Victorian Clay Target Association Inc.

Registered No. A0013046L
ABN 19 815 026 597

State Secretary
P.O. Box 2778
Seaford. Victoria. 3198
Mob: 0481 954 627
Email: secretary@vcta.com.au

Conditions of Entry

2026 State DTL Trap Championships

These conditions apply to the 2026 VCTA State DTL Trap Championships, including Double Rise, Victorian team selection and associated matches. They are to be read with the published Carnival Program and current ACTA Shooting Rules. ACTA rules prevail over any inconsistent condition.

Entry and eligibility

1. Membership and nomination. Entrants must be current ACTA members registered through an affiliated club and must nominate for each event. Non-resident overseas competitors may compete under ACTA reciprocal membership provisions on producing the required evidence. A competitor may participate only once in an event.

2. Firearms and safety. All competitors must comply with applicable firearms laws in their State or country of residence and in Victoria, and with ACTA safety rules and directions of officials. Management may reject an entry for a valid reason or disqualify a competitor for unsafe, unsportsmanlike or disorderly conduct under ACTA rules.

3. Grades and sections. Grades and handicap marks are determined under ACTA rules and MCMS. Competitors must check that their recorded grade, handicap and section eligibility are correct. Junior eligibility is under 18 and Sub-Junior eligibility is under 15 on the first day of competition, subject to the minimum participation age permitted by Victorian law. Veteran eligibility is 65 years or older on the day of competition. Ladies eligibility and all entries are subject to applicable ACTA participation policies, including the ACTA Transgender Participation Policy.

4. Nominations. Nomination fees, reduced fees and closing times are as published on the entry sheet or My Club My Scores. Competitors paying reduced nominations remain eligible for Overall and applicable Grade and Section awards.

5. Dress and conduct. Competitors must be clean, neat and appropriately dressed. Footwear must have heel restraint or support; thongs, scuffs and bare feet are not permitted. Smoking and vaping are prohibited on shooting layouts. Card playing and other activities must not disturb competition or inconvenience others. The Tournament Director will adjudicate operational matters.

6. Cartridges. For 12-gauge Trap events, the maximum load is 28 grams of lead shot not larger than 2.5 mm (No. 6). Handicap events alone permit a maximum load of 32 grams with the same maximum shot size. ACTA ammunition rules, including their tolerance and enforcement provisions, apply. Competitors must use provided empty-cartridge bins and collect empties from semi-automatic guns on leaving the layout.

Competition procedures

7. Squadding and event formats. Common-mark events will ordinarily be shot in squads of six. The 50-target Single Barrel, Double Barrel and Points Score Championships will be shot in one visit in two brackets of 25. Champion of Champions comprises 25 Double Barrel, 25 Single Barrel and 25 Points Score targets from 18 metres in one visit. Double Rise comprises 25 pairs from 15 metres in one visit. The 50-target Handicap will ordinarily be shot in squads of five, five targets per lane, in two brackets of 25 in one visit, from official ACTA handicap marks. Other event arrangements are as published in the Carnival Program.

8. Ammunition and changeover. Competitors must bring sufficient cartridges for the full scheduled visit, including any shot not-to-count. A two-minute ammunition changeover is allowed after each 25-target bracket of a 50-target event. Exceeding this allowance may incur loss of one target, subject to ACTA rules and the Tournament Director's determination. Competitors must also carry sufficient cartridges for shoot-offs as required by ACTA Rule 4.10.17(a).

9. Attendance. Competitors must be at the firing point within two minutes of being called. A competitor who is late without a genuine reason may be penalised one target and re-squadded at a time determined by the Tournament Director, consistently with ACTA Rule 4.1(a). A late competitor who elects to withdraw may forfeit their nomination fee. A competitor who commences an event and then withdraws or is disqualified cannot resume that event and is not entitled to a refund under ACTA Rule 1.6(g).

10. Shown targets and shots not to count. A target or Double Rise pair will be shown at the beginning of each event and at the other times required by ACTA rules, including after a breakdown or delay and at shoot-offs. Each competitor must be offered one target shot not-to-count for their first target of the day under ACTA Rule 1.21.5. The five-sighter provision for team matches does not apply to every selection shoot-off.

11. Score sheets. Competitors must check and sign their score sheet after each 25-target bracket and check their score before leaving the tracks. Any incorrectly recorded score must be raised with the Referee immediately, before leaving the tracks. Signing does not authorise an incorrect grade or handicap. Missing signatures must be referred to the Shoot Office for verification; no automatic substitution of the lowest squad score applies.

12. Refereeing and scoring. Competitors may be rostered to referee or score, including from the last round of one day for the first round of the next day. Rostered officials must be ready at the advertised starting time. An acceptable replacement may be arranged, but the rostered competitor remains responsible for ensuring the duty is fulfilled. Failure to fulfil the duty may incur loss of one target in the next event, or in the event concerned if no later event is programmed, subject to ACTA rules and the Tournament Director's determination.

