Kingdom of Lochac
Target Archery
and
Thrown Weapons Handbook



Version 2.0.0

Non scriptum non est

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1 Basic rules

These are the basic rules for participating in target archery or thrown weapons activities.

1. If you are watching or taking part in archery and thrown weapons activities, you must follow the safety and competition instructions of the Target Archery Marshal(s) running the shoot. If you won't or can't, then you can be asked to leave.
2. Make sure that you listen to and understand the rules of the competition before you start - e.g. any safety instructions, which target to use, how many arrows etc to use, whether you can take your time, or if there is a time limit, what to do if you drop an arrow, etc. If you are not sure, ask.
3. You can't participate if you're under the influence of drugs or alcohol or excessively tired. If you aren't fit to drive, you aren't fit to shoot.
4. Archery equipment and throwing weapons can be dangerous. Handle with care.
5. Don't handle other people's equipment without their permission, including retrieving their arrows.
6. Wait for instructions from the Target Archery Marshal before you approach the shooting/throwing line, otherwise stay at least three metres behind the shooting/throwing line.
7. You must wait until the Target Archery Marshal says you can go ahead before you loose any arrows, or throw any weapons.
8. Just before you throw a weapon, look behind to make sure that there is no one behind you.
9. Don't stand or walk behind someone who is throwing weapons. Stay at least three metres back.
10. If you are using a crossbow with a stirrup, remove your foot from the stirrup before loading a bolt.
11. Don't point a crossbow in any direction other than the ground or the target while it's loaded or you are loading a bolt. Don't point crossbows at people, even if it isn't loaded.
12. Don't nock or loose an arrow or bolt, or throw a weapon while anyone is forward of the shooting line.
13. If you see a safety problem on the range, call “Hold!”.
14. If anyone calls “Hold!”, do not shoot! Lower your bow or weapon, carefully remove your arrows or bolt from your weapon, and wait for the Target Archery Marshal to tell you what to do.

15. When you have finished, lower your bow or any weapons in hand, step back from the line, and wait for the Target Archery Marshal to tell you what to do.
16. You must not go forward of the shooting line while others are shooting, and you must wait until you are told to go and collect your arrows or thrown weapons.
17. Put your bow down somewhere safe before going to collect your arrows.
18. Make sure you don't poke anyone with the nock end of your arrow or bolt, or your weapon when removing it from the target or ground.

2 Equipment standards

2.1 General standards

1. SCA archery and thrown weapons is about using, making, and knowing about pre-17th century archery equipment, and throwing weapons.
2. You may be allowed to use modern-style equipment, if it meets these standards, but not all competitions have to allow modern-style equipment. The Target Archery Marshal-in-charge can set requirements for the type or authenticity of equipment, including costume, used in their competitions. Suggested period equipment standards are included as an appendix to these rules.
3. If you have a disability which means that you need some extra equipment, or equipment that is normally not allowed, so that you can participate, make sure the Target Archery Marshal knows about it.

2.2 Equipment safety

1. You have the ultimate responsibility for the proper care, inspection and safe use of your equipment, and for following these rules.
2. You must not use any equipment that you know is unsafe, or against the rules of the competition.
3. The Target Archery Marshal-in-charge, or any assisting Target Archery Marshals can inspect your equipment to make sure that it is safe and follows the Kingdom rules. If they find that your equipment is unsafe or doesn't meet the rules, you can't use it.
4. If you aren't sure about the safety of your equipment, don't use it. You can ask a Target Archery Marshal to inspect your equipment for you. They will try to find any safety issues, and let you know what to do about them. They'll also let you know if the equipment doesn't meet the rules.
5. The Target Archery Marshal might not find all of the problems with your equipment, so their help doesn't take away your responsibility for your own equipment.

2.3 Bows

1. Your bow can be made from any material, as long as it is safe to shoot. The competition rules can restrict what materials your bow can be made out of.
2. You can use any kind of bow, except a compound bow. Competition rules may restrict what kind of bow you can use.

3. The competition rules can let you have ranging or sight marks on the limbs or riser, but your bow can't have adjustable or fixed sights. If it does have them, they need to be removed, or made so that you can't use them.
4. Your bow can be of any draw weight that you can safely use. If a Target Archery Marshal sees that you can't draw the bow safely, or it is too powerful for the range or target, they can ask you to stop using the bow.
5. Your bow can't have a modern spring or flipper rest, or plunger button. The competition may allow you to use simple rests, such as:
    - one-piece plastic rests
    - non-adjustable wire rests
    - feather, bristle, or leather rests
    - built-out shelves or rests
    - the shelf in a cut-out window.
6. You can use period string release devices, such as a thumb ring. You can't use modern string release aids, unless you have a disability that would stop you from participating without them.
7. You can't use stabilisers or clickers.
8. If your bow has a cut-out riser (one that you can look through from the side, often found in take-down bows with metal risers), the openings need to be covered so that it looks more like medieval archery equipment.

2.4 Crossbows

There are mundane laws that apply to the possession and use of crossbows for target archery activities (practices and competitions). A summary of the laws and conditions of crossbow ownership and use in the SCA in Australian states and New Zealand is an appendix to these rules.

