

SHOOTING AUSTRALIA PARA-TRAP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Para-Trap?

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is the organisation responsible for overseeing the organisation and delivery of the Paralympic Games (i.e. Summer and Winter), which happen every four (4) years.

There is a section within the IPC called World Shooting Para Sports (WSPS), which is focussed specifically on the sport of Shooting. Until recently, the WSPS delivered programs and events for athletes with impairments in Pistol and Rifle Shooting only.

In 2017, however, the WSPS formally recognised Para-Trap as its newest Shooting discipline.

Is Para-Trap in the Paralympic Games?

No ... or not at this stage. In 2017, the WSPS and IPC considered whether or not to include Para-Trap in the program of sports/events for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris.

Unfortunately, it was decided not to include it on the basis that the discipline was still growing and needed time to develop before it could legitimately be contested by enough countries at a high enough level (i.e. of performance) for it to be in the Paralympic program.

This means that the earliest Para-Trap can be included in the Paralympic Games is 2028. And, its inclusion at that time will depend on more athletes from more countries competing in more events (i.e. at local, state, national and international levels).

The IPC will be keen to ensure that Para-Trap is included in the Paralympic Games at some point, it presents as a real spectacle, contested by high performance athletes at the highest possible standard of performance. The focus at this level will be 'performance' not just 'participation'.

So where does Para-Trap fit in to Shooting Australia's programs?

There are two (2) different areas of focus when it comes to Para-Trap for Shooting Australia – Participation and High Performance.

Participation

In terms of Participation, and now that there's a possibility Para-Trap will form part of the Paralympic program, Shooting Australia will work closely with its relevant Member Bodies (i.e. ACTA and Sporting Clays) to promote awareness of this new discipline for people with impairments through their engagements in clubs and competitions at the local, state and national levels.

The primary objective through this collaboration will be to increase the number, and over time, the quality of participants shooting Para-Trap. Some of these participants will have (or develop) aspirations to compete and some won't. Of those that do wish

to compete, some might even be motivated and talented enough to compete for spots on our Australian Teams.

High Performance

Shooting Australia's High Performance Program aims to identify and develop talented athletes with the potential to contribute to the success of our Australian Teams at the highest levels of international competition in the future.

Shooting Australia gets significant funding from the Federal Government through the Australian Institute of Sport, to employ coaches and other staff and deliver programs and activities that are all aimed at Australian Shooting athletes winning medals at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Shooting Australia has started to explore how it might support emerging Para-Trap athletes to engage in its High Performance Program and be selected to National Teams to represent Australia at WSPS events such as World Cups and the World Championships. However, it's early days and our thinking, planning and delivery are still evolving.

Shooting Australia's focus in the short term has been to identify and support targeted Australian athletes to compete in WSPS events with a view to being represented and also to stay abreast of this new discipline as it continues to evolve towards inclusion in the Paralympic Games over the next five to ten years.

At the same time, Shooting Australia is starting to work more closely with those athletes (i.e. our pioneers of Para-Trap) to develop selection standards, processes and criteria that will help to inform its engagement of Para-Trap athletes in the High Performance Program and National Teams now and in the years to come.

How do I get involved?

People with impairments who would like to shoot for fun are encouraged to approach and join their local club. And through their clubs, people with impairments who would like to shoot competitively, can access local, state and national level events through their clubs, State Associations and National Member Bodies.

Can I represent my country?

People with impairments who would like to progress their Shooting beyond the national level to international competition, need to be identified by Shooting Australia and gain selection to an Australian Team.

There are documents on Shooting Australia's website that outline how it determines which athletes will be selected to Australian Teams to compete in WSPS events. These include the:

- SA HP-Selection Strategy 2017-2020;
- WSPS World Cups 2017-2020; and
- 2018 WSPS World Championships.

It's important that any aspiring Para-Trap athlete read and understand these documents and the processes and criteria outlined in each.

I've read the documents but what do they mean?

In really simple terms, for a Para-Trap athlete to be selected as a member of an Australian Team to compete in WSPS World Cups and/or the World Championships, they have to first be a regular competitor in 'Shooting Australia (SA)-Endorsed' events conducted around Australia from time-to-time. A calendar outlining these events, their locations and the organising committee or club conducting them can also be located on the SA website.

Through their performances (i.e. results) at these events, athletes will be identified by Shooting Australia as 'athletes of interest' (i.e. from a high performance perspective). In the first instance, there are four things that Shooting Australia will be looking for:

1. Are they regular competitors in domestic Shotgun competitions, particularly SA-Endorsed events;
2. Have they been assessed as 'eligible' for Para-Trap competition against the WSPS athlete classifications for Para-Trap (see below); and
3. Have they shot a score in a SA-Endorsed event that meets or exceeds the Benchmark Score (see below) for their Para-Trap classification?

