

# CURRENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN USPSA AND IPSC RULES (2021)

BY MIKE CARRAHER, L1636  
USPSA and IROA Range Master

NOTE: All the information on the current differences between IPSC and USPSA rules and the match schedule is current as of April 12, 2021.

**S**everal years ago, I prepared an article similar to this; however, both USPSA and IPSC rules have changed some since then. If we add this to 2021 and 2022 having numerous IPSC matches of potential interest to US shooters, I've been asked to update that comparison in the hopes of helping those interested in participating in some of those matches.

For what it's worth, the current IPSC calendar shows two Level 3 matches and one Level 4 match in Florida for 2021, then there's the next Handgun World Shoot in Thailand late in the year. Following that, the USA will host the first-ever PCC and Mini-rifle World Shoot in Florida in 2022. I'm certain there will be other matches in the USA in 2022, but these are the only ones with dates currently on the IPSC calendar. The match starting dates currently look like this:

**Pan-American HG Ch'ship** ..... L IV ..... Frostproof, FL ..... Sept. 21 2021  
**US IPSC Nationals 2021** ..... L III ..... Frostproof, FL ..... Sept. 24 2021  
**First Pan-Am Extreme Open** ..... L III ..... New Smyrna Beach, FL ..... Oct. 28 2021  
**Handgun WS XIX** ..... L V ..... Pattaya, Thailand ..... Nov. 26 2021  
**PCC and Mini-rifle WS 1** ..... L V ..... Frostproof, FL ..... Oct. 31 2022

Clearly, USPSA would like to see strong US participation in each of these, both by competitors and officials – but as many of you already know, IPSC rules are a little different in some areas. This article will attempt to highlight some of the more significant differences between the rule sets. While this will not clarify the nuances of every word and comma, hopefully it will give you an understanding of most of what you need to know to successfully compete or officiate in an IPSC Rules environment.

## CHAPTER 1: COURSE DESIGN

Historically, there have been very few real differences here – more like subtle nuances – and these tend not to have any great

impact on shooters or ROs. However, match organizers and course designers should take note of these differences.

- The US long ago dropped the “recommended” mix of three short, two medium, and one long course in setting up a match. These still exist in IPSC and are enforced at Level 3 and higher matches.
- IPSC eliminated Virginia Count and Fixed Time courses of fire years ago. Everything is Comstock.
- Short courses are 12 rounds or less, Medium courses are 24 rounds or less (versus the USPSA 20 rounds), and Long courses are 32 rounds or less. The maximum number of rounds that can be required from any location or view is nine under IPSC versus eight under USPSA. However, IPSC totally removed the limitations on maximum positions allowed for short and medium courses of fire. This gives the ability to design

some remarkably interesting and movement-oriented short and medium courses.

- USPSA 1.1.5.5, the requirement that where a stage effectively requires the use of both SHO and WHO (through the use of props, not by the WSB) must provide movement and unencumbered freestyle target engagement between the two, does not exist in IPSC. Under international rules the props may have the shooter transition directly from SHO to WHO (or vice-versa) directly.
- There are no Standard Exercises and no Speed Shoots in IPSC. However, it is possible to effectively design a “speed shoot” using a short course and a mandatory reload.
- Shoot-Offs: Under USPSA rules these are limited to nine rounds. IPSC

allows up to 12 rounds.

- Level 3 matches must be registered with IPSC at least three months in advance. Courses of fire will be reviewed by IPSC (in addition to any Regional reviews) and must be approved before sanction is granted. I strongly recommend this be done well in advance. Don't wait until the last minute! A wise MD will start the process six months out and have the stages submitted for review at least three months out. (*My guidance here, not official IPSC policy.*)

