

**This handout is a guide for the Target Archery Marshal class.  
Official policy and rules can be located at the following:**

- SCA Target Archery Rules, which can be found at [http://www.sca.org/officers/marshal/docs/t\\_archery/target\\_archery\\_rules.pdf](http://www.sca.org/officers/marshal/docs/t_archery/target_archery_rules.pdf).
- Kingdom of Atlantia Modifications, which can be found at <http://law.atlantia.sca.org/Policy.html> section 3.9

**The Lesson**

All rules listed are Society unless in *Italics* for Kingdom of Atlantia.

**Introduction**

Target Archery is a large part of the Kingdom of Atlantia and SCA activities. Of all activities, target archery is the only one where the participants are using real weapons.

**Requirements**

The requirements to be an Atlantian Target Archery Marshal are the following:

- Knowledge of range safety
- Knowledge of the SCA rules governing the sport
- Knowledge of the Kingdom modifications to the SCA rules
- Current membership in the SCA
- Must be a minimum of 18 years old
- Completion of the Target Archery Marshal class and renewal in 3 years
- Completion of the MIT process within one year

**Responsibilities of Target Archery Marshals:**

- The primary responsibilities of a target archery marshal are SAFETY, SAFETY and SAFETY:
  - A. Safety of the range
  - B. Safety of the equipment
  - C. Safety of the participants
- No archery activities will take place at any SCA event unless a warranted target archery marshal is present on the range.
- Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge may request help from other marshals for safety inspections, running the range, and instructing newcomers. He or she may also enlist experienced non-marshal archers to help.
- The Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge and all assisting marshals have the authority and duty to inspect all equipment for compliance with SCA and Atlantian rules. Equipment that does not meet standards shall not be used, unless exceptions are made as allowed in Atlantian law.
- The Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge and all assisting marshals are responsible for ensuring that all archers are familiar with, and comply with, SCA and Atlantian rules.

- The Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge will have the final say in all disputes, subject to appeal to the Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal for Target Archery, Kingdom Earl Marshal and the Crown.
  - The Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge at an event shall make an event report to the Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal for Target Archery, the event Marshal-in-Charge, and the event Autocrat within one week following the event.
  - If an injury occurs on or around the archery range, the Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge must make a full report of the incident to the Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal for Target Archery, the event Marshal-in-Charge, and the event Autocrat within one week. This will be a separate report from the general event report. In addition, the Targets Archery Marshal-in-Charge must also make a full report to the Event and Kingdom Chirurgeon within one week.

### **Safety Rules**

- Archers should always remember the potential DANGER of their weapons.
- NO arrows or bolts should be nocked when anyone is in front of the shooting line.
- NO archer should discharge a bow or crossbow when anyone is down range.
- NO archer will be authorized to shoot after using alcohol or mind altering drugs no matter the amount taken; if you drink you are done.

### **Minors**

- Children under 18<sup>1</sup> years old must be accompanied by parent or Legal Guardian<sup>2</sup>.
- As defined in the Society Seneschal's Handbook, Appendix A 1 & 2, minimum standards for youth will be followed unless additional rules are specified in Kingdom law or additional policies.

### **Youth Archery Marshal Program**

- Be 13 years or older
- Take the MiT class
- Complete all MiT requirements
- Re-Take the Marshals class if still a youth after 3 years
- Have a sponsor/mentor who is not his/her parent, who is an *experienced* warranted target archery marshal (approved by the DEM)
- MiTs *at least* twice a year to keep his/her skills sharp
- Is never on range alone - (can run the line but not the range)

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<sup>1</sup> As per change of Kingdom rules in the Seneschal's guidance for minors.

<sup>2</sup> As defined by Atlantia Seneschal laws on youth at an SCA event.

- Defers decisions about inspections, etc, to adult marshals
- Is under the supervision of warranted marshal while on the range.
- When they turn 18, they are a fully warranted Atlantian target archery marshal
- The DEM reserves the right to suspend Youth Marshal privileged for an individual if need be.
- The Youth Marshal's mentor shall give regular updates on their progress to DEM.

## **Equipment Standards**

### **General Standards**

Equipment should be consistent with pre 17<sup>th</sup> century archery look and function. The construction, use and knowledge of period-style equipment and its safe use are among the primary goals of the SCA archery program. However, the use of modern equipment is permitted providing that it meets the Kingdom standards. NO bow or crossbow mounted quivers are allowed.

