

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SPORTING CLAYS

Overview/Description of Discipline

Sporting Clays

Sporting clays is often described as “golf with a shotgun” and is one of the fastest growing shooting sports in the United States. Sporting clays is an outgrowth of skeet and trap which are shooting sports with repeatable target presentation. Sporting clays attraction is that it simulates the unpredictability of live-quarry shooting, offering variations in trajectory, speed, angle, elevation, distance, target size and target type. The first sporting clays match was held in 1980. Other shooting sports have branched off of sporting clays such as 5-stand, F.I.T.A.S.C, and super sport.

5-Stand

5-Stand is a compact sporting clays course that consists of four fixed traps (high/ low house of skeet and tower trap) and four movable traps, one of which is a rabbit presentation. There are five fixed shooting stations in which a single bird, two pairs which could be report pairs, true pairs or one report and one true pair. After all the shooters compete shooting the five birds at their respective stand they rotate to the next stand. A round of 5-Stand consists of shooting five birds at five different stands for a total of 25 birds. 5-5-Stand can be very challenging since no two of the 25 birds shot are exactly the same.

Skeet

Skeet is a game of 25 shots with birds thrown from two trap houses (low house and high house) which are 44 yards apart. There are eight shooting stations with a single bird from each house being shot at each of stations along with a true pair shot at stations 1, 2, 6, and 7. There is one optional shot to re-shoot the first missed bird.

Trap

Due to space requirements needed for a regular trap field trap, shooting at the Ft. White range is limited to shooting at a distance of 16 yards from the trap house. A total of five shots, a single and two report pairs are shot from each pad for a total of 25 shots per round of trap. At present there is little to no interest in shooting trap.

Equipment Requirements

- **Shotguns:** One properly working shotgun, 12 gauge or smaller. Over/under or SxS (double barrels) are preferred from a safety perspective; semi-automatic or pump action are permitted.
- **Ammunition:** Shot size 7 ½, 8, 8 ½, or 9. No steel shots, no loads greater than 1 1/8 ounce of shot.
- **Targets:** Single and double clay targets. Double targets may be report pairs or true pairs. Targets may be standard size, mid, mini, battue, or rabbit.
- **Ear & Eye Protection:** Must be worn at all times when shooting is in progress.
- **Clothing/Costuming:** No special requirements.

National Affiliate Organization NSCA

Rules Observed in Addition to FWGC NRA & NSCA

Special local rules

- All FWGC Range Rules will be observed.
- The Match Director or Assistant Match Director (approved trapper) will act as range officer.

Overall safety Rules

- Spectators must wear eye and ear protection and must remain clear of the firing line while the range is “hot”. Children must be supervised at all times.
- Spectators are not allowed at a shooting gate when a shoot is in progress.

Sporting Clays & Skeet Safety Rules

- Eye and Ear Protection - All persons must wear some form of eye and ear protection when range is “hot”.
- All shotguns shall be carried in a manner to avoid pointing the muzzle directly at anyone. No gun shall be loaded until the shooter is on the shooting station. The loaded gun shall be kept pointed in a direction that will not endanger the lives of shooters, field personnel or spectators.
- When not on the shooting station, the gun shall be carried with breech open and empty. Pumps and semiautos will have the bolt open. Fixed breech (double barrels including over/unders and side-by-sides) will be broken open. Unloaded doubles or over/unders may be closed when placed in gun racks.
- Shot size limited to 7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2, or 9. No steel shot or shot loads greater than 1 1/8 ounce.
- When the shooter is on the shooting station ready to shoot and a delay occurs, i.e. such as equipment breakdown, the gun shall be opened and all shells extracted.
- The loading of more than two shells in the gun shall not be allowed at any time. No one will be allowed to load two shells to shoot their last singles target on any skeet station.
- Any shooter whose gun accidentally discharges twice within one round for mechanical reasons shall be required to change guns or, if time permits, have his/her gun repaired, before continuing to shoot the round or subsequent rounds.
- In the interest of safety, interference and time, empty shells may not be picked up from the ground during an active shoot.
- No spectators are allowed on the skeet/trap range during a shoot.
- The use of any drug, legal or illegal and including alcohol, is prohibited, with the exception of prescription or non-prescription over-the-counter medications that do not impair a shooter's or referee's ability to perform safely.

Rules Specific to 5-Stand

- Shotgun must be open and empty while changing stands.
- Shooters may not leave their shooting station until instructed to do so by the trapper or until the last shooter has fired his/her last shot.
- During a shoot when in the shooting station, break action shotguns may have shells in the chambers but the action has to be open until their turn to shoot. If a member is shooting a semi-auto or pump shotgun the firearm should be unloaded and the action open until their turn to shoot.