## CHAPTER 2: RANGE AND COURSE CONSTRUCTION

- IPSC allows for increasing or reducing safety angles (i.e., the 180) in all directions with the approval of the Regional Director. Technically, so does USPSA, but it's rarely if ever approved by USPSA. Practical impact – not certain, as it would have to be approved by the President of USPSA who has traditionally not allowed such deviations under similar US provisions.
- Minimum distances to metal targets are measured in meters, not feet, but they are very nearly identical.
- Static targets in IPSC may be placed up to 90 degrees from the vertical versus the US limit to 45 degrees for IPSC targets.
- USPSA “Forbidden Action” rules simply do not exist in IPSC.
- IPSC defines Vendor Areas and what you can and cannot do in there – basically, unholster and bag your firearm before you enter the area and carry it in case if you need to handle it for any reason in the area. Match directors/organizers and vendors – read through these rules so you set things up properly.
- A shooter who leaves the shooting area and “takes a shortcut” through a non-shooting area will be penalized per shot fired after beginning the shortcut. (Note that if he returns to the shooting area at the point where he departed without firing a shot, all is well

and no penalties should apply.) Strangely, this appears under Chapter 2 and is not mentioned in Chapter 10; nevertheless, this is effectively how IPSC deals with “Forbidden Action” and “Off Limits Lines”. Off Limits Lines and Forbidden Actions do not exist in IPSC.

- It should be noted that “taking a shortcut” is not clearly defined in the rules; 2.2.1.5 states it as follows:

- If a COF has a passageway visibly delineated by fault lines and/or a clearly demarcated shooting area, any competitor who takes a shortcut by stepping on the ground outside the passageway and/or shooting area will incur one procedural penalty for each shot fired after beginning the shortcut.

- As worded, one can “leap” over the non-shooting area so long as he does not touch the ground in the process. If you touch the ground, it becomes a short-cut. (Let’s not argue here – that’s the rule!)

- Some officials will also attach the penalty if the shooter’s actions result in a significant time savings. This is based on a dictionary definition of “short-cut”. Other officials do not agree with this approach. Although requested, there is no clear guidance from IPSC or IROA in this area. For what it’s worth, and in the absence of definitive guidance from IPSC to the contrary, I do not support the “time saving” theory at any match where I’m the RM. It’s entirely too subjective.

- Bottom Line: In an IPSC match, stay inside the shooting area and avoid the problem altogether!

- IPSC 2.3.4.1 introduces the potential for reinstating a shooter after a DQ if the stage is subsequently thrown out based (essentially) on what the shooter did to get DQ’d. *(Note: Consider target placement carefully, particularly under 2.1.4, as this really creates the potential for reinstating a shooter after a 180 if the target was visible past the 180!)*

- Safety area rules are renumbered but are basically the same; however, you are required to ensure the backstop and sidewalls (if any) are effectively bullet-proof.

- If the match provides a test firing range, it must be operated by a Range Officer.

- Finally, there is no “Load/Unload” station for CCW holders as under US rules. Anyone

arriving at the match with a loaded firearm must report to a Range Officer, who will supervise in the unloading of the firearm.

### CHAPTER 3: COURSE INFORMATION

- Under IPSC rules a WSB does not require telling the shooter the scoring method – makes sense, as everything is Comstock!

- Under USPSA rules, the WSB must comply with current rules. IPSC rules are silent on this point, but it is generally understood!!

- There is no “Forbidden Action” under IPSC rules so it is never written in the WSB.

- Not in the rules, but generally followed:
  - The CRO will typically demonstrate the start position that is described in the WSB. That is considered definitive. It’s generally understood in IPSC that 1.1.5 “freestyle” starts at the beep – it does not apply to the start position. However, start positions have become somewhat more liberal in the past few years. Again, pay attention to what the WSB says AND what is demonstrated.

- At larger IPSC matches, the walk-through is frequently limited to two to three minutes versus the five minutes generally seen in the US.

### CHAPTER 4: RANGE EQUIPMENT

- IPSC only uses the IPSC (i.e., “Turtle”) targets. The old standby USPSA target was banned years ago.

- The “Pepper Popper” is out! Only “headless” IPSC Poppers are allowed.

- No-shoots must be the same color throughout the entire match. (e.g., If white paper targets are no-shoots, they must ALWAYS be no shoots; if pink poppers are no-shoots, ALL no shoot poppers must be pink, etc.)

