

GENERAL RULES

COMPETITOR

During competitions the following General Rules apply across the disciplines of DTL, ESK, ESP, ABT and their derivatives.

2.1 It is the responsibility of all members of any association recognised by the CPSA to adhere to any unique requirements of their shooting association, as well as ensuring that they are conversant with the rules contained herein.

2.2 Every competitor is required to acquaint themselves with the rules insofar as they apply to competitors. By entering the competition, competitors thereby agree to submit to any penalty that may be incurred through failure to comply with the rules or with the Referee's decisions.

DULY NOTIFIED

2.3 A competitor is "Duly Notified" to compete when their name is called out by a Referee, Scorer or other person authorised to do so. If a competitor is absent after being called, the Referee shall call the name on the card loudly three times equally spaced within one minute. If the competitor is still not present they will be "Declared Absent" and will not be allowed to join the squad during that round. See Penalties - Declared Absent (rule 2.5) and Technical Rules for Sporting.

PENALTIES

2.4 Competitors shall be at the firing mark when DULY NOTIFIED, and take sufficient cartridges to complete each stage. Any Competitor failing to take enough cartridges to complete the round/stand will incur a one-target penalty (three points in DTL) on each occasion.

DECLARED ABSENT

2.5 If a Competitor is declared absent, they will be fined two targets (6 points in DTL) by the Jury and given the opportunity to shoot the remainder of the targets in/on that round/stand at the Jury's discretion.

TIME LIMITS

2.6 All competitors must call for their target within 10 seconds of the Referee acknowledging that shooting may commence. Competitors failing to call within 10 seconds will be warned on the first occasion and a one-target penalty for each subsequent occurrence shall be imposed.

2.7 A competitor who is not present when their name is called in accordance with "Duly Notified" for a "Shoot Off" shall be "Declared Absent" and lose by default.

CODES of CONDUCT

2.8 All competitors will conform to the Dress and Disciplinary Codes of Conduct of the CPSA where applicable.

SHOOTING STATION

2.9 Competitors must shoot only from the designated firing mark with both feet entirely within the boundary of the shooting station, at the designated clay target(s) in flight, and will not shoot at or "sight" any birds, beasts, other objects, or other competitors' clay targets. The gun position is optional prior to firing, but at the point of firing the gun must be seen to be in the shoulder. (See rule 2.42 for penalty)

FOOT FAULT

2.10 Competitors must stand with both feet entirely within the boundary of the shooting station whilst calling for and shooting at any target(s). Failure to do so will incur a warning by the Referee in the first instance and a deduction of one target (three points DTL) for the second and any subsequent offences within each stage or stand.

2.11 In the case of squaddled disciplines, competitors shall remain on the final firing mark or range until all the competitors in the squad have completed the final stage.

SCORECARDS

2.12 All competitors are obliged to take good care of their individual or squad score cards, if handed to them at the time of entry.

2.13 Competitors must return all/any cards to the organisers whether they have completed the course or not.

Penalties for non-return of scorecards by individuals are as follows:

- a) 1st Offence: A letter will be sent reminding the member/ground of the requirement to submit score cards.
- b) 2nd Offence: A written warning and listing on the CPSA website and in Pull! magazine for a period of 3 months, pending return of the scorecard.
- c) 3rd Offence within a three-year period: The following sanctions will be applied to any member guilty of not returning his/her scorecard for a third time within three years:
 - i) De-classified from competition membership for 6 months. Only allowed to shoot targets only. Not eligible to win anything, including county or regional championships (the member's County and Regional Committee will also be informed).
 - ii) Not allowed to enter Major championships that year.
 - iii) Not eligible for listing in the Top 20 rankings
 - iv) Not allowed to drop to a lower class.
- d) Continued and persistent offending could result in suspension from membership.

Shooting Grounds that are complicit in allowing this conduct to occur will also be penalised as follows:

- a) 1st Offence: A letter will be sent reminding the member/ground of the requirement to submit score cards.
- b) 2nd Offence: A listing on the CPSA website and in Pull! magazine for a period of 3 months.
- c) 3rd Offence: Continued abuse of this rule may result in further disciplinary action being taken

2.14 Each competitor is entitled (and advised) to inspect the completed scorecard before it is taken for posting to the main scoreboard. No claim for an error on the scorecard can be made beyond this point.

