

Northwest Section Championship Series Policy

1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- 1 As required by the Northwest Section Bylaws, an annual Team Northwest “Championship Series” shall determine the distribution of all “slots” to the annual USPSA Nationals awarded to the Section.
- 2 Because the number of Slots awarded to the Section is strictly limited, Championship Series matches demand increased attention to fairness, balance, and production quality.
- 3 This Policy is intended to ensure uniformity and fairness in the Championship Series, and subsequent Slots distribution. Accordingly, all Championship Series matches, and Slots distribution shall be conducted in accordance with this Policy.

2 ELIGIBILITY

- 1 Only “Active Members,” as defined by the Section Bylaws, are eligible for Section Nationals Slots.
- 2 Competitors who join the section after the beginning of the Series (defined by the first match in the Series for that year) will not have their scores prior to joining the NWS count toward their final Series score. Only matches shot as a NWS member will count toward the final Series results.

3 CLASSIFICATIONS, STANDINGS, & AWARD PROTOCOL

- 1 Competitors’ USPSA Classification, for the declared Division, as of the date of the commencement of each year’s Championship Series, shall be used to determine their ranking and eligibility at the end of the Series.
 - 1 If a competitor is unclassified at the beginning of the Series, but attains a Classification during the Series, that first classification attained shall be used to establish their ranking and eligibility.
 - 2 If a competitor attains a higher classification during the Series, their entering classification (as of the beginning of the Series) shall govern their placement and eligibility.
- 2 The Section Information Officer is responsible for maintaining current Championship Series standings.
 - 1 Section Clubs are required to submit match results to the Section Information Officer within one week of their assigned/scheduled Championship Series Match.
 - 2 The Series Overall results will be the average of the best 3 (or 4 if the NWC is held) out of 6, participation in the Northwest Challenge (when held) will count as TWO slot matches. The results from each Championship Match (and NWC when held) will be awarded points based on the shooters match percentage.
- 3 Competitors may decide which Division Series they are competing in, and are free to decide which Division they will compete in at any Series Match
 - 1 Under no circumstances shall any competitor be allowed to enter any Series Match twice in different Divisions
- 4 Slots shall be awarded according to the following protocol for each Division Series:

- 1 Series Winner/first overall,
- 2 first GM, M, A, B, C, and D,
- 3 then all other competitors in order of overall finish.
- 4 Slots that are declined by the Series Winner and/or first in classification recipients shall be returned to the Slots pool, and distributed based on overall order of finish (i.e. -- 2nd “A” is not automatically offered 1st “A’s” Slot if 1st “A” turns it down; the declined Slot is offered instead to the next competitor “in line” in order of overall finish in the Series)
- 5 Slots distribution shall be performed by the Section Coordinator, who shall --
 - 1 Maintain a log of Slots, Slot nos., and recipients, and
 - 2 Distribute Slots based on the prior years USPSA Activity reports, by Division, and
 - 3 advise USPSA of Slots distributions/recipients
- 6 Interested competitors must file an “Application for NWS Slot” with the Section Coordinator to be considered for a Section Slot (Requests for Slots must be made 60 days prior to the return date of the slot to the USPSA for the year they are to be used). Failure to file an Application with the S.C. will render a competitor ineligible for a Section Slot, regardless of their placement in the Championship Series for that year.

4 SCHEDULE

- 1 The schedule for each annual Championship Series shall be established by the Section Executive Committee (SXCOM) at the fourth quarter SXCOM Meeting of the preceding year.
- 2 The SXCOM shall be the sole arbiter of scheduling conflicts. The SXCOM shall establish the date for the Championship Series Match for any club that is not represented at the fourth quarter SXCOM Meeting.
- 3 Each Section club shall conduct one (only) Championship Series Match in any year.