1. You may not be able to use your crossbow at all events, even if you have the appropriate permits and licenses.
2. If the event allows you to use crossbows, you must carry the applicable permits or licenses at all times while in possession of a crossbow, and show them if you are asked to.
3. In Australia, our insurance company only covers us for the use of crossbows on stationary targets, so even where groups and individuals hold all the proper mundane licenses and permits, we can't use crossbows in target shoots involving moving targets.
4. In New Zealand, you don't need a permit to have a crossbow, and you can use your crossbow with moving and stationary targets.

2.4.1 Crossbow requirements

1. You can't use a non-period center-shot trackless crossbow.
2. You can't use compound prods or break-cocking crossbows.
3. You can use a crossbow of any draw weight that is safe for you to use. If a Target Archery Marshal sees that you can't draw the crossbow safely, or it is too powerful for the range or target, they can ask you to stop using it.
4. The prod of your crossbow can be made of any material, as long as it is safe to shoot. The competition rules can restrict what materials your bow can be made out of.
5. If your crossbow is made after October 2016 and the prod is made out of wood or metal, it should have some form of safety strap, sleeve, or other method to reduce the chance of someone being injured by a broken limb.
6. Your crossbow can have simple rear sights, but it can't have front sights.
7. The stock of your crossbow can be of any material. The competition rules can restrict what materials your crossbow can be made out of.
8. If you have a modern stock with openings that can be seen through from the side, you need to cover or fill the openings, so that it looks more medieval. Openings that are used for gripping the stock don't need to be covered.

2.5 Strings

1. Strings should be of the right length and strength for your bow type and weight. Your bowstring can be made of linen, silk, artificial sinew, or modern bowstring materials, as long as it is properly constructed.
2. You can't use a string that has become knotted, or been repaired by knotting strands together. This doesn't include strings that are designed to use knots, such as a bowyer's knot.
3. You can attach a single nocking point using one or two locators to the string. It can be made of metal or tied on.
4. Your locators can't be set in such a way that you can use them for sighting.
5. You can't use peep sights or kisser buttons on the string.

2.6 Arrows and bolts

1. The shafts of your arrows must be made of wood or bamboo-like materials.
2. You can have shafts made of a single wood or footed shafts.
3. The Target Archery Marshal-in-charge can choose whether to allow broadheads or other tips that could cause excessive damage to the targets.

4. The fletches of your arrows or bolts must be made from feathers or other pre-17th century fletching material. You can't use plastic vanes, but you can use plasticised feathers.
5. The Target Archery Marshal-in-charge of the competition can allow arrow nocks, and caps, rings, or nocks for bolts made of any material, as long as they are securely attached.
6. Exemption: Children can use non-wood arrows with plastic vanes in practice and competition.
7. Exemption: If you are a new adult archer, until you can get your own wooden arrows, you can use non-wood arrows with plastic vanes in practices, but not in competitions.

2.7 Quivers

1. You can use any type of quiver, except one that attaches to the bow.

2.8 Throwing weapons

There are mundane laws that apply to the possession and use of weapons designed for throwing for target activities (practices and competitions). Some weapons may be illegal to use or possess. A survey of relevant legislation that applies in each state and territory of Australia, or New Zealand, has not been done.

You must investigate the relevant weapons legislation that applies, and abide by it.

2.8.1 Knives

Throwing knives are legal to possess and use in New Zealand for legitimate purposes (such as competition and practice), it isn't legal to bring them into the country.

1. Knives should be of a size and weight that allows them to be thrown safely and easily.
2. The handle of the knife should be firmly attached.
3. The throwing surface should be free of burrs or protrusions that can cut or injure an unprotected hand upon release.

2.8.2 Axes

1. Axes should be of a size and weight that allows them to be thrown safely and easily.
2. The handles of all axes should be firmly attached.
3. Some axes are designed to allow the head to slide up a tapered handle and pressure-fit on. The heads will come off if they are pushed toward the butt of the handle. When the axe is used, the head is forced into place and seats tightly.

The inspecting marshal should ensure that the head does indeed seat tightly and will not slip over the taper.

4. The haft cannot have any major cracks.
5. The haft cannot have any burrs or rough surfaces that can cut or give splinters to an unprotected hand upon release.

2.8.3 Spears

1. Spears may not be excessively long or heavy.
2. Spearheads must be firmly attached to the shaft of the spear.
3. The shaft cannot have any burrs or rough surfaces that can cut or give splinters to an unprotected hand upon release.
4. The shaft must be sound and without major cracks.

2.8.4 Specialized throwing weapons

1. Specialized throwing weapons are any weapons that have been designed with more than one impact surface to increase the chances of the weapon sticking in the target. Because they come in a variety of shapes and sizes, they must be judged on an individual basis.

3 Range safety

3.1 Range set-up

Suggested range dimensions are included as an appendix to these rules.

