

UKPSA Proposed Amendments to the IPSC Shotgun Rules 2019 (for implementation from January 2020)

APPENDIX D: Shotgun Divisions

Notes and Explanations Relating to the Changes Proposed

IPSC Shotgun divisions have not been adjusted or modified since the 2012 rulebook. The 2009 rules were more explicit but the 2012 edition attempted to make the SG division rules simpler. Unfortunately, the brevity of the current SG Division rules has failed to answer a number of questions on permitted changes and we are seeing modifications to shotguns that are not intended by these rules but aren't properly defined. It is felt that it is now appropriate to look forward and to help competitors by providing expanded and clearer SG Division rules, to avoid confusion and, in some cases, to properly legitimize existing equipment. The division rules need to be clear to assist competitors and match officials alike.

Since 2012 there have been significant developments in shotguns, related equipment and techniques. Certainly, some of this welcome development could not have been foreseen but it is apparent that the current Shotgun Division rules have not kept up with the latest developments.

Without doubt, some of the highly innovative developments we are currently seeing are questionable about conformity within certain divisions, especially Standard Division and we feel it is important for both competitors and officials to clarify what is permitted before the next Shotgun World Championship.

Open and Modified Divisions do not need much attention or change other than for clarity. Standard Manual Division should be renamed Manual Action Division for clarity and to better reflect the Division. A couple of other minor changes are recommended for the Manual Division, but these are slight.

One issue that seems incongruous is that some Standard and Manual Action shotguns are now actually longer than those found in Open and Modified Divisions. It was thought that the length of guns in these 2 divisions would be self-policing but the developments in loading techniques and concepts in the discipline in general have seen long extension tubes being added. The 2003 rulebook restricted the length of Standard and Manual divisions to 1220mm, 100mm less than for Open and Modified but the current rules provide for no restriction.

The easiest, and probably the fairest, solution is to apply the same restriction in length to the Standard and Manual divisions as already applies to Open and Modified; i.e. all 4 Divisions must fit inside the existing 1320mm box. The current method of measuring shotguns in a box does disadvantage those shooters requiring a longer stock and so we are recommending that the overall gun length be instead measured from the breech face as in Production Division in Handgun.

It is Standard Division where the most attention is required. Some current modifications are arguably in contravention of the Standard Division rules but have become common practice. It is therefore necessary to either fully legitimize these or make it clear they are not permitted.

As stated earlier, shotguns and related equipment have seen much development over recent years, which is acknowledged and welcomed as something good for the sport. However, there is no longer a base level entry division and all current shotgun divisions are attracting significant, and sometimes costly, gunsmithing and changes.

It is therefore suggested that a new Classic Division would be good for the sport, where competitors can compete with little-changed factory guns and readily available equipment. Such a division would be a good starting point for newcomers to the sport while also satisfying those who prefer more basic and traditional guns, requiring minimal or no changes. Properly introduced and specified it would provide equipment that can be modified in the future should the competitor wish to move to one of the other divisions while giving an easy entry point.

A new Classic Division is therefore proposed as below. The division would focus on a factory, mostly out-of-the-box gun, used with basic "classic" equipment. The name aligns with other IPSC disciplines.

Summary of Proposed Clarifications of Divisions

Open Division Changes

- The box test to check maximum overall length has been replaced with a simple test of the maximum permitted length from the breech face.
- Clarifies that the maximum permitted gun length includes telescopic magazine tubes.
- **No other changes** but the Open Division rules have been rewritten for clarity and consistency.

Modified Division Changes

- The box test to check maximum overall length has been replaced with a simple test of the maximum permitted length from the breech face.
- Clarifies that the maximum permitted gun length includes telescopic magazine tubes.
- **No other changes** but the Modified Division rules have been rewritten for clarity and consistency.

Standard Division Changes

- A new test is introduced to restrict the maximum permitted length from the breech face.
- Clarifies that the maximum permitted gun length includes telescopic magazine tubes.
- Rules expanded for clarity and consistency.

Manual Action Division Changes

- Distinct name reflecting the function
- A new test is introduced to restrict the maximum permitted length from the breech face.
- Clarifies that the maximum permitted gun length includes telescopic magazine tubes.
- Rules expanded for clarity and consistency.