- USPSA requires at least 50 percent of a metal target or 25 percent of the A-zone of a paper target be available to be shot. There is no corresponding requirement in IPSC, only that the highest scoring area of a target be available. The percentage is not specified.

- Plates: Under US rules, ANY hit which fails to knock over a plate requires you to stop the shooter immediately and order a reshoot. Under IPSC rules, the RO exercises

# JAGER YOUR GLOCK TODAY!



## GUIDE RODS FOR GEN 4 GLOCKS

NOW GEN 4 OWNERS CAN USE ANY WEIGHT GEN 3 SPRING AND “TUNE” THE RECOIL SYSTEM TO SPECIFIC LOADS!



### • OPEN DIVISION KITS



### • COMPENSATORS



### • GEN 3 GUIDE RODS IN POLYMER & BLACK STEEL



### • RECOIL SPRINGS



### • ULTRA LIGHT STRIKERS

**JAGER**  
Products, Inc.

[WWW.JAGERPRODUCTS.COM](http://WWW.JAGERPRODUCTS.COM)

516.859.2508

judgement and MAY declare REF Plates which fall with a subsequent shot may NOT be challenged! Also, plates must be round or rectangular; IPSC never approved the use of hexagonal plates.

- IPSC limits mixing of full size and reduced-size targets. It's easiest to explain by quoting 4.1.1.2:
  - There are two sizes of paper targets and poppers approved for use in IPSC matches (see Appendices B and C). IPSC Mini Targets and Mini Poppers are used to simulate IPSC Targets and Poppers placed at greater distances. The following types and sizes of targets may be included together in the same target array:
    - IPSC Targets and IPSC Poppers; or
    - IPSC Mini Targets and IPSC Mini Poppers; or
    - IPSC Targets and IPSC Mini Poppers; or
    - IPSC Mini Targets and IPSC Poppers.
  - The following types and sizes of targets must not be included together in the same target array:
    - IPSC Targets and IPSC Mini Targets; or
    - IPSC Poppers and IPSC Mini Poppers.

(NOTE: The current rules refer to placement in "target arrays." The old requirements of two meters further downrange no longer exists.)

## CHAPTER 5: COMPETITOR EQUIPMENT

- Under IPSC rules, ammo may be carried in rear pockets for all divisions if desired.
- If ammo starts on a table (or similar – not on belt), then AFTER the start signal, ammo may be placed ANYWHERE on the shooter's person and will NOT violate

Division restrictions. Unlike US rules, this includes carrying the mag in your teeth if the competitor chooses to.

- Chrono procedures are in Chapter 5 versus an Appendix, but are essentially the same as US procedures.
    - A new Chronograph Manual (January 2021) prepared by IROA is in the process of being released. It's substantially parallel to USPSA procedures. It should be posted to IPSC.org in the near future.
  - Difference in securing the belt and holster: USPSA provides that the belt must be "securely affixed" at the waist level but does not require it to be physically attached to the shorts/trousers. IPSC mandates it be physically attached.
  - Malfunctions: Under IPSC rules, a shooter may not use rods or tools (of ANY description) to clear the malfunction. Violation results in a zero for the stage.
  - Official Match Ammo is different under IPSC rules. Generally speaking, it is exempt from chrono and assumed to make power. The shooter must retain proof of purchase of the official ammo and must use it for the match.
- (Note: Differences in Divisions will be explained separately.)

## CHAPTER 6: MATCH STRUCTURE

- There are no "Strings" since there are no Standards, VC, or FT in IPSC.
- An IPSC match must have at least three stages.
- There are only five Categories: Ladies, Juniors (<21), Super Juniors (<16), Seniors

(>50), and Super Seniors (>60) – no Military or Law Enforcement. Additionally, a competitor may declare one and only one category. (e.g., You cannot register for both Lady and Senior; you must choose one.)

- If a shooter is moved to Open (6.2.5.1) then OD rules will apply to him BUT he must continue to use the same gun and sights he started the match with (6.2.5.3). If he chronos Major, then ALL scores for the match will be scored Major.

