



# New Shooter Requirements

*Effective January 1, 2021*

## New Shooters

Action shooting is an inherently safe sport because it is governed by strictly enforced rules of conduct and firearms safety. New shooters, while they might be proficient shooters, if they are not familiar with the rules of conduct and firearms safety requirements of the shooting sport(s) they are participating in, they become a hindrance to any event, and may also become a safety concern to themselves or others. It is because of this fact, the SDPS Board of Directors stipulates that in order for any new shooter to participate in any SDPS match, training class, classifier, or other shooting event/activity, the shooter must have previously satisfied the *New Shooter Qualifications* stipulated within this document.

## Shooter Qualifications

New shooters may meet the qualifications to shoot their first match with SPDS by demonstrating any of the following:

- **Qualifying Competition Experience** - Shooters who are experienced in shooting action shooting events qualify to shoot their first SDPS match without meeting any additional criteria. New shooters must be able to demonstrate completion of any IDPA, ISPSA, IPSC, 3-Gun, Multigun, or similar event within the past 48 months by providing a link to scores published online.
- **Complete Approved Training Course (Strongly Recommended)** - There are a lot of intricacies in the action shooting sports. Over the years, we've seen even experienced shooters get disqualified from matches because they were unfamiliar with the game. SDPS strongly encourages new shooters who are unfamiliar to IDPA to consider taking a training course from any of our Approved Vendors. By taking an approved training course, shooters will be exposed to the rules of conduct, firearms safety rules, IDPA rules, and will have the opportunity to expose themselves to actually shooting stages in a controlled learning environment. Shooters who seek out training before they shoot their first match are much more likely to fully enjoy their first match experience.
- **Match Observation + Classifier** - New shooters can qualify to shoot their first match by becoming a match observer for one match. New shooters will join a squad during any monthly SDPS match and observe a minimum of 4 stages, actively participating in safety briefings, walkthroughs, taping and resetting, etc. There will also be a mentor assigned

to the shooter during the event who can answer questions that arise along the way. At the conclusion of the match these new shooters will follow the instructions of an IDPA Safety Officer and gun up, and then shoot an abbreviated IDPA classifier. Upon successful completion of the classifier, the shooter is now qualified to shoot in any upcoming SDPS event.

- **Active Law Enforcement & Military - Match Mentorship** - New shooters who are active military or active law enforcement may elect to shoot their first SDPS match with a mentor. Active means the shooter carries a gun as a profession. These shooters, upon approval by a match official, may participate in their first match with a match mentor who will guide these new shooters through the rules of conduct and safety rules, assist in initial stage planning, and note potential safety issues of concern on stages throughout the match.

*\*This exemption does NOT apply to guards/security officers qualified to carry exposed.*