



DIV-32  
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**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
WEAPONS TRAINING BATTALION  
MARINE CORPS COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMMAND  
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5040

**DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**

LESSON TITLE

RIFLE AND PISTOL DIVISION MATCH RULES AND REGULATIONS

COURSE TITLE

DIVISION MATCH COURSE



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
Weapons Training Battalion  
Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5040

**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**RIFLE AND PISTOL DIVISION MATCH RULES AND REGULATIONS**

INTRODUCTION

(3 MIN)

1. GAIN ATTENTION. Rules and regulations determine the integrity of any competitive event. Just like any competitor in any contest, every Marine who fires the Division Match Course wants to win a medal. For Division Match competition to allow the best competitors and teams to win, a strict set of guidelines must be in place and enforced to ensure that each participant has an equal chance for success. Match officials enforce these rules and regulations judiciously and fairly. The only discriminator between competitors should be the marksmanship skill and performance of the competitor. The rules and regulations that govern the Division Match must be properly enforced to assure the competitor that his standing at the end of the match is based solely on the merit of his performance.
2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover the procedures for Division Match pit operations, scoring, and the determination of alibis.
3. INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES. The Division Match instruction is structured to prepare the shooter to fire the Division Match Course and is not a component of a formal school program. Therefore, there are no learning objectives.
4. METHOD. This lesson will be taught in a classroom setting using lecture.
5. EVALUATION. The Division Match instruction is structured to prepare the shooter to fire the Division Match Course and is not a component of a formal school program. Therefore, students are not evaluated on this material.



BODY

(35 MIN)

**1. (10 MIN) DIVISION MATCH REGULATIONS**

a. Match Executive Officer (XO). Before discussing Division Match regulations, the discretionary power of the Match XO must be noted. The Match XO has final say regarding all aspects of the match. In the event that complications arise during the match, he takes action to alleviate problems and ensures that all competitors have an equal chance of success in the match. In the following discussion of the rules and regulations of the match, it should be understood that these regulations may be altered upon the decision of the Match XO.

b. Competitor Elimination. At any time during a preliminary match in either the Division Match Rifle Course or the Division Match Pistol Course, the Match XO may reduce the field of competitors to expedite the completion of the match.

1) This allows the Match XO to facilitate completing the individual match without reducing the number of medals awarded.

2) All competitors allowed to fire the first stage of the record match must complete the match unless eliminated for violating a rule or regulation.

c. Individual Rifle and Pistol Match

1) Shooters fire the preliminary match once.

**NOTE**

Special circumstances may preclude firing of the preliminary match as determined by the Match XO and based on recommendations from the CMC Rep.

2) Shooters fire the record match twice, but the course is fired only once in any one day. The preliminary match and record match are fired on separate days.

3) All stages of a course of fire are completed by all competitors before any competitor fires the course again.



4) Rifle stages are fired in sequence beginning with 500-yard slow fire; pistol stages are fired in sequence beginning with 25-yard slow fire standing.

5) The Individual Pistol Match is fired after completion of the Individual Rifle Match.

d. Division Team Rifle and Pistol Match

1) The course of fire for the record match is fired only once.

2) Each team occupies a firing point and a target block of two targets next to one another.

3) For pistol record firing, shooters fire in relays of two shooters. Each relay completes the course of fire before the next relay is permitted to fire.

4) Rifle stages are fired in sequence beginning with 500-yard slow fire; pistol stages are fired in sequence beginning with 25-yard slow fire standing.

5) For all rifle slow-fire stages, teams will be given a block time to complete the stage. The coach will manage his shooters and their firing within the time limit of each slow-fire stage.

6) Team captains assign target and relay assignment of team members at their discretion. Target and relay assignment must be maintained through the completion of the course of fire.

7) The Team Score is an aggregate of all scores fired by the four shooting team members.

8) The Division Team Pistol Match is fired after completion of the Division Team Rifle Match.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Rules and regulations that govern the Division Match are effective only when adhered to and enforced. The match officials must take control of the event to ensure a professional atmosphere that is equal in every aspect for every competitor. The integrity of the match must not be compromised.



## 2. (5 MIN) DIVISION MATCH OFFICIALS

a. Host Commander. The host commander is appointed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He has local responsibility for supporting and conducting the matches. He is guided by instructions contained in MCO 3591.2\_.

b. Match Executive Officer (XO). A Match XO is appointed by the host commander. He is guided by instructions contained in MCO 3591.2\_ and those issued by the host commander. The Match XO is responsible for the conduct of the Division Match. The decision of the Match XO on challenges and protests is final.

c. Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) Representative. The CMC Rep duties include, but need not be limited to the following:

1) Training range support personnel on their duties concerning Division Match operations.

