



Shotgunning Skills Improvements

Changing the game

Time

60–90 minutes

Materials

- Shotguns to match each shooter's size (gauge, length of pull, etc.)
- Ammunition of the proper gauge (1-4 boxes of shells per shooter with shot size limited to 7.5 or 8)
- Clay targets – target number dependent upon game per shooter
- Skeet range target throwers, five stand range or at least two clay target portable throwers
- Shooting vest or shell pouches, ear, and eye protection
- Portable gun rack or permanent gun racks typically found at shotgun ranges

Space Required

Formal or informal skeet or five-stand range with adequate distances for safe shotgunning (shot-fall zone).

A five stand range or skeet range is used for games with 25 targets or 100 target sporting clays course.

When an informal range is used portable markers should be used to simulate a series of stations or set up as a skeet range.

Before the Meeting

Multiple portable throwers are to be set up prior to start of session for a variety of target presentations.

Ensure the range is prepped so that each shooter is provided the opportunity to complete a round of the sporting clay game selected.

Along with range prep ensure the required safety equipment is



Lesson Objectives

- New shotgunners observe and via hands-on experiences are exposed to a variety of sporting clay games.
- Shooters will demonstrate skills to safely participate in new sporting clays games.
- Youth will challenge themselves by shooting sporting clay games other than trap and be introduced to life-long recreational activities which may be shared with their families.



Background

Safety is first and foremost when shooting clay targets with a clear expectation for all range rules to be strictly adhered to. If at any time shooters, or range offices are not comfortable with the newly introduced sporting clay games shooting stops. The introductory clay target contest for our 4-H members is trap with trap shooting conducted at both the recreational and competitive levels. Lesson 5 provides the new shotgun enthusiast exposure to and the opportunity to try different shotgunning challenges. These additional sporting clay game formats will include a variety of double targets and targets with various directional angle presentations.



Activity 1 Instructions: (10 minutes)

1. Demonstrate the flight of moving targets presented in skeet, five-stand, or sporting clays.
 - a. All shooters on the firing line point a finger at the edge of the thrower and assume the shooter stance. Range officer calls "pull" to launch a clay target so all on the firing line are able to follow the flight path and estimate the speed of targets, while visually tracking the flying target. This introduction is done for when a presentation is a single target, a report pair, or a true pair. Repeat the process for shooters to see all potential presentations.



Reflect and Apply Questions:

1. Why is it important to determine the flight path of the targets prior to shooting?
2. After observing targets in clay target games other than trap, how would you determine which choke to select?



available: ear and eye protection for shooters, puller, scorer, range officers, and other leaders working with shooters on the shooting line.

Set up portable gun rack if a permanent rack is not available.

Establish a safe zone with safety cones for shooters waiting for the next round.



Activity 2 Instructions: (65 minutes)

1. Incorporating the basic shotgunning basics learned in earlier lessons a shooter will be presented clay targets found in various sporting clays games.
 - a. With a high mounted shotgun, the range officer will request the shooter to chamber a single shotgun shell or two shot shells and ask the shooter to close the action while maintaining muzzle control, keeping a finger off the trigger, and pointing their shotgun at a predetermined starting point.
 - b. When ready to shoot, the shooter calls “pull” and fires at a single or double clay targets presented from a given station.
 - c. Emphasis is on the shooters techniques learned in earlier lessons with shooter and leader assessing the results of the shot or shots taken.
 - d. Repeat step 1 a.-c. with targets launched in a specific sequence with diverse flight paths.
2. Each youth shooter will work through a series of 25 - 100 targets thrown on varying flight paths dependent upon the sporting clays game being introduced.

Reflect and Apply Questions:

1. Why might a shooter choose to shoot a variety of sporting clays games over limiting their practice to the single game of trap?
2. When shooting at moving clay targets in newly introduced sporting clays games, why are the fundamentals of gun mount and keeping the gun moving important?

Other Related Resources:

Wyoming Shotgunning 4-H Leaders Booklet, WY State Development Training Team, Roy Kern

References

Georgia 4-H S.A.F.E. website – <http://www.georgia4h.org/safe/disciplines/shotgun>
National Rifle Association Basic Shotgun Shooting Course, NRA Washington DC
Wyoming Game and Fish Department Hunter Education Student Manual



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REFLECT AND APPLY
ANSWER SHEET

Activity 1 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why is it important to determine the flight path of the targets prior to shooting?

With a moving target it is essential to determine the flight path to calculate lead required to break the targets thrown on varying flight paths effectively. This lead is sometimes called apparent forward allowance which is dependent upon the swing and follow through which each new shooter will establish with repeated practice.

2. After observing target presentations in various clay target games other than trap, how you determine which choke to select?

After a new shooter gains proficiency shooting trap they may choose to increase the challenges by learning new sporting clays games. The shooter can now readily observe the flight path of clay targets and estimate target speed and distances. The shooter's choice of choke (constriction) can now be better determined and selected for a particular set of target presentations. If the selected choke is too tight when a new shooter is experimenting with new sporting clay games the tight pattern is less forgiving and may limit early success. After a few introductory rounds of a new sporting clays game the new shooter will be able to decide what constriction suits them the best.



Activity 2 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why might a shooter choose to shoot a variety of sporting clays games over limiting their practice to trap?

A new clay target shooter may choose to become involved in a variety of sporting clays games to increase the challenges created by varying presentations. The more time times a shooter spends tracking the flight path of clay targets the better their ability becomes to quickly pick up a moving clay target, determine the breaking point, pull the trigger, and concentrate on their follow through. All of these skills will ultimately increase a shooter's trap scores when the shooter returns to trap at the competitive level whether it is a county, state, or national 4-H trap shoot.

2. When shooting at moving clay targets in newly introduced sporting clays contest, why are the fundamentals of gun mount and keeping the gun moving important?

The proper mounting of the gun, and keeping the gun moving are the keys to increasing shotgunning proficiency regardless of which sporting clays game is selected. Not emphasizing or developing the basic skills may impede the ability of a new shooter to track, swing-on, and follow-through on a target resulting in low success rates when shooting in any of the sporting clays games.