What are the WSPS Athlete Classifications for Para-Trap?

The WSPS evaluates and 'classifies' athletes prior to their engagement in international events to ensure that they are competing against other athletes with similar abilities and/or disabilities. There are three (3) events and classifications for Para-Trap and they are:

Event PT1 - Class SG-S: Athletes with poor balance and/or trunk stability, competing from a wheelchair in a standard seated position. Athletes have impairment in the lower limb(s), but no functional limitation in the upper limbs.

Event PT2 - Class SG-L: Athletes with good balance and trunk function, competing from a standing position. Athletes have impairment in the lower limb(s), but no functional limitation in the upper limbs.

Event PT3 - Class SG-U: Athletes with good balance and trunk function, competing from a standing position. Athletes have impairment in the non-shooting arm.

Classification needs to be completed by a WSPS-recognised, independent classifier. We have two in Australia who are qualified to work across all of the Shooting disciplines, including Para-Trap. Assessment of athletes is coordinated by Shooting Australia on a needs basis (i.e. given the small number of athletes that this affects) and must be completed prior to an athlete being licensed and entered in to an event with the WSPS.

When do I need to be classified?

When competing at club and state championships level all that is required is a provisional classification which can be completed remotely by you and your doctor or physio. Your paperwork will then be assessed by our Head of Classification and your provisional status confirmed.

Once competing at national events a national classification will be required. Athletes who plan to attend an event will need to register for classification and attend a face to face consultation with one of our national classifiers.

International classification will be assessed on a case by case basis.

What are the Shooting Australia Benchmark Scores for Para-Trap?

In addition to being classified and subsequently licensed with the WSPS, Shooting Australia requires athletes to demonstrate a level of performance in domestic competition (i.e. within Australia) that suggests they will be internationally competitive when they travel overseas.

These are called Benchmark Scores and are determined by Shooting Australia (i.e. not the WSPS) based on the average scores required to achieve a place in the finals in WSPS competition since Para-Trap was formally recognised/included. Currently, they are set at:

- **PT1:** 93/125;
- **PT2:** 102/125; and
- **PT3:** 89/125.

These scores will continue to be revised as more WSPS Para-Trap events are conducted and more performance data from those events becomes available.

Fundamentally, we want athletes to be able to access international competition 'for experience' but only when they are ready. Benchmark Scores help us to make this determination and to ensure that our country is well represented by athletes rather than people who might like to travel and shoot.

Is it true that the World Championships will be in Australia in 2019?

Yes ... This is very exciting! The 2019 WSPS World Championships will be held in Sydney during late October. It will be special because it is a major opportunity for Pistol and Rifle athletes to secure quota places for the 2020 Paralympic Games and also because it's the first time that Para-Trap, Pistol and Rifle will be contested at the same World Championships.

Shooting Australia will be looking to send a very strong team to this event – our home event. But by strong, we mean quality not quantity of athletes. The 2019 WSPS World Championships Selection Criteria is still being developed and will be distributed via the Shooting Australia website in the coming months.

The standards/requirements for selection to the Australian Team to this event will be unashamedly high. That said, we hope that there are good numbers of Para-Shooting athletes in each discipline/event to drive this standard from both a selection and a team performance perspective.

So how do I make the World Championships team?

To be considered for the Shooting Australia team for WSPS Sydney World Championships you must:

1. Be classified and licensed with WSPS.

2. Commit to Para-Trap local, state and international competitions.
3. Compete in SA Endorsed events and achieve a BMS.
4. Attend a WSPS sanctioned international event and achieve a MQS.
5. Meet the requirements of the Shooting Australia WSPS World Championship selection policy, and then be selected to the Australian Team by the Selection Panel.

Is there funding available from Shooting Australia to help me?

Funding is always a challenging conversation given the expense associated with Shooting sports. We would love to fund everyone that needed it but our reality is that we just don't have it to give.

Our high performance funding at Shooting Australia comes to us from the AIS and is intended to help us win medals in Olympic/Paralympic disciplines and benchmark events including the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Given that Para-Trap currently sits outside of our Paralympic remit, there is no funding at present to support the costs incurred by Para-Trap athletes (or aspiring athletes), which is unfortunate. Our pioneering Para-Trap athletes are paying their own way and this is likely to be the case in the short to medium terms.

Of course, funding from Shooting Australia is not the only option available to support athlete development. Often grants can be sourced from local and State Governments, community sport foundations and organisations, and sponsors.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information please contact Shooting Australia at office@shootingaustralia.org