

Trap Shooting Etiquette

- **Safety** is our number one priority here at CSA. The shotgun action must remain open and the gun must be unloaded until you are at the line ready to shoot. Acceptable, safe directions for your muzzle are straight down, up or downrange (north). You must wear eye and ear protection anytime you are on the range – the range is anywhere north of the fence.
- **Shoot then Drink** – Save the heavy drinking for after the shooting is done.
- **Be ready** – On busy days, if other shooters are waiting for a turn to go out, don't take a long time to get ready. **Be prepared** to start once you are assigned a field. If you are signed up to shoot, **pay attention** to the trap workers so you can hear when your team is called.
- **Never point your barrel at someone.** Break actions should be carried pointing down. When you are not at a shooting position, your gun needs to be visibly **clear and unloaded**.
- A **shell bag** or shooting vest will make it more enjoyable while you are shooting trap. It is much easier to reach in your pocket/ bag than it is to bend over and pick up a shell out of a box on the ground. This is **required** during league. We have a few pouches to loan out.
- "**One in the gun**" – With the exception of doubles, trap is shot using only one shell at a time. Don't load up your magazine as we may need to call clear and safe at times.
- "**Load, pull, shoot**" – the person at post 1 will **close** their action, **call** for the bird and then **shoot**. Then the person at post 2 will then do the same thing, and this same process will continue through post 5. It is **poor etiquette** to close and/or shoulder your shotgun before your turn.
- **If the scorer calls a loss**, and you think there was a chip, you must speak up immediately. The scorer will ask if someone else saw it. Good trap shooters will watch others shoot and should be able to back up your claim. Once the next post is started, the chance to challenge is lost.
- We do not allow you to '**skip**' birds. If you call for a target, you must attempt to shoot at it. Letting it go and calling for another is not allowed at our club. The only exceptions are broken targets out of the trap house (no-birds) or a misfiring shell- and we reserve the right to check for a dimpled primer. **Lying** about your safety or 'shell was in the wrong barrel' is not an alternative. It will count as a loss. Multiple events may result in DQ.

- **Sometimes** the voice activated system will accidentally throw a bird before you call it. If this is the case, pause to let the machine reset, then call for your bird. The can cozies on the mics are there to reduce the chance of this happening.
- When you are at the line, keep your activities simple, any **movement can be distracting** to the next shooter. This includes excessively moving around, picking up hulls, adjusting your mic, complaining about your misses or starting to rotate before the scorer calls for it. This will be enforced during league.
- If you use a semi-automatic shotgun, invest in a **shell catcher** or a rubber band to prevent your empty shells from hitting the person next to you. If you use a pump-action shotgun, be gentle when **ejecting** your empty shells, so they don't hit the person next to you.
- Also, if you use a pump or semi-auto, pay attention to when you close the action. The sound produce may call a bird, and will be disturbing to whomever is shooting. Best practice is wait to close you action until the moment the shooter before you has fired.
- When **changing posts**, make sure your gun is unloaded, action open and pointed in a safe direction (see the first bullet point). Never point your gun to either side while moving. Walk behind the other shooters if you are changing from post 5 to post 1.
- **Pick up your empty shells**, but wait until the round is over. You should not be bending over with a gun in your hands. There is a trough by the building to discard empties if you don't keep/reload them.