

ALASKA TACTICAL SHOOTING COMPETITION RULE SET

GENERAL:

- 1) Alaska Tactical shooting clinics/competitions are not tactical shooting, they are games designed and intended to be enjoyable and promote both the shooting sports and the skills relevant to employing firearms in a practical manner.
- 2) Safe and responsible firearms use is the paramount concern of Alaska Tactical. A Match Director and Range Safety Officer(s) (RSO/RSOs) will be designated to ensure the safety of everyone present. Additionally, everyone present has both the authority and responsibility to act as a safety officer. The "STOP" command can be issued by anyone. Prompt and courteous on-the-spot-safety corrections can be issued by anyone.
- 3) These Four Safety Rules will be the foundation of all activity involving firearms:
 - a. **TREAT ALL GUNS AS IF THEY ARE LOADED.** This does not mean ammunition should or will be kept in the gun, but rather all firearms will be treated as if loaded at all times.
 - b. **NEVER LET THE MUZZLE COVER ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO DESTROY.** Sweeping or flagging oneself or another person is grounds for event disqualification.
 - c. **KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, UNTIL YOUR SIGHTS ARE ON THE TARGET AND YOU ARE WILLING TO SHOOT.** This applies ANY TIME firearms are handled and is the responsibility of the handler.
 - d. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.** Also be aware of objects between the shooter and target, as well as potential ricochets, bullet splatter and secondary projectiles.

Holstered, cased, chamber-flagged and/or disassembled firearms are considered made safe.

- 4) Alaska Tactical shooting events/competitions will generally adhere to the rules/standard operating procedures (SOP/SOPs) employed internationally at shooting competitions, while not being constrained by the rules or SOP of any other organization. This capitalizes on the safety and efficacy of accepted practices while allowing shooters with experience in other sports to participate in Alaska Tactical events easily, and enables Alaska Tactical-experienced shooters to easily participate in outside events. The rules/SOP of another organization will not be used at Alaska Tactical clinics/events.
- 5) Eye and ear protection will be worn by everyone in or near the active shooting area of the Alaska Tactical facility at all times.
- 6) Children and pets are the sole responsibility of their parents/guardians/owners and will be kept under control and behind the firing line. Children will wear appropriate eye and ear protection at all times while near the active area.
- 7) The range is hot. Long-guns will be cleared and chamber-flagged or cased when not in use. Holstered handguns kept on-body may be in the condition of choice of the shooter.
- 8) With the exception of the designated shooter under the control of an RSO (or as outlined in #9 and #10, below), firearms will not be carried or handled unless cased, flagged, or holstered.
- 9) While in the immediate vicinity of the designated Safety Table, firearms may be handled outside the scope of #8 above. Shooters may perform maintenance, practice manipulations, etc. while

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at the Safety Table; however, ammunition and ammunition feeding devices must not be handled in this area.

