

At IDPA, we value the passion and dedication of our shooting community and appreciate the discussions that arise from competitive rulings. We understand that in the heat of competition, some calls may be interpreted differently by competitors and staff. Our goal is always to maintain a fair and consistent environment for everyone involved.

To address inconsistent application and ensure clarity in rule enforcement, we are introducing **Rulebook Continuing Education** to provide additional guidance for both competitors and match staff. These supplements will serve as an official resource to reinforce proper stage design, and minimize any ambiguity in match calls. You can find these in the Down Zero Blog/under downloads in your dashboard on IDPA.com.

While no system is perfect; we are committed to refining our processes to provide the best competitive experience possible. We encourage constructive feedback and appreciate the ongoing dialogue that helps us grow as an organization. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you on the range.

Rulebook Continuing Education Vol 1

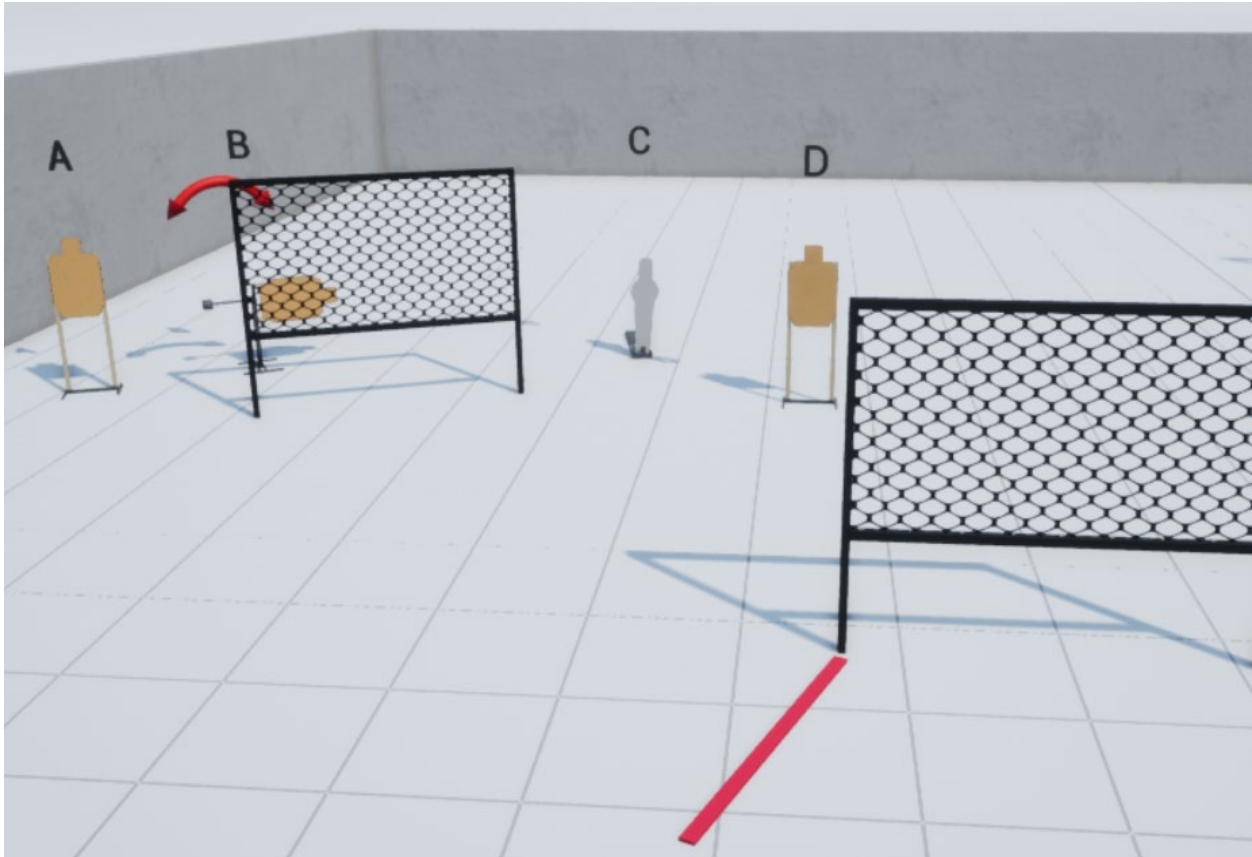
Implementing good stage designs can minimize gray areas and enable more effective rule enforcement. Particularly with the proper application of tactical priority when an activated target comes into play. A commonly referenced rule is **3.2.3** from the **2025 IDPA Rulebook**, which states:

*"When an activator reveals a target of equal or higher **Tactical Priority**, the shooter may interrupt the engagement in any order to engage the target(s) of equal or higher Tactical Priority without retreating."*

Tactical Priority is one of the fundamental principles of IDPA and is used to determine the engagement order of targets in a stage. Targets *in the open*, when there is no cover, must be engaged **near to far**. This means that targets closest to the shooter are engaged first because they are a higher threat than those further down range. Targets that are available from a *position of cover* must be engaged by **slicing the pie**. Shooters engage targets around vertical cover in the order that they are available.

