



# Fosse Company of Archers

## Shooting Safety Rules

**Please read these rules carefully.  
They are the most important thing in Archery!**

When you have read them, put them in your tackle box, read them whenever you get the chance, and refer to them any time you are not sure.

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 the club, all paid up members and authorized guest are covered for third party liability.

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

**The Club shoots in accordance with current Archery GB Shooting Rules; these are a summary of those rules.**

- 1 A Field Captain must be appointed to control archery before any shooting takes place. The Field Captain has Sole and Absolute authority on all aspects of safety.
- 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 general public.
- 3 The Field Captain must be a full senior club member having completed the clubs approval 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 out of doors 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 OVERSHOOTS.**  
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 arms 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.
  - 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.**
  - 25 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.**