

## A Survival Guide for Major Match Staff

The point of this document is to provide some information and rules reminders to help the match go smoothly. We cannot thank you enough for volunteering to work the match and we hope to see you volunteer to work many more major matches.

### Stage staff roles:

- **Chief Range Officer (CRO), 7.1.2:**
  - CROs are the leaders of the stage and should *own* the stage and make sure the stage runs efficiently, safely and by the current USPSA rules.
  - The CRO reads the written stage briefing (WSB), verbatim, to each squad (3.2.2). CROs can add administrative notes to the end of the WSB (i.e. “We will score targets starting on the left and ending on the right”).
  - Make sure your stage staff, and yourself, are staying hydrated. Notify the RM if any of the stage staff have medical issues.
- **Range Officer (RO), 7.1.1:**
  - Assists the CRO in running the stage efficiently, safely, and by the current USPSA rules.
  - Directs all stage questions to the CRO.

### Pre-match:

Before the staff match, the CRO and ROs for the stage need to make sure the stage is ready to go.

- Make sure all the targets are hung and there are no shoot throughs to other targets or steel.
- Make sure the target and no-shoot positions (edges) are marked on the sticks and that the target stands are staked down after the stage is approved by the RM.
- Make sure the poppers are staked down, painted and adjusted properly.
- Read the WSB to make sure it is accurate and that you understand the start position and stage procedure. If you would like to change these, to make them clearer or to help you run the stage more consistently, you need to talk with the RM before the stage is shot. The RM will edit the WSB and sign-off on it (3.2.3). Make sure the RM gets the edited WSB after the staff match so the changes can be incorporated into a new printed copy.
- If you have safety concerns about the stage for competitors or staff, talk with the RM before the staff match starts. If you have questions about penalties in relation to things like significant advantage, discuss this with the RM before the match as well.
- Know where the closest safety area and/or PCC casing/uncasing area is in relation to your stage. Shooters will ask.

### While running a squad:

- Make sure you note the time after the WSB is read. Make sure you keep the walkthrough period to the time stated in the WSB (3.2.4).
- Always be professional and courteous to the shooters, but also keep the stage moving. Enforce the current USPSA rules and use the proper range commands.

- Use your overlays!! Shooters appreciate when ROs use their overlays. Which hits to overlay? The ones that you would like to see overlaid if you were the shooter. Remember, the outside edge of the circle on the overlay just needs to touch the nearest edge of the perf for the hit to count for score or penalty (9.5.2, 9.5.3, 9.6.8).
- The scorekeeper is the second RO and needs to help watch the shooter for foot faults, finger on trigger, 180, etc. Scorekeeper should also note which division the shooter is in and observe if their equipment (firearm, magazines, holster, and mag pouches) is in compliance. Equipment should be checked throughout the match, not only at chrono. If a competitor is out of compliance before they shoot the stage, ask them to adjust it before shooting your stage.
- Remember that shooters need to request a popper calibration challenge, it is not automatic (Appendix C1). The RO needs to see if there is evidence of a hit on the popper face before calling the RM. If no evidence of a hit, it is a miss (4.3.1.5). If there is evidence of a hit, make sure the popper is not touched by anyone and call the RM. *Do not stop a shooter for a popper that does not fall.*
- Before starting the next shooter, make sure all targets, steel, moving targets and activators are reset and make sure the stage is clear. Steel must be painted between each shooter (4.3.1.7).
- If a shooter wants to appeal a scoring call or penalty, they must appeal to the RO and then the CRO. If the shooter still wants to appeal after the CRO, the RM is called to the stage (9.6.4, 9.6.5, 10.1.3). Practiscore makes ROs select a rule number for the procedurals, please make sure to select the appropriate penalty.
- If there is a DQ on your stage, make sure the RM is called and look up the appropriate rule number (10.3.2). Please do not DQ the shooter in Practiscore until you have talked with the RM. Be prepared to tell the RM what happened. Do not be surprised if the RM asks, “How sure are you about the call?” if the shooter is questioning the DQ and if you are the only RO who saw it. Remember that you need to be 100% sure about what you saw before stopping the shooter for a DQ.
- Remember, ROs and CROs are supposed to apply the black and white rules in the rulebook. If you have a call that is in a gray area of the rules, don’t guess! Call the RM!

### **Between squads:**

- Always check the poppers on your stage. Adjust them if needed to keep them properly calibrated. Make sure the adjustment bolt is tight. Pound in the stakes again if they have worked loose.
- If you have moving or activated targets, check the cables and mechanisms.
- Maintain the shooting area. Rake dirt/gravel piles from fault lines and fill in holes. Make sure fault lines are securely staked down.
- Replace targets every 2-3 squads or as needed. Some targets will need changed more often. If the perfs are covered with tape, the target is going to be hard to score and you are making your job harder. This also goes for no shoots that are getting a lot of edge hits.
- Drink water! Staying hydrated is very important.

**Any other questions? Ask the RM!**