

Risk Assessment:	Archery		Location:	1st Crookham HQ Archery Range
Version	Author	Date	Approval	Date
Original	Alex Furneaux	01/01/2017	Mark Medler (GSL)	29/01/2017
2020 Update	Craig Goddard	6/9/2020		
2025 Update	Martin Cair	03/03/2025		03/03/2025

P.O.R.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/9-activities/#9.11.1>

- Archery must be run as specified in rule 9.11.1 or the [externally led activity page of scouts.org.uk](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/9-activities/#9.11.1)
- Shooting 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 (including Archery Tag and other combat style archery activities as per POR 9.1.1.2).
- The use of crossbows as an activity in the Scouts is included in 9.11.5 Shooting.

Factsheet:

- [FS120406 Published November 2024](#)

General Safety Precautions:

- Archery is conducted on a dedicated range enclosed by safety nets
- There will be at least one qualified instructor on the shooting line and at least one additional adult supervising non-shooters
- Non-shooters are not permitted to hold bows or arrows
- Non-shooters are not permitted to shout or interrupt shooters
- Running is not permitted at any point on the range or locality
- A full safety briefing is given before EVERY session to ALL participants

Hazard / Risk		Who is at Risk	Controls	Responsibility	Review/Notes
Trips on the Range	Trips causing minor or major injury	All participants	- Activity will be led by appointed and qualified leaders - Non-shooters 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 shooting has finished - signalled by a whistle or command	Activity leader(s)	Over time, continued clearance of the range will minimise this risk
	Injury picking up arrows or damaged arrows	All participants	- All participants are explained the danger of all parts of the arrow and the correct way to extract arrows - Arrow pullers are available to mitigate where possible splinters - Arrows are all varnished to keep arrow shafts smooth	Activity leader(s)	For speed, Beavers do not pull the arrows, the leader will accomplish this to speed up the shooting process
Shooting away from the target or another participant	Arrow deflects off the target or goes over/through the netting	All participants	- All participants are instructed NOT to shoot over the horizontal and only to aim at the targets - Distances are 5 yards for beavers, 10 yards for cubs, 15-20 yards for scouts - Bow strength is low so almost impossible to bounce back to the shooting line and hit someone	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
	Arrow hits another person	All participants	- Participants are continually monitored - Shooting is only allowed down the range - The nets should keep all arrows contained - Failure to follow rules result in the shooter is not allowed to continue - The only practical way for a shooter to hit another person is by turning through at least 90 degrees and releasing the arrow	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
Damage to the bow or arrow	Bow damage / breakage	All participants	- Bows are checked prior to the activity and shooters are encouraged to check before every time they shoot - A string breaking will tend to be heard before it snaps	Field Captain	Continuous checking is encouraged to minimise risk for this point. Spare bows

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			Limbs will crack if they are weakened, but low poundage bows will result in a shock to the shooter more than any injury chance		are available to resolve this issue
	Arrow damage / breaking	All participants	- Arrow damage is the most likely scenario here. Points can come loose or break off. - There are sufficient arrows to simply put these to one side and gather another one - All participants are encouraged to use the same arrows, look at them and understand / assess the equipment they are using - This gives them the chance to check arrows before use. Leaders usually pull arrows for cubs and beavers for speed, so will check arrows after each shot. - Feathers falling off does not stop an arrow being shot, but is typically put to one side for accuracy and another spare arrow used	Activity leader(s)	Continuous checking is encouraged to minimise risk for this point. There are plenty of spare arrows of all selected lengths to cover this scenario.
Injury to the arm from the bow string		All participants	- Monitor participants to ensure that bracers are properly worn - Ensure that elbows are NOT over-extended - the most common form of strings hitting the arm - An extra-long bracer is used for participants continually doing this - The worst case is a temporary bruise on the arm/elbow	Activity leader(s)	Continuous checking is encouraged to minimise risk for this point
Disruption and distracted attention. Disruption from non-shooters or movement on the line		All participants	- Stress that non-shooters are to be quiet and not to distract the shooters - 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	Activity leader(s) & Adults	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

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		• Ensure that all shooters draw, aim and loose in a similar timeframe - this helps you ensure that distractions are less likely and incidents even less so • If any distraction occurs, then stop ALL archers shooting, restart the shooting process (put bows and arrows down, step away from the line, then start again)		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