13. Trap settings. Competitors must not interfere with, or attempt to interfere with, trap settings without authority. Suspected illegal targets must be raised with the Referee. Unauthorised interference may result in disqualification from the event under ACTA Rule 1.25(f).

14. Shoot-offs and High Guns. Event ties are determined under ACTA Rule 4.10.17. Competitors shoot in qualifying order. Carnival High Guns are determined over the advertised State Championship program in accordance with ACTA Rule 4.10.18, including its provisions for Section High Guns, grading and shoot-offs. Points Score components count as points.

Awards payments and appeals

15. Awards. Awards are as published in the Carnival Program and are subject to ACTA requirements for State Championships, including any applicable minimum-entry requirements. An Overall winner does not also receive a Grade award but remains eligible for every applicable Section award. Section eligibility is cumulative. The Handicap has no Section awards. Grade awards must meet the minimum prize or trophy requirements of ACTA Rule 1.15(f)(iv).

16. Prize payments and optional purses. Monetary prizes will be paid by electronic funds transfer. Competitors must provide accurate payment details and proof of identity if requested. Optional purse nominations must be recorded on the nomination form and are not refundable. Optional purses are conducted and distributed under ACTA Rule 1.19: no deductions, 50 per cent to first, 30 per cent to second and 20 per cent to third, determined by shoot-off. Payment timing will be advised by the Shoot Office.

17. Referee appeals. A competitor appealing the interpretation or application of ACTA rules must notify the Referee before leaving the tracks and, immediately after completing the run over the traps, lodge a written appeal and $50 deposit with the Tournament Director. The appointed ACTA jury will hear the appeal. The deposit is returned if the appeal is upheld and forfeited if it is dismissed. There is no appeal against the Referee's decision on whether a target was legal, hit or missed. Recorded-score corrections follow clause 11; ammunition challenges follow ACTA Rule 1.13(a).

18. Authority and interruptions. The Tournament Director controls operational arrangements. Referee appeals and formal competition rulings are dealt with under ACTA rules and the appointed jury's authority. VCTA policy questions may be referred to the attending Executive Committee members, who cannot override ACTA rules or the jury's formal functions. Management may suspend, relocate or complete competition as permitted by ACTA rules where weather, darkness, equipment failure or another material cause intervenes.

Victorian teams

19. Eligibility and selection. Victorian Interstate Postal and Shoulder-to-Shoulder team members must be registered with ACTA in Victoria and may represent only one State in a calendar year. Eligible Sub-Juniors are included in Junior team selection. For each team selection, Open positions will be finalised first. Unsuccessful Open contenders remain eligible for their applicable Section teams. A competitor who qualifies for more than one team must choose one team for that competition. Vacancies are filled by the next eligible qualifier, with any ties decided under the applicable selection procedure. All selection arrangements are subject to ACTA rules, which take precedence.

20. Postal qualification and match. Qualification is based on the aggregate of the State Single Barrel, Double Barrel and Points Score Championships. The Open team comprises 15 competitors, with the highest 10 match scores counting. Ladies, Junior and Veteran teams each comprise six competitors, with the highest five match scores counting. Postal team selection ties are shot in qualifying order, squad system, over complete rounds of 5 Double Barrel, 5 Single Barrel and 5 Points Score targets until the affected positions are determined. Open Postal team members shoot 50 targets. Ladies, Junior and Veteran Postal team members shoot 25 targets in accordance with ACTA Rule 4.10.16(b). All Postal matches are shot from 15 metres, Double Barrel points scoring, squad system, with five sighter targets across the lanes before the match. Only official ACTA Referees may officiate, with a scorer and check scorer provided, and the Referee and principal scorer must sign the score sheets.

21. Shoulder-to-Shoulder selection. The Open team comprises five competitors. Ladies, Junior and Veteran teams each comprise three competitors. Selection is based on the combined scores from the State Single Barrel, Double Barrel and Points Score Championships, plus the competitor's corresponding Postal Team Match score. Any tie affecting selection will be decided in qualifying order, squad system, by a Points Score miss-and-out shoot-off from 15 metres until the affected team positions are determined. Selected teams compete at the following National Championships under ACTA rules.

22. Team attendance. Competitors must attend their designated ground on time for team selection shoot-offs and matches. A competitor absent when a selection shoot-off is called forfeits the tied position unless the Tournament Director accepts exceptional circumstances consistent with ACTA rules. Reporting times and final team arrangements will be advised by the Shoot Office.

23. Changes to arrangements. The VCTA reserves the right to vary the program, scheduling and competition arrangements where reasonably necessary for safety or the effective conduct of the Carnival, subject to ACTA rules. Any changes will be communicated to affected competitors as soon as practicable.