

# Shotgun

As the name suggests, the SSAA Shotgun discipline involves shooting a shotgun to break clay targets. The sport has origins from 1866, when a glass ball filled with feathers was developed. Once clay targets were invented and a machine from which they could be thrown was perfected, consistently breakable targets could be pitched for each competitor.

## Matches

There are four main competitions, which vary in the type of targets thrown, the angle, height and speed, and the field layouts. Low Field and High Field competitions are shot from pads level with or close to the trap house and the traps being above or below ground level.

## Sporting Clays

This is usually set up in natural bushland, with the traps presenting clay targets that simulate hunting game such as ducks, rabbits and pheasants. Traps can be concealed, with targets only visible in cleared areas.

## 5-Stand

SSAA 5-Stand has five shooting stations in a straight line close to each other, surrounded by six to eight traps, with all targets converging in front of the stands. This tests a shooter's ability to read targets quickly and shoot them before they go beyond the effective range of a shotgun.

## Targets and firearms

Targets are thrown at various speeds, in singles, doubles or in pairs, from in front, behind, low, high or above, straight away, crossing, quartering, incoming from either side, in the open or partly hidden by trees, bushes or other obstacles.

Shotguns suitable for Sporting Clays and 5-Stand generally have sporting-style stocks and variable chokes, most commonly 12-gauge. With the advent of shotguns designed for Sporting Clays, shooters can handle the infinite variety of rising, falling, incoming and outgoing targets.

## Getting started

Experienced shooters or coaches are willing to give advice on gun-fit, style and techniques to help new shooters choose a suitable shotgun. Most SSAA branches have 'club shotguns' available.