5 MATCH ADMINISTRATION

- 1 Unless otherwise arranged at the preceding fourth quarter SXCOM Meeting, the Match Director for each club’s assigned/scheduled Championship Series Match shall be the IPSC Director/Chairman, or Club President, whichever applies.
- 2 The (Championship Series) Match Director shall appoint a Rangemaster before the match begins. The Rangemaster shall have complete authority over any and all safety-related aspects of the match. All as-built courses of fire will be inspected by the Rangemaster for any safety concerns prior to commencement of the match. The Rangemaster’s duties will include, but are not limited to --
 - 1 Inspection of all stages before the match begins for --
 - 1 Safety,
 - 2 adherence to applicable USPSA rules and regulations, and
 - 3 adherence to the Course Design Requirements following.
 - 2 Investigating and resolving all safety related concerns brought to his or her attention

- 3 Insuring that the host organization is specifically in compliance with USPSA Rules Section 3
- 3 CHRONOGRAPHING: Chronographing of competitors' loads is required at all Championship Series Matches!
 - 1 If the host Club cannot provide a chronograph and/or associated staff, they shall notify the Section Coordinator, who will arrange for a chronograph to be supplied to the match.
- 4 SQUADDING: All Championship Series Matches should be run per a formal squad model, with assigned CRO's and RO's.
 - 1 If the host organization cannot prepare or provide a squad model, the Section Coordinator will do so.
 - 2 "Roving RO's" and "informal" squadding are acceptable for Championship Series Matches, although assigned CRO's and RO's are preferred to ensure more consistent officiating.
 - 3 Appropriately-sized squads ensure adequate manpower for taping and picking, and keep clearance times to a minimum. Do not allow squad-jumping, and require competitors to remain with their squads until everyone has finished shooting.
- 5 COMMUNICATIONS: It is strongly recommended that adequate communications provisions (CB radios, etc.) be made, not only for a smooth-running match, but for enhanced safety.
- 6 STAGE DESIGN
 - 1 Stage design will be done in accordance with the current USPSA Rulebook. Competitors will shoot the match according to the current rules so your stages need to be built according to the current rules.
 - 2 DISTANCES AND DIMENSIONS
 - i. Steel targets are demanding -- especially for newer competitors. Maximum recommended distances for steel targets ÷
 1. B-zone plates -- 12 yds
 2. round plates -- 15 yds
 3. US poppers -- 20 yds
 4. Pepper poppers -- 25-40 yds
 - ii. Keep paper target distances realistic. Upper-panel shots and no-shoots at forty yards do not represent "realistic" scenarios for target engagement.
 - iii. Avoid obstacles more than 2-3' high in your course designs; Championship Series matches are not gymnastic meets. Nor are they tests of strength, flexibility or memory. They are contests to test shooting skills.
 - b. MISCELLANEOUS STAGE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS
 - i. No more than one-fourth/25% of all IPSC targets in the match should be partial (hard cover, no-shoots).

- ii. Keep shooter-handled props (dolls, dummies, briefcases, etc.) to one stage per match. Bear in mind that -- once the competitor has drawn and retrieved any shooter-handled prop -- you should only provide one-handed tasks to complete/perform. Avoid hot-re-holstering and/or unsafe gun handling.
- iii. Virginia Count may be used according to the rulebook. V.C. is intended for multiple strings of fire on the same targets to aid in proper scoring -- there is no other justification for using V.C.
- iv. Whenever possible, provide 1' downrange movement for each 1' of lateral (cross-range) movement. Movement is normally downrange and to the right, as the majority of competitors are right-handed, but providing adequate downrange movement is safer for all. In general, try to avoid stages that require shooters to move along the 180 line/pure lateral movement.
- v. Make stages "shape neutral," inasmuch as possible. Don't design props or shooting positions to suit your particular build. The long and short, the tall and fat, the righties and lefties; should all have an equal chance.
- vi. Avoid complicated "memory stages." We're here to test shooting ability -- not cranial capacity.
- vii. Vision barriers -- 1) declare in the course description whether they are hard or soft cover, 2) make height neutral (no one should be able to see over a V.B.), and, 3) avoid using no-shoots as vision barriers (staple them to the shoot targets to avoid pass-through problems).
- viii. Prone position: Normally, shooting from the prone position should only be required at the last shooting position in a field course, or as a single string in a standards exercise. Getting up from a prone position in the middle of a stage can introduce potential safety problems. For obvious reasons, avoid requiring prone strings in inclement weather conditions.
- ix. Don't "over-control" competitors with fault lines and/or shooting boxes. The best stage designs allow maximum flexibility in solving the shooting problem presented, within the confines of the safety requirements.
- x. Above all, do not try to "get at" any individual or group -- it only damages your reputation, your Club's, and the Section's!