2) Ensuring competitors comply with range and match regulations.

3) Assigning range personnel to:

a) Supervise scoring.

b) Verify scores as totals.

c) Make necessary changes on scorecards.

d) Ensure competitors sign scorecards.

d. Statistics Officer. A statistics officer is appointed by the host commander under supervision of the CMC Rep. He is responsible for all statistical and administrative services in connection with the matches except for the recording of scores on the range. The CMC Rep will train and guide the Statistics Officer in the performance of his duties. His duties include:

1) Registering competitors and verifying their eligibility.

2) Preparing a roster of competitors.

3) Preparing scorecards.

4) Assigning competitors and teams to targets and relays during practice fire.

5) Verifying scorecard entries and totals.



- 6) Maintaining a statistics board.
- 7) Determining medal winners in concert with the CMC Rep.
- 8) Publishing and distributing official match bulletins.
- 9) Accomplishing duties, as required, by the Match XO and the CMC Rep.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: While there are rules and regulations that govern the firing of the Division Matches and outline the assignment and responsibilities of match officials, there are also rules and regulations that outline the responsibilities of the participants in the matches.

### **3. (5 MIN) RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIVISION MATCH COMPETITORS**

a. General. Competitors are responsible for having full knowledge of the match rules and for ensuring that their conduct and equipment conform to these rules. Team officials are appointed by the parent command for a specific team match. These officials are the:

1) Team Captain. The Team Captain is responsible for supervising, training, and organizing the team. A team captain may serve as a Team Coach and may be a firing member of a team.

2) Team Coach. The Team Coach is designated by the Team Captain. His primary duty is to train and condition the team. He is the assistant to the Team Captain and performs his duties in his absence. The Team Coach may also be a firing member of the team. The Team Coach may serve as a Team Captain and may be a firing member of a team.

b. Competitor. The competitor competes as a shooter firing the record match. Through his participation in the Competition In Arms Program, the competitor receives and develops marksmanship knowledge with the goal of imparting that knowledge throughout the Corps. The individual competitor is responsible for:



- 1) Reporting to the designated area on time and with the proper weapon and equipment as designated by the Match XO.
- 2) Competitors will not leave the range without authorization from the Match XO.
- 3) Ensuring their personal information is provided and correct for reporting purposes.
- 4) After firing their stage, verifying their total and aggregate scores and then signing their scorecards.

c. Team. A team is comprised of a Team Captain, a Team Coach, and a minimum of four competitors. The Team Captain and Team Coach may double as competitors. Of the four firing members, one must be a Staff Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), one must be a Sergeant or below who has not shot Division Matches before (Tyro), and it is recommended, but not required, that one be an Officer.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Competitors must not only abide by the match rules and regulations with respect to firing activities, but they must also ensure that all the equipment necessary to successfully participate in the Division Match conforms to match regulations. Equipment should be issued by the command sponsoring the team competing.

#### **4. (5 MIN) DIVISION MATCH EQUIPMENT**

- a. Ammunition. Only issued ammunition may be used at the Division Match.
- b. Pistol, U.S., M9, 9mm. The authorized weapon for Division Match pistol matches is the M9 service pistol. The trigger pull of the weapon must not be less than 4 lbs. The pistol grip must be of a standard type (without thumb rests). All safety features of the weapon must be operational.
- c. Rifle, U.S., 5.56mm, M16A2/M16A4. The authorized weapon for Division Match rifle matches is the service M16A2 or M16A4 rifle with three-point web sling. The trigger pull of the weapon must not be less than 5 lbs.



- d. Use of Personal Weapons. Use of personal weapons will not be authorized under any circumstance by competitors involved in Division Match competition.
- e. Helmet, Flak Jacket, Magazine Retention Device
- 1) The standard issue helmet and flak jacket are required for rifle and pistol matches.
  - 2) A standard issue magazine retention device (i.e., cartridge belt, magazine pouch, load bearing vest) that has a flap to secure the magazine is required for rifle and pistol matches.
  - 3) Any unit-issued holster with a hammer retention device is authorized for pistol matches.
- f. Optional Equipment. Military issue gloves (black leather/NOMEX) are permitted.
- g. Sling Cuffs and Pads. Sling cuffs and pads are not authorized for use during rifle matches.
- h. Sight Blackening. Blackening or coloring of the sights is authorized.
- i. Telescopes. Spotting telescopes are only authorized for scorekeepers on the line. Scopes may be used behind ready lines for observation, but the use of scopes behind ready lines for coaching is prohibited. Personal binoculars are authorized for observation of spotters.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Scorekeeping procedures are another aspect of the Division Match that all competitors should be familiar with. If the competitor is knowledgeable of scorekeeping procedures, he can be sure that the score he fired is the score that is recorded on his scorecard.





