

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT PRACTICAL SHOOTING

I am writing this to express my opinion/discontent about some issues that are a spot of bother for me. This a result of about 7 years of doing COF and building stages for Level 3 matches. As they are saying in the commercials “this is not aimed at anybody and no animals were hurt in the production”.

But I would like to start a debate on the following, but some rules, do not call me pen your opinion and publish it.

I am continually being accused that my COF and stages are build to promote speed and do not test accuracy equally, as in the IPSC norm of “Speed Accuracy Power”.

Also that COF’s test shooters athletic ability more than their shooting ability.

Also, that the challenges that I present, does not warrant Level 3 status. This applies for both handgun and shotgun matches.

As yet I have not tried Level 3 Rifle or 3- Gun COF or matches, this will only be for the brave and hardy souls.

Now I need to be educated how judgement can be made that the stages that I prepare only promote speed and neglect accuracy.

I admit that this can happen, but a call as such can only be made after the shooters have attempted the stage and the results are published, not before, my opinion.

PSE formulate your answer first, by telling me what accuracy is, in the context of Practical shooting, pay particular attention to the following:

- What is the standard?
- How is it measured?
- How is it awarded?

Pse do this for Handgun, Shotgun, and Rifle.

Now I understand speed

- The standard is the “Fastest”
- Measured in “Seconds”
- Awarded to two decimal points

Speed is the deciding factor in who is the winner of a stage, accuracy is always a given. This is not my opinion but cold fact. Pse look closely at Stage results, most shooters will shot 90% and higher of the max points available, shooters that get misses and penalties and procedures at out of the discussion.

Speed is the difference between the A-Class shooter and the D- Class shooter. Period.

The challenge in accuracy, is in longer distances 15m +, not my opinion, but looks at the shot dispersion on targets during matches and let me now what are your observations? Also the introduction of the mini/smaller targets does a lot to test shooters accuracy, my opinion. But apparently by some comments received, I am wrong.

In my opinion the profusely use of penalty targets only catch the unwary and careless shooter and only serves to slow down the shooter in order to avoid penalties. It slows you down it does not challenge/promote accurate shooting.

PSE do not tell me that any stage with a factor higher than some figure, I have heard that a factor of 5-to-8, promoted the speed more than the accuracy.

Practical shooting, being an activity that measures the performance of contestants against each other in order to determine the winner.

This principal has the advantage that as we are getting better at the activity so the performance bar will raise

Also the fact that practical shooting promotes the development of equipment, with improved equipment; the performance bar will also rise.

So then should the so called factor figure, but its proponents are still stuck in the middle 80's with a factor of 5-8.

The challenges and stages that does not warrant Level 3 status.

According to my understanding of the rules, Level 3 status is depended on some 19 criteria some of the most critical being:

- Appointment of mandatory officials.
- No of competitors.
- No of rounds.
- No of stages.
- Approval process for the COF.

Nowhere is there any rule/requirement/set standard that a COF must conform to a certain standard or perceived difficult challenge, this is only in the mind of some vetting committee members, with the popular saying: "But this is a Level 3 match therefore....."

Most of the comments that I received during vetting is of a personal preference of how they would like to see the challenge or hoe they would prefer to shoot the stage. My opinion.

Now what is the standard for a Level 3 match:

- Challenging stages? Challenging what. If you say shooting ability, pse define.
- Difficult shots? Distance, small targets, penalty targets?
- Stage props

That COF's test shooters athletic ability more than their shooting ability.

By the look of things for a Practical shooter the following constitutes athletic ability:

- Being at the start position in any posture other than standing upright.
- Climbing steps.
- Move more than two meters.
- Going prone.

As I see Practical Shooting an action sport, I believe all Practical shooters should:

- Lose some weight.
- Be able to do 25 Push ups.
- Walk 3 km in 1/2hour.

All without going into cardiac arrest.

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