

Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports

Archery Rules

This is a synopsis of archery rules. The 4-H Shooting Sports Program uses current rules of several archery governing bodies with some modifications to meet the objectives of the program or to increase the success rates of young people participating in the program. In 4-H events, 4-H rules and regulations supersede all other rules where differences exist. All coaches are encouraged to become familiar with these rules and those of related archery governing bodies. This document is intended to give shooters and coaches a basic familiarity with the rules used in 4-H archery events. Events sponsored by other organizations may involve other rules and requirements.

3. Equipment

3.3 Bows - Any bow that does not violate the conventional meaning of the term in target archery may be used in 4-H archery events. Separate classes will be designated for recurve and compound events.

a. Recurve bows - Longbows or recurve bows of conventional design **only** may be used in any recurve division of archery events. FITA definition of a recurve bow will apply.

b. Compound bows - Compound bows, longbows and recurve bows of any conventional design may be used in the compound bow division of archery events.

c. Maximum draw weight (3-D, Field & FITA target events) - The maximum draw weight for bows used in the 3-D, Field and FITA Archery Match is 65 pounds nominal peak weight or listed draw weight. Bows may be subject to verification at the discretion of the event management.

d. Bowstring - A bowstring of adequate strength and composed of appropriate materials may not include any attachment or marking that may be used as a sighting device or aid. It may include the following attachments or components:

1) Servings - Center and end-loop servings are permitted, but no serving may terminate within the shooter's vision with the bow at full draw.

2) Nocking point indicator - One or more nocking point indicators may be used to position the nock on the string. The nocking point indicator may be of any conventional design, including materials that may be crimped, wound or heat shrunk to the center serving.

3) Lip or nose mark - One additional attachment with a diameter of one centimeter or less may be applied to the string to serve as a lip or nose mark ("kisser button").

4) String peep - String peeps are permitted only in the compound classes in target archery and in all 3-D and Field events.

e. Arrow rest - An arrow rest of any conventional design with or without adjustable or moveable pressure points, arrow plates or draw check indicator may be used as long as it is not electronic and offers no additional aid in aiming.

1) Over-draw arrow rests - The use of an over-draw arrow shelf or rest is prohibited in recurve divisions of archery matches.

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2) Over-draw arrow rests in 3-D Field and FITA - In the compound freestyle class of 3-D, field FITA competition may use an over-draw if they have displayed competence in shooting with that equipment. Overdraws are limited to a 6 cm or 2.5 inch maximum measured from the pivot point to bearing surface of the bearing surface on the arrow rest.

f. Stabilizers - Stabilizers or torque compensators may be used subject to the following provisions.

1) Contact with equipment - The stabilizer may touch only the bow.

2) String guide - The stabilizer may not act as a string guide. This rule shall not prohibit the use of a cable guide or cable guard on compound bows.

3) Obstacles to other shooters - The stabilizer may not present an obstacle or distraction to other shooters.

4) Bow quiver - A bow quiver with or without arrows may be attached to the bow in place of a stabilizer, provided it does not serve as a sighting device or contact any part of the equipment but the bow.

g. Bow sight - A bow sight may be used, unless specifically prohibited.

h. Cable guard - Compound bows may use a cable guard, conventionally attached, to aid in vane clearance.

3.4 Sights - One bow mark, bow sight or point of aim may be used as an aiming aid in the FITA-NAA-type target events in recurve division, but no more than one such device may be used at any time. The sight may allow for both windage and elevation adjustment. Either pin or aperture sights may be used.

a. Aperture sights - The length of any aperture sight loop, barrel or cone may not exceed the minimum inside diameter of the aperture and in no case may exceed 1 cm regardless of shape.

b. Hunting sights - Hunting sights using one or more moveable pins may be used in compound class 3-D or field and FITA events. If a hunting type sight is used a pin guard may be in place.

c. Optical sights - Optical sights ("scopes") may be used in the compound division of FITA target archery and the freestyle field and 3-D events.

d. Sight attachments - A mounting device to which the sight is attached may be used, including a sight extension.

e. Levels - No leveling device may be used, except in the compound division of FITA, 3-D and Field events.

f. Magnification - No lens system, prism or other magnifying device may be incorporated into the sight except as provided in rule 3.4.c above (compound division).