Classic Division (New – see detailed proposals)

Other Associated Rule Changes (related to the Divisions)

- 5.2.3 Unless otherwise specified in the written stage briefing the competitor's equipment belt carrying cartridges (in caddies, loops, clips, bags or pouches) and/or detachable magazines and/or speed loaders must be worn at waist level. "Chest-rigs", bandoliers and similar carriers are expressly prohibited. Additional ammunition carriers mounted on forearms are permitted provided that cartridges are carried individually in loops or clips. **Ammunition carriers mounted on forearms must be simple retention devices and must not be capable of propelling a round or rounds towards and/or into the gun by mechanical or any other means.**
- 5.2.3.1 Not applicable.
- 5.2.3.2 Only one equipment carrying belt is permitted. Cartridges held in loops or clips on the belt are restricted to a maximum of 170 mm total height. Rounds carried in caddies (often known as "strippers") must not exceed 6 rounds in height.
- 5.2.3.3 The Range Master may make allowances for variations to Rule 5.2.3 due to anatomical considerations. The Range Master's decision on conformity to Rule 5.2.3 is final.
- 5.2.3.4 The rules in this Section may be varied by the provisions of a Division (see Appendix D).**
- 5.2.4 Ammunition and speed loaders must be carried on the competitor or gun in pouches, pockets, loops, clips or other suitable retention devices, unless otherwise specified in the written stage briefing. Loops, clips or other suitable retention devices fitted to the gun, or to a sling fitted to the gun, to hold individual cartridges or speed loaders are specifically permitted. **This rule may be varied by the provisions of a Division (see Appendix D).**
- 5.2.5 When carried in loops, clips or caddies no part of any cartridge is permitted to extend further than **80 mm** ~~75 mm~~ from a competitor's body. Cartridges carried on the gun are exempt and loose cartridges carried in a pouch or bag are usually exempt from this rule. The Range Master's decision will be final in this matter. Open Division competitors are exempt from this rule.
- 5.2.8 Equipment (including slings regardless of whether they can also carry cartridges) that is only used when fitted to the shotgun (except ~~chokes~~, ammunition, speed loaders and ammunition carriers) and is to be used at any time during any COF must be fitted to the shotgun for every COF in the match. **Choke changes are permitted except in Classic Division (see Appendix D, Point 43).**

APPENDIX D: Shotgun Divisions

		SG Open	SG Modified	SG Standard	SG Manual-Action	SG Classic
1.	Minimum Power Factor	480	480	480	480	480
2.	Minimum caliber	20 gauge/bore				
3.	Prototypes permitted	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
4.	A Complete shotgun produced (min. 500 units) by an established and recognized factory & available to the general public.	No	No	Yes See Point 54	Yes See Point 54	Yes See Point 64
5.	Restriction on action types	No	No	No	Yes See Point 63	No
6.	Maximum overall length for gun	Yes See Point 49				
7.	Maximum barrel length	No	No	No	No	No
8.	Minimum barrel length	Subject to Regional Law				
9.	Extended magazine tubes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes See Point 66
10.	Revolving or multiple magazine tubes	Yes	No	No	No	No
11.	Replacement, shortening or modification of magazine tube springs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Replacement of magazine tube followers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	OFM or aftermarket replacement stocks, including recoil-reducing stocks and pistol-grip stocks	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	No
14.	Replacement of internal recoil reducing mechanisms	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	No
15.	Replacement of fore-end	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
16.	External modifications such as weights, or external devices to control or reduce recoil (except for recoil pads fitted to the rear face of the stock of the shotgun)	Yes	No	No	No	No
17.	Enlargement and/or rounding of loading port and ejection ports	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Restricted See Point 67
18.	Modifications/attachments to carrier loading floor plate	Yes	Yes See Point 53	Restricted See Point 56	Restricted See Point 56	Restricted See Points 68-69
19.	Short stroke kits for manual action guns (i.e. modified action bars)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
20.	Replacement or modification of bolt body, including milling and/or lightening the weight	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
21.	Weak-hand racking lever	Yes	Yes	See Point 57	See Point 57	See Point 65
22.	Auto-loader devices	Yes	Yes	See Point 58	See Point 58	See Point 65