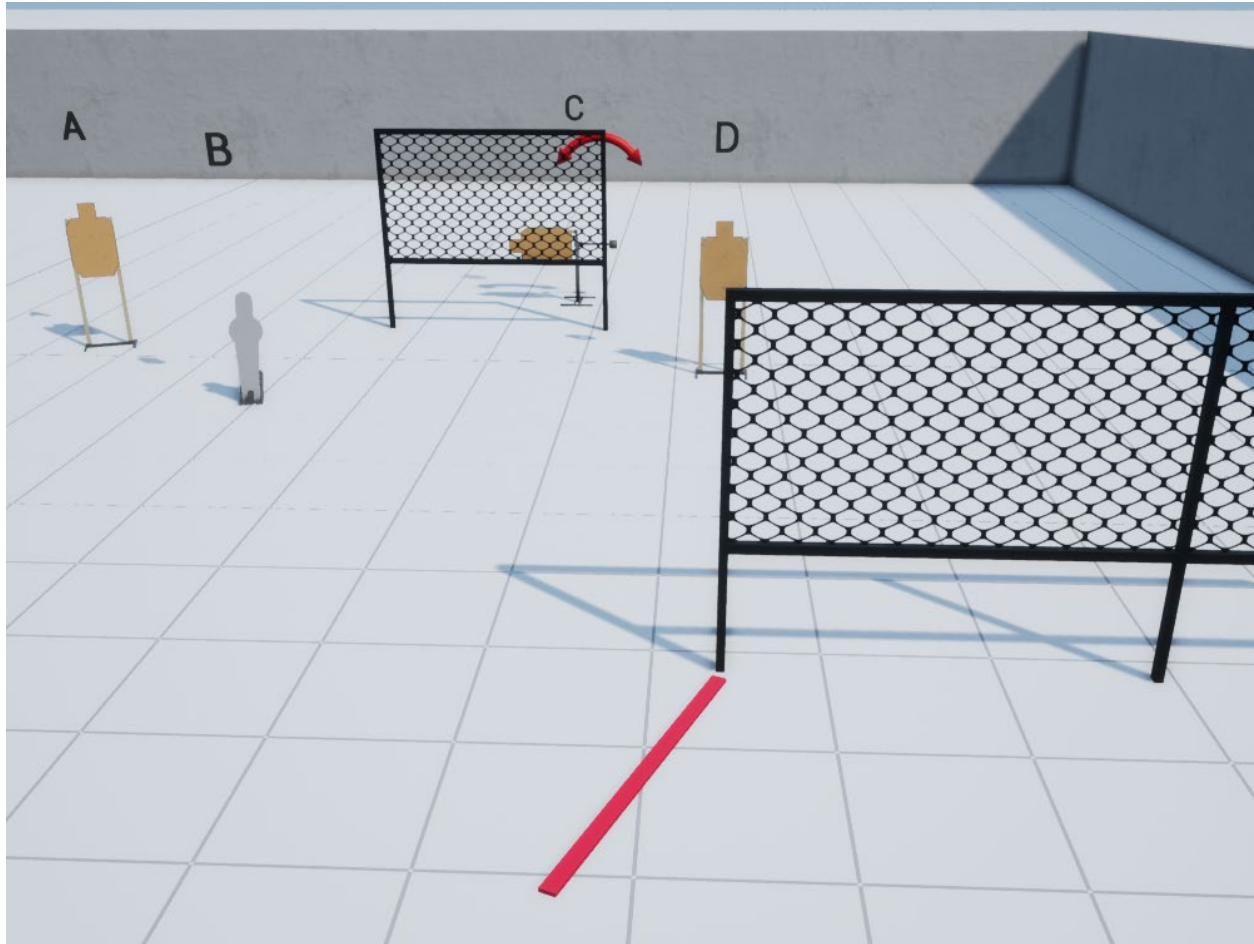
This rule is particularly relevant when using the "slicing the pie" technique. If an activated target is placed **before** the activator, that activated target is now a higher tactical priority so shooters are permitted to engage it immediately before continuing to slice the pie from that position of cover.