1. Mark out the range and a safety zone clearly. You can do this with ropes, poles, signs, tapes, or similar.
2. Based on the kind of shoot you are running, and the strength of the equipment being used, you must have a safety zone behind and to the sides of the shooting/throwing line and targets that is big enough to prevent any injuries to bystanders, or damage to property. Make sure that it's free of traffic, campsites, list fields, parking areas, or other hazards.
3. The safety zone can be smaller if there is a hill, permanent backstop, archery netting, or something similar that will stop stray arrows.
4. Block any roads or paths within the safety zone or range when the range is being used.
5. Make sure the shooting/throwing line is clearly marked, but people shouldn't be able to trip over it.
6. Hard targets for knives and axes should be at least 3 metres down range from the throwing line. A hard target is made of materials that provide solid resistance, including logs, plywood, etc
7. Hard targets for spears should be at least 6 metres down range from the throwing line.
8. Soft targets for spears should be at least 3 metres down range from the throwing line. A soft target is made of materials that do not provide solid resistance, including hay bales, polystyrene, etc

3.2 Range protocols

1. You must give a briefing on safety and the competition rules before you let the competition or practice begin. Make sure that everyone understands:
    - Who is the Target Archery Marshal-in-charge of the shoot (and who are their assistants)
    - The basic rules that all participants should know
    - How you will tell people when they are allowed to shoot and when to stop - e.g. “Range is open,” “Range is closed.” “You may fire at will.” “Stop shooting.” “Loose when ready.” etc.
    - Which target(s) to use and which ones shouldn't be used

- How many arrows to use, or how many throws they get
- Whether they can shoot in their own time, or if there is a time limit
- What happens if they drop an arrow or weapon - e.g. are they allowed to use another one, or does it count as a missed shot. Can they attempt to pick it up, if they don't go over the shooting line?

2. If you are the Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge and there are a large number of archers shooting, make sure you can be identified easily.
3. If you are the only Target Archery Marshal at the shoot, you can get another experienced archer to supervise the line for you while you shoot. You're still responsible for the shoot.
4. Don't allow more archers on a line than you and your assistants can reasonably and safely supervise. This number will change depending on the type of shoot, and experience of the archers.
5. You need to give everyone on the line at least one metre of space, more is better.
6. Make sure everyone lines up the same way - either all archers toeing the shooting line or all straddling it, to make sure that no one accidentally shoots anyone else on the line. If you have archers shooting from prone, kneeling, or a seated position, you need to make sure that the head of their arrow or bolt, at full draw, is in the same line as the other archers' arrowheads. Place them on one end of the line with others shooting from similar positions.
7. The conditions around the range and safety zone may mean that you need to have additional Target Archery Marshals or assistants to watch for and stop traffic through the area.
8. You need a high level of supervision for specialty shoots where there are unusual conditions, such as off-handed, with restricted vision, or similar. You might need to have one marshal for each participant.
9. Don't run shoots with dangerous artificial handicaps or conditions.

3.3 Range procedures

1. Call archers to the line.
2. Check to see that the range and line are clear and safe, by looking and calling out, and wait for a response that it's not clear
3. If it is clear, tell the archers that they can shoot.
4. When everyone is done, tell the archers to stop shooting and wait for everyone to lower their bow and step back from the line.
5. When everyone has put their weapons down, tell the archers that they can go and collect arrows.

6. If you see a serious safety problem on the range, such as someone entering, or about to enter, the target or safety zone, call “Hold!”. If anyone calls “Hold!,” find out what the problem is and resolve it. Make sure everyone has unloaded their weapons before you move in front of the shooting line.

4 Officers

4.1 General structure

1. Target archery and thrown weapons are martial activities under the authority of the Earl Marshal.

4.2 Kingdom Earl Marshal

1. The Earl Marshal is a Greater Kingdom Officer, the Head of the Marshallate in Lochac, and is responsible for:
   (a) Development of the new combat standards of the Kingdom as required.
   (b) Encouraging the development of chivalry on the field.
   (c) Maintenance, publication and enforcement of the Kingdom standards for construction and use of weapons and armour.
2. The Earl Marshal should appoint a deputy in the area of archery and thrown weapons, though they may keep this role as part of their own.

4.3 Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery

1. The Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery is a Lesser Kingdom Officer who acts on behalf of the Earl Marshal on matters relating to target and combat archery, and thrown weapons.
2. They are sometimes called the Kingdom Archery Marshal, or even the Deputy for Light Combat.
3. The normal term of office is two years, but this term can be extended to a maximum of four years in exceptional circumstances.

4.3.1 Responsibilities

The Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery is responsible for:

1. encouraging the development of combat standards and chivalry on the field in all actions involving archery and other projectile weapons, in co-operation with the Marshallate;
2. maintaining and enforcing the Kingdom standards for construction and use of projectile weapons and armour for archers and other plumed combatants;
3. setting, maintaining and enforcing safety standards;
4. making regulations and information concerning thrown weapons, target and combat archery available;

5. warranting the Captain of Archers for each group;
6. reporting as required by the Crown and the Earl Marshal.
7. reporting quarterly to the Society Archery Marshal.