	<i>Continued</i>	SG Open	SG Modified	SG Standard	SG Manual-Action	SG Classic
23.	Replacement trigger mechanisms	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
24.	Replacement of hammers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
25.	Minimum trigger pull	No	No	No	No	4 lbs
26.	Compensators and/or porting	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
27.	Sound and/or flash suppressors	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
28.	OFM or aftermarket optical or electronic sights	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
29.	Aftermarket replacement open sights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See Point 70
30.	Replacement of safety catches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
31.	Ambidextrous safety catches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See Point 65
32.	Replacement of magazine release buttons	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
33.	Replacement action release buttons	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
34.	Replace of cocking levers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
35.	Replacement barrels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
36.	Barrel heat shields	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See Point 65
37.	Parts requiring drilling, tapping or milling not expressly permitted in the Division rules	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
38.	Checkering of frames, stocks and fore-ends	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See Point 65
39.	Grip tape	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
40.	Cosmetic enhancements that do not give a competitive advantage e.g. custom grips, plating, etc.	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
41.	Re-bluing and color changes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Re-bluing is permitted
42.	Aftermarket chokes	Yes	Yes	Restricted. See Point 60	Restricted. See Point 60	Restricted See Point 71
43.	Changes of chokes between stages	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No See Point 72
44.	Detachable magazines	Yes See Point 50	No	No	No	No
45.	Speed-loaders	Yes 6 rounds max	No	No	No	No
46.	Cartridge loops, clips or side-saddles fitted to gun	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Restricted. See Point 73
47.	Match/Stage Savers and similar quick load cartridge carriers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
48.	Capacity restrictions for initial load prior to the Start Signal	Yes See Point 50	Max. of 14 rounds loaded	Max. of 9 rounds loaded	Max. of 9 rounds loaded	Max. of 9 rounds loaded

Special conditions:

All Divisions

49. All Divisions are subject to length restrictions.

The fully assembled and unloaded shotgun is pointed vertically skywards, then a dowel with a 830 mm marker is inserted into the muzzle end of the barrel until the dowel rests on the breech face. If the 830 mm marker is at or beyond the longest of either the muzzle end of the barrel (with an external choke fitted if applicable) or the end of the magazine tube, the shotgun is compliant to the length restriction. The longest choke that is planned to be used in the match must be fitted for this test unless it is clear that even with an external choke fitted the magazine tube will be longer.

For the purposes of the test, and for guns fitted with a telescopic magazine tube, or any other tube that expands or contracts in length, the magazine tube must be expanded or stretched to the maximum possible length. The Range Master, or his nominated delegate, will determine a safe and convenient method to conduct the test. The Range Master's decision on this matter is final.

The magazine tube must not be artificially or mechanically compressed or shortened in any way while the test is carried out.

50. Home loads are permitted

Open Division

51. Detachable magazines accessible to a competitor during a COF must not contain more than 10 rounds at the Start Signal. However, detachable magazines with an original maximum capacity of up to 12 rounds are permitted. Magazines must not be clipped, taped or otherwise attached to any other magazine at any time. Guns with fixed magazines may have an initial load of 14 rounds.

Open and Modified Divisions

52. Auto Loader Devices which auto load the first round in the chamber are permitted for use.

Modified Division

53. The carrier may be replaced, extended and/or additional material added to the end of or between the forks of the carrier. Modifications or attachments can be made or added to the carrier loading floor plate to facilitate easier loading. Such modifications or attachments must not exceed 75 mm in length and must not protrude more than 32 mm from the standard frame of the shotgun in any direction.

Standard and Manual-Action Divisions

54. Modifications to the original design are only as permitted in accordance with Appendix D.
55. Item is permitted if fitted as standard equipment by the OFM.
56. Replacements of or modifications to carriers are permitted elevators/floor plates, provided no part protrudes beyond the standard frame of the gun, are permitted. The carrier may be extended and/or additional material added to the end of or between the forks of the carrier. Modifications are restricted to the carrier itself and must not change the OFM functionality of the carrier. However, modifications to the bolt assembly and/or carrier mechanisms to enable "ghost loading" (where a cartridge may be placed on the carrier prior to the start signal) are permitted.
57. Weak Hand Racking Levers, i.e. a racking lever fitted to the side of the gun opposite to the loading/ejection port, are only permitted for use in Standard and Manual Action divisions if supplied as a standard item on the original gun from the OFM.
58. Auto Loader Devices which auto load the first round in the chamber are only permitted for use in Standard and Manual Action divisions if supplied as a standard item on the original gun from the OFM.
59. Open Sights may be trimmed, adjusted and/or have colors applied. Open Sights may also be fitted with fiber optic or similar inserts. Magnetic and/or clamp on replacement sights are permitted. Open Sights requiring any drilling or milling of the frame, barrel or barrel rib are also permitted

