

FITASC Rule Changes

HUGH SMITH, CHIEF FITASC REFEREE, REVIEWS CHANGES TO THE FITASC SPORTING RULEBOOK – EFFECTIVE SINCE THE NEW YEAR.

FITASC rules have been due a comprehensive review for some time. Following a few disciplinary arisings at past European and World events, we now have a new rule book.

The first changes are of more interest to target setters. Chapter 2 (2.5.1) 'Trajectories', requires that the competitor must be able to discharge two shots at each presented single target – no real problem there. However, it also introduces 'degrees of difficulty' that correspond to the number of targets you would expect an 'average' competitor would or would not break. There is a table for assistance – but the important

word in the text is 'Recommended'. Let's hope target setters understand this and take a common sense approach to inclusion of this rule.

Targets may now be of any color that stands out against the presentation background. Previously they had to be black or orange.

Also new to this Chapter is the statement that "Doubles must be shot at targets already launched as singles from that position". In other words, target setters can no longer introduce a Rafale or true pair unless the shooter has shot at both of these targets from that shooting position.

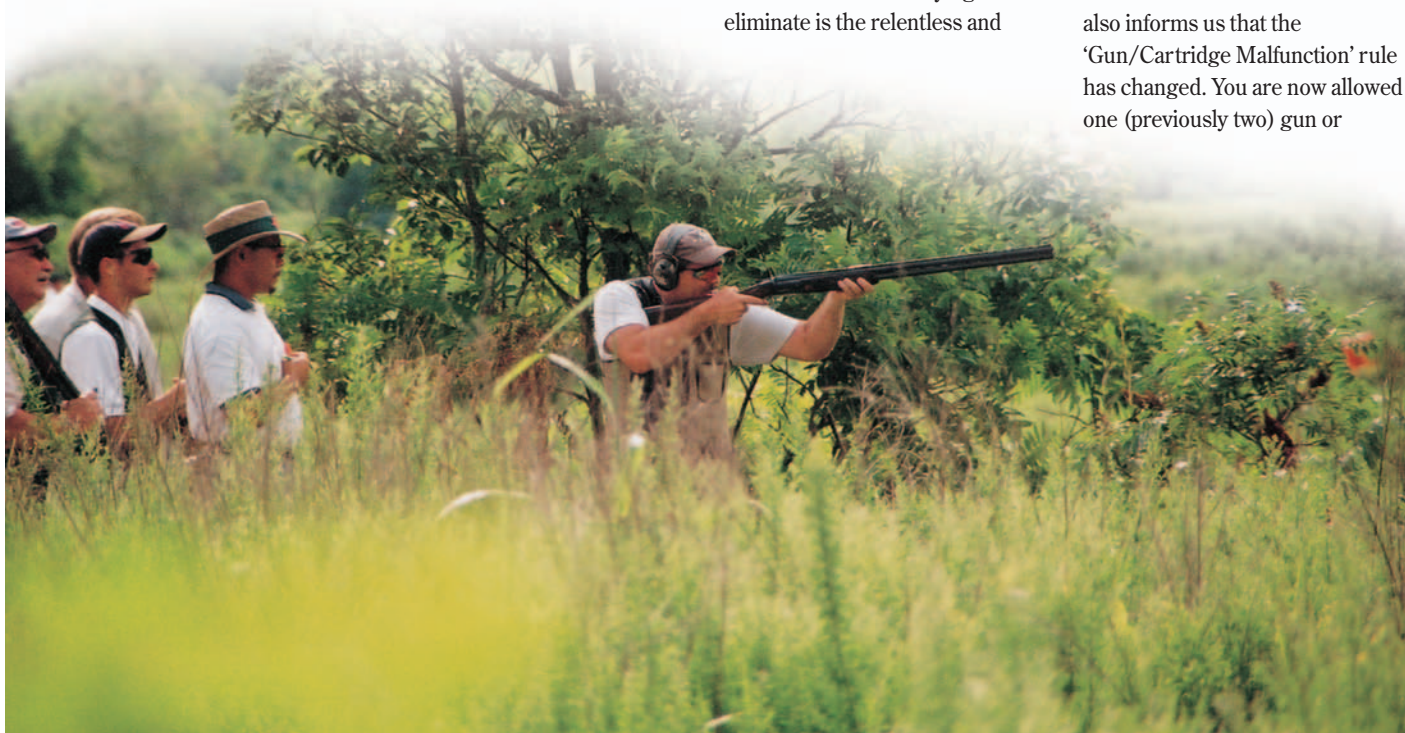
There is a new Chapter 5 covering referees. It reminds them that they shall remain impartial to all competitors regardless of nationality or reputation. It also reminds referees that the competitor can protest against their (the referee) pronounced decision, but should not be influenced by other competitors or spectators.