4.3.2 Requirements

The Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery is required to:

- have sound knowledge and experience of target and combat archery, as well as thrown weapons;
- meet the requirements for holding a Lesser Kingdom Office as recorded in Lochac Kingdom Law

4.4 Captain of Archers

1. The Captain of Archers is responsible for the administration of archery and thrown weapons in your group. They are not necessarily required to organise archery and thrown weapon activities for any specific event as that is the responsibility of the Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge for the event, who is appointed by the event steward.
2. A group doesn't need to have a Captain of Archers, but will need an authorised Target Archery Marshal to do target archery or thrown weapon activities. If your group doesn't have a Captain of Archers, event reports should be sent to the group's Knight Marshal, or Seneschal if there is no group Marshal.
3. The appointment process is the same as for any other group officer as recorded in the Kingdom of Lochac Procedures Manual

4.4.1 Responsibilities

If you are the Captain of Archers, you are responsible for:

1. being the main point of contact for the archers or throwers in your region of Lochac
2. maintaining communication with the Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery and reporting quarterly on archery and thrown weapon activities in your region, including being signed up to the archers@lochac.sca.org mailing list
3. spreading information regarding target archery and thrown weapon activities in your region by reporting to the group Marshal, Seneschal and the Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery as required
4. organising and encouraging target archery and thrown weapon activities in your region
5. advising on Lochac's current safety standards

6. and encouraging the study of period archery and thrown weapon styles and equipment.

4.4.2 Requirements

If you want to be your group's Captain of Archers, you need to:

1. meet the requirements for holding a Group Office as recorded in Lochac Kingdom Law
2. and have sound knowledge of target archery and thrown weapons - you don't have to be an authorised Target Archery Marshal, but this will definitely help in your application.

4.5 Target Archery Marshal

4.5.1 General

1. You need to have an authorised Target Archery Marshal to set up and run target archery and thrown weapon activities. If you don't have one on the range, no archery or and thrown weapon activities can happen.
2. If there is more than one Target Archery Marshal at the shoot, one needs to be designated as the Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge.
3. If there are any disagreements, the Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge has complete control over resolving the problem. You can appeal to the Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery, Kingdom Earl Marshal or the Crown, according to the Kingdom's and the SCA's laws and policies.
4. The Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge can ask for help from other Target Archery Marshals, but still has the overall responsibility for safely setting up, running the shoot, and cleaning up.

4.5.2 Responsibilities

1. If you are acting as a Target Archery Marshal, you need to make sure that all the archers and throwers know and follow mundane law, and Lochac's target archery and thrown weapons rules. You can explain these rules verbally, or ask people to read them.
2. The Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge and the assisting Marshals have the authority to inspect all equipment for safety and compliance with Kingdom rules.
3. If you are the Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge at an event, you must report any archery or thrown weapons-related injuries that need professional medical treatment to the Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery , and any others required by Kingdom policy. You must also report any potentially dangerous circumstances or near-miss incidents, even if there was no injury.
4. You can authorise new Target Archery Marshals.

4.5.3 Requirements

To be an authorised Target Archery Marshal, you need to:

1. Complete the authorisation process
2. You need to keep yourself informed of any changes to the Target Archery Rules for Lochac.
3. You need to maintain your membership with the SCA (SCA Ltd, SCANZ, SCA Inc, or any of its affiliates)

4.6 Reporting

4.6.1 Quarterly reports

4.6.1.1 Society Reports

The Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery reports quarterly to the Society Archery Marshal. A copy of the report as sent to the Kingdom Earl Marshal is sufficient. Due dates for reports:

- 10 March
- 10 June
- 10 September
- 10 December

4.6.1.2 Kingdom reports

1. The Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery reports quarterly to the Earl Marshal and Crown on the last day of February, May, August, and November.
2. Reports should include:
    - Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery details:
        - SCA and mundane name
        - Contact details - email etc
        - Membership number and expiry date
        - Start date of term in office
    - Overview of archery and thrown weapon activities in the kingdom
        - Combat archery specific matters
        - Target archery specific matters
        - Thrown weapon specific matters
    - Any other issues
    - List of groups which have reported

- Experiments or research
- Recommendations - people for awards or just to bring people to the Earl Marshal's attention.
- Questions - does anything need clarifying?
- Suggestions - possible changes to rules.

4.6.1.3 Group reports

1. Captains of Archers of Baronies and Shires report quarterly, on the 15th of February, May, August, and November.
2. Captains of Archers of Colleges and Cantons report quarterly to your supporting group, on the 15th of January, April, July and October.
3. Report should include:
    - Your details:
        - SCA name;
        - Mundane name;
        - Contact details: Email, phone number, mailing address, other ways to contact you (Skype etc);
        - The date you have held office since;
        - Membership number and expiry date.
    - Target archery information
        - Are target archery activities happening in your group?
        - Competitions, practices etc
        - How many participants?
        - Are there any issues?
        - Do you have any queries around rules?
        - Do you have any suggestions for novelty shoots? (We'd love to share any that you have on the website)
        - How many Target Archery Marshals are there in the group? Is there a good geographical spread so that people can do archery in their part of your group's area?
    - Combat archery information (you might need to collect this information from the Group Marshal)
        - Are combat archery activities happening?
        - Are there any issues?
        - Do you have any queries around rules?

