



BROMLEY ARCHERY CLUB

*Whitefoot Playing Fields, Whitefoot Lane,
Bromley, Kent*

Archery Etiquette - Club Rules and Code

An Archer must not:

- Talk in a loud voice whilst others are shooting.
- Talk to another competitor who obviously prefers to be silent.
- Make any exclamation on the shooting line which might disconcert a neighbour in the act of shooting.
- Except in very special circumstances, make any exclamation, coach, or give words of advice from the waiting line to an archer on the shooting line. This will disconcert the remaining archers in their act of shooting.
- Leave the shooting line if neighbouring archers on that target are still shooting.
- Go behind the target to retrieve his/her arrows **before** his/her score has been recorded.
- Talk up and down the line comparing scores.
- Touch anyone else's equipment without permission.
- Leave litter.
- Smoke on the shooting line.

An Archer must:

- When calling scores do so in groups of three, e.g. 7-7-5 pause 5-5-3.
- Point to, but NOT TOUCH, any arrows during scoring. Touching an arrow may invalidate that arrow's score.
- If he/she breaks another's arrow through carelessness he/she must offer to pay for it in cash on the spot.
- If picking up arrows behind the target not belonging to him/her, the archer will stand them vertically where they landed to enable the owner/archer identify the shooting error.
- Thank the Field Captain at the end of each round for work on his/her behalf.

All shooting at the club is undertaken under the GNAS rules of shooting. Full copies of these are available for any member from the Secretary or Coaches. As part of the basic beginner's course the fundamental safety rules will be explained and all archers are expected to be familiar with these rules.

ARCHERY SAFETY RULES

1. NEVER point a bow and arrow at another person.
2. NEVER shoot an arrow straight up into the air. You can end up hitting another person or yourself. The only exception is for popinjay shoots where special arrows are used and special safety precautions are in place.
3. NEVER shoot an arrow off into the distance where you cannot see where it will land. Again, you could end up hitting another person.
4. Only use archery equipment in places that are especially set up for target practice - such as indoor and outdoor target ranges. Targets should be set up using the safety zones recommended by Archery GB to ensure that no one can be accidentally hit by a stray arrow.
5. If you are looking for a lost arrow behind a target, always ensure your Field Captain is aware that you are there. If possible, have one archer from your group stand in front of the target to make your presence known to the Field Captain.
6. On Field Archery or 3-D courses, be sure to stay on the marked path and travel only in the direction in which the targets are laid out while shooting is in progress. Going backwards on the trail or across an unmarked area could place you in the path of a flying arrow, resulting in serious injury.
7. DO NOT shoot arrows with broadheads. Their use is forbidden on the Whitefoot Lane shooting ground of Bromley Archery Club. They can only be used on specialist ranges.
8. If you are shooting wooden arrows, check them regularly for cracks. If one is found cracked, take action to ensure that it will not be accidentally used. Shooting a cracked arrow can result in its breaking and causing painful injury to the shooter.
9. Always use a bowstringer for longbows and recurve bows. This will reduce the possibility of damage to the bow and injury to the person.
10. Check your bow regularly for cracks or twisting. If in doubt, have it checked by a professional before shooting it any more.
11. Check the condition of your bowstring regularly. It's cheaper to install a new string than to replace the bow.
12. Don't draw a bowstring back further than the length of the arrow for which it is intended.
13. Overdrawing can break the bow and injure the shooter in the process. There is an old saying that a fully drawn bow is 7/8 broken!
14. Don't draw the string back except with an arrow on it and, especially, don't release the bowstring with no arrow on it. Doing so is called dry firing and can damage the bow.
15. At target ranges, the only safe place is behind the shooting line.
16. Never shoot an arrow (even if a SHOOT whistle has been blown) if you have reason to believe that someone is in front of you or may be behind the targets. Make your concerns known immediately by shouting FAST.
17. Conversely, don't stand in front of a bow while it is being shot, even if you are to one side of the shooter.
18. Wait for a verbal approval from the Field Captain or his/her designee before starting to shoot (see also Rule No. 16).
19. Arrows should only be nocked on the shooting line and pointed in the direction of the targets.

20. After you are done shooting, wait for the whistle: CLEAR from the Field Captain or his/her designee before going toward the targets to retrieve your arrows.
21. WALK, don't run toward the targets. Remember that the arrows are sticking out and can injure you.
22. When pulling arrows out of a target, stand to one side and ensure that no one is directly behind you.
23. If archers will be shooting concurrently at varying distances, stagger the targets, not the people. This goes back to the previous rule (No. 15) about having one shooting line and staying behind it.
24. Carefully follow the instructions given by the Field and Target Captain.
25. **"FAST!"** The most important term in archery is "FAST!" When it is called, everyone must **stop shooting immediately** and all arrows must be returned to a quiver or the ground. Anyone on the range may, and indeed should, shout "FAST!" whenever they notice range safety being compromised. Shooting will not recommence until the instruction to do so has been given.
26. **The Field Captain:-** The field captain is in charge of the archery range and should be the first person to approach with questions or concerns about the shooting session. The field captain usually has a whistle and should be the only person with one.

REMOVAL OF ARROWS FROM A BOSS

To remove arrows from a boss:

1. Walk to the side of the boss; a maximum of two people can remove arrows from a single boss;
2. Stand perpendicular to the boss, facing the arrows;
3. Keep the hand nearest to the boss on the boss at the base of the nearest arrow;
4. With your other hand, firmly grasp the arrow as close to the boss as possible;
5. Line up your forearm with the shaft of the arrow;
6. Check that nobody is behind the arrow;
7. Pull the arrow directly from the boss using your whole body;
8. Transfer the arrow to your other hand, place it in your quiver or carefully pass it to someone else;
9. Continue from step three.

Note that all the arrows should be pulled, from the edge to the centre, before sorting which belongs to whom.