



**CASE STUDY** 

# SPORTS TRAVEL SIMPLIFIED

## **01. THE OBJECTIVE**

Scottish Target Shooting (STS) is the governing body covering rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines. Their performance athletes take part in training camps and international events including the Commonwealth Games. The nature of the sport means that travel plans are complex, particularly due to the strict regulatory and security requirements of airlines and hotels.

We needed to ensure the safe, legal, and seamless transport of Scottish Target Shooting's athletes, firearms, and ammunition. There was an added complexity in that the athletes were due to travel from Scotland, giving us fewer options for airlines that accept the transportation of firearms.



## **02. THE APPROACH**

Early planning was vital. We created profiles with the details of each athlete's firearms, from serial numbers to license details, making sure to cross-check these with Scottish Target Shooting.

By using our specialist knowledge of firearm travel logistics, we double checked all the relevant documentation and made a shortlist of airline carriers that would be "firearms-friendly" for the entire route.

We also had to consider the legal and regulatory implications, including UK firearms licensing (which requires each traveller to carry a valid firearm certificate) and the European Firearms Pass. Import and export permits for the transit country and destination were also planned out, including customs declaration requirements and abiding by airportspecific rules on carrying firearms and ammunition.



### **03. THE RESULTS**

### Scottish Target Shooting required a great deal of careful planning and specialist knowledge of complex movements...

Not all airlines accept firearms and ammunition. As a result, we made sure to give advance notification to airline security teams and gave ourselves plenty of time to handle the charges and fees associated with carrying firearms.

As we were planning the travel for multiple athletes, firearms, and ammunition units, we worked closely with the airline's group checkin team to assist our travellers through airport secuirty and beyond. We also ensured that there was a central hub for documentation, and a travel coordinator on the ground who was aware of each traveller's legal documentation and requirements.

The packaging and security of the firearms was also fundamental. Equipment was locked in hard cases with ammunition clearly labelled and transported separately within legal limits. We were careful to ensure that equipment was annotated correctly - this was due to the fact that some airlines charge firearms using their usual excess baggage fee for sporting equipment, while others require guns to be inspected prior to carriage before charging locally on departure. There were other risks that we needed to mitigate, too. This incuded booking longer connections when in transit to reduce the risk of delayed or lost firearms and triple-checking equipment requirements to offset any denied boardings. Our **Always On** service offering also meant that the travelling team had access to 24/7 support in case of emergencies.

The trip was a complete success. Not a single firearm was delayed, lost, or denied boarding and we received plenty of positive feedback from the travellers themselves.

The experience allowed us to build stronger relationships with the airlines' specialist departments and taught us the importance of reconfirming bookings and staying up to date with changing regulations in Europe and beyond. Ultimately, it was the perfect demonstration of the value of working with an experienced sports travel team for those looking to ease sport-specific travel pain points.



# THANK YOU

+44(0)113 468 9240 | sports.gdg.travel | sports@gdg.travel