  - Do you have any suggestions for combat archer games? (We'd love to share any that you have on the website)
  - Special request: How many ramin combat arrows are still in use by participants, and how many shafts remain to be turned into combat arrows? Please include updated numbers in each report, we are hoping to track the decline.
- Anything else you would like to include - event reports, recommendations for awards, etc

5 Authorising as a Target Archery Marshal

5.1 To become an authorised Target Archery Marshal

1. You need be a subscribing member of the SCA (or one of its affiliates), not just an event member. Your Target Archery Marshal authorisation (and any other Marshal authorisation you may hold) is only valid while you maintain your membership.
2. You need to be over the age of 18 years
3. You need to fill out the authorisation form, or get someone to fill it out for you if you can't.
4. Another authorised Target Archery Marshal must make sure that you can:
   (a) Demonstrate that you are familiar with current SCA and Lochac's target archery and thrown weapon conventions and rules
   (b) Demonstrate that you can set-up and safely run an archery shoot and thrown weapon activity.
   (c) Inspect equipment as required for safety and compliance with Lochac's rules
5. The authorising Target Archery Marshal needs to send your paperwork to the Kingdom Lists Officer within three months of the authorisation taking place. Expired authorisation paperwork will not be processed
6. A copy of your authorisation paperwork may be used instead of your authorisation card for up to three months from the date of the authorisation, while you wait for your card.

5.2 To renew your authorisation as a Target Archery Marshal

1. You must renew your authorisation at least every four years.
2. If your authorisation has expired in the last 4 weeks, your authorisation can be renewed rather than needing to be done as a new authorisation.
3. At the discretion of the marshal performing the renewal, your recent Target Archery Marshal activity can be counted as demonstrating marshalling ability; setting up and running a session purely for renewal purposes doesn't need to happen.
4. The authorising Target Archery Marshal needs be satisfied that you are aware of any changes which have happened in the rules since your last authorisation or renewal.

6 Suggested range dimensions

These are suggested dimensions for the range and safety zones for target and specialty competitions. They are general guidelines. The actual sizes can vary, depending on terrain, the archers, and other conditions. It is better to err on the side of safety with too much space than not enough.

6.1 Target Shoots

1. We recommend that the safety zone behind the farthest target extends at least 40 yards (36.5m) back, or for half the distance from the line to the farthest target, whichever is greater.
2. For shoots of 50 yards (45.7m) or less, the safety zone to the sides of the shooting line and targets should extend outward at a 30- to 45-degree angle from both ends of the shooting line to a line even with the furthest target, and continue straight back from there.
3. For shoots of over 50 yards (45.7m), the safety zone to the sides of the shooting line and targets should extend outward at a 30- to 45-degree angle from both ends of the shooting line to a line 50 yards (45.7m) away or one-quarter the distance to the far end of the safety zone, whichever is greater, and continue straight back from there.

6.2 Specialty Shoots

1. For clout shoots, we recommend that the safety zone extends beyond the target for at least half the target distance, and to each side for at least one-fifth the target distance. We recommend that the Target Archery Marshal arrange for any archers who are not familiar with clout shooting to practice in advance. They should start with their bows aimed at a low angle and work their way up to help prevent overshooting the safety zone.
2. For flight shoots, we recommend that the safety zone distance be at least 300 yards (274.3m), or the maximum range of the heaviest bow allowed. We don't recommend holding a flight shoot if space is limited.
3. For roving courses, we recommend that the safety zone distance be at least one and one-half times the distance to the target. Include special consideration for the angles and distances required for the other targets in the course. Don't place targets within line of sight with another target.

7 Suggested period equipment standards

The Society Target Archery Marshal's Handbook includes an appendix of standards for period equipment. They are included here in plain English.

These are not hard and fast rules, and the Target Archery Marshal-in-charge of the competition can set their own requirements for period equipment, including costume.

7.1 General standards

1. If the style and construction of your bow can be documented to pre-17th century, then it can be defined as period bow. Bows which don't meet these requirements can still shoot in the open division of a competition, if available.
2. If you want to use uncommon equipment, you should bring documentation to support its use. The Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge has the final say, unless the Deputy Earl Marshal for Archery or their designated duty is present. If approval is given, we recommend that you get it in writing and keep it with your documentation and the equipment for future reference.
3. Your bow may not have to conform to your persona or costume. Marshals running period competitions can have stricter equipment requirements, such as asking your costume to match your equipment.
4. Modern materials such as plastics, or synthetic glues, finishes, fibers (strings) or artificial sinew, etc. are allowed, as long as they don't give you an unfair advantage in performance over period materials. Composite bows (of different woods or backed with sinew or rawhide, etc.) are allowed. Whatever the bow is made of, it must look like a period bow.

7.2 Bows

1. Your bow shouldn't have any modern features, such as full or partial center-cut handles or built-in shelves. Many modern longbows have some center-cut on their handle part (riser in a recurve), which means the bow wouldn't qualify as a period bow. Hand bows with grips narrower than the limbs are not considered to be center-cut.
2. Your bow shouldn't have anything added solely for sighting/aiming.
3. Your bow shouldn't have modern-style attachable arrow rests. However, you can use a protruding rest made from layers of leather, or other period material, added to the handle.
4. You can use simple modern metal nocking points or tied on string or other documented period-style nocking point. Some competitions may not allow any form of arrow rest or nocking point.

5. You can use any period-style release appropriate for your bow, e.g. a thumb ring for an Eastern-style bow, but you aren't required to do so.

7.3 Crossbows

To qualify as a period crossbow:

1. The stock should be made of wood
2. The stock can't have a modern-style rifle butt
3. The lock and release mechanism should be documentable to pre-17th century. The mechanism should be made of any suitable material.
4. It shouldn't have front sights
5. The prod can be made of any material
6. Strings can be made of any material, except metal
7. Whatever the materials, the crossbow must look like a period crossbow
8. Your crossbow can be shot from any position. However, you can only hold your crossbow in your hands, not resting on a sandbag, or similar, unless the rules of a competition specifically allow the use of period-style shooting benches, rests, or similar.
9. Slings shouldn't be used for shooting, but can be used to carry the crossbow.