- 10) If the Match Director/stage description calls for the use of a pre-load table, the procedure for use will be described at either the Safety Brief or the stage description. This is done with tubular-magazine shotguns to reduce wait times. When a shooter is “on deck” or “in the hole” he/she should bring all necessary gear to the pre-load table where he/she may remove the chamber-flag, close the bolt and load the magazine. No round will be introduced to the chamber until the “Make Ready” command is given. The safety will be engaged at all times. Once the magazine is loaded, the firearm must remain at the pre-load table until the shooter is under the direction of the RSO. The shooter must maintain control of the shotgun by remaining within arm’s reach of it. (If the shooter needs to depart the pre-load table area, it is permissible for another shooter to temporarily accept control of the shotgun. This is not encouraged, as both shooters accept full responsibility for the shotgun; but it is often safer than clearing the magazine.)
- 11) In the event that a firearm is “dropped” or otherwise is knocked or falls to the ground, it WILL NOT be picked up by anyone except an RSO. Individuals near the firearm will calmly, politely and promptly clear the area in front of the muzzle of people. An RSO will pick the firearm up in the safest possible manner and check for the presence of ammunition. If no ammunition is present in the firearm, it will be returned to its owner with minimal repercussions. If ammunition is present, the firearm will be cleared before being returned to the owner who will be disqualified from the remainder of the match. If a shooter drops or otherwise loses control of any firearm between the “Make Ready” and the “Unload and Show Clear” commands, regardless of ammunition status, the participant will be disqualified. Safely abandoning a firearm in accordance with the stage description is not considered losing control of the firearm.
- 12) Except in compliance with the stage description, or by an RSO, coaching the shooter is prohibited. (Examples: a) If a shooter fails to engage/neutralize a target and a third party calls it out, the person “coaching” may be penalized or disqualified b) If the person “coaching” is not a participant in the clinic/event, the shooter may be penalized.)
- 13) During the course of fire, the shooter will observe the modified 180-degree rule. The “plane of the 180” is defined as passing through the shooter’s body and either perpendicular to a line from up-range straight downrange or parallel to the downrange berm, as appropriate. The “plane of the 180” moves with the shooter, but does not turn with the shooter. The shooter may, when moving and not shooting and in a strictly controlled manner, “break the plane” provided: a) no-one is swept by the muzzle b) no body part or equipment is near the trigger c) the muzzle is pointed directly at the ground, or muzzle-up with the barrel kept strictly vertical d) no round is fired. Engaging a target in an up-range manner is not allowed. If the shooter sweeps the RSO it will not be considered “RSO interference”. The slightest violation of the above will result in immediate match/event disqualification. “Directly at the ground” is defined as: a) safe in the judgement of the RSO and b) oriented so that if a round were fired, it would strike the ground within a five-foot radius of the shooter. “Muzzle-up with the barrel kept

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strictly vertical” is defined as: a) safe in the judgement of the RSO and b) the muzzle stays within a one-foot radius cone based on the butt of the gun.

- 14) General firearm and ammunition restrictions are as follows: (exceptions on a case-by-case basis may be granted by the Match Director).

-Handguns may be semi-automatic or revolver, generally in the 38 Special to 45 ACP power range. Magnum chamberings and bottle-necked cartridges in handguns are prohibited, unless specifically authorized. NO steel-jacked bullets (check with a strong magnet). Minimum 750 feet per second, maximum 1500 feet per second. We are not concerned with “power factor”.

- .22 rimfire may be permitted in certain events.

-Tubular-magazine rifles are prohibited.

-Shotgun ammunition must be lead only, un-plated, no greater than 12ga, no larger than #6 bird shot or slug as appropriate unless buckshot is specified, no greater than 1¼ ounce and no longer than 3-inch cartridges.

-Steel-jacketed, armor piercing, incendiary, steel-cored or other penetrator-type and/or tracer ammunition are prohibited.

-Rifle targets will generally be no smaller than 4 minutes of angle.

- 15) All equipment used must be constructed, maintained and used in a safe and effective manner. (Examples: Holsters must securely hold handguns. Thumb breaks and retention devices, if present must be employed. Manual (external) safeties if present must be engaged unless the firearm is actively being used, the firearm has been “Dry-Fired”, or otherwise in accordance with a stage description.) Cross-draw, shoulder, behind the back, ankle, and underwear type holsters are prohibited unless approved in advance by the Match Director. Appendix holsters (also known as AIWB) may be allowed by the Match Director on a case by case basis.

- 16) When the stage description requires abandoning a firearm before transitioning to another, if the abandoned firearm has an external manual safety, it must be engaged if possible, or the firearm must be cleared of all ammunition. If the course of fire requires moving forward of the muzzle, all ammunition must first be removed from the firearm any external safeties may then be left engaged or disengaged. Handguns will not be re-holstered “on the clock”.

