

**** Hudson Falls Sporting Clays Policy for New/beginner Shooters ****

Trap, Skeet and Five Stand Shotgun Sports

New/beginner Shooters are welcomed and encouraged to shoot any of the shotgun disciplines during our regular clays shooting times - Sunday, Monday, and Thursday starting at 10:00am [winter] or 9:00 am [summer].

Shooting clays at an organized club is different than shooting clay birds from a personally owned throwing device. Although shooting clay birds from your hand trap or spring mounted thrower in a safe location is fun it is different than shooting clays at a club.

Clay shooters at HFFGC range in abilities from new to seasoned. Some of the “old timers” have been shooting for many years. They have experience that can be valuable to new shooters and help you break targets on a consistent basis. It is helpful to talk and discuss questions you may have concerning how can I break more birds, what is the best shot size for trap, how do I stand when shooting skeet, etc. with the experienced shooters. You can also find a great deal of information on the internet about questions you may have regarding shotgun sports. However, face to face conversations with follow up questions cannot be duplicated on the internet.

We do encourage new shooters to check out our clays program.

- ✓ We recommend that new shooters stop by to observe the “games”.
- ✓ That you call the club to be sure that a special event is not scheduled for the day you plan to come and shoot. Other disciplines do occasionally use the entire range.
- ✓ Plan to shoot later in the morning (11:00). We try to squad you and your friends together with a member of the club to make things run smoothly. Members can be very helpful as you become accustomed to the venue. Mixing one or two new shooters with veterans can be frustrating. Veteran shooters like to move the pace along.
- ✓ We try to squad (5 Shooters) of like abilities. This practice keeps things moving safely. Also, new shooters are able to benefit by observing other shooters.

- ✓ If you are being helped/coached by another clays shooter keep in mind that others have signed up to shoot too. We like to keep things moving so receiving some pointers is acceptable but do not usurp time at the expense of other clays shooters. Come later to shoot when the veteran shooters have finished. You may help yourself to connect with more birds by reading a book on shot gunning or checking the internet for recommendations and tips about the various clays games. There are also instructional DVD's. Thanks for your cooperation.
- ✓ Bring eye and hearing protection. A hat with a brim is very helpful, especially if the sun is shining. We shoot all year, yes even in the winter. Weather permitting is the rule!
- ✓ Dress to be comfortable – appropriate shoes, shirts, pants, coats, etc.
- ✓ Bring enough ammo. Each of the games requires 25 shots. However it is a good idea to carry at least two (2) extra shells for trap and skeet. For Five Stand you should have a minimum of 30 – 32 shells.
- ✓ If you have a shooting vest or ammo bag/pouch bring it along. The club does have several ammo pouches you may borrow.
- ✓ The clays committee recommends you start your shotgun experience on the “trap” field. It is less intense and you will get the satisfaction of breaking more birds. You can move to skeet and five-stand later.
- ✓ What gauge to use? Twelve (12) and twenty (20) gauges are the most popular. Both gauges give you enough shot to break birds. Using a smaller gauge (.410) makes it more difficult for new shooters to hit and break clay birds.
- ✓ What gun to use? A safe one! You may use a single shot, a pump, over-under, side by side, or an auto loader. Regardless of which gun you use, you are never allowed more than two (2) shells at a time. When shooting trap you only load one (1) shell. Only load the gun when it is your turn to shoot.
- ✓ The Club only allows lead shot sizes 7 1/2, 8 and 9.
- ✓ If you own a shotgun with multiple chokes you are free to choose the choke you feel is best for you. Feel free to ask other shooters what they use for the game you are shooting.
- ✓ New shooters are required to sign a club waiver form.
- ✓ Do not shoulder or aim guns in the club house. Other shooters do not like to be swept or have a gun pointed at them or friends.

- ✓ If you are “dropping” the firing pin(s) at the end of your shooting – DO IT OUTSIDE - not in the club house.

Come join the clay shooters and have fun breaking some clay birds.

**** WE WELCOME YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CLAYS COMMITTEE – FATHER, DAUGHTER, SON, GRANDDAUGHTER, GRANDSON, MOM, GRAM, YOUNG AND OLD, ETC.**

Some Rules of Firearm Safety

- **Firearms safety depends on you. Under no circumstances should you ever attempt to handle a firearm without knowing the proper way to safely operate that particular piece of equipment!**
- **Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.**
- **Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to call for and shoot a target.**
- **Only load your gun when on or in the shooting stations/pads.**
- **Be sure of your target and what’s beyond it.**
- **Firearms should always be unloaded when not in actual use.**
- **Don’t rely on the gun’s mechanical safety.**
- **Use correct ammunition (7 ½, 8 or 9 shot size).**
- **Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.**
- **If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.**
- **Don’t modify or alter your gun, and have it serviced regularly.**
- **Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.**
- **Make no mistake about it....alcohol, drugs and guns don’t mix.**
- **Know and obey all range rules. If you are unsure of anything, ask a member of the Clays Committee for help.**
- **Firearms safety depends on YOU.**