Chapter 6 reminds competitors/squad that they are not entitled to intervene or express their opinions on target rulings (made by the referee). This is a difficult rule to interpret because it is only natural for a squad member to let the referee know that he may have missed a chip. However, what this rule inclusion is trying to eliminate is the relentless and



obvious attempt from members of the same squad to claim a target for their friend or, during shoot-offs, attempts from individual spectators to influence the referee's decision on a difficult call.

Chapter 6 also introduces tables that make it easier for the referee (and competitor alike) to understand calls of 'No Bird'. It also informs us that the 'Gun/Cartridge Malfunction' rule has changed. You are now allowed one (previously two) gun or



cartridge malfunction without penalty in a round of 25 targets. On the second occurrence you will start to loose targets. Auto users may fall foul of this amendment. I recommend you read the table published in the rule book to understand the variations on the 'No Bird' theme, but I will highlight one important change for the benefit of the competitor and the referee – 'Doubles on Report'.

When shooting doubles on report, if you miss with the first shot and then the referee calls "No Bird" on the second target (i.e. a broken second target or gun/cartridge malfunction of the second shot), the referee will now call **"No Bird. First shot established. Repeat to establish the second shot"**.

Previously, the referee would have established the first target lost. This rule change now also allows the referee to score both targets (one and one) should the competitor break both of the targets with the second shot. However, if the competitor misses the first target and then addresses the second target, which for any reason the referee declares a 'No Bird', the competitor will not be allowed to shoot the first target with the second barrel but must repeat their initial actions.

(In other words: Shooters will not be allowed to deliberately miss with their first barrel and shoot their second barrel at the first target. If both targets are broken with the second shot the referee will score one and one.)

In Chapter 7, Weapons and Ammunition, the main addition is the exclusion of pump action shotguns and the inclusion of a +2% tolerance to the 28 gram load. This ensures that the 1oz load is within the 28gm tolerance.

In Chapter 8 there is an extensive set of requirements as regards competitors conduct, most

of which have been there for some time. However, 8.1 is specific to attitude and abusive language – in other words self control. There are now stiff penalties against a competitor should he or she fall foul of this rule. 8.10 removes the option to remove eye protection in inclement weather. It is now mandatory in all countries, as is ear protection.

Chapter 9 deals with Appeals. 9.1 lays the onus on the competitor to break his/her targets in places that are visible to the referee. 9.5 tabulates the ability of a competitor to appeal and how to appeal a referee's decision. It also informs both parties how to address such an appeal.

More importantly, in Chapter 10 the 'Refusal to Comply' is dealt with. Once the referee announces their decision, the competitor must call for their next target within 20 seconds (or leave the hoop if it is their last target) or they will be subject to penalties listed in Chapter 13. In brief, penalties that may be awarded by the Jury include loss of 1 or 25 targets or exclusion from the competition.

I have attempted to stick to the most salient points of change. There are many other new inclusions and I recommend you read the new rule book and compare it against the old one – only then will you will be fully aware and comfortable when you next take to the Parcour. ■



HUGH SMITH.