7.4 Arrows and bolts

1. Some period arrowheads can cause excessive damage to the target or backstop, so you may not be allowed to use them. Check with the owner of the target.
2. Nocks can be either self or reinforced self, or period-style insert nocks. They should be of materials that are similar in appearance to period materials, and also similar in style.

8 Equipment inspection guidelines

The basic rule for inspecting equipment is: If you are not sure that it is safe, don't pass it.

8.1 Damage to bows

1. Have the archer string the bow before inspection.
2. Bows should be free of cracks and gouges.
    - Have the archer draw the bow and then slowly release the tension. Never dry fire a bow! Watch the back and sides of the bow for cracks that might show up under tension. Cracks are least serious in areas close to the handle of the bow and most dangerous in areas of high bending.
    - Bows that show major cracks or that have cracks that go across the limbs should be rejected as they can break.
    - Small cracks should be marked at the ends and watched. If they have grown after two or three test arrows, fail the bow. If they seem stable, pass the bow, but re-check it throughout the competition or practice.
    - Laminated bows sometimes have small cracks in the fiberglass running up and down the limbs. This condition is not serious, unless the crack goes through both the wood and fiberglass.

1. Bows shouldn't be excessively warped or twisted. Recurve bows can have this problem, especially when strung by bending the bow around a leg.
    - Look down the string to see if the bow limbs are parallel. If a limb is excessively twisted, then the bow is unsafe.
    - Have the archer draw the bow and then slowly release the tension twice and repeat the inspection. If the string is not in the grooves on the limbs, then the bow is warped.
    - If the warping is constant (and the string remains in the same position after each shot) the bow is usable. If the string keeps moving sideways with each shot, the bow should be failed.

8.2 Strings

1. Bowstrings shouldn't have many frayed or broken strands. If several strands of the string are broken or otherwise damaged, fail the bow.
2. The string should be the proper length for the bow. Pass a bow with an improper string unless it is so short that using it will overstress the bow.
3. The serving on the string should be secure and not unraveling.

4. If the string shows small hairs and looks fuzzy, it is dried out and needs some bow wax. Pass it, but tell the archer that the string will have a short life expectancy.

8.3 Arrows and bolts

1. The shaft should be free of cracks or deep gouges.
    - Bend the arrow a little while rotating it between your fingers. This will cause any invisible cracks to open up.
2. The tips, nocks and fletches must be securely fastened.
3. The nocks must not be cracked.

8.4 Thrown weapons

1. An axe blade should be sharp enough to stick in the target, rather than bouncing off.
2. Check axes and spears for cracks and splinters in the handle. The head must be securely fastened.

9 Crossbow legislation

This information is provided as the laws for possession and use of crossbows vary from state to state and between New Zealand and Australia.

The following information is correct as of 13 February 2016.

Archers wishing to use crossbows:

- Need to know their state laws on possession and use of crossbows.
- Must carry a copy of any required permits at all times, while in possession of, carrying or using, a crossbow.
- Must check state laws on the possession and use of crossbows when traveling interstate.

Regardless on the mundane legal ability to use crossbows, SCA Ltd's insurance policy prohibits the use of crossbows on moving targets (including people), or while mounted, in all parts of Australia.

9.1 Australia

9.1.1 Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Crossbows are a prohibited weapon under the Prohibited Weapons Act 1996 and Prohibited Weapons Regulations 1997, and a permit is required to own, possess or use a crossbow. Any individual without a permit may not have physical possession of, or use, a crossbow.

An individual's ability to acquire a permit to own or use a crossbow in the Australian Capital Territory is entirely independent of membership or participation in the SCA.

The requirements for a permit mean the applicant must be a member of one of five approved archery clubs:

- Canberra Archery Club Incorporated
- Canberra Bowhunters Club Incorporated
- Capital Field Archers
- Tuggeranong Archery Club Incorporated
- Weston Valley Archery Club Incorporated.

The SCA is not an approved club in its own right.

Crossbows may only be used for the purpose of participating in competitions conducted by or in association with one of those clubs, so SCA events involving the use of crossbows will need to be done in association with one of them. This already happens with target archery events in ACT.

You must be the age of 18 years or older to own a crossbow, you must be 16 years or older to use a crossbow.

An individual may apply to the Australian Federal Police for a permit to use, carry or have possession of a crossbow.

At this stage we believe that ACT does NOT recognise permits from other states. Members who hold a crossbow permit from another state, but not ACT may not bring crossbows into ACT, nor transit through ACT with a crossbow in their possession.

9.1.2 New South Wales (NSW)

Crossbows are prohibited weapons under the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 and the Weapons Prohibition Regulation 2009.

An individual's ability to acquire a permit to own or use a crossbow in New South Wales is entirely independent of membership or participation in the SCA.

Historical re-enactment purposes is NOT a legitimate reason for owning a crossbow in New South Wales. Unless SCA Ltd becomes an affiliated with Archery Australia or its regional governing body in New South Wales, membership with SCA Ltd does NOT qualify our members to apply for a permit to own or use crossbows for sporting purposes. Membership with SCA Ltd also does NOT qualify our members to apply for a permit to own a crossbow as a collector in New South Wales.