- Shooters may only load gun while in shooting stand in ready position.
- Shooter must remain behind front opening of shooting stand during an active shoot.
- No chokes may be changed after the round has begun.
- Target sequence menu cards must be posted.
- All shooting must require the shooter (except wheelchair shooters) to engage all targets from within the stand, in the standing position.

Firearms

- **Handling:** The entire range is a “cold range” unless deemed otherwise by the trapper working the match. During a shoot, firearms are to remain unloaded with breaches or actions open and muzzles down between stations and while transporting to and from vehicles. While at the shooting station muzzles will be within a 170 degree cone related to the projected path of the target. During 5-stand shoots guns will be pointed out the window of the shooting station except during changing of shooting stations.
- **Storage:** Firearms will be stored in the shooter’s vehicle, gun case, or on the provided vertical racks when not in use.
- **Loading Area:** Firearms will be loaded at the shooting station only. Under no condition are more than 2 rounds to be loaded at any time.
- **Unloading Areas:** Firearms will be unloaded before leaving any shooting station (“Gate”) or in case of skeet the concrete shooting pad.
- **“Safe Area”:** Gun malfunction will be dealt with before leaving the shooting stand or gate.

Match Information

Prerequisite Training Required: All new shooters should be familiar with the operations of their firearm and will have basic safety rules explained to them before the match begins.

Match Director (trapper) Is in charge and has the final word regarding issues of safety and competition.

Shooting Categories: All shooters in same category.

Shooting Commands

- **“Cold range”** Range officer indicates that entire firing line is cold. No guns may be touched and breaches or actions are open.
- **“Hot range”** Range officer indicate that the firing line is “hot” and shooting may begin.
- **“Pull”** Shooter is at the gate and has indicated he is ready to have trap operator release the clay(s) according to the stage sequence.
- **“Cease fire”** Can be called by any shooter. All guns will be unloaded with breaches or actions open.
- **“No bird”** Can be called by trapper or shooter if the wrong bird is thrown or trap malfunctions. The bird or pair will be done over.

Starting Position: Shooting gate in sporting clays, shooting pad in skeet/trap, or 5-stand numbered station.

Firing Position: Same as starting position.

Scoring Procedures: Total clays hit out of each round.

Awards: Certificate awarded for each member who shoots 25 straight, 50 straight 75 straight, etc.

Safety Violations

- **Major:** Accidental discharge will result in match disqualification. A FWGC Incident Report will be prepared by the Match Director and submitted to the Chief Range Office.
- **Minor:** Handling of firearms while range is “cold” may result in stage disqualification. Moving between stations with a loaded gun or the action closed.

Incident Reports Will be filed on the FWGC provided form for all injuries and all match disqualifications.

Shoots and schedules

Regular Shoots

- Every Wednesday December-April at 1:00PM, May-November 9:00AM
- Every Saturday December-April at 1:00PM, May-November 9:00AM, Saturday shoots maybe canceled if there are less than four members who wish to shoot.

Optional Shoots

- **Member Shoot:** Requires approval of match director.
- **Non-Member Shoot:** Requires approval of match director and the board of directors. (Example Boy Scout shoot and Ft. White Quarterback Club.)

Practice

- Requires a minimum of two people, one of whom must be a FWGC approved trap operator.
- Practice will be accomplished using FWGC Range Rules.
- Not necessary to keep scores but trapper will provide information on a score sheet which will include the following: date of practice, list of shooters, number of rounds shot or number of clays shot, and provide the same fee as a regular shoot.

Fees and Sign In

- \$5.00 per round of 25 targets for regular shoots.
- \$5.00 per 25 birds for practice.
- Optional shoots, fee to be determined on a individual basis.

Emergency Procedures

There is a telephone in the target stand shed at the rifle range which can be used to call 911 or use your cell phone. There is a first aid kit in the trailer. In the event of an emergency requiring police, fire equipment, or an ambulance, the Match Director or trapper will designate someone to tend the gate and direct emergency vehicles to the injury sight. A FWGC Incident Report will be completed and filed for all injuries.

References

For specific regulations on Sporting Clays, Skeet, or 5-Stand please check the National Sporting Clays Association website: <http://www.nssa-nsca.org>.

Approved Trappers

Skeet and Trap only:

Frank Kodl, John Vickers, and Buddy Register

Skeet, Trap, and 5-Stand

Joe Hinkle, Tracy Philman, Kim Gill, Dan Decker, and Dale Toungman