- 17) Violations of the stage description may result in a penalty to the shooter’s score. Unless otherwise specified in the stage description, if the violation does not provide the shooter with a significant advantage, a ten-second penalty may be awarded. If the violation provides the shooter with a significant advantage, a ten-second *per shot fired* penalty may be awarded. (Examples: If the shooter places one foot outside of a designated shooting area, but no significant advantage is gained, a ten second penalty would be appropriate. If the stage description calls for firing one-handed and the shooter uses both hands, a ten-second per shot fired penalty would be appropriate.) Penalties for failing to hit the target in accordance with the stage description will normally be 10 seconds for steel or clay targets and either five or 10 seconds for paper targets in accordance with the stage description. Shooting a designated “No Shoot” will result in a penalty of 50 percent of the shooter’s raw time. Additional “No Shoots” will earn the same time penalty. Fractions of seconds of the raw time will be ignored for the

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purpose of calculating penalties. (Example: If the shooter's raw time was 29.84 seconds, each No Shoot hit would incur a 14.5 second penalty.)

- 18) Shooters may audio/video themselves shooting (body or equipment-mounted camera), or ask others to record them, but no-one may audio/video record or photograph anyone at clinics/events without their expressed consent. Recording clinics/events in general (to include the use of aerial drones) is not permitted. RSOs generally understand that they may be in-frame while performing their duties, but if/when shooting, they enjoy the same right to privacy as others. Under no circumstances will audio/video or photographs be grounds for overturning an RSO's decision. Posting, publishing or otherwise circulating questionable audio/video or photographs will result in the poster being un-welcome at future events/clinics.
- 19) Unsportsmanlike conduct, while rare in the shooting sports, will not be tolerated. Tampering with: a) a shooter's targets/scores either to their benefit or detriment; or b) a shooter's equipment will be grounds for immediate disqualification from the clinic/event, expulsion from the premises, and/or banning from future clinics/events. Arguing with RSOs, or disruptive behavior will result in, at the minimum, procedural penalties, and likely disqualification from the clinic/event, and/or expulsion from the premises.
- 20) Certain events may allow/require the use of slings on long-guns, this will be addressed in the event/stage description. Due to the nature of competitive shooting, slings normally present a safety hazard and for this reason are not allowed, and must be removed for the duration of the event/clinic.
- 21) Scoring of hits and misses can become a point of controversy. While the benefit of the doubt will be given to the shooter, the use of scoring overlays will be eschewed. On paper targets, if the bullet-strike does not clearly break the perforation, it will be called a miss/be given the lower value.
- 22) In the event of a prop failure, the RSO will either give the shooter a re-shoot, or score the target as a hit, as appropriate.
- 23) At the discretion of the RSO a firearm, item of equipment, or lot/type of ammunition may be disqualified from the clinic/event without disqualifying the shooter.
- 24) RSOs shall have the authority to reasonably deviate from this rule set in order to facilitate the event or enhance safety. If the RSO is also a participant in the event, they will not be penalized for actions under this provision. RSOs will not act in their own best interest as a participant under this provision. (Example: If a long-gun has a cartridge stuck in the chamber, the RSO may remove it from the line without clearing it.)
- 25) In the event that this rule set conflicts with a stage description, the stage description will prevail.
- 26) For the purposes of this rule set, the Match Director is also considered an RSO.
- 27) The firing line will be considered active and the Alaska Tactical Competition Rule Set will be in effect from the start time until the completion of the event as determined by the Match Director.

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EQUIPMENT DIVISIONS

Equipment divisions enhance the competition experience by grouping shooters with similar equipment types for scoring purposes. Generally, we recognize four divisions and six firearm types. The chart below shows firearm types and the features which define each division in ascending order from left to right.

