

NWSA / IDPA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS IDPA? International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) is a shooting sport that uses practical equipment to solve simulated real world self defense scenarios. Shooters in IDPA events are required to use practical handguns and holsters that are truly suitable for self-defense use. No competition only equipment is permitted in IDPA matches.

WHO CAN SHOOT IN AN IDPA MATCH? If you can shoot a handgun safely and can legally bear arms you will be welcome to participate in NWSA IDPA matches. Shooters do not need to belong to NWSA to shoot in our IDPA matches.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SHOOT AN IDPA MATCH AT NWSA? At present, match fees are \$10 for IDPA members and \$15 for non-IDPA members

WHEN ARE IDPA MATCHES HELD AT NWSA? Matches are held every 2nd Saturday of the month, and every 4th Saturday of the month from Feb thru Oct. About 5 of the 4th Saturday matches are devoted to shooting the IDPA classifier.

WHAT IS A CLASSIFIER? In order for shooters to be able to compete fairly with their peers, IDPA competitors are divided into five classifications based on their skill level. A classification match is a standard formatted match scored by an accredited Safety Officer. To be allowed to shoot in any major match IDPA members must be classified by shooting a classification match.

WHAT ARE THE CLASSIFICATIONS AND DIVISIONS? IDPA classifications are Novice, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, and Master. These classifications are determined either by performance in a classifier match or meritorious advancement by winning a classification/division in a major match. Divisions are the 5 different types of pistols used in IDPA competition; STOCK SERVICE PISTOL - double action or double action only semiautomatic 9mm or larger, ENHANCED SERVICE PISTOL – semiautomatic single action, 9mm or larger. COSTOM DEFENCE PISTOL – Semiautomatic 45ACP, typically a 1911 however other 45s may shoot in this division. ENHANCED SERVICE REVOLVER – Revolver making the same power factor as a 45 ACP and having a barrel length not more than 4.2”. Moon clips are allowed for reloading. STOCK SERVICE REVOLVER – revolver of at least .38 special with a barrel of less than 4.2”. Reloading in SSR may be done with speedloaders, but not with moon clips.

WHAT KIND OF GUN DO I NEED? IDPA requires pistols to be safe and serviceable. That means they have to operate safely and reliably. The IDPA also requires a certain minimum power factor. These power factors are usually met by pistols shooting .38 special or more powerful cartridges. The most common cartridges used are .38 special, 9mm, 40 S&W, and 45ACP. You may shoot either a revolver or semi auto

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I BRING TO SHOOT? Hearing and eye protection. Eye protection must include protection from the side. Strong side, belt level hip holster only, no

shoulder holsters, cross draw, pocket, or ankle holsters. Inside the waist band are ok. You will need at least 3 magazines or speed loaders, 4 would be better. You will need a garment that conceals your pistol in it's holster.

CAN I JUST WATCH A MATCH? Yes, spectators are always welcome. Spectators are also required to wear hearing and eye protection.

I JUST WANT TO IMPROVE MY SHOOTING SKILLS. I AM NOT INTERESTED IN THE COMPETITION. CAN I JUST SHOOT FOR PRACTICE? We have shooters that shoot just to improve their skills. Because of the safety rules we treat everyone who is shooting the same. You will have a safety officer right behind you at all times when you are shooting and he will time your run. If you aren't interested in your scores, ignore them. Focus on shooting safely and accurately. If you aren't interested in your scores no one else will be either. No matter how well or badly you shoot, if you shoot safely you will be welcome.

DO I NEED A CONCEALED PISTOL LICENSE TO SHOOT IDPA? No.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I SHOW UP FOR A MATCH? Declare to the Match Director or shooter handling registration that you are new. Complete a waiver form, fill out a score sheet. You will be given a safety & rules briefing, taken to our designated safe area & asked to show how you handle your firearm

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS CONTACT ONE OF THE SAFETY OFFICERS LISTED ON THE NWSA WEBSITE