



MANDATORY SHOTGUN SAFETY RULES

NEVER POINT YOUR BARRELS AT ANYONE

Treat every gun as if it is loaded and with the utmost respect at all times. **NEVER** point your shotgun barrels at anyone, irrespective of whether the shotgun is 'broken' or not. This is grounds for instant disqualification.



The only **exception** to the above is when **testing gun fit** and eye position. This must be done **away** from other people, the gun must be **shown to be empty** to those doing the testing and the **shotgun pointing down range or at a pattern board**. **Never** test gun fit or eye position in the club house or in any vehicle parking area!

HOW TO WALK OFF THE FIRING POINT

Keep the muzzles pointing up the range at all times until you have opened and emptied your gun. Then (and only then) you may turn around and walk off the firing point.



GUN MALFUNCTION - Keep the muzzles pointing up the range until the malfunction is identified and corrected. (If upon firing the gun the cartridge makes an unusual report, then before reloading you should check the barrels are free from obstruction). **NEVER, EVER** turn around with the barrels pointing away from the safe firing zone.



DO NOT SHOOT BIRDS OR ANIMALS

DO NOT point or fire your gun at anything other than a clay target (i.e. do not point or fire your gun at any other inanimate or animate object). Failure to observe this rule will lead to disqualification and immediate expulsion from the shooting grounds/club.



NEVER CARRY YOUR SHOTGUN WITH THE BARRELS POINTING BACKWARDS!

Never carry your shotgun with the barrels pointing **backwards** - people walking behind you **cannot** see that the gun is empty and you are in **danger** of damaging both your barrels (on unseen obstacles) and other shooters!



When carrying a gun it should be **open** and **empty** at all times. **Pump action** and **semi-automatic** guns should be carried with bolts back, chambers and magazines empty, **barrels pointing upward**, breech forward.

TRAP : WHY BREAK, UNLOAD AND CHANGE?

In Trap your shotgun can be open and loaded when waiting for your turn to shoot **BUT** when moving from stand to stand, you **MUST** unload your shotgun before moving. That's why the DTL and ATA Trap umpire says 'BREAK, UNLOAD AND CHANGE'.

ALCOHOL & GUNS

Handling firearms whilst drinking alcohol is **ILLEGAL** - **absolutely NO DRINKING ALCOHOL** until you have finished your day's shooting. When you have finished shooting, shotguns must be unloaded, placed in a shooting bag/case and packed away. Do not bring uncased shotguns into the clubhouse.



MOVING FROM STAND TO STAND AND SQUAD ETIQUETTE

Move from stand to stand as detailed in the relevant discipline rules. E.g. in Trap, stay on the stand until told to move by the umpire. In Trench, wait for the shooter after you to shoot, then move to the next stand and wait for that shooter to move, then get on the stand. And, as a point of **ETIQUETTE**, please remain with the squad/on the line until **ALL** competitors have finished shooting.

Safe Firing Direction = legal target flight line

ANGLE OF FIRING
When on a shooting stand, your shotgun should be pointing down range at all times. The shotgun should not be swung beyond the angle of firing.

GUNS AND THE CLUBHOUSE

Guns should be **UNLOADED**, bagged, cased or on a gun rack. Do not bring uncased/unbagged shotguns into the club house.

IS YOUR SHOTGUN SAFE?

All guns should be : (a) "nitro-proofed", (b) "in proof" AND (c) in safe and sound condition to shoot.



Before loading your gun with one or two cartridges, check that the barrels are free from obstruction and that they are pointing up the range.



When using a gun you should have on your person only those cartridges which are of the correct gauge and chamber length to match the gun.

Original clipart courtesy of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association, England : www.cpsa.co.uk

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

YOU ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOUR OF YOUR GUESTS AND ANIMALS WHEN ON THE SHOOTING GROUND

If you see anyone breaching these rules, you must **immediately** either inform the shooter of their error, notify the umpire, notify a member of the jury or notify the club management.

THANK YOU FOR BEING SAFE!



The Clay Target Shooting Association of South Africa

Est. 1954 : The governing body for Clay Target Shooting in South Africa

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