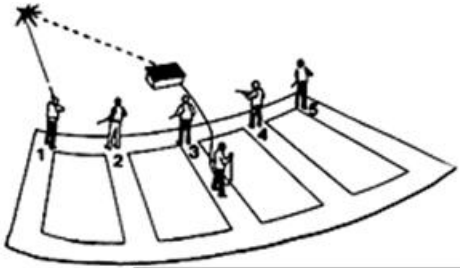




## The Game of Trap Shooting



Trap is the most popular shotgun shooting sport in America with some 55,000 active shooters that shoot an estimated 82.5 million registered targets per year and many more targets are shot at practice. There are three basic types of trapshooting—the 16-yard event, handicap and doubles.

**Shooting order for all Trap Games:** There are 5 shooting stations on a trap field – 5 shooters can shoot on each squad, one shooter per station. The Shooter on the far left, station one, calls and shoots a target then the shooter at the next station calls and shoots. When the last shooter has fired his first shot the shooter on station one shoots another target and so goes the rotation until all shooters have fired a 5 targets each. The shooter on station one then moves to station two – all shooters move one station to the right, the shooter on station 5 moves to station one, walking behind all the other shooters. The Shooter starting on position one is the squad leader and he is the first to shoot at each station. Twenty-five targets will have been shot at by each shooter when the last shooter fires at his fifth target on his fifth station. **In 16 Yard and Handicap only ONE shell is loaded at a time**, in Doubles Two shells are loaded. Guns Should always be **OPEN and UNLOADED** when shooter are not on a shooting station. **Never walk with a closed or loaded gun.**

**16-yard event:** In the 16-yard event, the shooters stand "on the 16-yard line" which is 16 yards behind the trap-house. The trap throws targets that will fly from 48 to 52 yards from the shooter. Most targets are shot when they are about 36 yards from the shooter. Targets are thrown at varying angles within a range of 45 degrees to left or right of straightaway.

**Handicap:** In this event, the shooter stands anywhere from 17 to 27 yards behind the trap house, depending on his/her previous scores. The better the previous scores, the farther back you are "pushed."



**Doubles:** This event is also shot from the 16-yard line. Unlike the regulation 16-yard and handicap events, a pair of targets is released simultaneously. Double targets follow a set course, usually 35 degrees to left and right of straightaway. The shooter has one shot for each target. A standard round of doubles is 25 "pair" - 50 targets.

Trap shoots may be informal practice events or "Registered Shoots". To shoot registered targets, you must be a member of the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA).

In registered trap, your targets are all recorded by the ATA, and you will be placed in different classifications, according to your previous scores. In addition, your average is published each year in the Official ATA Average Book.

National Shooting Sports Foundation research indicates that the average shooter breaks 13 out of 25 targets on the first try at trapshooting and gradually improves through the high teens into the low 20s. A perfect 25 is a reasonable goal for the novice trap shooter.

## **EQUIPMENT**

**Firearms:** The typical gun for trapshooting is a 12-gauge with full or improved-modified choke and ventilated rib barrel 30-32 inches long. Although many top trap shooters favor over/under shotguns, single barrel, pump and autoloading shotguns are also common. Registered trap is always shot with a 12-gauge shotgun.

**Ammunition:** The shot shells used in trapshooting may vary slightly with shooters preference and wind conditions. The standard load contains 3 drams equivalent of powder and 1-1/8 ounces of # 7-1/2, 8 or 8-1/2 shot. Loads with only one ounce of shot are also popular.

**Targets:** Regulation targets measure not more than 4-5/16 inches in diameter and 1-1/8 inches in height, weighing 3-1/2 ounces. They are composed of pitch and clay or limestone, are saucer-shaped and painted black with bright orange or white crowns.