New South Wales does NOT recognise permits from other states. Members who hold a crossbow permit from another state, but not NSW, may not bring crossbows into NSW, nor transit through New South Wales with a crossbow in their possession.

A Prohibited Weapons Re-enactment Event Permit specifically states that sporting or collector permit holders cannot use the weapon at an event, only display it, so is not suitable for our purposes.

9.1.3 Northern Territory (NT)

Crossbows are controlled weapons under the Weapons Control Act.

No licence or other authority is required to possess and use crossbows in the Northern Territory. However, a person under 18 years of age must not possess, carry or use a crossbow.

If SCA activities are planned for a public place (or at a school) please notify the Firearms Policy & Records Unit in advance so that Police are aware of the event. By doing this the reasonable & lawful excuse provisions will have been pre-established, which should prevent any response on the day.

Lawful excuse includes sport and recreation, and legitimate collection, display and exhibition.

9.1.4 Queensland (QLD)

Crossbows are regulated weapon under the Weapons Act 1990.

Ownership of a crossbow requires a Category M licence. Physical possession and use of crossbows requires a licence, unless the person is under the supervision of a licence holder.

The SCA Ltd is recognised by Queensland Police as an approved organisation for the purposes of crossbow licences.

The police will recognise interstate licences if the person who owns the crossbow is not a resident of Queensland. If they move permanently to Queensland, they will have apply for a Queensland licence.

Crossbows can only be shot on an approved range. Any event that wishes to have crossbow shooting will need to apply for an approved range status. This can be either permanent or temporary (which is useful for war events). This is a complex process and requires the site to be visited by the weapons bureau to check the safety of the site. The application must include a letter from the local council that they have no objection to the site being used.

Individuals who do not have a licence may use crossbows at an approved range, if they provide the range officer with photographic identification, and sign and date a form providing name, date of birth and residential address, declaring that the person is a licensee or not an excluded person.

Minors who are at least 11 years of age may hold and use a crossbow under the direct supervision a range office, or their parent, guardian or person acting as parent or guardian if licensed.

9.1.5 South Australia (SA)

Crossbows are a prohibited weapon under the Summary Offences Act 1953.

Possession and use of crossbows requires an individual to be participating in a lawful and recognised form of recreation or sport that reasonably requires the use or possession of the weapon. Fortunately, target archery in the SCA is a legitimate form of recreation.

Crossbows cannot be supplied to any person under 18 years of age.

9.1.6 Tasmania (TAS)

Crossbows are a restricted weapon under the Police Offences Act 1935.

A person may not use, carry or have possession of a crossbow unless they are authorised in writing by the Commissioner of Police to do so.

For sport and target shooting, you must be a current member of an approved shooting organisation that conducts competitions or activities involving crossbows. To collect, show and exhibit crossbows, you must belong to a bona fide club and show paperwork relating to same when seeking authorisation.

13 Feb 2016 – we are currently investigating whether the SCA Ltd can be an approved shooting organisation or is a bona fide club for collection and exhibition purposes.

Currently, an individual's ability to acquire a permit to own or use a crossbow in Tasmania is entirely independent of membership or participation in the SCA.

At this stage we believe that Tasmania does NOT recognise permits from other states. Members who hold a crossbow permit from another state, but not Tasmania, may not bring crossbows into Tasmania.

9.1.7 Victoria (VIC)

Crossbows are a prohibited weapon under the Control of Weapons Act 2000.

Historical re-enactment purposes is NOT a legitimate reason for owning a crossbow in Victoria. Unless SCA Ltd becomes an affiliated with Archery Australia or its regional governing body in Victoria, membership with SCA Ltd does NOT qualify our members to own or use crossbows for sporting purposes. Membership with SCA Ltd also does NOT qualify our members to own a crossbow as a collector in Victoria.

Victoria does NOT recognise permits from other states. Members who hold a crossbow permit from another state, but not Victoria, may not bring crossbows into Victoria, nor transit through Victoria with a crossbow in their possession.

9.1.8 Western Australia (WA)

Crossbows are a prohibited weapon under the Weapons Regulations 1999.

Possession and use of crossbows is prohibited within Western Australia unless you have a notice in writing from the Minister for Police stating you are an Exempt Arbalest.

To obtain this notice you needed to have been a member of Archery Australia (Inc) and possessed a crossbow for the purposes of taking part in crossbow events or competitions before 1 July 2011.

Essentially, no new permits will be issued for Exempt Arbalests in Western Australia.

A person without an exemption may not use a crossbow, even under supervision of an Exempt Arbalest.

At this stage we believe that Western Australia does NOT recognise permits from other states. Members who hold a crossbow permit from another state, but not Western Australia, may not bring crossbows into Western Australia.

9.2 New Zealand

Crossbows and other bows and arrows are offensive weapons under the Crimes Act 1961. Bow and arrows should only be carried or used for a lawful, proper and sufficient purpose, for example archery competition, practice or hunting.

`http://www.police.govt.nz/faq/what-are-the-rules-relating-to-crossbows`

10 Briefing format

The military and emergency services often use a particular format for giving briefings. Here is an example of how it could be applied to an archery event.

