

Rules of shooting for outdoor target shooting

This is based on the Archery GB Rules of Shooting but due to its copyright is in my own words. The paragraphs are numbered sequentially for the whole document to make reference easier.

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Shooting (1 to 14)

1 When shooting, archers stand with one foot on each side of the shooting line or with both feet on it. This does not apply to disabled archers.

2 In a tournament, archers shoot in the order of the displayed target list. Number three will be the Target Captain and number four the Target Lieutenant. Shooting order will rotate at record status tournaments but is optional at all others.

3 Six arrows will be shot during each end for GNAS rounds and the two longest Metric rounds. The six will be shot in two lots of three. For all others three arrows are shot during each end.

4 If an archer shoots more than the correct number of arrows the highest scoring extra arrow(s) will be ignored.

5 In the case of a mis-release, if an archer can touch the arrow with the bow without moving feet, he or she may shoot another arrow. If there isn't another arrow the judge may allow retrieval.

6 An archer must shoot his or her first arrow before the others have finished shooting.

7 Late arrivers may not make up missed ends.

8 After shooting his or her last arrow an archer will leave the shooting line, unless to keep another archer company or to avoid disturbing him or her.

9 An archer must shoot all three arrows within 2½ minutes of stepping on the shooting line. The judge may allow extra time in the event of equipment failure.

10 There must be no communication of any kind with an archer on the shooting line except from officials.

11 Six sighting arrows may be shot before the start of a tournament but no other practice is allowed.

12 If an archer finishes up alone on a target the judge may move him or her to another target or move someone to join him or her.

13 No more than six archers may shoot on one target.

14 To retire from a competition an archer will tell the Target Captain who writes 'Retired' on the score card. If an archer deliberately fails to shoot an end the Target Captain will inform the judge and will similarly mark the card. In either case the archer adds his or her signature. Awards such as six-gold end may still be made.

Officials and Control of Shooting (15 to 19)

15 The Lady Paramount is the supreme arbitrator on all matters connected with the tournament.

16 Shooting is controlled by one or more Field Captains. A Judge will take charge of larger meetings. The Judge and Field Captains at large meetings may not shoot.

17 The Judge's tasks are:

- Taking sole control of the shooting
- Resolving all disputes (subject to the Lady Paramount).
- Giving a signal for assembly 15 minutes before the start of shooting.
- Giving a signal to start shooting.
- Signalling when each end is complete.
- Ensuring that no archer advances from the shooting line before the signal.
- Deciding the score for doubtful arrows when asked by a Target Captain.
- Deciding on arrows for Gold prizes.
- Disqualifying archers he sees, or is notified about by the Field Captain or a Target Captain, breaking the Shooting Rules.
- Moving archers if two slow archers are slowing shooting.
- Ordering the replacement of a faulty target.
- Deciding refreshment intervals.
- Suspending shooting due to bad weather.
- Controlling public addresses and photographers to avoid disturbing archers.
- Ensuring spectators stay away from targets.
- Interpreting the rules or deciding when something happens not covered by them

18 There will be equipment inspections at major tournaments before the start or at any time.

19 Archers must:

- Only draw a bow, with or without an arrow, when on the shooting line.
- Ensure that the area in front and behind the targets is clear before drawing a bow with an arrow.
- Allow the scorer to mark the score card if he or she loses an arrow between ends, so the highest score is lost during the next end. This will be initialled by a Judge and the archer.
- Stay behind the waiting line until it is time to move to shoot.

Scoring (20 to 25)

20 Scoring at an informal shoot:

If you are shooting for fun and not recording your scores then there are no set procedures other than for safety. Remember that others on your target might be scoring so don't touch any arrows, or the face, until all scores have been agreed and written down.

21 For GNAS rounds the colours score as follows: gold 9, red 7, Blue 5, black 3, white 1. For metric rounds each colour is split into an inner and an outer ring. Inner gold 10, outer gold 9, inner red 8, outer red 7, inner blue 6, outer blue 5, inner black 4, outer black 3, inner white 2, outer white 1. For some compound rounds there is an even smaller inner gold.

22 In most cases the correct score will be easy to decide. However an arrow that touches two colours or zones, or the dividing line, will score the higher value. Decisions about this can sometimes be difficult.

23 Procedure for scoring at club target days:

- Do not touch any part of the arrow or target face until scoring is complete.
- Any touch will result in the arrow being given the lower value.
- Identify your arrow by pointing at the nock.
- Call out the score and write it down with a blue or black pen.
- Misses are scored with an X.
- The Target Captain, if appointed, will decide in case of doubt.
- Your final scores will be initialled by the Target Captain or another archer.

24 Scoring at record status tournaments:

Use a scoring system where an archer is not the sole recorder of his or her scores. Archery GB has suggested methods in the Rules of Shooting.

25 Changes to recorded scores must be initialled by the Judge in a different colour ink before withdrawing arrows.

Tournament shooting (26 to 33)

The following are the rules for tournaments. However you should also apply them to club shooting where relevant. I have simplified them. For the full rules you should look at the Archery GB Rules of Shooting.

26 If an arrow rebounds from the target, wait until you have shot your final arrow. Then step back two paces and hold your bow in the air. You should then be allowed to shoot a further arrow.

27 An arrow going right through the boss will not be scored. An arrow going through the face but staying in the boss shall be withdrawn and inserted from the back in the same place and angle of its path until visible in the hole in the face and scored.

28 If an arrow hits another arrow and sticks in, it will get the same score as the arrow struck.

29 If an arrow is deflected by another arrow already in the target it will be scored according to its final position in the face. If it is deflected so much that it misses the target, and the arrow that it bounces off has a damaged nock, it will score the same as the arrow it hit.

30 An arrow left hanging in the target face is scored either by pushing it in or removing it and examining the hole in the face.

31 There are separate rules involving marking holes for FITA/Metric Rounds. See the Archery GB Rules of Shooting.

32 If there is a tie the winner will be found in this order:

- Greatest number of hits.
- Greatest number of golds.
- If there is still a tie then the archers will be joint winners.

33 If a shoot is abandoned due to bad weather the result will be based on the scores after the last end shot.

Dress Regulations (34)

34 The following apply to all archers and officials at Tournaments with National Record Status.

- Women must wear a dress or skirt, trousers or shorts with a suitable top (not strapless or beachwear).
- Men are required to wear trousers or shorts with long or short sleeved shirts.
- Sweaters, cardigans or blazers may be worn.
- Clothes must be plain dark green or white, though a mixture is allowed..
- Waterproof clothing during bad weather need not obey the rules but please get some if you can.
- Shoes must be worn.
- No advertising is allowed on clothes.
- Club, association, region or country logos may be worn.