### 3. (10 MIN) SCOREKEEPING PROCEDURES

a. Preliminary Match Scoring. For individual rifle and pistol matches, scores are kept during the preliminary matches for the purpose of squading the shooters for the record match. Placement on the firing line for the record match is determined by the aggregate scores fired during the preliminary matches, starting with the highest scoring shooter being placed on target number 1, first relay. Tie-breaking procedures are important during this phase.

1) Preliminary Match Individual Rifle and Pistol Scoring. The individual rifle preliminary matches are fired on one day. The score of each shooter is maintained to determine target and relay assignments for first day record match. Second day record match relay assignments are determined based on the scores of the first day record match.

2) Target and Relay Assignments - Team Matches. Target and relay assignments for team matches, both rifle and pistol, when scorecards are distributed. The scorecard that is issued to each team has a target and relay number that has been selected at random by the Match XO.

b. Record Match Scoring. For both individual rifle and pistol matches, the final record match score is calculated as the aggregate scores fired over the two-day record match for each shooter. For team rifle and pistol matches, the final record score is calculated as the total aggregate score fired over the record match from the scores of all shooting team members.

1) Individual Rifle Scoring Procedures. Scorekeepers will be the non-firing relay. Official score will be kept on the line. Scopes will be provided by the range to scorekeepers. Competitors may use personal optics for observing shot groups; optics must be transported on their person.

2) Team Rifle Scoring Procedures. Each shooting team is responsible for supplying a scorekeeper to score for a team other than their own. Official score will be kept on the line. Scopes will be provided by the range.

3) Pistol Scoring Procedures. Competitors score each other under supervision of the block official (Pass Right, Score Left). Competitor's scores are recorded by the scorekeeper directly on the official scorecard.



4) Scorecard Corrections

a) Rifle. The scorekeeper is the only person authorized to make corrections or changes to scorecards. To make a correction, the scorekeeper draws a single line through the incorrect score, places the correct score above it, and initials the correction.

b) Pistol. The block official is the only person authorized to make corrections or changes to scorecards. To make a correction, the block official draws a single line through the incorrect score, places the correct score above it, and initials the correction.

5) Protests. Competitors desiring to protest scores inform the block officials of their complaints. If the block official cannot rectify the challenge, he brings the protest to the attention of the Match XO. The target will be pulled. In addition, in the case of the rifle, the two scorecards for that target will be pulled. The target and scorecards will be turned over to a jury of three experienced shooters who will make a determination as to score.

6) Decision of Ties. In all matches, a "V" (rifle) or an "X" (pistol) is a hit of the highest value. V's and X's are scored. The word "ranking" is used to determine the higher of two or more equal numerical scores. The calculation of V's and X's defines this ranking. For example, 130-34V's is a higher ranking score than 130-33V's.

a) Rifle and Pistol, Individual. Numerical ties are decided in the following order:

(1) The greatest total number of V's for rifle or X's for pistol.

(2) The highest ranking score at the longest range.

(3) The greatest total number of V's for rifle or X's for pistol at the longest range.

(4) Additional ties that cannot be determined using the previous three criteria will be determined using the previous two criteria for subsequent stages of fire in descending order of the course of fire.

b) Rifle and Pistol, Team. Numerical ties are decided in the following order:



- (1) The greatest total number of V's for rifle or X's for pistol.
- (2) The highest ranking total score at the longest range.
- (3) The highest ranking total score at the next longest range.
- (4) The highest individual aggregate score.
- (5) The second highest individual aggregate score.

Confirm by questions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:

(1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt students with questions to the class.
  - a. QUESTION: Which match official is responsible for preparing a roster of competitors?

ANSWER: The statistics officer.

- b. QUESTION: Which Marine Corps Order serves as the guide for the conduct of the Division Match?

ANSWER: MCO 3591.2\_.

- c. QUESTION: Who is authorized to make corrections or changes to rifle scorecards?

ANSWER: The scorekeeper.

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** Ask Marines as many questions as necessary to ensure they fully understand the material presented in this lesson.



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SUMMARY:

(1 MIN)

Division Match competition is decided on the shooting skills of the competitors. This would not be the case if rules and regulations did not exist that determine how a match is conducted. Rules that apply uniformly to all competitors ensure that fairness is maintained throughout the match. Shooters cannot concentrate on shooting if the operation of the match is plagued by distractions. A well-run match reflects positively on the personnel working on the range during each match and Marine Corps marksmanship as a whole. It is only through strict adherence to match rules and regulations and the organization and support of competitive matches that the Competition in Arms Program will support its mission of developing skilled marksmen.