

## **Target Archery Marshal Training Class (For Instructor)**

Responsibilities and Duties of a Target Archery Marshal

Estimated class length: 2 hours

### **GOALS:**

- After this class the student will be able to:
  - Discuss the SCA target archery rules.
  - Discuss the Kingdom of Atlantia target archery rules.
  - Discuss range safety.
  - Discuss equipment safety.
  - Serve as a Marshal-in-Training for a Target Archery Event.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- The student will have knowledge of range safety and of target archery.
- The student will understand the SCA rules that pertain to target archery.
- The student will understand the Kingdom of Atlantia rule modifications that pertain to target archery.
- The Student will be able to conduct an equipment inspection.
- The student will be able to run a line for target archery.

### **MATERIALS:**

- Class roster/sign up sheet.
- Class Student handout / Target Archery Handbook.
- Equipment for demonstration.
- MIT training form.
- 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 section 3.9;  
<http://law.atlantia.sca.org/Policy.html>

## **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 (besides thrown weapons), 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 activity.
- Knowledge of the Kingdom modifications to the SCA rules.
- Current membership in the SCA
- Must be a minimum of 18 years old. (Except if individual is a Youth Marshal in Training)
- Complete the Target Archery Marshal Class
- Complete the MIT training program

## **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 two weeks 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.

### **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 shoot while or after drinking alcoholic beverages or under the influence of mind altering medication. **If you drink, you do not shoot!**

### **Minors**

- Children under 18<sup>1</sup> years old must be accompanied by Parent or Legal Guardian<sup>2</sup> while on the range at all times.

---

<sup>1</sup> As per recent changes in Kingdom Seneschal minors guidance.

<sup>2</sup> See Kingdom of Atlantia Seneschal's definitions for youth and them being on site.

## **Youth Archery Marshal Program**

- Be 13<sup>3</sup> years or older
- Take the MiT class
- Complete all MiT requirements
- Re-take the Marshal's class after a 3 year period if they are still a youth
- 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)
- 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.

---

<sup>3</sup> Based on accepted changes from HRM Vladimir in 2012 and DEM.

## Equipment Standards

### General Standards

Equipment should be consistent with pre 17<sup>th</sup> century archery looks 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 in Charge or designee 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 Kingdom Deputy 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 the marshal deems them safe to shoot by the Target Archery Marshal in Charge.

- *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.*
- 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.
- Cut out windows are allowed in the riser.
- 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.*
- *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.
- A crossbow that is too heavy for the archer to span safely may be disallowed.

- Simple rear sites such as ladders or elevation risers are acceptable, no front sites are allowed.
- *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 knocking point may be attached to the string; the locator can be metal or tied on and may consist of two locators.

### **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.
- Fletches must be feathers or other pre 17<sup>th</sup> century materials. Plastic vanes are not allowed.
- Knocks or 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, 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 Marshall-in-Charge or their designee before being used.*
- *Hand bows should be brought to the Marshall 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.
    - Damaged limb ends.
    - 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.
    - Twisted limbs or damaged ends.
    - 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 crossbow for this inspection;



there is no reason to do so. For a rolling nut, you can engage the nut and put pressure on it by hand to see if it is secure.

- 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
  - Points are securely in place.
  - Points in good condition,
  - NO defects in shaft body.
  - Nocks securely in place
  - Flat (rear) 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 to at least 100 yards or 1.5 the distance from the shooting line to the target. A larger safety zone is recommended if possible.*

10 yards – 100yards

20 yards – 100 yards, etc.

100 yards – 150 yards

- *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 KINGDOM DEPUTY EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY only, and approval must be received in writing and retained by the Marshal-in-charge at the site. The KINGDOM DEPUTY EARL MARSHAL FOR TARGET ARCHERY may provide restrictions in order to use the modified range, such as restricting bow type and poundage. (This last part is not in the official rules, but it still stands.)*

- *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, (Caution tape, ropes with red flags, etc). 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**
  - Target Archery Marshal shall not allow more archers on the line than can be safely supervised.
  - Experienced archers, known to and approved by the Target Archery Marshal-in-Charge, may assist the Target Archery Marshals. When this is done the ratio of Marshals to archers may be reduced.
  - 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 Marshalls 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 unless otherwise specified in the rules for the shoot that day.*
- *Firing more than one shaft at a time is allowed. Archers must demonstrate competency in this technique to the Marshal prior to performing it if requested.*
  
- **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 the 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.
- The Target Archery Marshal In Charge (MIC) is the only marshal that can open and close the range. If the range is closed by the MIC, no other marshals can re-open it without the consent of the MIC or by the MIC themselves.

### **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.
- 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.
- Visiting marshal's to a shoot should not call commands or direct the line unless asked to do so by the Target Archery Marshal in Charge or a designee.

### **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 Knowne 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.

### **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.
- 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% unless there is overwhelming evidence of neglect.
- Make current copies of the SCA and Kingdom of Atlantia rules and have them available at all events.