## CHAPTER 7: MATCH MANAGEMENT

- Very few differences of any consequence here; however:
  - Match Officials "should not" wear any clothing or insignia which indicates they are match officials while they are competing in the match. Although the wording is "should not", for practical purposes, this is generally enforced more at a level of "will not".
  - A person acting as a Match Official is prohibited from having a holstered firearm while directly accompanying and timing a competitor during his attempt at a CoF. Violations are subject to official disciplinary actions.

## CHAPTER 8: THE COURSE OF FIRE

- Commands:
  - IPSC still uses "LAMR" for all starts except an unloaded gun (i.e., NO ammo in the gun). Only for a completely unloaded gun is the command "MR" ...
  - By rule, the CoF ends at "RIC" under USPSA rules; under IPSC rules it ends once the competitor finishes holstering his gun and removes his hand (without the gun falling out of the holster). So RO's – Do NOT call "RIC" until after the gun is holstered AND the shooter removes his hand from the gun!
  - There is a shoulder "tap" system in lieu of an audible start for hearing impaired competitors (see 8.3.9 if needed).
  - BY RULE – for a table start, the gun must be flat on the table without external propping. (Slide racks, etcetera, are okay). Do not allow the response "The WSB didn't say I couldn't put a mag under my gun", because the RULES prohibit it!

JJ Racaza Production Nationals 2020





**VERY IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES**

- NO sight pictures (at all) after LAMR,
- NO dry firing after LAMR, and
- NOTHING in hands during the walkthrough.

One warning will be given (and recorded on the equipment check sheet) during the match – then ALL subsequent infractions will receive a procedural penalty per occurrence! However, it is possible to be disqualified for dry firing under certain conditions. IPSC defines “Loading” as follows:

The initial insertion of ammunition into a firearm in response to the “Load And Make Ready” command. Loading begins as soon as the competitor grips a round of ammunition, a magazine or speed loader, and ends when the firearm is securely holstered (or placed elsewhere in accordance with the written stage briefing), and the competitor’s hands are clear of the firearm. For an unloaded Handgun Ready Condition, loading ends when the magazine is fully seated (*or when the cylinder is fully closed*).

Hence, if under this definition loading is underway and you dry fire you can be – and likely will be – disqualified under 10.5.9. Best practice: Don’t dry-fire on the line in an IPSC match!

**CHAPTER 9: SCORING**

- No-shoots: A maximum of two penalties to be recorded per NS target ... However, it is not uncommon for this to be limited to ONE penalty if the CoF only requires ONE hit per target!

- All warnings MUST be recorded on the equipment check sheet. When and where necessary, warnings will be converted to penalties. (Makes sense – the CRO on Stage 7 may not know the shooter was already warned about “X” on Stage 4.) This has become somewhat complex with the development of electronic scoring programs. It is therefore ESSENTIAL that you remember to carry your Equipment Check Sheet with you AT ALL TIMES!

- Under US rules, moving/disappearing targets must present at least 25 percent of the A-zone to the shooter AFTER they complete their movement in order to avoid being considered “disappearing” and therefore



**CARVER CUSTOM**

Providing Professional Services and Accessories for Polymer Raceguns since 2000

- Compensators
- Scope Mounts
- Cerakoting
- Slide Rackers
- Magwells
- Triggers
- Guiderods
- Slide Work
- Mag Releases

**CUSTOM GUN BUILDS**

[www.carvercustom.com](http://www.carvercustom.com)

5570 Florida Mining Blvd. - South  
Building 100 - Suite 106  
Jacksonville, FL 32257

FFL Dealer

904-800-6333  
Ext 2




**DRYFIRE TARGETS & BOOKS**

**SHIPPING NOW!**

Available in USPSA, IPSC, and more!  
Dryfire targets in 1/6th, 1/3rd and 1/2 scale.  
Buy a prebuilt kit or build your own.

Ben Stoeger • IPSC World Champion • USPSA National Champion

[BenStoegerProShop.com](http://BenStoegerProShop.com)




not subject to miss penalties. Under IPSC rules, “At Rest” may be considered either BEFORE or AFTER target movement. Hence, if a target is visible and static prior to activation but disappears after activation, it STILL CARRIES MISS PENALTIES because the shooter could have engaged it BEFORE he activated it! Also, there is no percentage test for the amount of A-zone under IPSC rules.