60. Ported chokes are not permitted. Chokes that act as compensators are not permitted. External chokes are permitted but when fitted must comply with the provisions of Point 49.

Standard Division

61. External feed ramps as direct replacements of the carrier release button (Remington 1100 and 1187 only) are permitted.

Manual-Action and Classic Divisions

62. In the case of double-barreled shotguns, which have a maximum capacity of 2 rounds loaded at any time, devices that help to load a pair of cartridges at a time are not to be considered as Speed Loading Devices within the concepts of these Divisional rules. Their use, solely in conjunction with double-barreled shotguns, is expressly allowed within this Division.

Manual-Action Division

63. Any **complete** manual action shotgun (i.e. pump action, slide action, break-open, lever action, bolt action) produced by a factory and available to the general public, **and in compliance with these rules. Selective action shotguns, e.g. shotguns offering selective semi-auto operation, are not permitted.**

Classic Division

64. Modifications to the original design are only as permitted in accordance with Appendix D.
65. Item is permitted if fitted as standard equipment by the OFM.
66. Fixed length extension tubes are permitted. Telescopic or expanding magazine tubes are not permitted.
67. Enlargement and/or rounding of loading port is restricted. A maximum of 2 mm of material may be removed from the side and front edges of the loading port of the OFM gun. Enlargement and/or rounding of ejection ports is not permitted.
68. External feed ramps as direct replacements of the carrier release button (Remington 1100 and 1187 only) are permitted.
69. Replacements of or modifications to carriers are permitted, provided no part protrudes beyond the standard frame of the gun. The carrier may be extended and/or additional material added to the end of or between the forks of the carrier. Modifications are restricted to the carrier itself and must not change the OFM functionality of the carrier.
70. Open Sights may be trimmed, adjusted and/or have colors applied. Open Sights may also be fitted with fiber optic or similar inserts. Additional or replacement open sights that are glued to the barrel, barrel rib or frame, or held in place by magnets or clamps, are permitted. Sights requiring any drilling and/or milling of the barrel, barrel rib or frame are not permitted.
71. Ported chokes are not permitted. Chokes that act as compensators are not permitted. External chokes must not extend more than 1" (2.54cm) beyond the end of the barrel.
72. Only one single choke is permitted for the entirety of the match. The size of the choke must be declared prior to the competitor's commencement in the match. Where a competitor fails to do so, the competitor will be placed in the Division, other than Classic Division, which, in the opinion of the Range Master, most closely identifies with the competitor's equipment. If, in the opinion of the Range Master, no suitable Division is available, the competitor will shoot the match for no score. Competitors using barrels that do not have interchangeable chokes are automatically deemed to conform with this rule.
- 72.1 Prior to a competitor's commencement in a match, officials should check and record the size of the choke as part of the usual gun check procedures. This is a service to assist competitors to conform to the declaration requirements of this rule. However, it is always the responsibility of the competitor to conform.
73. Cartridge loops, clips or side-saddles may only be fitted to the side of the gun opposite to the loading/ejection port; e.g. for guns with the loading/ejection port on the right of the firearm these devices may only be fitted to the left-hand side.
- 73.1 All devices known as, or similar to, match or stage savers are not permitted. Likewise, clips, loops or magnetic holders to present a cartridge for a quick load during an Option 3 start are not permitted.

73.2 Cartridge carriers requiring drilling tapping or screwing to fix them to the firearm are not permitted.

74. Only a single cartridge-carrying belt worn at waist level is permitted. Cartridges must be carried singularly in loops or clips; i.e. only a single row of cartridges is permitted (1 cartridge high). Additional cartridges may be carried loose in bags or pouches attached to the main cartridge belt.