

THE WINDRUSH BOWMEN

CLUB RULES

Amended 28.11.16

Rules for Club Members in Club Archery Activities

The purpose of the Rules is (a) to assure the safety of Club archery activities and (b) to promote the interests of the Club and its members. The Rules do not relate to the practice or fairness of competitions.

In these Rules, he/him/his includes she/her/hers etc.

RULES THAT APPLY TO ALL SHOOTING

It is the responsibility of all Club Members to familiarise themselves with the Health and Safety risk assessments and emergency procedures relevant to all shooting activities and locations at which they are shooting. These can be found on the club website at www.windrushbowmen.org.uk. In addition;

1. If you become aware of a safety hazard around the ground, whether related to archery or not, you should act to remove the hazard if possible. You should bring the hazard to the attention of other archers, and of the event or ground organiser if appropriate.
2. If a hazard involves immediate danger, you and those with you should act immediately to halt shooting and have the problem fixed. Do not worry about doing this. Even if the problem turns out to be less important you have the full support of the event organiser and of the Club for your action.
3. The Club Safety Officer keeps an accident recording book. Report all hazardous shots, near miss incidents, personal accidents and accidents to others to the CSO, with a list of witnesses, as soon as possible. The CSO must send details of significant incidents to the Club's insurers within 7 days of the event.
4. If you become aware of a hazard, shout "stop shooting". If you are shooting, stop immediately when you hear the command to stop.
5. Wherever possible, do not shoot alone.
6. Do not consume alcohol during shooting. Do not come to the course to shoot if you have been drinking. The limit for alcohol consumption is nil. The same applies to drugs.
7. You may not use any bow or crossbow shooting arrows at greater than 300 ft/sec.
8. Crossbows must be fitted with a bolt retaining clip, trigger guard and safety catch, unless the bow is a replica of a historical design which cannot reasonably be fitted with a particular feature. Archers owning or using a crossbow must:
 - a) Never leave a loaded crossbow unattended, even if it is placed on the ground
 - b) Always store your crossbow unloaded and in a safe place
 - c) If the crossbow is stolen, report the theft immediately to the Police
 - d) Get your crossbow checked once per year by a suitably qualified person.
9. Do not nock an arrow or draw your bow or crossbow until you are in position and ready to shoot.
10. Before shooting, check that the target and overshoot area are clear before you draw and shoot.
11. Do not draw or shoot a bow or point a loaded or unloaded bow or crossbow in any direction other than at the intended target.
12. Do not draw or shoot a bow towards another person or aimed close beside them.
13. Do not knowingly shoot a damaged arrow.
14. Do not draw the bow in such a way that an accidental release would make the arrow go dangerously wide of the target. In particular avoid a high draw.
15. Stand away from an archer who is shooting. Give him room for safety, and avoid distracting him.
16. Stand clear of a person pulling arrows, to avoid being hit by the nock end. If you are pulling arrows make sure there is no one in the way.
17. If you break an arrow, pick up the broken pieces and take them away from the shooting ground.
18. You must mark your arrows with your name so that they can be identified as yours.
19. Do not use carbon fibre arrows or bring them to the football club ground. They may be used at Rangers Lawn and Fawler field grounds. Broken fibres are razor sharp and if an arrow is broken or lost it is a serious potential hazard to others. Composite arrows made from carbon fibre and aluminium may be used.
20. Club bows and arrows are intended for the use of Beginners and 'Have A Go' participants. If you want to try a club bow for any reason you may do so only with the permission of one of the Club's officers. You must take good care of such equipment. It is loaned to you on condition that you check its condition before you use it, and take responsibility for maintaining it in safe condition while you have it.

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21. Take your current Club membership card with you whenever you are shooting on club grounds, and produce it at the request of a Club Officer. It would help the Club if you have the card displayed somewhere, for example attached to your quiver.