- When a round (or rounds) pass through hard cover and strike a paper target, the rounds that passed through do not count for score or penalty. USPSA recently changed 9.1.5.1 and 9.1.6.1 to reflect that if the RO cannot determine which shots passed through an uprange target or hardcover to strike a paper target, a reshoot must be ordered. In IPSC, it depends ...

- Round passes through prop, hardcover, etc. (Rule 9.1.6.1) and strikes a scoring paper target is straightforward under IPSC rules. Their rule includes the following at the end of the rule: If it cannot be determined which hit(s) on a scoring paper target or no-shoot are the result of shots fired through hard cover, the scoring paper target or no-shoot will be scored by ignoring the applicable number of highest scoring hit(s). So – drop out the highest scoring excess hits and move on. (*No reshoot.*)

#### HOWEVER:

- A round which passes through a paper target (Rule 9.1.5.1) and strikes a scoring paper target is less clear. IPSC 9.1.5.1 does not include the above sentence from 9.1.6.1. Effectively, it becomes an RM call. Since the uprange paper target is impenetrable (i.e., no different from a wall or prop), he may decide to score the downrange target using the same logic from 9.1.6.1. On the other hand, since the governing rule (9.1.5.1) is actually silent on this, he could decide to order a reshoot rather than deal with any ambiguity. I personally know several IROA RMs and, frankly, you can get a mixed response on how this should be handled.

Fortunately, either of the above situations tend to be relatively rare in a major match. Shoot-through situations can and should be managed before the first rounds go down range!

John McClain World Shoot 2017



## CHAPTER 10: PENALTIES

- Reminder – BOTH sets of rules require the RO to record the reason for any penalty applied on the score sheet!

- Under “Special” penalties (i.e., handicapped folks), you cannot simply issue one or more procedural penalties; it must be a percentage of points as shot (see 10.2.10).

- Did we mention there is no “FA” rule in IPSC? Hence, there is no penalty for a FA. HOWEVER, there is a penalty (per shot) for departing the shooting area in a shortcut (see 2.2.1.5). Once encountered, ALL shots fired will be penalized even if the shooter returns to the origin of the shortcut. (Yes, it’s meant to be draconian. Stay in the shooting area!)

- SHO/WHO only courses – if the CoF specifies SHO/WHO, then the shooter MAY NOT use (for example) the weak hand to help “scoop” the gun up off the table. Doing so invokes a penalty. All other SHO/WHO penalties/permissions are the same.

- Also note: Although not delineated in the rules per se, a stage procedure that states something like “On signal draw the gun and transfer to the weak hand, then engage targets ...” will NOT be approved by IPSC. If you want WHO, it must generally be accomplished with a table start.

- Significant advantage is not expressly defined in IPSC as it is in USPSA – but the concept is essentially the same.

- DISQUALIFICATIONS:

- A shot fired at a metal target under seven meters is still a DQ, but it is a 10.4 AD under IPSC rules, where it is a 10.5 UGH call under US rules. Either way, the shooter is done.

- IPSC still has the “broken gun alibi” (10.4.8) as an escape clause to a DQ. If the shooter wants to invoke this, he MUST

present the gun to the RM (or his delegate – for practical purposes, that’s the RO) BEFORE leaving the CoF. Failure to do this vacates his right to appeal on these grounds.

- The 180 rule may be more or less than 180 degrees. If this is an issue, the RM will brief you on it prior to your working the CoF!

- Under US rules, sweeping is not a DQ during the draw or holstering but only applies to the lower extremities. IPSC rules do not make this exemption, but if the guy sweeps his hand, odds are that by definition it was AFTER the draw or BEFORE holstering!