Divisions → Firearms ↓	Limited	Tactical	Tactical Optics	Open
Centerfire handgun	Iron sights, 140mm double stack magazine, 170mm single stack magazine	Iron sights, 140mm double stack magazine, 170mm single stack magazine	Slide-mounted optic, 170mm magazine	Frame-mounted optic, compensator/brake
PCC	Iron sights	Single non-magnified optic	Dual optic	Bipod, greater than 40 round magazine
Rifle	Single non-magnified optic	Single optic	Dual optic	Bipod, greater than 40 round magazine
Shotgun	Iron sights, pump-action, 10 rounds in gun	Iron sights, 10 rounds in gun	Single optic, 10 rounds in gun	Detachable box magazine, compensator/brake
Rimfire handgun	Iron sights	Iron sights, no more than 15 rounds in magazine	Slide-mounted optic, greater than 15 rounds in magazine	Frame-mounted optic, compensator/brake
Rimfire rifle	Iron sights	Single non-magnified optic	Single optic	Bipod, dual optic, compensator/brake

Examples:

- a) A standard Glock 17 with 17 round magazines (less than 140mm) could be used in any division. If an RMR is added to the slide, the lowest division the pistol could be used in would be “Tactical Optics”.
- b) An iron-sighted AR-15 with 40 (or less) round magazines and no bipod could be used in any division. If a magnified optic is added, the lowest division the rifle could be used in would be “Tactical”.
- c) A standard iron (or bead) sighted Remington 870 could be used in any division so long as no more than 10 rounds were put in the gun and no compensator/brake is present.

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In events where more than one firearm is used, the one with the highest-qualifying features will dictate the lowest division in which the competitor can participate. (Example: The lowest division a 3-Gun competitor with the equipment described above could participate in would be “Tactical Optics”. This competitor may elect to participate in the “Open” division, but could not participate in “Limited” or “Tactical”.)

If at any time during a match, a competitor exceeds the limitations of the division in which he/she started, the competitor will be “bumped up” to the appropriate division. (Example: If the 3-Gun competitor described above were to load more than 10 rounds into the shotgun, he/she would be bumped up to the “Open” division for the entire match.

If a reasonable number of participants wish to be scored as a specialty division, this can normally be accommodated, so long as it does not detract from the event. (Examples: Heavy Metal division, Revolver division, Youth division, Ladies division) Specialty divisions will be open to all participants that meet the appropriate criteria in the judgement of the Match Director.

Exception: A centerfire AR-15 type rifle equipped with a rimfire adapter will not be put into the “Open” division just because it is equipped with a compensator/brake.

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GROUNDINGS FOR MATCH DISQUALIFICATION (this list is not all-inclusive):

- 1) ANY gross or repeat safety violation as deemed by an RSO.
- 2) Sweeping oneself or anyone else with a firearm. (Flagged, cased or holstered firearms may be excepted, within reason.)
- 3) ANY negligent discharge.
- 4) Any discharge of a firearm in an unsafe direction or unsafe manner.
- 5) Any rude, obnoxious, abusive, unsportsmanlike or otherwise inappropriate behavior as determined by an RSO.
- 6) "Dropping" or otherwise losing control of any firearm between the "Make Ready" and the "Unload and Show Clear" regardless of ammunition status.
- 7) Having one's finger within the trigger guard while loading/reloading. Warning(s) may be issued.
- 8) Having one's finger within the trigger guard while moving unless actively engaging a target in conformance with the stage description. Warning(s) may be issued.
- 9) Breaking the modified 180-degree rule.
- 10) Failure to promptly comply with the "STOP" command.
- 11) Handling ammunition and/or ammunition feeding devices (e.g. magazines) at the Safety Table. Failure to remove ALL ammunition from a firearm being abandoned in compliance with a stage description before moving forward of the muzzle.
- 12) Use of an ammunition type not in compliance with the stage description or the intent thereof. (Example: armor piercing ammunition used on steel targets, steel projectiles on steel targets, birdshot on paper targets, etc.)

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RANGE COMMANDS:

The following is an *example* of the Range Commands that will be normally be used (they need not be verbatim), along with brief explanations of each, in somewhat chronological order:

When the shooter is called for his/her turn, they will bring their equipment to the firing line. The RSO will ask **“DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE COURSE OF FIRE?”** If the shooter replies in the negative, the RSO will ensure that the shooter achieves understanding. If the shooter replies in the affirmative, the RSO will state: **“MAKE READY”**. The shooter will enter the starting area, load firearms, ensure that all their equipment is ready and assume the designated start position.

