

LICHFIELD ARCHERS



SAFETY RULES OF THE CLUB & SOCIETY INCLUDING POINTS OF ETIQUETTE (Refer to Club Constitution & GNAS Rules of Shooting for full details)

Archery can be a very dangerous sport but accidents are rare because participants conduct themselves sensibly. Carelessness is simply not acceptable. The following rules must be adhered to for your own personal safety and that of others.

- Wear close-fitting clothes and try to avoid tops with pull cords and zips, these can get caught up in the string. Long hair should be tied back and any items of jewellery which could get caught in the string should be removed. Facial piercings such as rings, bars studs etc. should also be removed and be aware that nipple piercings can be dangerous! Dress comfortably but sensibly.

- A bow should only be drawn on the 'Shooting Line' and in the direction of the target, it should never be pointed at anyone whether it has an arrow on or not (even in fun). Never 'Dry Fire' a bow (pulling the string back and letting it go without an arrow on); this can break the limbs, not only dangerous to the archer and those around them, but expensive.

- If at any time someone shouts 'FAST' you must stop shooting immediately. If you have an arrow on the bow come down slowly, remove the arrow and await further instructions. NOTE: Anyone can call 'Fast' if they see a potential danger about to occur.

- If you are not shooting you must remain behind the 'Waiting Line'. Only those shooting and Coaches (if working) are allowed up to, and on the Shooting Line. When you have finished shooting retire back behind the Waiting Line.

- No one should approach the Shooting Line or be on the Shooting Line until permission has been given by the 'Field Captain'. This will be indicated either by a whistle or a verbal command or an audible signal and will apply to going onto the Shooting Line to shoot and collecting arrows. You must always obey the Field Captains commands.

- No one must cross or be in front of the Shooting Line until the signal has been given it is safe to do so (as stated above).

- Retrieving arrows is probably the most dangerous part of archery!**

NEVER RUN, approach the targets from the side and be careful of arrows on or in the ground. At the target allow only two people at a time to remove arrows, one each side and work inwards, never reach across and leave any arrows directly underneath the target until last. Place a hand against the target to hold it back and protect the target face, hold the arrow as close to the target as possible so as to avoid bending it and pull it out. Always check behind you and make sure no one is standing in the way, those not removing arrows should be about 6 feet (2 metres) away from the target.

- Juniors (persons under the age of 18) must be accompanied by an adult affiliated member of G.N.A.S. at all times. A parent or guardian must accompany and remain with them at all times of shooting unless special arrangements have been made with an affiliated member to supervise them.

•An agreement with Lichfield District Council for the use of Christian Fields as our shooting ground states that when shooting outside, all four red flags must be in place before shooting commences. Failure to comply with this will invalidate the GNAS insurance of all archers present.

•If you shoot at the club on your own you will not be covered by GNAS insurance, you must be accompanied for your insurance to be valid. The other person(s) do not need to be GNAS members but should act as a look out, especially if outdoors, for any potential dangers, i.e. someone walking onto the shooting field.

•The Treasurer has the authority to spread the payment of membership fees if necessary as long as the member(s) remain in front with their payments. However, full affiliations to the GNAS, West Midlands Archery Society and Staffordshire Archery Association must be paid in full before any archer is allowed to shoot. Again, failure to comply will annul the insurance of all archers present.

NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO SHOOT UNLESS THEIR AFFILIATIONS HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL. On joining the club you will be eligible to shoot immediately as soon as your affiliations have been paid to either the Treasurer or Secretary. New members will be issued with a temporary GNAS number which will validate their affiliation to the Society. This will need to be produced at any Open Tournament entered by the archer. When your official membership card and number is issued this will also be required at registration for all tournaments (other than at your club).

POINTS OF ETIQUETTE

Etiquette is simply a matter of politeness to your fellow archers. Although the list could be continually added to, the following points should be observed at both club and competition:

- If you wish to join another archer or archers already shooting on a target, ask permission first.
- Do not make any loud noises on the Shooting Line (or behind it) which may distract archers whilst they are shooting.
- Turn mobile phones off.
- Do not touch another archer's equipment without asking permission. This also applies to removing arrows from the target, or from the ground, the archer may want to make sight adjustments based on where their arrows have landed!
- If at a club shoot, offer to help move targets at a distance change and help put equipment away afterwards. Helping to move targets at any competition is expected, but at major tournaments a work party is normally responsible for setting up and putting things away.
- At the end of a competition thank the Target Captain (Scorer) for their work, your fellow archers (if it was enjoyable?), those who made the tea and sandwiches, the guys who stamped on the mole hills so you did not trip over them and so on.....

Archery is a great sport for all age groups and we want you to enjoy it. The club abides by the rules and regulations laid down by The Grand National Archery Society which will ensure that we offer a safe environment for the sport for both indoor and outdoor shooting. Should you have any questions or queries please contact a member of the Committee, details are displayed on the notice board in the indoor range.