A briefing should be given to everyone participating and watching.

10.1 Ground

- Describe the range
  - where the targets are (particularly important for roving or novelty shoots
  - Any areas which are out of bounds or hazardous etc

10.2 Situation

- What is the shoot?
- Is it a competition, a practice, just for fun?
- How long the shoot is expected to run for
- If the shoot is happening at a time when people may have been drinking (eg afternoon or after dinner, remind people that if they aren't fit to drive, they aren't fit to shoot.

10.3 Mission

- What is the point of the game/competition/practice?
- What does someone need to do to win?

10.4 Execution

- What equipment can be used in this competition?
  - Period equipment only? Is modern equipment allowed?
  - How many arrows are needed for this competition?
- What to do if the archer drops an arrow
- How much time is allowed, or can archers shoot at their own pace, or is it in volleys?
  - If it is a timed end, can the archer start with an arrow knocked or bolt loaded?

- Toeing or straddling the line (choose one and be consistent)
- How many to the line to shoot at once
- Remind people:
  - Don't nock or loose an arrow or bolt, or throw a weapon while anyone is forward of the shooting line
  - When you have finished, lower your bow or any weapons in hand, step back from the line, and wait for further instructions.
  - You must not go forward of the shooting line while others are shooting, and you must wait until you are told to go and collect your arrows or thrown weapons.
  - Put your bow down somewhere safe before going to collect your arrows.
- Anything else participants need to know about how the game is played

10.5 Administration and Logistics

- Scoring
  - Who is tallying the scores (the marshal, list keeper or archer)?
  - How points are counted (if relevant)
  - How to count arrows that cut the line, or have bounced out
- Collecting arrows
  - Remind people about collecting arrows safely, asking permission before touching other people's equipment
- Do you have a list keeper collecting scores? - identify them
- What happens if you are eliminated from the competition (if relevant)

10.6 Control and communication

- Identify the Target Archery Marshal in charge, and any assisting.
- Explain that if people don't follow instructions from the marshals about safety or the competition they will be asked to leave
- Range commands
  - Wait for instructions before approaching the line, otherwise stay well back
  - Wait until you are given the all clear to shoot
  - How you will tell people when they are allowed to shoot and when to stop - e.g. “Range is open,” “Range is closed.” “You may fire at will.” “Stop shooting.” “Loose when ready.” etc.
- Holds

  - If you see a safety problem on the range, call “Hold!”.
  - If anyone calls “Hold!” Do not shoot! Lower your bow or weapon, carefully remove your arrows or bolt from your weapon, and wait for the Target Archery Marshal to tell you what to do.

10.7 Questions

- Are there any questions?
- You could also ask a few questions to make sure that people understand what you have told them.

10.8 Example briefing for a shoot

Greetings good gentles, welcome to our archery range. I am Captain Shootsalot. We'll be shooting at the three targets at the other end of the range from the lines marked here. Please avoid the area to the right of the range as there are some wombat holes.

We're doing a King's Round today. This afternoon's competition should run until about 4pm. If you've been drinking after lunch, remember that if you aren't fit to drive, you aren't fit to shoot.

The aim of the game is to hit the target with at least one arrow from further and further away. If you fail to hit the target with one of your arrows in a round, you will be eliminated, and the winner will be the last archer remaining.

You can shoot up to six arrows in each round, in your own time. If you hit the target with one of them, you are through to the next round, so you don't need to fire any more arrows. If you are unsure, use one of your remaining arrows. If you miss with all six, you're out. If you drop one over the line, sorry, it's gone. If it bounces off the target, sorry, it won't count.

Looks like we can fit six to the line at once. Please all stand astride the line, and please fill in a gap when an archer steps back.

Remember not to nock or loose when anyone is forward of the line, and wait for the instruction to shoot. I'll call “Range is open, you may fire at will.”

When we are all done, we'll put our bows down, and wait for instructions before going to collect arrows. I'll call “Range is closed, move forward and collect.”

After each round, we'll move back another five yards, if you are still in. If no one hits the target at a particular distance we'll do another round at the same distance until someone hits the target.

When we go to collect arrows, please help find the ones beyond the target, but ask for permission before touching other's equipment.

Only arrows inside the target area will count, if it cuts the line, it's in.

I'll be the Marshal-in-charge for this shoot, but I'll be assisted by Lord John Fletcher, and Lady Jane Bowyer. Please follow our instructions, or if you don't want to, you can leave now.

Make sure you have signed in with our list keeper, Myfanwy. Please wave, Myf! When you have been eliminated, please let her know so she can record your final distance for you.

Remember, if anyone sees any problems, call “Hold!”. If you hear anyone call “Hold!”, do not shoot! Remove your arrow from your bow, and wait for instructions. It's for your safety.

Does anyone have any questions?

Excellent. Could I have the first six archers to the line? The range is now open, you may shoot at will.

11 Change log

This page will show the changes from previous editions

Chapter	Change	Date approved
2. Equipment standards	2.8.1.1 edited to remove the phrase Throwing knife, and replace it with Knife - due to knives designed for throwing being illegal in many places, but knife throwing as an activity not being illegal	1 June 2018
All	Substantial update from 2012 edition - Follow the link for the full list of updates from the 2012 edition to the June 2018 edition.	31 May 2018