COACHING

2.15 Once an event has commenced, no coaching or tuition from any quarter will be permitted while the competitor is actually on the shooting mark or in the process of completing a round (Penalties 3.20-3.25).

SAFETY

2.16 It is the responsibility of the user of any shotgun to behave in a safe and sportsman like manner at all times.

2.17 Competitors must always treat every gun as if it is loaded.

2.18 Guns must be kept open and unloaded at all times, except when on the shooting mark, and permission has been given to load by the Referee.

2.19 Semi-automatics and Pump-action guns are to be carried with the breech open, or flagged, and the muzzle pointing straight up in the air. Always check that the barrels are clear before commencing shooting.

2.20 Guns are only to be loaded when a competitor is on the shooting mark, and then only with the barrels pointing out over the shooting range.

2.21 Before turning from the firing mark at the cessation of shooting, competitors must remove any cartridge case or unfired cartridge from the gun. Those using Semi-automatic and Pump-action shotguns should take particular care (see DTL & ABT technical rules relating to walking from stand 5 to stand 1).

2.22 Any violation of rule 2.18/2.19 will in the first instance incur a warning; any further repetition will mean immediate disqualification from the event.

2.23 In the event of a malfunction or misfire, a competitor must keep the gun pointing out over the shooting range until the Referee gives permission to do otherwise.

2.24 Competitors must only use guns that are in proof, and in a safe and sound condition.

2.25 It is recommended that no individual should carry cartridges of different gauges together in their shooting vests or bags.

2.26 It is forbidden to shoot at anything other than clay targets, any violation (Referee's opinion) of this will result in a request to the Jury for immediate disqualification and the offender(s) will be reported to their Governing Body.

BANNED SUBSTANCES

2.27 No alcohol, drugs (as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), specified in the World Anti-Doping Code substances on the WADA prohibited list.) or performance enhancing substances in any form (other than those that have been prescribed) may be consumed by anybody who intends to use a shotgun, either before or during the shooting of any targets for that day.

GUNS

2.28 All types of guns, including "Semi-automatics", "Pump-action", 12bore and smaller may be used for shooting. No handicap will be given to competitors using guns of a calibre smaller than 12bore.

2.29 It is not permitted to use guns with straps or slings (In the case of disabled persons, the Referee's permission may be sought).

2.30 It is not permitted to use guns with devices fitted which have magnifying, light emitting, forward lead displacement properties, recording devices, or give visual enhancement of the target. The use of barrel cameras and similar devices, including head or glasses-mounted cameras in Registered competitions is equally prohibited.

2.31 Changing of guns (or properly functioning parts) between stations within a round/stand is not permitted unless the Referee has accepted a gun malfunction, which cannot be quickly repaired.

It is not permitted to use guns with devices fitted which have magnifying, light emitting, forward lead displacement properties, or give visual enhancement of the target.

2.32 If a gun fails to function and the Referee, on inspection, finds that it is not quickly repairable and that it has not been caused by the shooter, options 2.33 and 2.34 are open to the shooter.

2.33 Use another gun providing one can be secured without delay (time allowance 3 minutes).

2.34 Drop out of the shooting rota (with the Referee's permission) and complete the sequence of targets left on that round/stand at a later time when a vacancy occurs and the Referee gives permission.

2.35 Should the gun be repaired before the end of the round, the shooter may be permitted to rejoin the squad providing the Referee gives permission.

2.36 In other cases of malfunction of either guns or ammunition which result in the shot not leaving the gun at the time of discharge, (provided this is not the 3rd or subsequent malfunction within any one round or stand (sporting)) the target will be declared "No Target" and another target thrown. In the event of such a malfunction the competitor should be instructed to remain in the stand and treat it as a misfire, only opening the gun after twenty seconds and checking the bore(s) for obstruction before proceeding to repeat the target.

2.37 If requested, the Referee may allow competitors to clear their guns (test fire) out over the shooting range providing it is done in a safe manner. This will only be allowed immediately prior to the individual commencement of the competition (or each day of the competition).

2.38 No person other than a Referee or Jury member may handle another competitor's gun and, only then in that person's presence and with their full knowledge. An exception may be made where a competitor's own gun has broken and cannot be repaired within three minutes.