- There is no specific DQ for drawing while facing UR under IPSC rules, but that’s almost impossible to do without breaking the 180! (*Cite a different rule.*)

- Reminder – Under BOTH sets of rules, a dropped gun (outside a CoF) can only be retrieved by the RO. It is the RO’s duty to return it directly to the case, bag, or holster. The shooter may not touch it! (This is often overlooked.)

## CHAPTER 11: ARBITRATION AND INTERPRETATION OF RULES

- There is no express requirement under IPSC rules to cite the relevant rule number when filing an arbitration, but it’s still best practice.

- There is no requirement for the Arbitration Committee to confer with the MD/RM before tossing a CoF.

- There is no MD/RM review prior to the final decision.

- Unlike US rules, IPSC rules do not prevent a shooter from arbitrating a CoF as being illegal after they have shot it, even if they DQ’d during the attempt. The rules even expressly provide for a path to reinstatement if they win the



arbitration. Again, keep in mind target placement during setup (e.g., 2.1.4). Don't give the shooter an excuse to have the stage tossed!

- Unlike USPSA, IPSC allows for the use of audio and/or video recordings as evidence in arbitration.

## CHAPTER 12: MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- Very few differences of any consequence here.

### Appendices:

- Very few differences of any consequence here, EXCEPT

### Divisions:

Remarks here indicate the major differences from US rules. PLEASE read the IPSC rules for yourself and make sure you comply!

Magazine gauges and the "box" are different from USPSA rules. DO NOT USE USPSA gauges and boxes to determine if your equipment is in compliance. You will almost certainly get tripped up!

As everyone should by now be aware, USPSA has made significant changes to equipment rules, especially as regards to holster placement, etc. in several divisions and allowing the attachment of flashlights

in all divisions. Please note that NONE of these changes have been made by IPSC. Their rules are still in effect and you should review the requirements for your division in the current version of the IPSC rules.

### Open –

- PF for Major is 160; minimum bullet weight for Major is 120g.
- Maximum mag length is 170.0 mm. (This is where most US Open shooters get tripped up!)

### Standard –

- Not quite the same as US Limited!
- PF for Major is 170.
- Gun with mag inserted must fit in IPSC box (size differs from USPSA box; check the books!) Don't worry about your 141.25 mm mags – the gun won't fit in the box with them anyway!
- Gun and magazines must be worn behind the front of the hip bone (see diagram at IPSC Appendix E2).
- 357Sig is approved for Major (but no other round less than .40 caliber).

### Classic –

- Similar to (but not the same as) US Single Stack.
- PF for Major is 170.
- Gun with mag inserted must fit in IPSC

box (again, size differs from USPSA box – check the books!)

- There are no weight limits, and bull barrels are permitted.
- Gun and magazines must be worn behind the front of the hip bone (see diagram at IPSC Appendix E2).
- 357Sig is approved for Major, but no other round less than .40 caliber.
- Magwell may not exceed 35mm wide.
- No specific restriction on holsters.
- In USPSA, if you declare Major PF but are found to have too many rounds loaded during a course of fire, you are sent to Open Division per 6.2.5.1. In IPSC, under the same circumstances, so long as you did not have more than 10 rounds loaded, this is treated as simply busting the power factor requirements within the division and not busting the division requirements. So long as you did not have more than 10 rounds loaded, you will stay in Classic Division but now be scored minor.

### Production –

- Very similar to US, but on the whole MUCH more restrictive!
- See the IPSC approved list online; it's different from the US list.
- Most questions pertaining to PD in IPSC followed by "Can I ...?" The answer is NO! However, some things have loosened up in the past couple of years:

- Minimum five-pound trigger pull for the first shot, OR at least three pounds on every shot.

- Aftermarket springs and triggers are allowable.

- First shot MUST be double action. Cocking the hammer after the draw prior to firing the first shot will earn you a procedural penalty.

• Loading limit in the magazine after the start signal is 15 rounds; otherwise, it is similar to US rules.

- No specific restriction on holsters, but –
- Gun and magazines must be worn behind the front of the hip bone (see diagram at IPSC Appendix E2).