3 MATCH APPROVAL

- a. Courses of fire for all Northwest Section Championship Series Matches must have prior approval from the Section Coordinator or his or her designated Reviewer.
- b. The Section Coordinator shall assign Match Reviewers for each Championship Series Match at the time the Series schedule is established. Under no circumstances shall a designated/assigned Reviewer review or approve the courses of fire for his or her home club!
- c. The Section Coordinator is responsible for advising the affected Match Director as to who their appointed Reviewer shall be.
- d. No less than thirty (30) days before any scheduled Slot Match, the Match Director of same must submit all course designs to the Section Coordinator and appointed Reviewer for review and approval.

- i. The Reviewer will examine the proposed stages to ensure that they comply with all applicable USPSA rules and NWS guidelines, and will respond to the Match Director with any comments or necessary changes within ten (10) days of submittal.
 - ii. The affected Match Director shall either incorporate any recommended changes, or file an appeal with the Section Coordinator, within ten (10) days of receipt of their Reviewer's comments, if needed. Match Directors and Reviewers are encouraged to reconcile any disputes via phone or e-mail during this review stage!
 - iii. If and as needed, the Section Coordinator and assigned Reviewer shall resolve any outstanding unresolved issues and revert to the affected Match Director within the remaining ten (10) days of the review period.
 - iv. At the end of this review period, all decisions rendered by the assigned Reviewer and Section Coordinator shall be deemed final, and closed to further discussion.
 - v. In the event of an irreconcilable dispute between the club and the Reviewer, and/or the Reviewer and the Section Coordinator, the Section Coordinator's decision/resolution shall be final and binding.
 - vi. It is strongly recommended that all involved parties transmit stage designs and comments via electronic mail (e-mail) to ensure timely reviews and approvals. Alternately, stage designs and associated comments may be transmitted via facsimile (fax). Under no circumstances should surface (snail) mail be used.
- e. If a section club can not meet any portion of the Championship Series match guidelines, they may apply to the Northwest Section Coordinator for a variance.

4 STAGE SETUP

- a. On match day, at least one representative from the SXCOM (preferably, the Stage Reviewer for that match) and the assigned Rangemaster will review the as-built stages for safety, and for compliance with USPSA rules and this policy.
- b. The affected Match Director agrees to perform any changes or corrections resulting from this review.
- c. All target stands must be witness marked, weighted, or buried in to prevent movement
- d. All popper stands must be anchored with spikes, or buried, to prevent movement. A tire or other cushion should be placed over the back end to cushion the plate and help prevent movement.
- e. All walls and barricades must be firmly anchored and braced.
- f. All shooting boxes must be thick/high enough so that the competitor and the RO can clearly determine whether or not a fault is occurring.
- g. All steel plates must overturn when adequately hit.
- h. All pass-through possibilities must be eliminated.

- i. Insure that all rounds fired during the match impact a safe, specific area (that is fully visible to the RO's) where they are known to have stopped. Check target heights for high (upper panel), low (bottom "D" zone), and "pulled" (high, low, side/side) shots - - not just dead-center A-zone hits. Check targets from tall- and short folks' perspective, and be sure that everyone's rounds will be safely contained.
- j. Rounds that skip off of an impact area, rounds that impact an area not under the direct, visual control of the CRO, and/or rounds that impact/skip off of the range floor are unsafe and unacceptable. While it is always best to carefully inspect your setups prior to the match starting to minimize potential safety hazards, one may elude you; it is permissible to make slight modifications (such as target heights) to correct safety problems if and as they arise.
- k. Avoid "RO traps" such as requiring the RO to stay so far away from the competitor that he or she cannot see and control the shooter ("tight" hallways and "house stages" are notorious for this).
- l. The assigned Range Master shall monitor each stage as the match begins for potential safety problems, and shall correct any unsafe (or potentially unsafe) conditions as needed.