When the RSO believes the shooter is ready, the RSO will ask **“SHOOTER READY?”** If the shooter is not ready, they will inform the RSO who will act accordingly. If the shooter is ready, he/she will reply in the affirmative, gesticulate, or remain motionless. If the shooter neither replies in the negative nor affirmative, the RSO will proceed to the next Range Command which is: **“STAND BY”**. Between one to five seconds later, the RSO will activate the timer causing the **“BEEP”** which is the shooter’s cue to begin the course of fire.

When the RSO believes the shooter has completed the course of fire to his/her satisfaction, the RSO will direct the shooter to clear and safe firearms by saying: **“IF YOU ARE FINISHED, UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR”**. The shooter will remove all ammunition then clear and check the chamber, and then show the cleared firearm to the RSO. The RSO will state: **“IF CLEAR, SLIDE FORWARD, HAMMER DOWN”**. The wording of this command may vary depending of the type of firearm, or it will simply be understood that “slide forward” means “bolt forward” on a rifle/shotgun etc. The shooter will aim the firearm in a safe direction and dry-fire. The RSO will then direct the shooter to holster, insert a chamber flag or case the firearm.

This process will be repeated for each firearm used on the stage, with the exception of the handgun at the shooter and RSO’s discretion, provided the handgun will remain holstered and on the shooter’s body. Once all of the shooter’s firearms have been cased, chamber-flagged, or holstered the RSO will announce **“THE LINE IS CLEAR”**. This command is the signal for the stage to be scored and re-set for the next shooter.

SUPPLEMENTAL RANGE COMMANDS:

If the RSO believes the shooter is about to move their muzzle in an un-safe manner, and if the RSO has time, he/she will call out **“MUZZLE”**. This is the shooter’s warning to better control their firearm. The shooter should safely continue the course of fire. The RSO will normally issue the “MUZZLE” command at least once (if necessary) before considering disqualifying the shooter, however excessive warnings will not be given, instead the RSO should stop the shooter and take appropriate action.

If the RSO believes the shooter has a finger close to the trigger at an inappropriate time, he/she will call out **“FINGER”**. This is the shooter’s warning to keep all fingers well outside trigger-guard. The shooter should safely continue the course of fire. The RSO will normally issue the “FINGER” command at least

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once (if necessary) before considering disqualifying the shooter, however excessive warnings will not be given, instead the RSO should stop the shooter and take appropriate action.

The **“STOP”** command can be issued at any time by anyone who believes an unsafe or potentially unsafe condition exists. ***It is the preference of Alaska Tactical that if a person has any doubt about safety that they immediately call “STOP” so the situation can be resolved.*** When the “STOP” command is issued, the shooter will immediately cease firing, place their straightened finger well outside the trigger guard, assume a compressed Low-Ready position with the muzzle oriented at the ground approximately three feet in front of them, stop moving, remain alert to the situation, and await instructions from the RSO. The RSO will determine the nature of the unsafe situation and take appropriate steps to correct it. If the unsafe situation was not the fault of the shooter, the stage will be reset and he/she will be given the opportunity to re-shoot. If the unsafe situation was the fault of the shooter, they will be cleared off the firing line and considered for disqualification from the match.

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APPEALS:

- 1) Appeals regarding the ALASKA TACTICAL COMPETITION RULE SET will be handled by the Match Director. The decision of the Match Director is final.

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EDIT LOG

- Added "NO steel-jacked bullets (check with a strong magnet). Minimum 750 feet per second, maximum 1500 feet per second. We are not concerned with "power factor"." to rule 14.
- Added "Rifle targets will generally be no smaller than 4 minutes of angle." and re-organized rule 14.
- Added EQUIPMENT DIVISIONS.
- Changed rimfire handgun equipment divisions to better mirror centerfire handgun divisions.