



ARCHERY INDOOR RISK ASSESSMENT BEGINNERS COURSE

Updated:

November 2024

RISK	Those at risk	Level of harm	Likelihood of harm (with control measurers)	Risk Level	General Control Measures
General anxieties: Fear of handling a bow. Hesitancy in releasing arrow. Erratic release.	Anybody on or around the shooting line	Possible serious injury	Very Unlikely	Very slight	Instructor to offer reassurance and to give a spell of 1 to 1. They will demonstrate and ensure that the archer is wearing all the safety equipment, tabs, bow slings and arm guards have been fitted correctly thus avoiding personal harm. Instructor may have to decide that the archer is probably not suitable for the sport of archery.
Equipment failures: Worn string. Faulty arrow rest. Fletchings on arrows unsuitable. Arrow bent. Arrows too short for the archer	The archer	Very harmful	Very Unlikely	Very slight	Coach, or instructor to ensure that all issued equipment is appropriate and well maintained and in good condition, and that worn and damaged fittings are replaced. Tabs, finger slings, arm braces and chest guards are correctly fitted and worn. The impression given must be that this is standard practice.
Arrows missing the target. Falling short. Arrows overshooting. Buried arrows.	Archers, coaches and helpers, people walking close to the range	serious injury	Unlikely	Moderate	For Have Go. Adequate separation of targets needed, ideally as two ranges. Indoors, whole gym arrow collection whistled by range officer. Pre-session safety talk is a requirement. Archers do not collect their arrows, to avoid foot injury from wearing inappropriate shoes, or accidents when pulling arrows. 2. Taster sessions. Bosses to be on stands and safety talk to be the same as for a beginners course
Equipment	Archers	Slightly harmful	Unlikely	Slight	Coach, or instructor to ensure that all issued equipment is well maintained and in good condition, and that worn and damaged fittings are replaced. Tabs, finger slings, arm braces and chest guards are correctly fitted and worn. The impression given must be that this is standard practice.

People entering the range from public ingress points	Members of the public and users of the hall	Extremely harmful	Unlikely	Moderate	See note 1. Access to range is by a single door behind the shooting line. Warning notices are posted at the door whilst shooting takes place. Gym is only used for archery - no other sports taking place.
Overcrowding of gym	Users of the hall	Harmful	Unlikely	Slight	We have a limited the number of bosses to prevent crowding on the shooting line. The shooting line is placed to give adequate space behind to prevent any interference with the archers.
Rick of overshoot due to short gym length	Users of the hall, hall fabric and arrows	Harmful	Unlikely	Moderate	Netting prevents any damage to far wall and to arrows. Also stops ricochets from misses.
Drawing arrows before the whistle and/or stepping over the shooting line	Archers and helpers	Moderately harmful	Unlikely	Slight	See note 2. All new archers must be briefed as to the course safety layout and have knowledge from the beginners course. (2) All club members are expected to be familiar with the ArcheryGB 'rules of shootings' (3) Senior archers & coaches are required to intervene and correct bad practice when noticed. Consider disciplinary action of persistent offenders.
Injury from pulling arrows from the target	Archers, coaches, judges, guests	Harmful	Unlikely	Slight	See note 2. All archers will have been trained in a beginners course, which includes safe arrow pulling practice. (2) People are to stand back from the target when arrows are being pulled. Senior archers and coaches are required to intervene and correct bad practice when noticed.
Target boss being pulled from stand whilst pulling arrows	Archers, coaches, judges, guests	Harmful	Unlikely	Slight	See note 2. All archers will have been trained in a beginners course, which includes safe arrow pulling practice. (2) Archers are to check that the stands are correctly set up and the back string is anchored into the ground with the target secured with the bungee cord behind the A-frame.
Equipment failure, worn string, faulty arrow rest	Archers	Slightly harmful	Unlikely	Moderate	See note 4. Archers (and the parents or guardians of juniors) are responsible for ensuring their equipment is maintained in good condition and that worn and damaged fittings are replaced. (2) Archers are responsible for ensuring that their bows are assembled correctly.

Setting up and taking down targets	Archers and helpers	Harmful	Unlikely	Slight	See note 3. (1) Target A-Frame stands are to be set up correctly and the pivot bolts tightened with the stand legs securely on the ground (2) Ideally two people to handle bosses on and off the stand. If only one person wait for help. (3) Before shooting, the field captain is to ensure that the targets are secure.
Splinters from target stands	Archers and helpers	Slightly harmful	Unlikely	Slight	See note 3. (1) Targets stands can be struck by arrows, so splinters will occur. (2) Archers are to take care when handling stands. (3) Gaffer tape should be used to cover less severe splintering. (4) Severely damaged stands should be reported to the Equipment Officer and replaced.

NOTES

	Dynamic assessments need to be carried out before each shooting session and throughout the session where applicable.	Be aware of the access points into gym	Look out for people trying to access the gym		
	2 All archers are responsible for safety.	If any archers is aware of circumstances that they feel could jeopardise safety, then they should SHOUT "FAST" and indicate their concerns to the Field Captain.			
	3 The Field Captain can be any senior or experienced archer from the club, using a whistle to signal when shooting can start and when to collect arrows.	The Field Captain should also ensure dynamic assessments before and during the shoot are carried out.			
	4 All archers are responsible for the equipment they are using, especially their own.	Where equipment is on loan for a Beginners Course, any defects should be brought to the attention of the coach who will seek assistance from the Equipment Officer.			

REFERENCES

1	ArcheryGB "Range Health and Safety Guidelines" (see website)
2	ArcheryGB "Rules of Shooting" (see website)
3	Bowmen of Danesfield template for risk assessments.