22. You may bring a guest who is a trained archer to shoot at the club grounds, with any one guest limited to three visits per year. A club member with local knowledge must accompany guests during shooting.

23. You may bring a guest who is not an archer to one of the club shooting grounds for a “taster” session, with any one guest limited to three visits per year. You must accompany him yourself, instruct him during shooting, and guide him in applying the Club Rules with which he is not expected to be familiar. You may seek permission for the guest to use club bows and equipment.

RESTRICTIONS FOR JUNIORS UNDER 18

This section contains measures for the safety of child archers (and those close by), and for child protection. See also the Club’s child protection policy for further information.

24. Juniors under 12 may not shoot or handle a crossbow. Juniors from 12 to 17 shooting crossbow must be supervised by an adult aged 21 or more – that is the law.

25. Juniors under 18 must be accompanied by their parent, legal guardian, or a temporary shoot guardian appointed by the parent or legal guardian. The accompanying person and the supervisor do not have to be the same person.

26. If you act as a temporary shoot guardian you must provide the Club beforehand with a consent form which nominates you as such. Forms are available from the Secretary or the Child Protection Officer. It is the sole responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to decide your suitability to act as temporary guardian and to inform you of your duties and liabilities whilst acting as temporary guardian.

TARGET SHOOTING

This section is for shooting at the Club’s target shooting ground, and for indoor target shooting where applicable. It includes beginner’s courses, where the supervising club members must guide the beginners in applying these rules.

Club Member may take part in target shooting only under the supervision of an experienced target archer, until they are considered to be competent in target shooting and their club membership card has been signed off to this effect by a person nominated by the Club Committee.

27. Nominate an experienced club member as Target Captain for each session of shooting.

28. As Target Captain you are asked to co-ordinate the placing of targets and shooting lines, and the general conduct of affairs during the session.

29. Mark out a fixed shooting line (eg a rope on the ground, painted line etc).

30. For bows shot off the fingers and crossbows less than 90 lb draw, for target distances up to 60yards, the overall range length including overshoot must extend at least 110 yards from the shooting line.

31. For bows shot off the fingers, for target distances over 60 yards, the overall range length including overshoot must extend at least 50 yards beyond the target.

32. For bows shot with a release aid and crossbows above 90 lb draw, for all target distances, the overall range length including overshoot must extend at least 150 yards from the shooting line.

33. Position the targets so that there is a clear separation sideways of 25 yards on each side of the targets along the length of the range.

34. Place a backstop net behind all targets.

35. Before and after shooting stay back behind a waiting line several yards behind the shooting line.

36. Wait until the Target Captain blows one blast on his whistle, then you may move forward to a space on the shooting line and begin to shoot.

37. When all archers have shot and are back behind the waiting line, wait for the Target Captain to blow three blasts on his whistle indicating it is safe to collect arrows.

38. It is important that no arrows are lost on the Target Ground as they may be a hazard for other sports using the ground. Know exactly how many arrows you have with you so that you can be sure if you have lost one.

39. Do all that you can to prevent the loss of arrows by yourself and others and work diligently to find any that are lost. If an arrow cannot be found, you should report it to the Target Captain immediately. As Target Captain, you should report arrows which cannot be found to the Club Safety Officer, with as much information about location as possible.

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FIELD SHOOTING

This section is for shooting on the Club's field courses.

Club Members may take part in field shooting, clout shooting or roving shooting only under the supervision of an experienced field archer, until they are considered to be competent in field shooting and their club membership card has been signed off to this effect by a person nominated by the Club Committee.

Members attending Rangers Lawn field course must sign the attendance book on arrival and again on departure ensuring all details are completed.

40. When signed off as competent, you may use the field courses during the days and times advertised by the Club Field Officers. When a pre-arranged Club event is taking place you may not shoot independently. You may not shoot at night, unless it is in a night-time Club event.

