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2022 Sand Gnat IDPA
Championship Match

Adaptive Defensive
Shooting Summit

AIWB

Should You
Consider
Appendix Carry?



Match Review

2022 Swiss International IDFA Championship

By Andy Pfenninger



After the big success of the Swiss National

Championships last year in Arcisate, Italy, we were back this year in the same place on the weekend of June 24-26. However, the match had grown considerably in every aspect.

We moved up from tier 2 to tier 3 and also extended the match to three days of shooting: staff day on Friday and two competitor days on Saturday and Sunday. This gave us a capacity for over 230 shooters. We also added the equipment check and another stage for an overall 12 stages.

Apart from a bigger match, we had set ourselves the goal to attract even more international shooters from all around the world. This is what makes IDPA shooting so exciting, after all: to meet like-minded people from

everywhere around the world, make new friends, and share a common passion.

9x19mm Caliber

Getting more international attendance was supported by a long overdue decision by the Italian lawmakers: they finally lifted the ban of 9x19mm ammunition for civilians, effective beginning of February 2022. Whatever the rationale behind the old ban, it forced international participants to either have a 9x21mm gun or a corresponding exchange barrel or move to another caliber entirely, for example .40 S&W, .45 ACP or .38 Special. This is now a thing of the past: one can just join up using 'normal' 9mm pistols.

International Championships

Well, yes... but...

As a European, you can get a European Firearms Passport and travel to any Schengen member country for a sports shooting competition without too many problems. But what about the non-Europeans? Now that we had more people coming, how would they get to the match bringing their own competition guns and ammunition? We couldn't organize a little private rental process for guns of our staff or something like that for so many people.

Luckily, we were able to find the solution. My co-MD, Diego Silvestri, himself a policeman, worked very hard with his fellow officers from the border police at Malpensa airport near Milan, to define the exact process to be applied and the documentation needed for it. Finally, we got it all sorted and all the obstacles were removed. All the concerned participants could bring their

gear without any problems. What a great achievement and many thanks to the Italian police force!

In consequence, we were able to attract shooters from USA, Thailand, Kenya, Turkey, and from more than a dozen European countries to join the match! The name change to be an 'international' championship was very appropriate. I am sure we would have had participants even from China, if that would not have been made impossible by the travel restrictions imposed there.

The Stages

When designing the stages, we wanted them to be enjoyable for shooters of all skill levels. We needed a balance such that the masters were still challenged but the novices

didn't feel overwhelmed and frustrated.

For example, some disappearing target setups were deliberately tricky so that the shooter did not have much time to make the hits. On one stage, you had to open a door to see the next targets. Opening the door activated an

up-down target but there was one higher priority paper target to be engaged before the up-down. The trick was to engage the stationary paper with a very fast double tap, then make the hits count on the up-down and later re-engage the paper if needed. That forced the shooter to step out of the comfort zone

and adapt to the situation at hand. We only had two or three similar setups and tried not to overdo it.

Another goal in stage design was to require a large variety of skills from the shooters. This included different shooting positions such as kneeling, prone, from a

moving platform, from stairs, through a door, through a low port, through a window, and so on. We also had many different starting conditions and starting positions such as empty chamber, downloaded, unloaded, ready position, table pick up, seated, lying on an easy chair, holding an activator, from inside a car,



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and wearing a backpack. And, of course, we included many shooting skills such as weak hand, strong hand, very fast close-up shots but also some small target areas at maximum allowed distances, a lot of partially obscured or reduced targets and a number of swingers, up-downs, and movers with different activators.

We got very good feedback on the stages so I think we were able to achieve our goals.

New Rules

We were one of the first major matches using the new rules in Europe. Here are some of the major points we learned:

Horizontal Cover: although we didn't change the stages that were designed and approved long before the rules changes, we could use the new horizontal cover on some

stages. This involved both shooting kneeling over an obstacle as well as shooting crouching, kneeling or prone through a low port. Horizontal cover and engaging near to far makes a lot of sense and eliminates unnecessary discussions that kept occurring in the past.

ESP Modifications: We started to see some fairly unusual modifications such as thumb rests or weird grips and it will take some time to get used to the new very 'liberal' modification rules for the pistol divisions, except for SSP, of course.

Division Capacities: To shoot SSP with 15 rounds was really nice. I also received very good feedback from our CCP shooters, who could finally load to 10 rounds.

Reloading: The new rule that shooters cannot perform a

retention reload behind a vision barrier anymore was not easily understood by many. We had two stages where all targets were in the open but the shooter was guided to move through the stage by vision barriers. We included those stages and the way we would score them explicitly in the shooters briefing in the morning to avoid delays during the day.

