



NSW Clay Target Association

Trap Etiquette for All Shooters

- You must dress in a clean, neat, and tidy manner at all times (bare feet, thongs, sandals or other open shoes are not permitted)
- You must, at all times remain alert that when shooting, do not talk while on the shooting lanes (unless to address the referee directly) as this could be a distraction to the other shooters.
- Your gun must be open and always unloaded and must only be loaded and closed when at the firing line, facing forward and it's your turn to shoot.
- When competing, the shooter will not insert a cartridge in their gun until they are on their shooting station. All cartridges must be removed from a gun upon the red signal at any trap house, or if any official approaches the trap houses on that layout.
- Whilst on your shooting position, within the marked shooting area on your lane and distance, you must remain wholly within that position when firing at the target, not keeping wholly within the position may incur a warning and if repeated a lost target at the referee's discretion.
- Do not move off your lane until the next shooter has shot and opened their gun, then move halfway and wait for the shooter in the next lane to move before occupying that position.
- If there is no one in the next lane, you may proceed to the next firing position.
- All guns must remain fully open until the result of the previous target has been called. The shooter must immediately open the gun upon having fired at the target. They must not move, attempt to turn around or move back up their shooting lane until their gun has been opened.
- After each attempt at a target your gun must be opened before moving to the next position, your gun must be unloaded before moving off lane 5 or turning around to look at the referee and or receive instructions.
- When moving from lane 5 to lane 1, your gun must be open and unloaded before turning clockwise to leave lane 5, and you must walk in front of the referee without obstructing their view.
- Firing the gun in any position other than orthodox, i.e., to the shoulder, is prohibited (with the exception of a physical disability). Any shooter firing a gun from any position other than orthodox will be reprimanded and can incur a suspension by the Club management and reported in writing to the ACTA Board – a minimum penalty of three months suspension can apply if the board deems so.
- Once you have shot and opened the gun, you should put the spent cartridge or cartridges in the bins provided. do not throw the spent cartridges in the bin if the shooter in the next lane has mounted their gun, wait till after they have shot.
- Shooters experiencing a misfire or malfunction must remain with their gun pointed in the direction of the trap house until the referee arrives to adjudicate. See Rule 1.19.14.
- In Handicap events, each competitor's gun must remain fully open until all persons on the shooting tracks have withdrawn to a handicap mark at least equal to the shooter at the back marker.

- If you are shooter 1 and are in a squad of 6 shooters, you will complete the round on lane 5, once completing your last shot move back to the 18-metre mark, make sure your gun is unloaded and wait for all other shooters to finish before moving off to check your scores, leaving the trap could incur a disqualification.
- When you have finished your round, **Make sure your gun is empty and open**, you are not permitted to leave the shooting lanes until the last shooter has completed their round and the referee has stated that all competitors unload their guns and check their scores.
- On completing the round, you **must** check your scores before leaving the trap, if any discrepancy it must be addressed at the time and if it can't be resolved to be referred to the shoot marshal.
- All guns carried on or around the shooting ground must be held in a position of safety, with the breech open and unloaded at all times. Gun sleeves and slings are not permitted in any ACTA discipline.
- Shooting on the grounds at any place other than the firing point at legitimate targets only is prohibited except where a pattern plate is installed, and then only with permission of club management.
- Release trigger guns shall not be left in gun racks or in positions where they can be handled but shall be constantly under the control and supervision of the user and shall be labelled as per Rule 1.4(b)(iii).
- A release trigger is not to be set until the gun is mounted to the shoulder. Failure to comply will incur a warning in the first instance and disqualification from the event for a second offence.
- All reloads must comply with shotshell component manufacturer's recommended specifications. Shooters exceeding the recommended data shall be deemed to be in breach of the safety regulations.
- Any shooter knowingly breaching any safety rule other than 1.1(d) will be immediately suspended by the club management for one (1) calendar month pending an investigation into their actions by the relevant state association and the ACTA must be notified of all breaches and responses.
- Any shooter committing an unsportsmanlike or unsafe act on the shooting ground shall be liable to suspension or disqualification.
- Any shooter deliberately firing at any fauna on any shooting ground shall be immediately suspended by the club management and shall remain suspended until the incident is dealt with by their state or national association.
- Mobile phones or like devices must not be audible during competition.
- A shooter may not wear any headphones to listen to music if it impedes that shooter from clearly hearing the referee's instructions.
- Hearing and eye protection is strongly recommended for all ACTA disciplines whilst present at the firing point or trap area.
- A gun must not be used that will accept more than one gauge of cartridge at the same time and a gun must not be loaded with different gauge ammunition, maximum shot allowed is No.6, but check with the club and grounds that you are shooting at as some clubs have restrictions to no larger than 7 or 7 1/2 shot.
- Clubs are encouraged to provide gun racks where the guns can be supervised in the rack in the open position. All shooters must always remain vigilant, not just for themselves but also for their fellow competitors.

All shooters need to be aware of everyone around them, and if they see another shooter not complying with the safety regulations, they must either bring it to that shooter's attention, the referees' attention, and the shoot marshals' attention. Do not be afraid to intervene when safety is at stake.

Only by working together we will keep our sport safe!