- Each archer is ultimately responsible for his own equipment. The following rules apply:
  - An archer may not knowingly use unsafe equipment.
  - If unsure of the safety of their equipment, an archer may request the help of a marshal.
  - The marshal inspecting shall make a reasonable attempt to locate any unsafe conditions or violations of kingdom rules and inform the archer of how to correct it if possible.
  - Inspection does not relieve the archer of his primary responsibility.
  - Unsafe equipment shall not be used until made safe.
- Exceptions that the Target Archery Marshal may make as long as they do not compromise the safety of the range or the individuals on the range:
  - *May approve the temporary use of prohibited equipment for a new archer or children on an event-by-event basis. The Marshal should make sure that the archer understands that the equipment is not kingdom legal and needs to be corrected. Exceptions will be reported to the Deputy Kingdom Earl Marshal for Target Archery. NO one falling under these exceptions can win an event or post official scores.*
  - Shall make necessary allowances for handicapped archers, provided range safety is not compromised.

### **Bows**

- Bows may be made of any material so long as deemed safe to shoot by the Target Archery Marshal.
- *Bows of unusual materials or construction will be required to pass the inspection of the KINGDOM DEPUTY EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY or designated deputy (Emergency DEM or Regional Marshals), if*

*they are present. If they are not present, the MIC Target archery shall make this call.*

- NO Compound bows are allowed. There will be NO exceptions to this prohibition.
- NO adjustable or peep sites, clickers, kissers, stabilizers, string releases, flipper rests or plunger buttons.
- The use of simple rests is allowed.
- Center Cut Arrow Shelves are allowed.
- Bows with cut out risers must have the openings covered to present a solid surface and an appearance in keeping with medieval archery equipment.
- There is no draw weight limit on bows; however, the marshal should observe if a bow is too heavy or overdrawn to shoot safely.

### **Crossbows**

- *Prods of most materials are allowed, provided they are judged safe to shoot by the marshal. Prods of unusual material or construction will be required to pass the inspection of the KINGDOM DEPUTY EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY or designated deputy (Emergency DEM or Regional Marshals), if they are present. If they are not present, the MIC Target archery shall make this call.*
- *Center shot crossbows are not allowed. A center shot crossbow is where the bolt passes through the prod, or between two parts of a split prod. It does not matter how little of a center shot this is.*
- *Non-period trackless crossbows are not allowed. Trackless crossbows have their string suspended in mid air and do not ride on a shelf.*
- NO compound crossbows are allowed. There will be NO exceptions to this prohibition.
- NO break-cocking crossbows are allowed. (Using a lever to cock the bow.)
- A crossbow that is too heavy for the archer to span safely may be disallowed.
- Simple rear sites are acceptable, such as ladders, folding sights with elevations holes, etc--no front sites.
- *No modern rifle or air-rifle style stocks or pistol grips.*

### **Strings**

- Must be of the appropriate length and strength for the bow. Linen, silk artificial sinew and any modern bowstring material is acceptable as long as properly constructed.
- Strings that have become knotted or been repaired by knotting strands together shall not be used. This rule does not forbid those string designs that incorporate knots, such as a bowyers knot, in their design.
- A single arrow nocking location is allowed. Nock points may be attached to the string; the nock point can be metal or tied on and may consist of two

locators, typically above and below the arrow nocking location if two are used.

### **Arrows and Bolts**

- All shafts must be period materials such as wood, bamboo, etc.
- No broad heads or other points which may excessively damage the targets. (Marshal may choose to disallow target points which appear to be damaging the targets.)
- Fletches must be feathers or other pre 17<sup>th</sup> century materials. Plastic vanes are not allowed.
- Knocks and caps may be of any material so long as securely attached.

### **Atlatl**

- Inspection of equipment will in general be the same as archery equipment.
- Darts should be reasonably straight, fletches of feathers, paper or leather, (and have clearly defined divot in the end where it rests on the atlatl.) Points are optional but, if used, securely fastened to the dart.
- The atlatl itself will be smooth and free of cracks, warps and bends so as not to endanger the user or others.

### **Equipment inspection**

- *At all SCA activities, bows and ammo must be inspected by the Marshal-in-Charge or their designee before being used. (Marshals helping with inspections should identify themselves to the MiC before doing inspections.)*
- *Hand bows should be brought to the Marshal unstrung. Crossbows can be left strung.*
- *At any event with 20 or more archers, stickers shall be used to mark bows that have been inspected.*
- *Marshals may inspect their own equipment.*
- Look over the archer: Can they handle the bow? Is their clothing going to hinder the safe operation of the bow? Do they appear to have any special needs?
- **NEVER DRY FIRE ANY BOW OR CROSSBOW.**
- Perform a visual inspection of equipment.
  - Bows
    - Check bow unstrung then strung.
    - Look and feel for cracks in limbs in relaxed, strung and under draw.
    - Look for twists in limbs.
    - Look for damaged limb ends.
    - Look for any other damage that may make the bow unsafe.
    - Look at the archer; make sure they can handle the bow.
    - Check arrows for proper length for archer and for damage.