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g. Electronic devices - No electronic sight or projection device, including laser sights or laser pointers will be permitted on the range.

h. Bow mark - A single mark on the bow may be used as an aiming device. It may be with pencil, tape or another suitable material. A bow mark may not be used in conjunction with another type of sighting device or aid.

i. Point of aim - A single marker no more than 7.5 cm (3 inches) in diameter protruding above the ground no more than 15 cm (6 inches) may be placed in the shooting lane as an aiming aid if neither a sight nor a bow mark is used.

3.5 Shooting accessories

a. Shooting tab or glove - A shooting glove, tab or other protective device may be used on the string hand provided it is smooth and provides no mechanical aids for holding or releasing the string. No shape or design criteria are specified. Several layers of material may be used, and a separator to reduce finger pinch may be included.

b. Bow hand - An ordinary glove, mitten or similar item may be worn on the bow hand.

c. Bow sling - A bow sling may be used.

d. Arm guard - An arm guard or stall may be used on the bow arm to prevent string slap and to hold clothing away from the string.

e. Chest protector - A vest or protector may be used to control clothing on the upper body.

f. Clothing - Shooters may wear any clothing suitable for the climatic and weather conditions.

g. Release aids - Release aids may be used only by compound shooters in the freestyle compound 3-D, field, and FITA. Competence with the equipment must have been demonstrated before the release aid may be used.

3.6 Arrows - Arrows consist of a shaft with a head, nock, and fletching and personal identification markings.

a. Adequate supply - Each archer must provide an adequate number of arrows to complete the required course of fire.

b. Individual identification - Each archer's arrows will be marked with his or her name, initials, other insignia or cresting to permit identification.

c. Safety - Arrows must be sound and properly spined for the bow.

d. AMO standards - Arrows must meet Archery Manufacturer's Organization standard of six (6) grains per pound of peak draw weight. Arrow weight may be checked at the discretion of shoot management.

e. Shaft materials - Any safe shaft material may be used. All arrows must be inspected for soundness, particularly graphite shafts.

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f. Arrowheads - Only target or field points may be used in 4-H archery events unless other point types are specifically required.

3.7 Other equipment - Additional equipment that does not interfere with other shooters or the management of the firing line may be permitted.

a. Quiver - A ground quiver or one worn by the shooter or attached to the bow may be used to hold arrows and/or to act as a bow stand.

b. Binoculars or spotting scope - Binoculars or a spotting scope may be used to spot arrows, but no optical device containing a range finding device or reticle is permitted.

c. Glasses - Ordinary eye glasses, shooting glasses or sun glasses may be worn; but the glasses must not include any device or structure to aid in aiming.

d. Range finders - The use of range finders is specifically prohibited in 4-H archery events.

3.8 Inspection of equipment - Archery tackle to be used in a 4-H Archery event must be inspected by the judges or field captains prior to being used. In the event that equipment that has not been checked must be used, it is the shooter's responsibility to have it inspected. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of the shooter from that event.

4. Range Control, Operation and Safety

4.1 Safety - Safety is the responsibility of every shooter and coach as well as the designated range officials.

a. Inspection of equipment - All equipment will be inspected by field officials prior to the tournament and at any time during the tournament when inspection is merited.

b. control of shooting - All shooting will be under the control of range officials at all times.

c. Safe zone of fire - Arrows may be shot only when a safe zone of fire exists from the firing line to the ultimate impact zone of the arrow. Observing safety hazards downrange is the responsibility of each shooter as well as the range officials and coaches

d. Practice shooting - No practice shooting will be permitted on the day of a shoot except as specifically permitted and in specifically identified areas.

e. Nocking arrows - Arrows may be nocked **only** after the appropriate command to fire is given.

f. Drawing bows - Bows may be drawn **only** on the firing line.

g. Restricted firing line - Only shooters in the flight or relay actually shooting and range officials may be present on the firing or shooting line during active firing.

h. Target group - Two or more shooters sharing a target butt.

i. Tampering - Shooters may touch or handle other shooters' equipment only if specifically authorized to do so by the other shooter or to prevent a dangerous situation or damage to the equipment.