41. Wherever possible do not shoot alone.

42. Every adult archer should carry a whistle. In emergency, blow 3 blasts of the whistle as a signal to stop shooting or if you are in trouble. If you hear such a whistle, stop shooting immediately. The event organiser and/or his deputy will investigate, other archers normally stay put, depending on circumstances.

43. If you are organising a Club event, begin with a safety briefing to all archers. Point out any specific risks to be avoided, what to do in the event of an accident, emergency signals etc.

44. During informal shooting, where you may not know who else is on the course, if you hear a whistle then send a member of your group to investigate. Take great care, and act according to circumstances.

45. To restart shooting after a whistle event, the signal at a club event is a blast on an air horn or other signal as arranged by the shoot organiser. During informal shooting, word of mouth may be appropriate.

46. From your start point, shoot round in numerical order and follow the paths. Do not stray across the course where you may come into danger from others archers shooting. After you have finished shooting continue to follow the course until you come to a safe exit point.

47. Only one of your group may shoot at a time.

48. Unless other arrangements are in force, juniors under 12 should shoot from yellow pegs, ages 12-13 shoot from blue and yellow, ages 14-15 shoot from white and blue pegs only.

49. Shoot with your forward foot against the back of the shooting peg.

50. During shooting, do not stand forward of the archer currently on the shooting peg. Do not go forward to observe shot arrows until all in your group have shot.

51. While scoring, drawing arrows or looking for lost arrows, make sure at least one adult member of the group remains in front of the target where he can be seen by the following group arriving at the pegs.

52. Walk away from the target as a group. Never go back towards the target, in case the following group suddenly starts to shoot. If the group behind you is already waiting and visibility is poor, shout "clear" when your entire group is a safe distance from the target.

53. Do not alter the layout of any part of the course without the permission of the Club Field Officers.

FIELD COURSE DESIGN

This section is for setting out targets on the field course.

54. Provide safe overshoots for targets taking into account different bow types, possible deflections, the terrain, and the position of paths, roads etc. Make sure that the search area for lost arrows is not in the overshoot of another shot.

55. Provide sufficient sideways separation between targets, allowing for different bow types, deflections and terrain. Make greater allowance for longer shots, shooting through gaps in trees etc.

56. If the ground is steep or is likely to be slippery, make sure that the shooting pegs are positioned so that archers can reasonably make the shot without losing balance.

57. Provide enough space in front of targets to allow groups to stand and score and to pull arrows.

58. Make sure that paths around the course are clear and are marked if necessary. The path to the next peg should bring archers in behind the rearmost peg.

59. Before coming into use, all targets on a course should be assessed by the Club Field Officers using the course safety checklist.

CLOUT SHOOTING

This section is for clout shooting at the Club's field shooting ground.

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60. You may not use a compound bow, or any type of specialised flight bow.
61. Set up a flag in the ground to mark the target position.
62. Provide an overshoot distance of at least 70 yards behind and to the sides of the target marker, from any place to which the public have access.
63. Set up a shooting line(s) at a distance approaching the maximum range of the bows used. Make sure you can see where your arrows will land from the shooting line.
64. At the shooting line(s), wait until all archers have shot before going forward to the next line or the target.
65. Several of you may shoot at the same time but at least one adult must keep watch while the others shoot.

ROVING SHOOTING

This section is for roving archery at the Club's field shooting ground. You are roving if you are not doing one of the other types of shooting described in these rules. Typically you are shooting at natural features or improvised targets.

66. You may practice roving archery in open areas of the field shooting ground which lie away from the established field course and its overshoot areas.
67. Before shooting make sure that you can clearly see that the whole of the shot, the target, overshoot and sideways clearance areas are empty of people. Make your choice of target and shooting position generally in accordance with the guidance in these Rules for field course design. Make your assessment of the safety of the shot based on a clear view of the whole area.
68. Several of you may shoot at the same time but at least one adult must keep watch while the others shoot.
69. Your group must shoot at only one target at a time, then collect arrows or select a different target.
70. During shooting, do not stand forward of the archers currently shooting. Do not go forward to observe shot arrows until all in your group have shot.

