

QSC American Skeet and Trap Safety Brief

Note: Conduct the safety brief next to a Safety Placard posted on a green barrier; use it as a prop for issuing safety guidance.

Pre-Brief Administrative Checks

1. Introduce yourself as the OIC/RSO and the other RSO's on the field.
2. Explain that the intent of the brief is to help ensure a safe and fun course of fire is conducted. Advise the shooters that it's always ok to ask the OIC or the RSO for help! That is why they are here – to help members and visitors and help keep all personnel safe.
3. Check members for membership cards in-hand, and that guests have paid and signed waiver forms.
4. Discuss Sign-in and Sign-out procedures.
5. Ask shooters to self-identify as novice – intermediate – advanced shooters to help the OIC/RSO categorize level of safety oversight needed at each field.
6. Before allowing a shooter to shoot, verify that the shooters are knowledgeable about the safe operation of their shotgun as well as how to load and unload in a safe and competent manner. If the shooter is uncertain, the RSO must be ready to help the shooter.

Firearm Safety Principles - Safety is our Number 1 Concern!

1. Advise that shooters must demonstrate muzzle control. **This means that the firearm shall never point at a person.** It also means that when moving from shooting station to shooting station, as well as when walking across the shotgun fields, or to/from a vehicle with a firearm in-hand, that the firearm is always empty and the actions are always open (break-actions are resting in the hinge, semi-automatics are bolted back showing that the chamber is open, and pump shotguns have their charging handle in the back position showing that the chamber is open). Demonstrate to novice shooters how to walk with an empty shotgun on the field.
2. Orientate shooters to the Skeet or Trap Range that is being used to include high-house/low house skeet houses and trap house target lines, and the safety lateral limits.
3. Discuss use of the magnetic game cards and the electronic target machines. Demonstrate how they operate.
4. Explain that only number 7 1/2, 8, or 9 shot is allowed.
5. Explain that when shooting skeet, only a maximum of 2 shells can ever be loaded into the gun at any time (except when shooting the station 8 high house, when only one shell is loaded).
6. Explain when shooting trap, only one shell at a time is loaded when shooting singles, two shells are loaded for doubles.
7. Explain the Course of Fire for American Skeet and/or American Trap.
8. Explain that loading / unloading is only done when standing on the shooter's pad.
9. Explain the dangers of standing in front of the low-house windows and the prohibition of doing so.
10. Swinging a shotgun at a clay target requires discipline. Advise shooters they must not "over-swing", which is continuing to swing the shotgun to where it can potentially be pointed outside the shotgun field lateral limits. Pointing and/or shooting the firearm outside a lateral limit are a dangerous practice, unnecessary, and are prohibited.

- a. Note: Any shooter observed swinging past the lateral limits shall be counseled by the RSO given immediate training to help prevent a re-occurrence. A shooter shall be escorted off the field for a second occurrence.

11. When shooting skeet, station 8 targets must be shot before passing the center stake.
12. Should a shooter encounter a malfunction STOP shooting, KEEP the muzzle pointed down range, CLEAR the firearm or request assistance from the RSO to clear it. Do not leave the range with a round stuck in the chamber.
13. Keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.

Notes: (1) A safe direction means "towards the outfield", which is the area between and beyond the skeet or trap houses of the field where you are shooting. "At all times" means while the gun is being loaded, while shouldering and shooting the gun, and after the completion of the shot. The purpose for this rule is that if the gun were to fire accidentally, it would not cause any harm.

(2) When loading, shooters must be particularly aware not to hold the shotgun in such a manner that the muzzle is pointed towards the "infield" or pointed down near their feet.

14. Keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use it.
15. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.
16. Keep the trigger finger off of the trigger until the gun is pointed on the target line and ready to shoot.
17. The firearm's action must be immediately opened when removed from the rack. . Handling and carrying shotguns with the actions closed is prohibited.
18. Use of eye protection (shooting glasses, safety glasses, or prescription glasses) is mandatory for anyone on the skeet or trap fields while shooting is in progress. Doing so minimizes the risk of being struck in the eye by pieces of target or by shot pellets that ricochet off targets.
19. Hearing protection is required to minimize the risk of damage to the inner year from loud shot-shell explosions.
20. The minimum age for shooters is 8 years old. Anyone under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult when the young shooter is on the shooting station.
21. Shooting squad members on the skeet field shall always stand behind the shooter standing on the pad.
22. Spectators must remain behind the firing line from Station 2 through Station 6.
23. Trap shooters rotating from station 5 to station 1 shall ensure actions are open and quietly/quickly change station by walking behind the line of shooters.

Shotgun Field Etiquette

1. Never argue with an OIC or RSO. If you believe the OIC / RSO is problematic, report it to the clubhouse staff immediately.
2. Advise the OIC or the RSO, immediately, if the skeet or trap machines are not operating properly. Only RSO's are allowed to low/down-load targets or examine the traps for symptomatic problems.
3. Smoking is prohibited on the firing line.
4. Remove empty shotgun hulls from the field after each game.
5. Ensure the shotgun log entries reflect the gauge and number of rounds actually shot before departing the range.