### Revolver –

- Almost identical to US rules
- PF for Major is 170
- In the US, firing more than six

### APPENDIX D: Pistol Caliber Carbine Division Equipment Differences

1.	Minimum Power Factor for Minor	125 (Minor scoring only)
2.	Maximum bullet velocity	500 meters (1640 feet) per second (see below)
3.	Minimum bullet weight	115 grains (see below)
4.	Minimum bullet caliber / cartridge case length	9 mm (0.354") / 19 mm (0.748")
5.	Permitted calibers	9x19 mm, 9x21 mm, .357 SIG, .38 Super, .38 Super Comp, .40 S&W, .45 ACP
6.	Maximum ammunition capacity (maximum to be loaded)	33 rounds (32 in magazine)
7.	Magazine couplers permitted	No
8.	Restriction on action type	No
9.	Optical/electronic sights permitted	Yes
10.	Compensators, sound and/or flash suppressors permitted	Yes
11.	The use of bipods and similar permitted	No
12.	Vertical front grip permitted, max length 152mm (6 inches) from the centerline of the barrel	Yes



Nils Jonanson Production Nationals 2020

rounds before a reload will send you to minor scoring. In IPSC, the major/minor eligibility is based on cylinder capacity; i.e., if the gun holds six rounds or less, you're eligible for Major. If it holds seven or eight rounds, you're limited to minor scoring. (ROs don't need to count here!)

#### Production Optics –

- Similar to USPSA Carry Optics, but under TWO separate divisions: Production Optics and Production Optics Light
- As with USPSA rules, the parent gun must be on the approved Production list.
- The gun must have an optical sight mounted just like USPSA rules.
- As with Production, you may have no more than 15 rounds in the magazine at the start signal.
- PO Light is the same as PO except that only handguns with a maximum weight of 1kg (2.2 pounds) with an empty magazine inserted may be used in Production Optics Light Division.
- There is no “fit in the box” requirement and, except for PO Light, there are no weight restrictions.

This pretty much covers the major differences in Handgun rules. I'll discuss Pistol Caliber Carbine in a moment as well as “Mini-rifle.” As stated in the opening, this should give the average USPSA shooter or RO

enough information to shoot and/or work a match under IPSC rules. Nevertheless, remember there is no better source than to read the actual set of rules before you enter a competition. This is true for ALL sports!

I saved Pistol Caliber Carbine as sort of an appendix to this article. The reason is that under USPSA rules PCC is a division under the Handgun rule book. In IPSC, it has its own separate standing rules. I will piece together a primer on the rules differences for PCC in another article. For now, the major points you need to know are the differences in equipment per IPSC.

#### Special conditions:

13. Ammunition which exceeds the maximum bullet velocity will be treated as unsafe and must be withdrawn (see Rule 5.5.6).

14. If the weight of the first bullet weighed under Rule 5.6.3.3 fails to meet the minimum bullet weight required, a second bullet will be weighed as a final and definitive bullet weight test.

“Mini-rifle” is, as near as I can see on a cursory review, very similar to IPSC PCC rules except that the ammunition/caliber is “Commercially manufactured .22LR.” Obviously, there are some other differences as well, but I will address those in a later article. ■

Products for Shooting, Reloading & Competitive Marksmen

## UniqueTek Premium Firearms Cleaner™

- Pure Solvent-Based Cleaner - No Oils or Additives
- Virtually Odorless - OK for Indoor Use
- Non Toxic - Safe for Skin Contact
- No Aromatic Solvents - Won't Pit Metals

*It's not just unique, It's UniqueTek!*

**Try It Now!**  
Visit our Website at [www.uniquetech.com/fs](http://www.uniquetech.com/fs)  
Or call 480-507-0866

## HOME OF INNOVATION & PERFORMANCE

Patented competition accessories  
Approved by the USPSA

- **1911 Magwell & Grip System**  
60-second Installation
- **PCC TechWell Magwells**  
Compatible with 50+ Lowers
- **SpeedRL**  
Magnetic Speed Reload System
- **TacLATCH**  
Ambidextrous Charging Handle

[techwellusa.com](http://techwellusa.com)

[info@techwellusa.com](mailto:info@techwellusa.com)