See the example below:



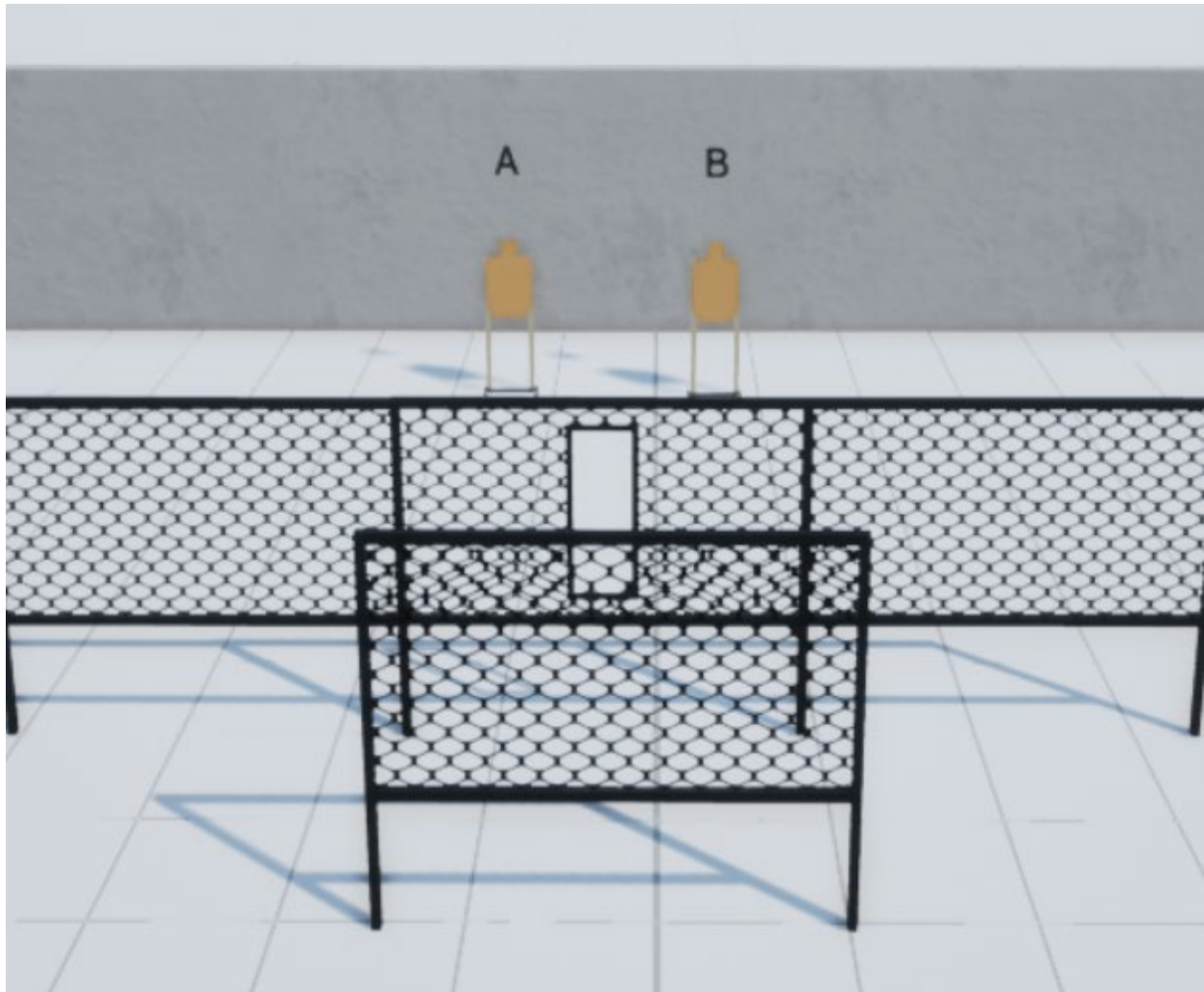
In this scenario, the shooter may engage target A, target C and then either engage target D then target B or interrupt the engagement order and engage target B followed by target D.

In the next example, this rule would **not** apply and the shooter **must** slice the pie in order by shooting targets A, B, C and then D. **Once an activated target has been activated, the shooter cannot skip this target to engage another of lower tactical priority.**



Tactical priority is also key when presented with windows that are less than 24" wide which do not require a fault line. Despite no fault line at these windows, vertical cover is still applied and so the shooter must slice the pie using the wall in which they approached the window.

Please see the example below:



When windows are less than 24” inches wide, it is possible that the shooter may approach from either the left or right side. Positioning fault lines on both sides without overlap can be challenging in such a narrow opening; therefore, they are not required. Nonetheless, the shooter must still use vertical cover provided by the wall depending on which side they approach the window from.

A shooter who approaches from the left side shall slice the pie engaging target B first and then target A while a shooter approaching from the right shall engage target A followed by target B.

Our focus is on creating clear, well-structured stages that challenge our competitors while aligning with IDPA rules. Area and state coordinators routinely collaborate with Match Directors to design stages that reduce these inconsistent calls and ensure fair, consistent rule application. Through these actions, IDPA hopes to reduce procedural traps while promoting a competitive environment that rewards skill and adherence to the rules.