

CADET CLAY TARGET SHOOTING - GETTING STARTED

Ref A: HQLAND Policy For Clay Target Shooting By Cadets (dated 25/10/11)

1. Clay Target Shooting is fast becoming established as a popular sport across the cadet movement. Although not funded by MoD it is an Authorised Sport and HQ Army have published supportive and informative guidance (see Ref A).
2. The initiative to start a National Clay Target Shooting competition was taken by CCRS in 2007, and an annual central match has been held each year since then with attendances increasing every year. Details, with past results, future dates and an Entry Form, are published on the CCRS web site www.ccrs.org.uk.

GETTING STARTED

3. A cadet unit which is not familiar with the Qualifications and Kit requirements should note the comments below (which are given purely as Guidance):
4. Adult Qualification
 - a. A CFAV can run a Clay Target range for cadets provided he/she is a current CPSA Safety Officer (further details are in Ref A). The SO qualification can be obtained by attending the one-day course run by either the HQ OSTT, formerly the ARA, contact 01483 798925 or the CPSA itself.
 - b. It is also recommended, but not mandatory, that CFAVs attend the IDW and qualify as a Level One CPSA Coach, but neither of these is essential just to run a Clay Range for cadets.

Notes:

1. Attending the HQ OSTT-run course is cheaper and at unit discretion entitles the CFAV to a PTD. Before attending the HQ OSTT-run course candidates must attend a one day CPSA Shotgun Skills course.
2. The CFAV must also be at least a "Clubman" member of the CPSA and must remain a member to keep the qualification, since safety updates for SOs are published on the CPSA website, www.cpsa.co.uk and in the CPSA monthly magazine "Pull".
5. Cadet Qualification Cadets need no qualification or WHT to fire a shotgun under close supervision by a CFAV, but they cannot be left in charge of the gun and cartridges (e.g. to attend a competition) until they have passed the basic "Shotgun Handling Test" previously titled the "Safe Shot Course". CPSA Safety Officers are able to run this, section 2c in the Academy Safety Officers Manual, for CFAV & cadets only.
6. Shotguns
 - a. The following calibres of gun can be used on a clay range; 12 bore, 20 bore, 16 bore, .410. The bore size used should be decided upon the cadets size and experience.
 - b. If buying new shotguns it is recommended that buyers first contact CCRS for advice on suppliers who will offer special discounts to cadet units.

Notes:

3. Buying top-quality shotguns is neither necessary nor recommended; guns such as Lanber at c.£520 to £600 + VAT are quite adequate to begin with. Contact CCRS for suggested suppliers and/or visit your local gunsmith.

4. Although there is no mandatory inspection period it is recommended that shotguns are given an annual inspection by a licensed civilian armourer.

5. Shotgun Certificate Although it is possible for unit-owned shotguns to be held on the military register this can lead to problems if the guns are to be used in a competition at a civilian club or on non-military ground. It is recommended that at least one CFAV obtains a Shotgun Certificate and records the guns on it. The shotguns can appear on more than one Certificate.

6. Cartridges

a. We recommend buying 24gram - or even 21gram - cartridges, which give much less recoil.

b. There are two types of cartridge - Fibre Wad, which biodegrade, and Plastic Wad, which do not but are cheaper. Beware - most military training areas, and an increasing number of civilian clubs, only allow Fibre Wad.

Note:

5. Some shooting grounds, require special shot types, bismuth or steel shot. Check with the range or training area authorities.

7. Clay Targets The most commonly used clay targets are the Standard. A box of Standard clays contains 150 targets. Clays which have not been hit or broken on landing can be collected at the end of the session and re-used if undamaged.

8. Traps Only electric traps are recommended for cadet use. Having them operated by radio-release adds to the cost but is generally well worth it as it avoids trailing wires around the area.

Notes:

6. Traps have fast-moving parts, so only a trained CFAV should set-up, reload, or disarm a trap.

7. A basic Promatic Harrier trap can currently cost £760 +VAT (2012 prices) but has to be lifted into position. With a trolley and radio-release the cost rises to £975 +VAT. Units will need to supply their own battery, charger and an adjustable spanner. Contact CCRS for details.

8. Annual servicing by a licensed engineer is recommended and a record of the servicing kept.

9. Shooting Glasses The use of high-impact Safety Glasses or goggles over spectacles is mandatory. These can be special Shooting Glasses or military-issue Safety Goggles that can be obtained by the QM.

10. Hearing Protection The wearing of ear defenders, acoustic resin or muff-type, is mandatory.

OBTAINING FUNDING

11. A unit starting Clay Target Shooting will initially need a CPSA Safety Officer, at least 2 x O/U shotguns*, a cleaning kit, Safety Glasses, ear defenders, and an electric trap., 12 volt batteries, electric charger and basic trap tool kit.

*To enter the Cadet Clay Target national competition they really need 4 x shotguns, since each member of the team will need their own gun for the Flush and Down the Line matches. However CCRS has some shotguns available to lend if necessary.

12. Although this sport is not MoD funded it is Mod Approved for cadet units, so funds can sometimes be obtained from military budgets (e.g. from Brigade under-spends) to buy equipment.

13. Running costs are:

- Cartridges
- Clay targets
- Annual servicing of the traps and shotguns
- Competition entry fees

14. Other sources of funding are the same as for other Sports in the Cadet Forces including Unit Funds, Leagues, Masonic Lodges, or direct fund-raising efforts such as bag-packing at supermarkets. Some help may also be obtained from local Clay Pigeon clubs.

15. For the CCF or ACF a call to Col Quicke at HQ ACFA (0207 426 8377) is also recommended in case a support grant or other funding is available.

16. For help or advice about all courses contact Maj Garman (07752 835 169 or via georgegarman@fsmail.net). He is willing to visit units to conduct training at home locations.

17. Additional information can be found free on the CPSA website, www.cpsa.co.uk in "publications" "How to Run Small Shoots" Booklet 2 and "How to form a Clay Pigeon Shooting Club" Booklet 3.