

A recurring discussion among Safety Officers and competitors is the application of rule 5.2.2.e if a shooter has part of their foot (or body if a barrier) touching outside the bounds set by fault lines or other barriers.

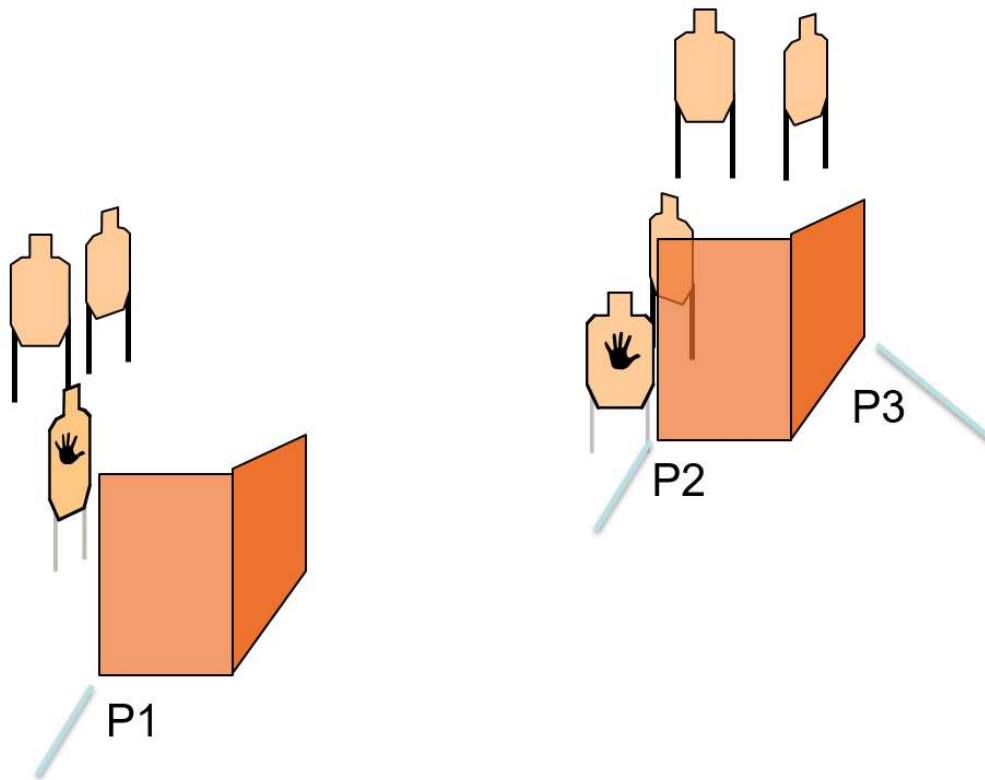
The explanation of WHY this violation was included in the list of examples in 5.2.2 is being overlooked, and there are many instances where shooters are receiving flagrant penalties when the circumstances do not warrant 10 seconds of penalty.

To understand this better, it is necessary to refer back to Rule 5.2:

A Flagrant Penalty (FP) adds ten (10) seconds and is assessed, instead of a PE Penalty, in cases where an infraction results in a competitive advantage, such as failure to follow the instructions in a CoF and gaining a competitive advantage that cannot be addressed by a PE (i.e. score works out in competitors favor with a PE added).

In the hypothetical instance where faulting an entire array of targets would provide a competitive advantage are those cases where a stage has props and barriers forcing a shooter to engage a targets from a shooting position outlined in the written stage description.

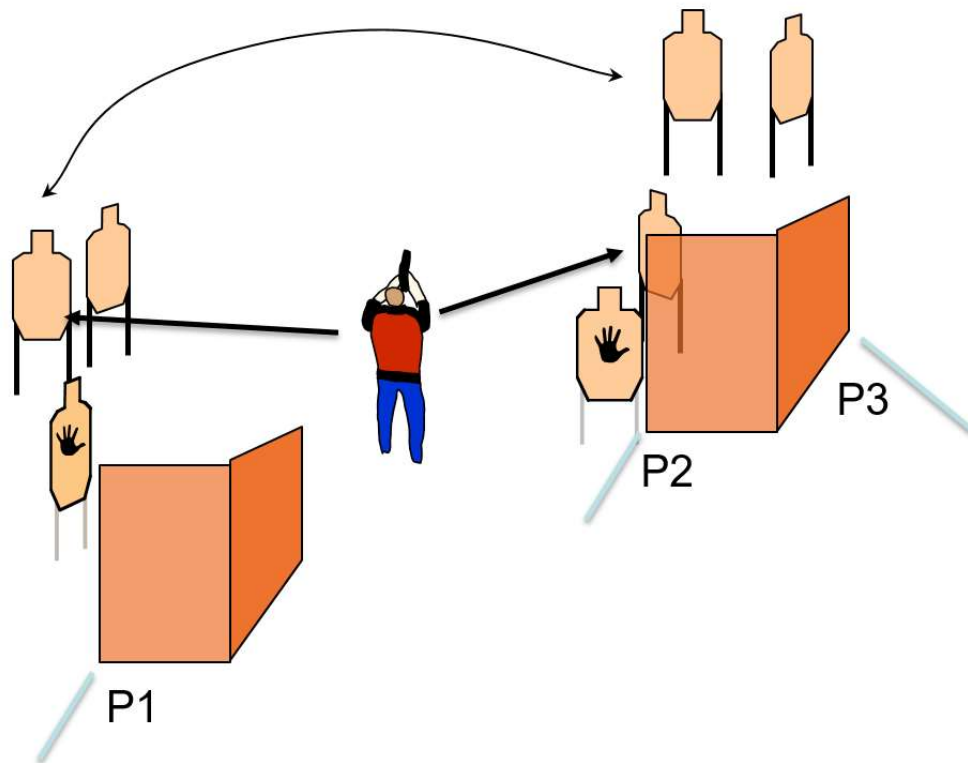
Consider the following stage:



Three positions marked with fault lines. Here a shooter is constrained to shooting at the positions.

Say hypothetically, most shooters spend 2 seconds firing from P1, then spend 3 or 4 seconds moving into position 2 to engage target/s there, then transitions to P3 and spends another 2 seconds firing the last shots for the stage. Say the stage takes 7 seconds to shoot in raw time for most upper level shooters.

Now look at this diagram of our next shooter with a 'new plan' to shoot the stage:



Shooter looks at the entire stage and makes the decision to accept a single 3 second Procedural penalty (PE) and moves into a single spot and cleans all 5 targets in 2.5 seconds and by doing so gains a competitive advantage to win the stage by more than a second over the next fastest shooter.

In this instance, a single 3 second penalty became part of the game plan.

This is the reason line (e) was included as an example for a flagrant penalty.

IF a shooter standing at P1 has half of his foot over the line for a 2 target array, **it is not a competitive advantage. It is a PE.**

Issuing excessive penalties is not what the sport of IDPA is about.

It is about marksmanship. Let the targets and the timers decide winners and help our shooters do it safely while having fun.