2.39 If a shooter is using a gun with any form of release trigger it is mandatory to notify the Shoot Organiser when booking into a competition that he/she is doing so. The Shoot Organiser must then mark all appropriate scorecards with this fact. The competitor must also notify the referee on every stand or round prior to shooting. Failure to comply on each occasion will result in the loss of one target (3 points DTL).

PORTED BARRELS

2.40 For all CPSA Home disciplines (English Skeet, Skeet Doubles, English Sporting, Sportrap, Down The Line, Single Barrel, Double Rise, Handicap By Distance and Automatic Ball Trap) the use of guns with ported barrels, ventilated or otherwise, choke attachments and recoil reducers in any form are allowed.

GUN POSITION

2.41 Gun position in relation to the shoulder shall be optional when the competitor calls for the target, providing the competitor complies with "shooting position" for that discipline.

PENALTY

2.42 At the point of firing, the gun must be seen to be "in the shoulder". Anyone firing a gun from anywhere but the shoulder will be warned in the first instance and for any subsequent offence, a request will be made by the Referee to the Jury for disqualification of that competitor.

DOUBLE DISCHARGE

2.43 If in the course of shooting at singles or doubles, both shots are discharged simultaneously, the following rules will be applied:-

2.44 The Referee will try to ascertain the reason for the malfunction and make a decision on whether to allow the competitor to continue using that gun on the grounds of safety.

2.45 Following the Referee's decision on the continued use of the gun the target(s) will be declared "No Target" and a new target(s) will be called for and shot at again with the result(s) being scored. (See Malfunctions 2.46)

MALFUNCTIONS

2.46 Competitors are allowed a maximum of two malfunctions (gun or ammunition) in any one round or stand (sporting), whether or not they have changed their gun or ammunition. Any regular target on which any additional malfunction of either gun or ammunition occurs will be declared lost. In all cases when malfunctions/warnings/faults occur, a mark should be made against the competitor's name on the score sheet for later reference.

2.47 See Discipline Concerned for Procedure for Second Barrel Malfunction.

AMMUNITION

2.48 The length of the cartridge, before being fired, is not to exceed the maximum length specified for the discipline being shot. Cartridges must be of normal loading with no internal changes, and shall not exceed 28 grams of shot. (For ISSF and FITASC disciplines different rules apply, see current rulebooks.)

2.49 The shot shall be spherical shot of normal production and no larger than 2.6mm in diameter (English size 6): plated shot may be used.

2.50 Home load, black powder and tracer cartridges may not be used. The Referee may at any time take unfired cartridge(s) out of a shooter's gun for examination and analysis. Any competitor found using prohibited cartridge(s) will be liable to disqualification.

PROTESTS

2.51 A fee of £50 must accompany protests submitted in writing to a member of the Jury, (this is reduced to £25 for Regional & County shoots). If the Jury upholds the protest, then the fee shall be returned. If not upheld the fee is retained by the shooting ground or the CPSA if a major championship. A Referee shall not be interfered with or interrupted unnecessarily.

2.52 If a competitor disagrees with the Referee's decision regarding a shot, protest should be made immediately by raising the arm and saying, "Protest" or "Appeal".

2.53 The Referee shall then interrupt the shooting and make a decision.

2.54 It is forbidden to pick up a target from the field in order to find out whether it has been hit or not.

2.55 If the Jury finds the protest justified, it can give the Referee direction for future decisions or appoint a new Referee. The Jury may alter the decision, PROVIDING THIS DOES NOT CONCERN A DECISION ON "HIT OR LOST TARGETS" AND "NO TARGETS". On these points, the Referee's decision is final.

2.56 If the competitor is of the opinion that the score read aloud when the round is finished is incorrect, they should protest verbally to the Referee immediately. The Referee shall then, as soon as possible, examine the score sheet and announce the decision.

2.57 If the competitor protesting is not satisfied with the decision, a short written protest accompanied by the fee (determined and posted by the Jury) shall be made to the Jury. The Competitor(s) concerned will then be advised of the decision arrived at by the Jury. No further complaints regarding scores will be entertained after this point.

2.58 If a competitor, or Official, observes anything that does not conform to these rules, they must not interfere with the shooting but shall report their finding to the Referee or a member of the Jury. Appropriate action shall then be taken.

2.59 ALL QUERIES AND PROTESTS SHOULD BE MADE IN A QUIET AND ORDERLY MANNER.

JURY

2.60 A Jury consisting of no less than five persons shall be appointed by the Organiser, the protest fee will be set and a notice displayed at the entry desk giving this information before shooting starts at all registered events.

