed from, the bipod.

Reason – To introduce a bipod length limitation in line with the non-Action Air Rifle Competition Rules.

Action Air Pistol Caliber Carbine

APPENDIX D: Action Air Pistol Caliber Carbine Divisions

Special conditions:

12. Kits that convert a handgun into a pistol caliber carbine are permitted.

Reason – To permit the use of conversion kits.

Action Air Long Gun Competition Rules

Proposal

Combine both the Action Air Rifle and Pistol Caliber Carbine Competition Rules into one new rulebook, called the Action Air Long Gun Competition Rules and then delete the separate Action Air Rifle and Pistol Caliber Carbine Competition Rules.

Please see the attached document.

Reason – The performance of Action Air Rifle and Action Air PCC is very similar in terms of effective range, operation and action, as well as action type. The only significant differences are the magwell size and weight. Combining these two Disciplines would help promote Action Air, combining resources and competitors, as well as being simpler to handle by Match Officials and host organizations.