



Shooting & Range Safety Rules

Mayflower Archers & Archery GB

This document is intended as a supplement to the AGB Rules of Shooting which all Mayflower Archers should familiarise themselves with, and are required to observe when participating in the sport. The current version of the AGB rules can be found on the GB Archery website <https://archerygb.org/>

Range Safety

1. **Shooting Line** - There is a clearly visible straight line on the ground, called the shooting line. Archers must shoot their arrows only when standing on or astride this line. In Target Archery there is only one shooting line for all archers, even if they are not shooting the same distances; targets may be placed at different distances for different target lanes but everyone still shoots from the same line.
2. **Shoot Forward only** - Shooting will be in one direction only – at the designated target. Archers shoot only at the target directly opposite their shooting position (at 90° from the shooting line).
3. **Clear to Shoot** – Archers must stand behind the waiting line until it is their turn to shoot. All archers must ensure that the shooting range is clear before commencing to shoot. Never allow people to stand ahead of the shooting line. There should be no access ahead of the shooting line while shooting is in progress.
4. **When to Shoot** - There is a definite timeslot for shooting and the archer may not raise the bow arm to shoot, or remove an arrow from the quiver, until the signal to start shooting is given.
5. **The Draw** - Archers should aim continuously toward their target when drawing their bow. The bow must not be drawn in such a way that, if the string was accidentally released, the arrow would fly out of the safety zone.
6. **After Shooting** - Following the shooting period and when the shooting line is clear, the signal to 'collect' will be given. Archers will then go to the targets, score, and collect arrows, and return. This pattern is then repeated throughout the session.
7. **Signals** – Safe timeslots for shooting are created using sound signals, usually a whistle or an electronic timing system. There should be one sound signal to go to the shooting line and to start shooting, and three sound signals to stop shooting and to collect the arrows (this sequence may change during competitions).
8. **Equipment** - All Equipment (other than spotting scopes) is to be kept behind the Waiting Line.

These rules must be always followed, whether practicing or at a tournament. They are the preconditions for safe archery. In practice, we want to shoot safely on a range that allows more than one archer to shoot close alongside each other and at the same time.

In the event of a misfire, where the arrow has not been recovered and there is any risk that the arrow may have gone beyond the range boundary this must be reported to the club in writing (i.e. mayflowerarchery@gmail.com) within 24hrs.

Mayflower only allow shooting in daylight at Bosses and WA approved Target Faces or Field Faces. Novelty Items may not be shot placed on the ground or a Boss. Exceptions only apply when it is a specifically organised shoot arranged by Mayflower Archers.

At the Mayflower range, if more than three target bosses are in use one person must be nominated to perform the role of Field Captain. Whistles are provided in the clubhouse for this purpose. The person commencing use of a fourth boss is responsible for finding a volunteer to perform this role. The role can be performed by an archer actively shooting in the session.

Shooting Safety

For the purposes of these rules a *Relevant Official* is considered to be any Judge, AGB Coach, Club Officer or person assigned as Field Captain.

General

- a) **Drawing your bow** - No archer may draw their bow, with or without an arrow, except when standing at the shooting line or peg. If an arrow is used, the archer shall aim toward the targets but only after being satisfied that the field is clear both in front of and behind the targets.
- b) **Draw Technique** - When drawing back the string of the bow an archer shall not use any technique which, in the opinion of a *Relevant Official* could, if accidentally loosed, allow the arrow to fly beyond a safety zone or safety arrangements (overshoot area, net, wall, etc). If an archer persists in using any such technique, they will, in the interest of safety, be immediately asked by the above to stop shooting and to leave the area.
- c) **Safety Awareness** - Anyone who becomes aware of a safety risk where shooting is in progress must immediately call "FAST". On hearing this call, all archers must immediately stop shooting and return all un-shot arrows to the quiver. If necessary, the call of "FAST" should be repeated by other archers to ensure that everyone has heard and stopped shooting. Shooting will recommence only on the instruction of the Field Captain or a *Relevant Official*.
- d) **Sanction** - A *Relevant Official*, in consultation with any appointed tournament organiser, is empowered to require any individual who is considered to be jeopardising the safety of the event or tournament to immediately leave the shooting ground.

Minimum Numbers Present for Shooting

Note: The Mayflower range at Barleylands is considered to conform to the AGB requirements needed to qualify for the concessions in paragraph (c) below, provided that Archers ensure that the 'Shooting in Progress' sign is placed at the entrance to the range before shooting.

Any member shooting under these concessions is advised to carry a mobile phone at all times.

In the AGB Rules of Shooting, Rule 103 states the following:

- (a) When any shooting is in progress there must be a minimum of two people present each being a minimum of 18 years of age, one of whom may be a non-archer to act as a lookout. The archer is responsible to inform the lookout of all safety aspects applicable. Where two adult archers are present and shooting together, they will alternate on the shooting line so that the non-shooting archer can act as the lookout.
- (b) Juniors. When junior archers (i.e., archers under 18) are shooting individually or in groups they must be supervised by an adult member of Archery GB and a second adult must be present.
- (c) On private land, which is fenced all round, where the public has no legal right of access and with a warning notice displayed at all entrances and points of access, the following concessions may apply notwithstanding the provisions of 103(a) and (b) above:
 - (i) Solo shooting by senior archers (i.e., archers 18 and over) is permitted. Any member shooting on their own is doing so at their own risk in respect of personal injuries.
 - (ii) Provided that they are an adult member of Archery GB, one parent/guardian alone may supervise their own child(ren).