

Shooting

History of

Shooting truly is a sport for anyone of any age. A 17 year-old won the gold medal in the Men's 50m Pistol event at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Can you imagine being 17 and winning a Gold Medal at the Olympics? Nice work! However, the silver medal in the same event went to a 58 year-old from Sweden, who won the same event at the Olympic Games in Munich 20 years earlier!



The international popularity of shooting is evidenced by the almost 6-fold increase in the number of events between the first Olympic Games of 1896 and Athens 2004. The Olympic program now includes 17 events that are divided into the following 4 disciplines: shotgun, rifle, pistol and running target. The various targets in all events have point values, and the winner of any shooting event is the competitor with the highest point total.

In the Olympics

There are 6 total shotgun events - 3 for men and 3 for women. The targets in these events are commonly referred to as "clay pigeons" and resemble a discus in size and shape. The targets are propelled through the air at high speeds; fired from a powerful device known as the "trap". All shots in shotgun events are fired from athletes in the standing position only.

There are 5 total rifle events - 3 for men and 2 for women. There is a multi-discipline men's and women's competition in which shots are fired from the prone, kneeling and standing positions at stationary targets 50 metres away. There is also an event where competitors stand and fire at a target 10 metres away. The targets are made up of 10 rings, with the smallest, centre target (the bulls-eye) worth 10 points, the second smallest ring worth 9 points, and so on. The final event requires male competitors to take 60 shots, from the prone position, at targets 50 metres away. 60 Shots... now that's some serious shooting!

As with rifle, there are 5 total pistol events - 3 for men and 2 for women. There are men's and women's competitions over 10 and 25 m, as well as a 50 m event in which only men participate. Competitors must fire the pistol from the standing position with one hand. Pistol events are scored the same as rifle events with athletes firing at similar 10-ring, electronic targets.

There is only 1 running target event and it is without a women's division. Competitors use rifles to fire at moving targets 10 metres away. All shots are fired from the standing position and all competitors must initiate each shot with his gun on his hip. Once the target begins to move across the 2 metre wide aisle, he lifts the gun and fires.

Getting Involved

Shooting is a sport in which concentration and technique must both be mastered before an athlete can enjoy success. It is more a test of nerves and mental focus than physical strength. At any level of competition, safety is the primary concern when shooting; for more information on how to become involved in visit www.sfc.ncf.ca

