

# IDPA - New Shooter Orientation



*Topics to help the shooter new to IDPA competition understand the safety aspects of IDPA and of the Chabot Gun Club (#C0387)*

<http://www.sfbay-idpa.com>

*This is not an official IDPA document.*

# The Three Most Important Rules

- *Safety*
- *Have Fun*
- *When confused, refer to rule #1*

# Safety - Cold Range

- **This is a “Cold Range”**
  - All weapons are to be kept unloaded and holstered until the Safety Officer has instructed the shooter to **“Load and Make Ready”**
  - Weapons may be handled **ONLY** during the Course-of-Fire (CoF) or **UNLOADED** in the **“Safe Area”**

# Safety - Safe Area

- *Purpose of the Safe Area*

- For removing weapons from your travel case and holstering them at the beginning of a match.
- For removing weapons from your holster and putting them back into their case at the end of the match.
- For checking equipment (holster, magazine pouches, etc.) for fit and function.

***NO ammunition is to be handled in the “Safe Area”***

# Safety - Cone of Fire

- *Cone of Fire Rule*

**IDPA uses “Muzzle Safe Points”, defined by the CoF. The Safety/Range Officer will specify these points during the walk-through.**

*Pointing of the competitors muzzle behind ANY of these predetermined points will result in immediate disqualification from the event. (IDPA Official Rule Book, Page 13, 10/27/99)*

# Safety - Drawing

- *Drawing from the Holster*

**Drawing – Best, most safe practice demands a smooth draw, up and forward with minimal side-to-side or rearward movement. It's critical that no part of the shooter is covered by the muzzle at any time. Care should be taken to keep your support hand clear during the draw.**

# Safety - Holstering

- *Holstering*

**Holstering – “*Nobody ever won a gunfight or match by holstering quickly*”.**

**Take your time.**

**Use appropriate equipment and be sure to keep finger and clothing clear of trigger during holstering.**

# Safety - Range Safety

- *Who's Responsibility is Range Safety?*

***EVERYONES!!!!!!***

*At ANY point during the match, if anyone notices ANY unsafe act, they should yell "STOP!!"*

***EVERYONE should IMMEDIATELY stop what you're doing and inform a Range/Safety Officer or Match Director of the safety issue!***



# Safety - Commands

- *Safety Commands by R.S.O.*

“**Muzzle !!**” If muzzle approaches muzzle safe points – this is a ONLY a warning to let the competitor know that they are getting close to the muzzle safety points and to be careful.

“**Finger !!**” For finger in trigger guard violation – this is a warning to remind the shooter to keep their finger off the trigger while moving between shooting positions or where appropriate.

**Muzzle** and **Finger** are NOT penalties, but warnings to let the shooter know the R.S.O. has a safety concern. If the competitor corrects the problem immediately the course of fire should continue uninterrupted.

# Safety - Commands

## “STOP !!”

EVERYONE (Competitor, Scorer, & Spectators) should IMMEDIATELY stop what they're doing and stay where you are.

This can occur for TWO reasons:

1. Someone has seen what appears to be a safety issue. AFTER calling for a “STOP!!”, bring it to the attention of the R.S.O. or a Match Director who will evaluate the situation and provide direction on how to proceed.
2. If a competitor does something grossly unsafe or does not heed previous warnings. \*

\* Requires match disqualification.

# Range Commands

- ***“Load and Make Ready”*** (When safe, draw, load and re-holster your handgun)
  - ***“Shooter Ready”*** (Acknowledge Your Readiness)
  - ***“Standby”*** (Prepare for the Start Signal)
  - ***!! Start Signal !!*** (Draw and begin the CoF)
  - ***“Unload and Show Clear”*** (S.O. Inspects Chamber, When S.O. Requests, Shooter Drops Hammer or Striker)
  - ***“Holster”*** (Re-Holster Your Inspected and Cleared Sidearm)
  - ***“Range is Safe” or “Range is Clear”*** (It is now safe to go down range to score and reset targets)
- Do not begin any briefing or range commands with the next shooter until the range is clear of tapers and others
  - Standardization of these terms is important so that the shooter does not become confused.
  - If holster has a retention device, it must be engaged.

# Helpful Hints

- ***Take your time.*** *Move slowly and safely through the Course-of-Fire. Focus on safety and effective movement and shooting before trying to become competitive.*
- ***Remember Course-of-Fire Details.*** *Pay attention during the walk-through. Ask the S.O. to review any aspects before starting any stage.*

# Helpful Hints

- ***Know Reload Types.*** Avoid penalty points by correctly executing specified reload (tactical reload, speed reload, reload with retention, etc.)
- ***R.S.O. is there to help as the “Safety and Range Officer” Not a “Range Nazi”.***
- ***If you disagree with the R.S.O., discuss it in a courteous and professional manner.***

***The R.S.O. has final say in ALL Safety and Scoring Issues\****

**\* It is highly unlikely that a Match Director will overturn an R.S.O.’s Scoring Decision.**