- Crossbows
  - Is the prod tight in its binding?
  - Look and feel for cracks.
  - Look for stress marks in steel prods.
  - Look for twisted limbs or damaged ends.
  - Make sure there are no cracks in structural area of stock.
  - Crossbow bolts should sit securely on shelf.
  - Trigger lock holds firmly and the trigger should fire on demand, (DO NOT span the bow to accomplish this, it is unnecessary. You can lock and release a rolling nut without spanning the crossbow. For simple releases, simply assure that the trigger is operational.)
  - String is held firmly when at draw.
- Strings
  - Look for frayed serving on ends or center.
  - Look for frayed string material.
  - Look for excessively dry string.
- Ammo
  - Make sure points are securely in place.
  - Make sure points are in good condition.
  - Make sure there are NO defects in shaft body.
  - Are nocks securely in place?
  - Make sure flat ends for crossbow bolts not cracked or rounded.

## **Range Safety**

### **Range Set-up**

- *At a minimum, each shooting station will have a safety zone that extends 30 degrees from each end of the shooting line to a line even with the furthest target, or 50 yards, whichever is closer. The safety zone will extend from the shooting line back to at least 100 yards, or 1.5 times the distance from the shooting line to the target. A larger safety zone is recommended if possible.*
- *A waiver may be requested for shorter ranges provided there is a physical barrier, which will stop arrows. This waiver must be requested in writing from the DEPUTY KINGDOM EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY only, and approval must be received in writing and retained by the Marshal-in-charge at the site. The DEPUTY KINGDOM EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY may provide restrictions in order to use the modified range, such as restricting bow type and poundage.*
- *Physical barriers such as a hill, permanent solid backstop, a wall, etc., can be used to reduce the amount of safety zone needed. However, the barrier must completely cover the safety zone in order to count. A small barrier that could be shot around is not sufficient.*
- *Archery netting cannot be used to reduce safety ranges but is encouraged to help archers recover missed arrows.*

- Safety zones need to be clearly marked off. However, visually obvious safety zones (such as a field full of targets with ample space between them) are allowable.
- Range boundaries shall be clearly defined.
- All archers shall shoot from the same line. The line should be clearly marked and should not present a tripping hazard.
- At a minimum at least three feet should be allowed between archers. Four feet is recommended.
- During all shoots spectators shall remain behind a safety line a minimum of 10' behind the shooting line and outside the safety zone.

### Range Procedures

- The Marshal-in-Charge for Target Archery is the only one that can open and close the range. Helping Marshal's, Marshal's in attendance **cannot** re-open a closed range by the Marshal-in-Charge for Target Archery without their consent and their presence or designee's at the range.
- Target Archery Marshal shall not allow more archers on the line than can be safely supervised. If the line is excessively long, such as in a clout shoot, assure there is a Marshal at each end of the line to watch the line.
- At shoots where many of the archers are inexperienced, it may be necessary to increase the ratio of marshals to archers.
- Recommended ratio is one Marshal to 5-10 archers depending on experience level of archers.
- Conditions around the range and safety zones may require the use of additional Marshals or assistants to observe and prevent traffic through the area.
- At a specialty shoot where the archers are shooting under unusual conditions, a one-to-one ratio of Marshals to archer may be necessary.
- Any condition or artificial handicap that creates an unsafe condition or undue hazard, even with a ratio of one-to-one, is forbidden.
- The Target Archery Marshal-in-charge may REMOVE ARCHERS EXHIBITING UNSAFE BEHAVIOR from the range.
- *Bows and Crossbows may not be carried down range.*
- *A Marshal may shoot while marshalling upon their own discretion based upon the current conditions.*
- *Archers will straddle the line. Those that sit, kneel, etc., are to keep the point of their ammo in the same line as the standing archers when at full draw.*
- *Archers will NEVER bend over to pick up dropped ammo while on the line.*
- *When an arrow breaks or just touches a dividing line between two scoring zones on a target, it should be scored in the archer's favor.*
- *Archers are allowed to switch bows during a competition if specified in the shoot rules; there are shoots that do not allow this.*
- *Firing more than one shaft at a time is allowed. Archers must demonstrate competency in this technique to the Marshal prior to performing it.*

