

Be Safe When Shooting Trap

Trap shooting, a popular sport enjoyed by enthusiasts around the world, combines skill, precision, and focus. WCSC has a trap field to the south of the club house and most Saturdays when the weather is nice, a few club members will enjoy a around or two. It's a great shotgun sport to get started on or to practice your skills for the field.

If you're not familiar with it, trap is shot from five stations behind the "trap" where clay pigeons are launched away from the shooters. The trap oscillates, so the exact direction of the clay will be somewhere in a 45-degree range. It can be a great deal of fun, especially if you have some other folks to shoot with.

As with any shooting sport, safety is critical. Here are a few things to remember on the trap field.

We start with the 4 Universal Rules of Firearm Safety.

Always Treat Firearms as if They Are Loaded: This cardinal rule applies at all times, regardless of whether the firearm is visibly unloaded or not. Treating every firearm with respect and caution helps instill a mindset of responsibility and awareness.

Keep the Muzzle Pointed in a Safe Direction: Whether on the shooting range or in transit, the muzzle of the firearm must always be pointed in a direction where accidental discharge would cause no harm. This simple yet crucial practice prevents accidents in case of an unexpected discharge.

Finger Off the Trigger Until Ready to Shoot: The trigger should only be engaged when the shooter is fully prepared to fire. Keeping the finger off the trigger until the moment of intended action minimizes the risk of accidental firing due to involuntary movements or misjudgments.

Know Your Target and What Lies Beyond: Before taking a shot, it's essential to identify the target clearly and be aware of the surrounding environment. Understanding the trajectory of the shot and potential obstacles ensures that no unintended targets are hit and minimizes the risk of collateral damage.

Also, always wear appropriate safety gear: Protective gear, such as ear and eye protection, **is not optional; it's a necessity.** Properly fitted hearing and eye protection safeguard against noise-induced hearing loss and potential eye injuries from flying debris or spent shells.

A few specific rules for trap shooting. Club rule for no shot larger than 7.5 applies to trap. As you take turns calling for and shooting birds, keep your guns action open, and the gun unloaded, until it is your turn. While waiting your turn, remember to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

When changing stations, again, make sure the gun is unloaded and action if open. Pay attention as you walk as not to trip and potentially clog your muzzle.

Before or after a round, if you help open or close the trap house **NEVER** walk in front of the trap and always power the trap off before reloading clays.

In conclusion, safety is the cornerstone of trap shooting. Every participant, from beginners to seasoned veterans, bears the responsibility of upholding strict safety standards to ensure a secure and enjoyable experience for all. By adhering to fundamental safety practices, respecting firearms, and prioritizing caution, we can foster a culture of safety that preserves the integrity and longevity of this beloved sport. Remember, in trap shooting, safety always comes first.