



Annie Introduction to F.I.T.A.S.C.

According to the NSCA, “The Federation Internationale de Tir Aux Sportives de Chasse (FITASC) is the organization that governs international competition of Parcours de Chasse, a challenging form of sporting clays.”

Like sporting clays, FITASC is a clay target discipline **reproducing hunting scenarios** with clay trajectories of varied levels of difficulty. The fields are referred to “**parcours**” with shooters attempting **25 targets** on each. Most FITASC events at larger tournaments have 100 targets (four parcours), though 50 to 200 are found, too. While FITASC is primarily a 12-ga. competition, increasingly there are 20g and 28g variants offered.

GAME PLAY

Stepping into the first “**peg**” (hula-hoop, or a one-meter circle or square), the first shooter calls for each target on the nearby menu to be shown in order. **Two of each are thrown to view.** A true pair will be shown when the time comes, but a report pair never will. Each member of the squad will shoot the **single targets first, with two shots allowed per bird** for singles. The shooter is allowed only fifteen seconds between targets. Missed targets are identified by the official referee as a “**0,**” while hits are a “kill” or “**1.**” Once everyone finishes with the singles, the batting order continues for doubles, with the second woman leading off. Everyone will eventually go first. Shooters then progress to the next hula-hoop, and the process is repeated. Because of tight scheduling, movement at FITASC events is fluid and fast. If you run the parcours, shoot a 25 straight, you must pick up the hula hoop and twirl around your waist four times. Joke.



There are a set number of traps on a parcours; however, because of the changing position of the shooters (due to placement of the hula-hoops), target presentations fluctuate. For instance, a target that was previously perpendicular could now quartering away or toward. Targets may get closer or further, or you have more or less of the target exposed. That is what makes FITASC challenging and appealing.

TARGET PRESENTATIONS

- **Singles** – one bird is presented (within 3 seconds) when the shooter calls for the target – you have FUG – Full use of the gun. If it's hit with either the first or second shot it's scored 1, if it's missed with both shots, it's scored 0.
- **Doubles** – when two targets are thrown, and the shooter has one shot at each target (like sporting clays). The shooter scores one for each bird of the double she hits. There are three types of doubles:
 - **On Report** – like a report pair in sporting clays, the second bird is released after the first shot is fired.
 - **Simultaneous** – like a true pair in sporting clays, two birds are launched at the same time.
 - **Rafael** – like a following pair in sporting clays, two birds released from the same trap, the second immediately following the first.

Targets thrown can be **standard, rabbit, midi, super mini, battue, flash or zz**. The **colors vary** as well, and they should be visible and stand out against the backdrop and terrain.

LAYOUTS

There are two types of layouts, and they will vary slightly depending on whether you are shooting the 'old' system or the 'new' system. More details below, but just follow along with the squad and you will be fine.

- Under the old format, there are 3 stands per 25 bird layout and each stand has its own dedicated set of traps, marked A, B and C. Stand 1 might have 5 traps and will present five singles. Stands 2 and 3 will each show four singles and two pairs to make up the 25-bird round.
- Under the new format you have five stands throwing, say, two singles and a double while a fifth will present three singles and a double – again making up 25 targets.
- Regardless of the new or old format, you will find a **menu with the order of the targets displayed at each stand**. The squad shoots on a rotational basis so that by the time the team completes its 25-bird allocation each shooter will have shot either the singles, or doubles, first at one of the stands. Simply read the menu, pay attention, and follow along. It is not particularly complicated.



RULES

FITASC has more rules for the competitor than sporting clays. Some to note:

- FITASC is shot 'low gun.' The shooter is required to hold her gun with the rear point of the highest part of the stock beneath a line 25cm below the axis of the shoulder until the target is launched and visible. A referee will draw a chalk line on your vest or shirt to mark the 25cm. On a pair, the gun can remain shouldered for the second shot.



Example of 'low gun' start position.

- To ensure fairness, only **factory ammunition** is permitted, and in 12-gauge, the maximum payload is 28 grams (**1 oz.**). The referees will ask to see your ammunition to confirm compliance. No spreader shells permitted.
- Your barrel needs to be at least 26" long. Pump guns are not permitted. You may not share a gun with another shooter to begin a round.
- The release of the clay can happen **up to 3 seconds after the shooter calls 'pull'** (in sporting it is typically launched immediately).
- There are **warnings and violations** administered by the refs during the shoot (in the form of yellow cards and red cards). This happens when you try to pre-mount or move the gun above the chalk line. Or if you take more than 15 seconds between shots. Or if you are a Chatty Cathy and disturb other shooters. Or if you display any un-sportswoman like conduct.



OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

- Referees are required at all events. Referees are present to make the event **safe, fair, efficient, and enjoyable**. In that order. They keep score, trap, and ensure proper conduct. They will administer warnings and penalties when rules are broken. Luckily, there is no coaching or disruptive talking permitted on the parcours. Anyone giving you unsolicited advice will be penalized. Hooray.
- Due to the nature of squadding and mandatory referees, you should register for FITASC tournaments early. The events fill up fast.
- You must **police your shells** and place them in the bin provided. If you shoot a semi-automatic (your spent shells will tend to disperse) ask the referee prior to shooting the appropriate time to pick them up (either between hoops or in between parcours).
- Eye and ear protection are mandatory. You will forfeit your turn (score 0's) if you show up unprepared.
- When in doubt, ask the referee. Be deferential and respectful (we know Annie shooters are anyway!) Referees are there to help, all have been trained and certified. You may not appeal a hit/miss call or whether a trajectory was a 'no bird.'

For a complete list of FITASC Rules visit nssa-nzca.org or visit the link below:

https://www.fitasc.com/upload/files/Rglts_PCH_01012013_ENG.pdf



FITASC QUICK TIPS

- Do not forget you have full use of the gun – two shots allowed on the single bird targets.
- When shooting doubles, you can keep the gun shouldered or up for the second shot.
- The first member of the squad will be shown the targets' trajectories. WATCH CLOSELY where the birds are coming from and where they are going. Make your plan. FITASC is a discipline where your memory will be tested nearly as much as your shooting ability.
- Pay special attention to the simultaneous or true pair presentation – decide in advance which bird you will shoot first. Watch others shoot it, assess your plan.
- Shoot a few practice rounds with a seasoned FITASC shooter before you enter a registered shoot. Ask questions.

USA Women's FITASC shooters **dominate on the world stage**. At the FITASC World Cup 2022 and 2023 the women's TEAM USA beat their nearest competitors by 20+ birds. They also bested many of the men's teams.