### **Range Commands**

- Call the archers to the line; look to see that the line is safe.
- Call, “Is the Range clear?” wait a second for a reply and then call, “The range is clear.”
- You may want to describe the shoot at this point, i.e. 6 arrows at the center target to let the line know what they are doing.
- Followed by “Loose” or “loose at will.”
- When the archers are done, the command “Cease fire” or “Bows down” will be given. Look to see that everyone has placed their bow on the ground or a rack then give the command to collect to score arrows.
- *On speed/timed shoots, the call to shoot shall begin with the command “loose” and end with the call “hold.” Archers may fire from the “L” of loose to the “D” of hold. For each arrow let loose before or after this timing, the archer will forfeit the highest scoring arrow on the target.*
- *During a timed shoot that calls out multiple targets, the archer may loose a shaft at the last target called until the next target is called. This means that an arrow might be fired at the first target then hit after the second target has been called, but still be considered good.*
- The “HOLD” command means just that--to immediately stop all action, un-knock any arrows or bolts and release tension on the string. Failure to respond to a hold is grounds to ban a person from the range.
- A hold may be called by ANYONE when they see a problem and will be immediately obeyed. The marshal running the line will then correct the problem and then and only then allow archery resume.

### **Courtesies and Considerations**

- Do not pick up or handle another archer’s equipment without permission. Do not remove other archers' arrows unless you have asked for and received the owner’s permission.
- Archers should always ask the marshal’s permission before entering the range/shooting line.
- Archers who have finished shooting should step back from the line and bench, rack, or otherwise put down their bows.
- Should an archer leave the range before a shoot ends, they should ask the score keeper to line through their name on the score sheet. Archers who do not wish to have their scores recorded should let the score keeper know in advance.
- Marshals should give new archers basic safety instruction, explain range commands, and go over rules and safety considerations of any games or special shoots.
- Marshals should assist new archers with basic shooting technique when asked.



- Marshals may, at their discretion, advise new archers in the basic care of their equipment, including how to string a bow, how to wax a string, etc. The archers should be the ones to actually perform these tasks.
- Marshals should never string another archer's bow, excepting bows from the group's loaner gear, nor perform any repairs or adjustments without specific permission. While it's not an official rule, "If you break it, you've bought it" is a matter of honor.

### **Royal Round, IKAC and Seasonal Challenges**

- The Royal Round and Atlatl Rounds are the Atlantian ranking system for archers and atlatlists. Rules can be found on the Atlantian Target Archery web page (<http://archery.atlantia.sca.org/index.php>).
- Inter-Kingdom Archery Competition (IKAC) are year-long target archery tournaments that allow all the archers in the Known World to compete in an SCA-wide competition on behalf of their Kingdoms. Rules for the IKAC can be found on the Atlantian Target Archery web page (<http://archery.atlantia.sca.org/index.php>).
- Seasonal Challenges are short period shoots that are both inter-kingdom and Atlantian challenges. Rules can be found on the Atlantian Target Archery web page (<http://archery.atlantia.sca.org/index.php>).

### **Warranted Marshals**

- Current list of Warranted Target Marshals, Marshals-in Training and Suspended Marshals can be found on the Atlantian Target Archery web page (<http://archery.atlantia.sca.org/index.php>).
- Marshals and Marshals in Training are required to complete a refresher course every three years or as required by the KINGDOM DEPUTY EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY.
- Warranted Marshals are responsible for updating their own information with class and membership updates via the update form. <http://marshal.atlantia.sca.org/update.php>
- Marshals in training are required to complete 3 apprenticeships, at least one of which should be outside their home area.
- Marshals in training need to have an identified mentor that will make the recommendation to the Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal for Target Archery at the time of the MIT's paperwork submittal.

### **Conclusion**

- As a Target Archery Marshal, you have the first and foremost responsibility of SAFETY.
- Know the rules, use your best judgment and make sure that the range remains safe. DO NOT make new rules, enforce the ones we have.

- There are many experienced Marshals in the Kingdom of Atlantia, use their knowledge to increase you own.
- Ask for help, you are not alone.
- Safety is the better part of valor, if you think something is unsafe, ask other marshals, then make YOUR decision.
- The KINGDOM DEPUTY EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY will back your decision 100% provided it is based on sound judgment and in the aspect of safety.
- Make current copies of the SCA and Kingdom of Atlantia rules and have them available at all events.