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4.2 Range control - Control over the range will be through verbal, whistle or light commands or a combination of those command types. Whistle or light commands are preferred for larger groups, while verbal commands are acceptable for small groups of shooters.

a. Archers to the shooting line - Either the verbal command “**archers to the shooting line**” or **two** whistle blasts call shooters to the shooting line. Pick up bow and move into position on the shooting line. (Keep arrows in quiver.)

b. Begin shooting - Either the verbal command “**begin shooting**”, a **single** whistle blast or a green light indicates the beginning of the shooting time period for each end or relay. Archers may now take the arrows out of the quiver and begin shooting.

c. End completed - Archers have completed shooting, all archers have set their bows down and are behind the waiting line. Either the verbal command “**walk forward and get your arrows**”, **three** blasts of the whistle or a red light indicates the completion of an end. All archers should make their bows safe and ground them in preparation to score targets and retrieve their arrows. They may now go forward to the target line and prepare to score and pull their arrows.

d. Stop Shooting - The verbal command to “**stop or cease fire**”, **multiple** whistle blasts (4 or more) or a red light requires all shooters to stop immediately and remove any arrow from the string. The command indicates the presence of an unsafe condition downrange or the end of the time period for that end. Any arrow shot after the cease fire command at the end of a firing period will result in the loss of the highest scoring arrow for that end by the shooter.

e. Resume firing - Either the verbal command “**begin shooting**” or **one** whistle blast is the signal to resume firing after an interruption.

4.3 Range Officials - A range official will be designated to control the shooting line and maintain high standards of safety at all times. Additional officials may be appointed at the discretion of the shoot or event coordinator.

a. Field official - One or more field officials will be appointed with the following duties.

1) Safety - The field official(s) will maintain control over safety on the shooting field and its environs at all times.

2) Inspection - The field official or a designated official inspects each archer's equipment for conformity with the rules and safety prior to and as needed during the tournament.

3) Rule enforcement and interpretation - The field official is responsible for enforcing appropriate shoot rules, resolving disputes over rule interpretation and responding to questions about interpretation of the rules.

4) Squadding - The field official will call squads to the line in an orderly and timely fashion.

5) Time keeping - The field official will act as the official time keeper, maintaining the official clock for each end. He or she has the authority to extend the five (5) minute time period for each end under extenuating circumstances.

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6) Sighter ends - If possible a designated warm up area will be provided with unlimited shots permitted.

7) Appointment of other officials - The field captain or field official may elect to appoint additional officials as needed to control the shooting line, assist in scoring, record scores, inspect equipment or conduct other duties related to the conduct of the shoot.

b. Target captain - One member of a target group may be appointed by the group as the target captain to assist in scoring. At least two members of each target group will score when shooters score their own targets.

c. Scorers - Two members of each target group may be appointed as scorers and score recorders by the target group members.

d. Official scorer - An official scorer may be appointed at the option of the field captain to score targets.

e. Official recorder - An official recorder may be appointed at the option of the field captain to record the scores for each shooter as they are scored.

f. Additional range staff - The field captain or event coordinator may appoint additional field staff with prescribed duties to assist in the scoring, operation and management of the archery range.

g. 3-D officials - A minimum of one responsible person will accompany each flight of shooters on 3-D archery ranges, serving the functions of field captain, scorer and recorder. The event coordinator will arrange for officials and support staff as needed to conduct the event.

