



Fosse Company of Archers incorporating Fosse Archers

Shooting Safety Rules and additional shooting information

July 2025

Please read these rules carefully.

They are the most important thing in Archery! Keep a copy in your archery bag.

Archery shooting accidents are rare. Bearing in mind the serious injuries, which an archery accident could cause, this is fortunate and due in no small part to the SAFETY RULES which have been observed and enforced at all clubs and shoots throughout Britain. Should an archery accident occur at the club, all paid up members and authorized guests are covered for third party liability.

IF WE ARE NOT OBEYING THE SHOOTING SAFETY RULES, WE WILL NOT BE COVERED!

**The Club shoots in accordance with current Archery GB Shooting Rules; these are a summary of those rules.
The full rules can be found on the members download page of the club website**

- 1 A Field Captain is appointed before shooting takes place, the field Captain has absolute authority on all aspects of safety, Tasks can be delegated to members of the club, during the session.
- 2 The Field Captain will direct the laying out of the shooting area. No one will shoot until the Field Captain has inspected the shooting area and is satisfied with the safety arrangements for archery, archers and the general public.
- 3 The Field Captain must be a full senior club member having completed the clubs assessment process. Juniors are not allowed to be Field Captain.
- 4 The Field Captain may appoint Spotters if required.
- 5 When shooting outdoors the field will be set assuming compound archers (mechanical release) will be shooting, i.e. a 150 yard overshoot distance from the shooting line.
- 6 When shooting outdoors and at large indoor venues where room is not restricted, a Shooting Line will be marked out in an easily visible manner. All target distances will be measured from this line.
- 7 Another line, at least two metres behind the shooting line and parallel to it, will define the Shooting Zone. All equipment, bows and all forms of tackle that are not being used in shooting on that detail and on that end, must be stored outside the Shooting Zone.
- 8 When shooting indoors and where space is restricted, equipment not in use may be stored at the sides of the Shooting Zone.
- 9 All archers, officials and spectators must be behind the Shooting Line before shooting can commence.
- 10 Only those shooting on that detail, (and anyone instructing or coaching them at that moment), may enter the Shooting Zone.
- 11 **Do not fit an arrow to the bow until:-**
 - YOU ARE ON THE SHOOTING LINE
 - YOU ARE FACING THE TARGET
 - THE FIELD CAPTAIN HAS SIGNALLED THAT YOU CAN SHOOT
 - **YOU** ARE SURE THAT IT IS SAFE TO SHOOT
- 12 The signal to start shooting is **one** short blast on the Field Captain's whistle. *This means that you may shoot only when and for as long as it is safe to do so.*

SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE ON THE FIELD.

If you see a possible danger while you or anyone else is shooting, shout 'FAST!' The Field Captain, Spotters and Officials may also shout 'FAST' or blow a series of short blasts on the whistle.

If this happens:-

- **DO NOT SHOOT, LOWER YOUR BOW**
 - **REMOVE THE ARROW**
 - **DO THIS IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT EXCEPTION**
- 13 Although anybody on the field can halt shooting by shouting 'FAST' or blowing several blasts on the whistle, only the Field Captain can re-start shooting by giving one short blast on the whistle.
 - 14 The Field Captain will allow arrows to be collected after shooting by giving **three** short blasts on the whistle. When you retrieve arrows:-
 - **DO NOT RUN.**
 - **LOOK FOR ARROWS THAT HAVE FALLEN SHORT.**
You might walk on them and bend them but they can cause you a serious injury.
 - **DO NOT STAND BEHIND SOMEONE PULLING ARROWS OUT.**
If it comes out with a jerk even the nock end can cause serious injury.
 - **DO NOT GO BEHIND THE BOSS TO COLLECT OVERSHOTS.**

Unless someone stays in clear view in front of the boss – (you should not look for ‘overshoots’ until the Target Captain has recorded your scores).

- 15 Spectators must watch from behind the equipment Line or in a designated area. They must not distract archers. Should this happen, the Field Captain may suspend or cancel shooting.
- 16 Junior Archers may take out and set up equipment only when supervised by a Senior Member, with at least one year archery experience.
- 17 Junior Archers up to 16 years old may not be left unattended during club shooting. They must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian or adult person in loco parentis.
- 18 The Field Captain will issue only one warning to an archer (or spectator) who disregards Shooting Safety Rules. After one warning they will be ordered from the Field. For serious breaches, the offender will be ordered from the field on the first offence without a warning.

The Field Captain will inform the Committee of all breaches of the Shooting Safety Rules.

- 19 The Field Captain may make spot checks on any archer's equipment. If, in the Field Captain's opinion, the equipment is defective, he/she may instruct the archer not to use it until it is repaired or replaced.
- 20 An arrow dropped beyond the Shooting Line and out of arm's reach may only be retrieved with the Field Captain's permission.
- 21 The arrow counting in/out procedure must be recorded in the day book, by an archer other than you when shooting outdoors at SRFC. Please refer to Shooting at SRFC at the end of this document.
- 22 All lost arrows must be found before leaving the field. If an arrow is not found, the Field Captain must record its loss and approximate position, on a lost arrow form (in wallet in container) and notify the club secretary.
- 23 Archery Safety (Stop) Nets must be used if an overshoot is likely or room is restricted.
- 24 All archers are expected to assist in preparing the shooting area, before archery commences and in clearing it when archery is finished.

Personal equipment should not be set up until the shooting area is ready or taken down until it is cleared.