AIWB: This carry method was explicitly excluded by range safety rule. The same applied to the new exception for sweeping. Nobody seemed to miss *AIWB* and everybody was happy with not tolerating any sweeping.

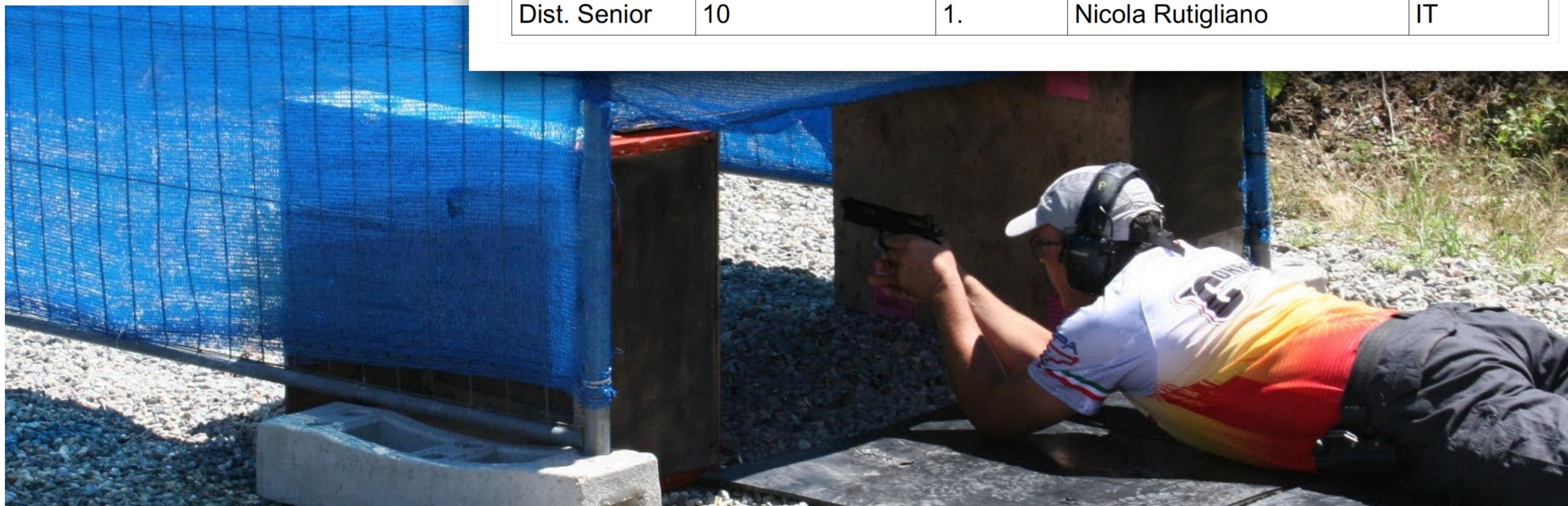
Results

We had close to 200 shooters finishing the

match. The staff was hit by some heavy rain and thunderstorms but the rest of the match was held in optimal condition.

Let me share some of the results and join me in congratulating the division champions, the major category winners and the best Swiss (CH) shooters:

Div/Cat	Total Competitors	Rank	Competitor	Country
BUG	10	1.	Giovanni Funcis	IT
		3.	Patrick Weibel	CH
CCP	19	1.	Lucian Cristea	RO
		3.	Matthias Buch	CH
CDP	16	1.	Thomas Steiger	CH
CO	30	1.	Said Yusuf Çakir	TR
		2.	Roman Berger	CH
ESP	50	1.	Florin Popescu	RO
		18.	Tamas Illes	CH (HU)
REV	3	1.	Fiorluigi Locatelli	IT
SSP	63	1.	Andy Pfenninger	CH
Lady	14	1.	Cristina Cesaroni	IT
		6.	Tanja Seiz	CH
Senior	74	1.	Andy Pfenninger	CH
Dist. Senior	10	1.	Nicola Rutigliano	IT



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Congratulations to all participants and thank you for a great match celebrating our shared passion for sports shooting!

Andy Pfenninger from Zurich, Switzerland, is a professional sports shooting competitor, instructor and coach. In IDPA,

Andy is a master in all divisions and competes successfully in matches around the world.

INTERNATIONAL TROPHY ROOM WINNER'S CIRCLE

Congratulations to everyone that shot the 2022 Swiss International IDPA Championship



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