



Port Malabar Rifle & Pistol Club

IDPA New Shooter Safety Brief

Safety Rules in the PMPRC Action Area during a competition

PMRPC IDPA operates a “cold” range. This means that your gun is never loaded and is never out of your holster until it’s your turn to shoot and you are under the supervision of a Safety Officer. If you need to address some issue with your gun at any other time, we have several designated Safe Area tables where ammo is not allowed and where you may work on your gun if needed. You will be disqualified from the match if you take your gun out of the holster when you are not under the supervision of a safety officer or standing at a Safe Area table. Please use the Safe Area table when you arrive to move your gun from your storage bag to your holster and also when leaving to return your gun to the bag.

Safe Table etiquette – stand facing the berm, handle your gun so that the muzzle is always facing the berm, NO ammo on the table.

Safety Rules during competition

The two most important safety rules are control of muzzle direction and your trigger finger.

Muzzle - You must keep your gun’s muzzle pointed down range during a stage or course of fire (COF) at all times.

Finger - You must keep your finger out of the trigger guard and high on the slide except when your sights are on a target and you’ve made the decision to fire.

Range Commands

“Load & Make Ready”	Load your firearm to division capacity then SLOWLY with finger straight, reholster
“Shooter Ready? Stand By”	Compose yourself, take a breath, give a nod or verbal ready signal
“Beep”	Start the stage, take your time, move slowly between points of cover, shoot accurately
“Unload & Show Clear”	SLOWLY remove the mag, lock the slide to the rear and allow inspection by the SO.
“Slide Forward”	Release the slide lock or close the cylinder.
“Hammer Down”	Point the gun AT THE BERM and pull the trigger.
“Holster”	Re-holster the gun SLOWLY
“Range is Safe”	Proceed with SO or scorekeeper to inspect targets.

ADDITIONAL COMANDS HEARD DURING THE STAGE

“MUZZLE”	The muzzle direction of your gun is nearing a muzzle safe point
“FINGER”	The SO cannot see your trigger finger high on the frame
“MOVE”	The stage requires movement and you are standing still while shooting
“COVER”	You are not staying behind cover properly. 100% of your lower body and 50% of your upper body need to be behind cover. Don’t “crowd” cover by getting too close.
“STOP”	Immediately STOP firing but keep the gun pointed at the berm and wait for instruction from the SO.

Equipment

IDPA uses practical equipment for self defense use. Your firearm is kept in holster* worn on the strong side hip with the trigger guard behind the centerline of the pants and the magazine carrier(s) are secured on the support side behind the centerline of the pants. Both firearm and mag carrier must be concealed from view with a garment of some type (loose shirt, vest, etc). Revolver shooters may carry two speed loaders on their strong side in front of the holster with a third on the support side behind the center line.

Firearms must be a minimum caliber of 9mm / 38 Special. Each match typically requires a minimum of 100-120 rounds but bring at least 150 – 200 so that you don't run out before the end of the match.

Eye protection is required at all times and hearing protection is required when in a bay with active shooting.

*Holsters that require the use of the trigger finger to disengage a lock (ie...Blackhawk Serpa) are not permitted

Reloads

There are three IDPA approved reloads and they always begin and end behind cover. Do not drop loaded or partially loaded magazines on the ground. Approved IDPA Reloads are :

Slide Lock Reload (Emergency Reload) – empty mag, empty chamber, drop magazine on ground, reload with full mag

Reload with Retention – remove partially used mag, stow in pocket, reload with full mag

Tactical Reload – retrieve full mag, remove partially used mag, reload with full mag, stow partially used mag in pocket

Reload with Retention and Tactical Reload are interchangeable. Either can be used.

Scoring / Targets

IDPA scoring is based on the time it takes to complete the stage. Time is added for inaccurate hits on the targets. Targets are identified as **Threat** (blank or a weapon) or **Non-Threat** (open hands) designation. Scoring zones are -0,-1 and -3. Each hit outside a -0 scoring zone (center 8" circle and 6" head) adds one half second to your score. A miss is "down 5" or 2.5 seconds. Take your time, get your hits.

Penalties / Procedural Errors (PE)

A procedural error will add three seconds per infraction and is assessed when the competitor does not follow the procedures set forth in the COF description or when a competitor breaks a competition rule such as poor use of cover, not shooting while moving. Other penalties assessed at five (5) seconds per infraction include a hit on a non threat and failure to neutralize a target (no hits in the -0 or -1 scoring zones).

Divisions / Classifications

Competitors are divided into Divisions based upon the type and caliber of gun used. Divisions are SSP – double action pistols with a minimum caliber of 9mm, ESP – single action pistols with a minimum caliber of 9mm, CDP – any pistol of 45acp caliber, SSR – revolver using rimmed case ammo (no moon clips) and ESR – revolvers using rimmed or rimless ammo with moon clips. Within each Division the competitors are further divided by skill level or Classification. Classification of Novice, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert and Master is determined by completing a Classifier Match.

Arriving for your first match

Please arrive by 8am for registration. You may put on your holster and mag pouches anywhere. Walk to a safe table to remove your gun from your bag and holster. Remember to face the berm and DO NOT sweep yourself or anyone else with the muzzle. Get in line to register, pay the fee, sign the club hold harmless clause and sign up on a squad. Please be available for the new shooter brief at 8:30am.

Match Etiquette

After each shooter completes a COF please help reset the stage by pasting targets and setting steel AFTER the range is called safe. Never move forward until the SO calls the range safe. Do not paste a target until it has been scored by the SO or score keeper.

IDPA Membership

IDPA membership is required to compete in the Port Malabar IDPA club. We allow first time shooters to compete without joining in order to test the sport to ensure it is something you want to pursue. Please join via the IDPA website at <http://www.idpa.com/>. Annual memberships are \$40.

Have fun and shoot safe!