2.61 The role of the Jury is that of overseeing the running of the event. They must check at the beginning of a competition and when they feel necessary, reset the targets as per the Technical Rules of that discipline. (Target distances angles & trajectories for all disciplines shall be set in calm conditions when ever possible.) To carry out the duties and responsibilities allocated to them as per the rulebook for the discipline concerned and to make all decisions directly relating to the fairness of the competition.

- 2.62 Whenever possible the appointed persons shall be experienced in the roles of CPSA Juries and have a thorough knowledge of all technical aspects and rules of the discipline being shot.
- 2.63 The Jury must include the shoot organiser or their representative, a senior representative of the shooters and, if possible, a qualified referee and/or the most experienced person available.
- 2.64 A minimum quorum of 3 Jury members will be required for all decisions. Registered events must always comply with all rules and regulations in every respect.
- 2.65 Only the Jury may disqualify a competitor or deduct targets from a competitor's final score as a result of a penalty decision being upheld.
- 2.66 Any Competitor (except day pass holders) can be called upon at any registered event to serve on a Jury, and must be willing to fulfil the duties of a Juror if so requested.

HEARING/EYE PROTECTION

- 2.67 The wearing of a recognised and purpose made hearing protection product is compulsory and must be worn on or in both ears by all persons taking part in registered events while in the act of shooting, refereeing, scoring, trapping, officiating in any capacity, or spectating near the shooting stands.
- 2.68 The appropriate wearing of adequate and effective visible eye protection by competitors, scorers, trappers, officials and spectators at, or around any shooting position at all registered events is mandatory. It is recommended that this protection be to a minimum standard of BS EN 166:2002.
- 2.69 In the event of a shooter not wearing protective glasses/ear defenders they will be given three minutes to obtain a pair. If they fail to obtain glasses/ear defenders within three minutes they will be stood down from the round, or stand, and allowed to shoot later, with glasses/ear defenders, but with a penalty of three targets deducted.
- 2.70 Referees and Jury members have the power and the responsibility to stop anyone stepping on to a shooting stand or standing by, or officiating in an event, unless they are seen to be appropriately wearing some standard form of proprietary hearing and eye protection.
- 2.71 Ground Owners/Managers/Organisers must comply with everything required by the Health & Safety at Work Act and must instruct those who refuse to comply to leave the ground.

TIE-BREAK

- 2.72 The winner of any tie-break will be entitled to all articles, category and/or trophy prizes relating to that position in the event. Where there is a tie-break for trophies or badges, any cash prizes relating to that position in a competition will go with the trophy or badge.
- 2.73 Unless there are any titles or trophies at stake, in which case a tie-break will determine all the prizes, any further cash prizes shall be awarded on an 'add and divide' basis.

TEAM-TIES

Team Ties vary dependent on discipline. Refer to the discipline rules for more information.

UNFINISHED COMPETITION

2.74 Should any competition fail to be completed due to extreme weather, darkness or major equipment failure, then the competition may be curtailed or suspended.

2.75 If curtailed, the award of prizes will be decided at some point in the competition equitable with fair play. It is recommended that a proportional refund is made to each competitor.

2.76 If suspended, the date, time and the terms under which the competition shall continue must be announced immediately the competition is suspended. Any future date must not be more than four weeks from the date of the original competition.

2.77 Any competitor who fails to attend on the new date set for the postponed competition will forfeit all rights and standing in the competition. The organisers should consider giving a refund of a proportion of the entry fee to any such competitor.

COMMENCEMENT AFTER TRAP BREAKDOWNS

2.78 On all occasions after a trap breakdown has occurred the competition shall re-commence from the point at which this happened. Under no circumstance shall competitors be allowed to shoot the stage, in total, again. Competitors, however, have the right to see a target(s), prior to re-commencement.

2.79 Competitors may ask for a trap to be cleared after a minimum of two concurrent trap malfunctions have resulted in the declaration of a 'No Target'.

BROKEN TARGET

2.80 A "Broken Target" is a target that has been broken by any means other than having been hit by shot.

STEEL SHOT

2.81 The International Clay Target Shooting Council has agreed that where steel shot is being used there shall be a maximum shot size of 4 (as against lead shot size 6) when used at a Registered or Home International event.