4.4 Shooter position

a. Established shooting lines - No shooter will shoot from a position down range of the established shooting line, and all shooters will honor the established shooting locations.

b. Target Archery - Shooters must straddle the shooting line while shooting. Any shooter completing an end before the expiration of the time limit may ground his or her bow without disturbing flanking shooters and step back off the line.

c. Field Archery - Shooters must have the forward foot touching the shooting stake for each target.

d. 3-D Archery - Some part of the shooter's body must be in contact with the shooting stake throughout the course of the shot.

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5. Targets

5.1 FITA Outdoor Round - Targets used in the FITA Outdoor Round will be full color, 122, 80, 60 and 40 cm FITA-style targets with ten equal and concentric scoring rings. The innermost gold area is scored a "ten" and the outermost white area is scored a "one."

5.2 Field Archery - NFAA 20, 35, 50, and 65 cm targets (or others as announced) may be used in the field archery round. Scoring will be 5, 4, and 3 from the innermost ring outward. Target selection and distances will be at the discretion of the event management, but will remain the same throughout the tournament.

5.3 3-D Archery Match - Any quality 3-D target designated by the shoot management may be used in this event. The target at any given shooting stations shall remain the same for the duration of the shoot, but each station may use a different type of target. Each target will have a center scoring area and an outer scoring area that cannot be observed with the unaided eye at the shooting stake.

6. Scoring

Target Events - Shooters will score and record scores in the outdoor FITA and NFAA rounds. All scores will be agreed upon and totals shall match before the shooters touch or remove any arrows from the targets. A judge or range officer will settle any disputes and assist subjunior with scoring their targets.

6.1 Scoring will be:

a. Scoring lines - The lines between scoring areas of the target are part of the higher value scoring area. A shaft touching a scoring line receives the higher value score. From the center of the target outward, the scoring areas are 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1. Shots outside the scoring area are scored as misses.

b. Shaft location - Point values will be determined by the location of the shaft as it rests in the target. Any shaft falling beyond reach of the shooter or the extended bow will be considered shot. The field captain has the option of allowing a replacement arrow to be fired.

c. Pass through or bounce outs - Any shaft that fails to remain in the target may be scored by the mark on the target face, provided all other holes have been marked.

d. Shooter position - Shooters must remain more than one arm-length away from the target and their shafts until scoring is complete and the official scorer has cleared them to pull their shafts.

e. Marking shots - All shots will be marked at the completion of the scoring for each end.

f. Initialing the score card - Shooters and the scorer shall initial each score card to affirm agreement with the score awarded. Any dispute in the scoring must be settled by the field captain immediately. Once score cards have been signed, no appeal is permitted.

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6.2 3-D Archery Events - Shooters will score and record scores in the 3-D round. All scores will be agreed upon and totals shall match before the shooters touch or remove any arrows from the target. A judge or range officer will settle any disputes and assist subjunior with scoring their targets and removing arrows. Arrow soap will be required for this event so that arrows can easily be removed from the targets.

a. Shooter option - A shooter may elect not to shoot at one target (ethical pass). One point is awarded for electing not to shoot.

b. Scoring lines - The lines between scoring zones on the target are part of the higher value area.

1) Scoring example is as follows.

a) Center kill zone hits 10.

b) Outer kill zone hits 7 or 5 if two zones are on the target. If only one outer zone 5.

c) Ethical passes 1.

d) Clean miss 0.

e) Non-vital hits -5.

c. Shaft location - The location of the shaft in the target will determine the point value of the shot. Shafts touching a higher value scoring zone will receive the higher score.

d. Pass through or bounce outs - Any shaft that does not remain in the target for any reason will be scored as a miss. Shoot management will make every effort to maintain adequate and consistent target quality throughout the shoot.

e. Shooter position - Shooters must remain at least six feet away from the target until all scoring is completed and the official scorer has removed the shaft from the target. Any shaft removed from the target prior to scoring will be scored a **minus five**.

f. Initialing the score card - Both the scorer and the shooter will initial the score card to affirm their agreement on the score awarded.