- 26 All archers are expected to observe the proper etiquette.
 - Shoot on your appointed target
 - Shoot in the appointed detail
 - Don't talk loudly when shooting is in progress
 - Be especially careful what you say with juniors present
 - Don't stand chatting, miss your turn and expect everyone else to wait while you shoot
 - Don't shoot eight arrows when everyone else is shooting three
 - Don't loiter on the shooting line, having shot, retire behind the equipment line

Don't touch another archer's kit without invitation. Not observing appropriate etiquette may irritate other archers. Most importantly, an irritated archer doesn't concentrate **and that causes accidents.**

Additional information shooting at Syston Rugby Football Club (SRFC) Barkby Road Queniborough LE7 3FE

Check the club website for shooting times and days as these change through the outdoor season. If there is bad weather, high winds, thunderstorms for example the field captain may cancel the session at short notice, please check your emails.

At the start of the outdoor season, start at a shorter distance to check your sight marks are correct. At the end of the outdoor season ensure you have a 20 yard sight mark ready for indoors.

The times on the website are the expected time of shooting to commence, please arrive 15 minutes before this to help set up. We are a club not a facility and everyone can do something to help. The range should be set up before you start setting up your bow.

Distance signing in board; add your name to the board that is on the seat under the tree on arrival. Newer archers start shooting at the shortest distances. As your scores improve, the club records officer/coaches will authorise your progression to the next distance, 4 people can shoot on a boss, in two details, two shoot first then the second pair shoot afterwards.

Arrows. We shoot on a shared sports field and all arrows must be accounted for and recorded onto and off the field at every shooting session. All arrows must have your initials or name on them, unless you are using club bows.

All carbon arrows are only allowed for senior archers, who achieve bowman or above. All arrows (except wooden ones) must be detectable along their full length by a metal detector. If you are unsure of your arrow construction checks will be made with a metal detector, to ensure they are detectable.

Arrow Counting; Every arrow that you bring onto the archery field must be counted on and off the field, if you have broken arrows or some that you will not use, leave them in your car.

The arrows you bring onto the field are counted and recorded in the signing in book by someone other than yourself. You should let them count and then confirm the number is correct, not tell them how many you have.

At the end of the session this process is the same, someone counts your arrows and confirms the number is the same as entered on arrival.

Lost arrows: Arrows miss the target and go missing, this is normal. If you lose an arrow, tell the field captain straight away. Ensure that you have lost the arrow, by also double checking your quiver and arrow tube.

A flag may be placed under the boss to remind us there is an arrow missing, as sometimes searches will be left until the end of the shooting session to save time.

All members are asked to assist with looking for lost arrows, there are metal detectors, hooks for wooden arrows and we all have eyes to do visual checks.

Should an arrow not be found, a lost arrow report must be completed before leaving the field, recording the date, time of loss, approximate location, distance and target shot at. This must then be passed to the Chair/secretary who will notify the insurers and SRFC.

Toilets: Toilets are available in the changing rooms of the club house. The key to the changing room entrance door can be found inside the key safe in the container. The key safe number is 13579 (in any order). Put the brass key onto the key fob and follow the instructions on the laminated sheet. The key can be left hanging on the key safe for the duration of the shooting session.

Additional information shooting at Wreake Valley Academy (WVA) Parkstone Road Syston LE7 1LY There is no arrow counting indoors, however we do need to pay at the start of each session and allocate our name to a target. Indoors we have 9 targets across the gym.

We have windows behind the targets (high up), if an archer shoots a window or causes any damage at WVA it is their responsibility to pay for the repairs, not the club.

EMERGENCY PLANS - for Wreake (WVA) and SRFC

Emergency folder locations: WVA red folder in scoreboard box, SRFC folder on shelf with scoreboards. The folders contain members' medical conditions (if the club has been notified), their emergency contacts and the club accident book.

1. **Indoor Evacuation plan:** leave all equipment in the hall and proceed calmly through doors or fire exits to the assembly area- 3G pitches at the rear of WVA. A member of the committee to remain at the door; to ensure all have evacuated the building- picking up the signing register on leaving.

2. The nominated Field Captain for that session is the most senior person there.

3. **If an injury takes place:**

a) Ensure the casualty is safe and can come to no further harm, if first aider is available, they can assist.

b) If the injury is severe, make casualty comfortable and call emergency services.

c) Clear the building of unnecessary people.

d) Send someone to the gate (Rugby Club or WVA) to direct the emergency services when they arrive.

e) Send someone to fetch the Defibrillator should it be required.

Defib location at SRFC is on the outside wall at the rear of the clubhouse next to the bar fire exit.

Defib location at WVA it is on the fence to the right of the gate near the 3G outside pitches.

Follow instructions on casings - **TAKE MOBILE PHONE WITH YOU**

f) If required contact the casualty's emergency contact (to be found in the emergency folder).

g) Record any accident in the club accident book (in the emergency folder) and report to the club secretary/chair. The injured person must also sign this form if they are able to.

Useful numbers

Emergency Services - 999 or 101 (112 from a mobile)

NHS emergency and urgent care – 111

Social Services - Leicestershire 0116 3050005 (Children's social care)

Leicester city 0116 4541004

0116 2551606 (Adults social care Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland)

Childline - 0800 1111

NSCPCC - 0808 800 5000

Wreake Valley Academy

Parkstone Road

Syston LE7 1LY

Syston Rugby Football Club

Barkby Road

Queniborough LE7 3FE

Issue date; July 2025