

Risk Assessment:	Tomahawk Throwing		Location:	1st Crookham HQ Archery Range
Version	Author	Date	Approval	Date
1.0	Martin Cair	13/06/2019		
2.0	Martin Cair	08/09/2020	Mark Medler (GSL)	
3.0	Martin Cair	05/05/2023	Mark Medler (GSL)	

P.O.R.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/9-activities/#9.11.6>

- The throwing of tomahawks and small hawks must follow the guidance in the [Tomahawk Throwing factsheet \(FS120011\)](#)
- Throwing at targets representing human beings or animals is not permitted as a part of any Scout activity, nor on property owned or leased by, or used in the name of, the Scout Movement.
- Throwing knives is not permitted within The Scout Association (see rule [9.1.1.2 Banned Activities](#)).

General Safety Precautions:

- Tomahawk Throwing at the 1st Crookham HQ is conducted on a dedicated range
- There will be at least one qualified instructor supervising throwers, and at least one additional leader or adult helper supervising non-throwers
- Non-throwers are not permitted to hold tomahawks
- Non-throwers are not permitted to shout or interrupt throwers
- Running is not permitted at any point on the range or locality
- A full safety briefing is given before EVERY session to ALL participants

Range

- Three targets and stands, approximately 4m into the archery range from the open end, set up so throwing is from the traversing wall end of the range towards the Guides compound
- The throwing line is 3m in front of the targets for minihawks and 4m for tomahawks, just inside the netted area at the open end of the archery range
- Participants waiting to throw remain in a designated safety area, set off to the side of the range. Chairs should be set-up

- Access to the area is restricted during throwing.
- For specific instructions see the “Quick Reference Guide” below

Hazard / Risk		Who is at Risk	Controls	Responsibility	Review/Notes
Trips and injuries on the Range	Trips causing minor or major injury	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity will be led by trained leaders Non-throwers will be controlled by other leaders/adults Running is NOT permitted at any point on the range Participants are not able to walk on the range until all throwing has finished 	Activity leader(s)	Over time, continued clearance of the range will minimise this risk
	Injury picking up tomahawks	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants are told the danger of all parts of the tomahawk and the correct way to handle them 	Activity leader(s)	Non-throwers should be encouraged to observe throwers and identify where overthrows have finished
Throwing away from the target	Tomahawk deflects off the target	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants are instructed NOT to throw too hard, and only to aim at the targets Targets should be 6-7m away from back netting 	Activity leader(s)	This is actively re-enforced. Failure to follow rules results in immediate suspension and the participant will NOT be allowed to continue
	Tomahawk hits another person	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are continually monitored Throwing is only allowed down the range The nets should keep all tomahawks contained Failure to follow rules result in the thrower being disallowed from continuing The only practical way for a thrower to hit another person is either by rebounds, or by turning through at least 90 degrees and deliberately throwing the tomahawk 	Activity leader(s)	This is actively re-enforced. Failure to follow rules results in immediate suspension and the participant will NOT be allowed to continue
	Rebounds	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targets and stands are softwood to increase likelihood of tomahawks sticking and minimise rebounds Non-throwers remain in the safety area 	Activity leader(s)	Safety area is to the side of the throwing area, behind the throwing line
Damaged tomahawks	Damaged tomahawks	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tomahawks are checked before each session Sharp burrs to be filled down Damaged handles to be replaced 	Range Master	Continuous checking by leaders and reporting by throwers is encouraged.
Injury	Arm/shoulder injury	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to be given instruction on safe holding of tomahawk and throwing. 	Activity leader(s)	This is unlikely to be an issue unless participant is throwing too hard

Hazard / Risk		Who is at Risk	Controls	Responsibility	Review/Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to throw from no more than 4m. 		
	Foot injury	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants must wear suitable foot ware (no open-toed shoes) to minimise impact of a dropped tomahawk 	Activity leader(s)	
	Cuts	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure participants are aware that tomahawks are sharp, and should be help by handle only Tomahawks should be removed from target highest first, then working down, and then from the ground Inspect tomahawks for burrs, splintering and other damage before each session 	Activity leader(s)	
	General	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure at lead one instructor holds a current first response qualification Ensure Instructors know where the first aid kit is 	Range Master	
Disruption and distraction	Disruption from non-throwers or movement on the line	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress that non-throwers are to be quiet and not to distract the throwers Ensure that another adult is available to monitor them Note: If another adult is not available, then you are not permitted (under 1st Crookham rules) to run the session Ensure that all participants on the range throw at a similar time. This helps you ensure that distractions are less likely and incidents even less so If any distraction occurs, then stop ALL throwing, restart the process (step away from the line, then start again) Group size to be limited to 12 with only 3 throwing participants on the range at any one time. Safety briefing to include instructions to be given to participants of danger of horseplay and not distracting other throwers. Range discipline to be strict. All spectators to remain in safety area. 	Activity leader(s)	Stress that safety is everybody's responsibility. Ensure that the other adults present also have a responsibility as well to monitor and identify distractions and potential safety issues. This is a continuous activity which happens all the way throughout the session. If any adult identifies a potential improvement in the running of the session, this will be discussed at the end of the session and if appropriate placed into action for subsequent sessions

Tomahawk Throwing at 1st Crookham

Quick Reference Guide

Pre-check:

- If necessary, split into throwing and waiting groups
- Check foot-ware
- Check clothing for snag hazards

Range Setup:

- Make sure nets are all pulled across, or range is marked out if away from the Hut
- Set up stands and targets and ensure they are secure
- Lay out the throwing line
- Position and lay out the safety area for non-throwers. Chairs rather than standing encourage quieter behaviour
- Check tomahawks for damage

Thrower Setup:

- **Stance:**
 - The suggested stance is feet shoulder width apart, right foot forward (if left handed) or left foot forward (if right handed), not unfamiliar to the stance when throwing a ball
 - It may be more natural to reverse the footwork and step forward with the opposite leg
 - Choose whichever is more comfortable and natural
- **Technique and Release:**
 - Do **not** try to throw as hard as you can
 - For minihawks, action is from the elbow only. For tomahawks, action includes shoulder and elbow
 - Wrist is locked
 - Raise the throwing arm over the shoulder and bring down to nearly parallel
 - At release, the position of the hand is similar to offering a handshake
- **Safety:**
 - **Obey all commands – 1 chance only – disobey and you will not throw**
 - If at any time you hear “Stop”, put tomahawks down and await further instructions
 - If you have any problem, stand still, raise your hand and wait for the Range Master
 - **For throwers who have not thrown before, run through one-on-one to ensure safety.**
- **Demonstration:**
 - Run through with students prior to throwing
 - Demonstrate right and left handed (if you can!)
 - Keep throwing slow and clear.

Range Commands

- Start throwing
- STOP – anyone can do this
 - Thrower put tomahawks down, step away from the throwing line, and retreat to the safety area
- Finish throwing
- Show hands (or jazz hands)
 - Throwers raise hands to demonstrate that they are not holding any tomahawks
- Collect tomahawks
 - After “show hands”, and only then do you walk forwards to collect hawks.