7. Courses of Fire

7.1 FITA Round - Prescribed courses of fire will govern shooting in the FITA target events, although these courses of fire may be altered by publication in a match announcement or bulletin. Members of each target group will rotate in their order of shooting during each end.

a. Full course of fire.

1) **Subjuniors** will shoot five ends of three arrows each at 10 meters at a 40 cm face. Possible score is 150 points.

2) **Juniors** will shoot two ends of six arrows each at 30 meters at an 80 cm face and two ends of three arrows each at 20 meters at a 60 cm face. Possible score is 180 points.

3) **Seniors** will shoot two ends of six arrows each at 60 meters and two ends of six arrows each at 50 meters at a 122 cm face and two ends of three arrows each at 40 meters at an 80 cm face. Possible score is 300.

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7.2 3-D Archery Match - 3-D targets will be placed in natural cover and at unmarked distances from designated shooting stakes. Stakes will be placed for shooters at the option of the shoot management. Only one arrow will be shot from each shooting station by an archer. Participants will shoot a total of 6 targets at unknown ranges from 1 to 60 yards or their metric equivalent.

a. Full course of fire.

1) **Subjuniors** will shoot each target with one possible ethical pass. Possible score is 60 points.

2) **Juniors** will shoot the course twice with two possible ethical passes. The same target cannot be ethical passed more than once. Possible score is 120 points.

3) **Seniors** will shoot the course three times with three possible ethical passes. The same target cannot be ethical passed more than once. Possible score is 180.

7.3 Field Round - All shooters will shoot a course of fire consisting of 4 arrows at each target or shooting positions including at least one fan and one walk-up target at distances from 5 to 80 yards or their metric equivalent as determined by the shoot management.

a. Full course of fire.

1) **Subjuniors** - will shoot four targets. Possible score is 80 points.

2) **Juniors** - will shoot six targets. Possible score is 120 points.

3) **Seniors** - will shoot eight targets. Possible score is 160 points.

7.4 Additional Courses of Fire - Any course of fire outlined in the 4-H Archery instructions or announced in the shoot bulletin or announcement may be offered with or without modifications at the discretion of the shoot management.

7.5 Range Standards.

a. Management Option - At the option of the management a half tournament may be used where time is limited. Each event for each age group is different and has a different score value.

b. Starting times - Each age group will shoot each course at a different time. Starting times will vary according to number of entrants. Be at the range at least 30 minutes early, if the group before you is finished your group will start early.

c. Distance - Each age group will shoot from a different distance. Different colored stakes will be used for each age group in the NFAA and 3-D events.

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8. Time Limits

8.1 Time limits in target archery

a. FITA Round - Shooters have a total of two minutes to shoot each end of three arrows and four minutes to shoot each end of six arrows.

b. Field Round - Each shooter shall move to the firing points and shoot in an expeditious manner. No shooter shall impose excessive delay on the event without cause.

8.2 Time limits in 3-D archery - Although no posted time limits are set, shooters must make ready and shoot in an expeditious manner. Time to judge range, determine kill zone location, adjust sights and otherwise make ready must be provided; but no shooter will impose excessive delay without due cause.

8.3 Shooter responsibility - The shooter is responsible for pacing their shooting to meet the time limitations.

9. Competition regulations

9.2 Cross fires - No archer will knowingly shoot at the wrong target or shoot more than the required number of arrows at his/her own target.

a. Cross fires - Arrows fired at the wrong target will be scored to the offending archer with a one point deduction if only the appropriate number of arrows have been shot.

b. Excessive shots - Excess arrows shot will result in deduction of the highest value arrows on the target until the appropriate number is reached and a one point penalty for each excess arrow shot.

9.3 Dropped or misfired arrows - Arrows beyond the reach of the archer may be considered as shot, unless the field captain determines that a replacement arrow may be shot.

Revision history: no change from initial 2005 release.

Revised 2/13/2007: The scoring for 3-D target ethical passes is specified at 1 point per ethical pass.