HAVE-A-GO SHOOTING

This section is for events open to the public, including private functions, where members of the public shoot using club equipment, under instruction by club members. It applies to events at the Club grounds, and at public or private venues.

71. A site may be allocated by the organiser of the event. Satisfy yourself that the site is safe for shooting. If not then seek a suitable site. If a suitable site is not available then do not allow shooting to take place.
72. Take an accident recording book to all events and record details of any incidents, however slight. Include the names and addresses of those involved and any witnesses. Send details of the incident to the Club Safety Officer immediately after the event. The CSO must forward details of significant incidents to the Club's insurers within 7 days of the event.
73. Make yourself aware of the location of any first-aid facilities provided by the organiser.
74. Rope off the archery area to exclude the public.
75. Use only light draw-weight beginners' bows.
76. Place targets on the ground. Targets should not be more than 1.3m high.
77. Place the targets not more than 10 yards from the shooting line.
78. Erect backstop netting behind the targets at all events.
79. Make sure there is a safe overshoot area in case arrows are shot over the backstop.
80. Every member of the public shooting must be coached by an experienced archer on a one-to-one basis.
81. An adult member who is not coaching must supervise the overall activity and watch for hazards eg public straying into the archery area. He must halt shooting immediately if a hazard arises. Any other club member becoming aware of a hazard must call a halt to shooting immediately.
82. The Club may receive payment for the shooting. Any payments belong to the club and must be paid into club funds (members may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for the Club).

ARCHERY DEMONSTRATIONS

This section is for archery demonstrations to the public, including private functions, where club members shoot using their own equipment.

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83. A site may be allocated by the organiser of the event. Satisfy yourself that the site is safe for shooting. If not then seek a suitable site. If a suitable site is not available then do not allow shooting to take place.

84. Take an accident recording book to all events and record details of any incidents, however slight. Include the names and addresses of those involved and any witnesses. Send details of the incident to the Club Safety Officer immediately after the event. The CSO must forward details of significant incidents to the Club's insurers within 7 days of the event.

85. Make yourself aware of the location of any first-aid facilities provided by the organiser.

86. Erect backstop netting behind the targets at all events. This requirement does not apply to distance or clout shooting demonstrations.

87. Make sure there is a safe overshoot area in case arrows are shot over the backstop.

88. An adult member who is not shooting must supervise the overall activity and watch for hazards eg public straying into the archery area. He must halt shooting immediately if a hazard arises. Any other club member becoming aware of a hazard must call a halt to shooting immediately.

89. The Club may receive payment for the shooting. Any payments belong to the club and must be paid into club funds (members may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for the Club).

CONDUCT

This section deals with the conduct of members and duties of the Committee as set out in the Club Constitution in relation to disciplinary procedures.

90. If any member wilfully refuses or neglects to comply with any of the provisions of the Constitution or of the Club Rules or shall be guilty of any conduct objectionable to other members or officers of the Club or prejudicial to the interests of the Club, the member shall be liable to expulsion by Resolution of the Committee provided that not less than two weeks notice in writing shall be given by the Secretary to any such member of the intended Resolution and of the nature of the allegation made against them. The member, at their option, shall be entitled to give an explanation in writing and/or to attend the meeting of the Committee at which the Resolution is to be considered and to give such explanation or make such defence in person as they may think fit but the Committee shall have absolute and unfettered discretion to accept or reject any such explanation or defence and the decision shall be final and conclusive. The decision of the committee may be to:

A Expel any member;

B Suspend a member for a period of time to be determined;

C In the case of a member of the committee, expel the member from the committee. Any such member shall be ineligible to serve on the committee for a period of 5 years.

D Write to the member warning them of their conduct.

Appeals against such a decision may be made to The Club's members and decided by a majority vote.

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