



IPSC Match Etiquette

Here are some useful tips and guidelines to ensure that your shooting experience is as enjoyable as possible for you, other competitors, Match Officials and spectators.

1. Who Am I? Know Your Competitor Number And Squad Number:

Both numbers are usually printed on your Match ID and/or on your scoresheet labels. We have competitors from over 80 Regions competing at IPSC matches and, with a myriad of names which are not easily pronounceable by everyone else, knowing your numbers will help stages run more smoothly and efficiently.

2. Where Am I? Observe The Squadding Schedule and Remain With Your Squad:

Many matches run on very tight schedules so, if you fail to arrive at your next stage on time with the rest of your squad, you'll cause delays and disruptions. If you arrive early at your next stage, or if the previous squad is running a bit late, one of you should notify the CRO that your full squad is ready to proceed whenever he is, but do not impede the squad being processed by crowding the stage. This will only further delay matters.

3. What's The Story? Listen To The Stage Briefing:

The Range Officer doesn't recite the written stage briefing because he loves hearing the sound of his own voice. He wants to assist you by providing you with pertinent information about the stage you're about to shoot, so have the courtesy of listening and not interrupting him. When he asks if you have any questions, that's the time to clarify things in the unlikely event it's not been covered.

4. Take A Number. Conduct An Orderly Squad Walkthrough:

When the Range Office invites you to conduct a walkthrough, form a single line, preferably in the shooting order for that stage, and don't crowd the competitor in front of you. Give him his space, just as you want to have your space.

5. Who's On First? Know Your Place And Observe The Shooting Order:

Most major IPSC matches operate stages by using the IROA Shooting Order, which ensures that competitors have a fair rotation. At smaller matches, establish a shooting order for your squad and stick to it. If one of your squad is disqualified, everyone moves up one place. Simple!

6. Prayer Time. Don't Interfere With The On-Deck Competitor's Final Preparations:

While the competitor who just finished shooting is being scored and targets are being reset, only the next competitor in the shooting order should move forward to the start position to have a quiet word with his particular shooting deity. Do not move forward with a sheet of patches in your hand, pretending to be patching targets, and block the view of the on-deck competitor.

7. Be Ready To Shoot! Remember, IPSC Shooters Do It On Demand!

The LAMR (or Make Ready) command is not an invitation to practice. If you want to check if your trigger works or if you think it might be time to install a new battery in your scope, you can dry-fire to your heart's content and replace your battery in the Safety Area long before it's your turn to shoot. It's also a good practice to reload your magazines immediately after you've signed the scoresheet and taken a seat back with your squad, to avoid a sudden panic on the line.

8. Silence Is Golden. Keep The Noise Down When Another Competitor Is On The Line:

This is a common courtesy. Sure, the shooting range is full of noise, but the sound of competitors speaking loudly because they're wearing ear protection can be very distracting to the poor guy on the line awaiting the Range Commands and the Start Signal.

9. Where's Jeeves? Help To Patch And Reset Targets:

At major National and International matches, range assistants are often hired to handle patching and resetting of targets. However, this is rarely the case at local matches, where everyone in the squad is expected to patch for the other members of the squad. Unless you're the next competitor to shoot, or the guy after him, you should help reset the stage without being asked to do so.

10. Good Help Is Hard To Find. Long Hours, No Pay, No Glory, Apply Here:

The saying "Range Officers are the backbone of our sport" is not hype. If it wasn't for the dozens of dedicated volunteers who give their time and energy to run matches, we simply wouldn't have matches. When you finished shooting each stage and you've signed your scoresheet, a simple "Thank You" with a handshake (or a hug!), makes Range Officers feel appreciated.

11. Complaints Department. When Things Don't Go Quite As You Expected.

There will be times when you feel dissatisfied with one or more aspects of a match, and things do go wrong from time to time. However, throwing a hissy-fit is never the answer. If you're unhappy with a Range Official, have a calm and quiet word with the Range Master. If you're unhappy with the food, amenities or another non-shooting aspect of a match, have a calm and quiet word with the Match Director. Providing good customer service is the toughest business in the world, and the only way errors or oversights can be corrected is if the people at the top of the management chain are made aware of them.

12. Mind Your Appearance And Your Language. You Are Our Marketing Department.

We'd really love to see more Juniors and their parents shooting IPSC, but if competitors look like Rambo on a bad hair day, or if you use profanity when mulling over a poor stage, you won't be presenting our best image. Remember, you don't get a second chance to make a good first impression. You should be a role model to youth, both in respect of safe gun handling and in your general demeanour.

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