



Glasgow Archers guidelines and protocols

Welcome to Glasgow Archers!

In order to keep everyone safe and happy, and to ensure that we leave the playing fields/hall as we find them, there are various protocols that we expect everyone attending the club to adhere to. Please do your bit by making sure that you follow these simple guidelines.

If you have any questions, please just ask a member of the trustees
(<https://glasgowarchers1948.co.uk/life-of-the-club/know-your-committee/>).

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

There should be **no more than 4 archers per target. If there are 4, they must shoot in pairs, in 2 waves, alternating which pair shoots first.** If there are 3 or less archers on one target and room on the shooting line, all archers may shoot at the same time.

Arrows should only ever be loaded onto your bow once you are on the shooting line.

Do not draw your bow with it pointing toward another person, even without an arrow loaded. If you need **to test the draw of your bow, do it without an arrow loaded, while standing on the shooting line** facing the target, and **do not dry fire** it as you may damage yourself/your bow.

All archers must **shoot from the same shooting line** – hopefully it will be made clear where it is but if in doubt ask. An experienced archer will act as field captain and is in charge of the whistle.

Signals are as follow:

- 1 blow of the whistle – archers go to the line
- 2 blows – archers start shooting (only for competitions)
- 3 blows – all archers have stopped shooting and may go and collect their arrows
- 4 blows or “**FAST**” is shouted – a dangerous situation has developed. If you are on the shooting line, **DO NOT SHOOT**, lower your bow, **take the tension off the bowstring. take the arrow off the string and step back from the line.** If you notice something that you believe could be dangerous or hazardous, shout “FAST”.

If not shooting, do not step up to the shooting line if other archers are shooting, until the appropriate signal has been given.

OUTDOORS:

During the outdoor season, Glasgow archers shoot at **Whitecraigs Rugby Club**, using the **furthest rugby pitch from the pavilion** - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fZbK8esKyeJ7RS9G8>.

To get to the field, from the car park you should **follow the path down the slope to the right-hand side of the pavilion.** Bear to the **right at the bottom of the slope** towards the blue container. **Avoid walking on the rugby pitches. Do not drive down the slope**, unless you have express permission to do so. If you need help carrying equipment from the car park, ask other members for help or speak to a member of the committee about using the quad bike.

All the equipment is stored in the blue container to the right-hand side of the rugby pitch. If you need help finding a piece of kit, do not hesitate to ask other members.

Before commencing shooting, **safety signs should be placed on the footpath up the slope to the right of the rugby pitch** and **on the far left-hand side** to alert walkers. If you see someone (or a dog, deer, zombie, etc.) walking down the side of the pitch or behind the 'Target Line' on the footpath, call FAST immediately.

If you arrive and all the bosses at the distance you wish to shoot are full (4 archers already shooting on the target), **please get another one from the storage container** (the club has plenty!). Given the weight of the targets, **uses the trolleys and ask for help when setting up bosses**, and help others.

All bosses should be secured to the ground – with one peg in each of the legs, and one to secure the anchor rope. The anchor rope is itself attached to the stand. Please check every end to make sure they remain secure.

Only when bow tuning takes place may a separate target be set out, at least 30m away from all other targets, in that case archers shooting on this target may shoot independently of the normal signals.

Before you start shooting, you must sign out the type and number of arrows you are using in the club arrow book (ask if you can't find it). All arrows shot outdoors must produce a strong signal from the club's metal detectors. **All-carbon arrows can only be shot at the express permission of the committee, and the arrows must be modified (for example, with metallic wraps) such that they produce a strong metal detector signal.** Any all-carbon arrows must be clearly marked as such in the arrow book. You must **check back in the same arrows in the arrow book**, verified by another club member, **before leaving**. All archers shooting on a target **should help to look for any lost arrows**. All **lost arrows MUST be found** – rugby players may appear hardy but they're not immune to arrows! **There are metal detectors in the storage container.**

Once you have finished shooting for the evening, please **make sure that you help to put your target away, including all metal pins and securing pegs**. The field should be checked to ensure nothing has been left on it before everyone leaves.

INDOORS:

During the indoor season, Glasgow Archers shoot in the sports hall at Hutchesons' At Pollok Park - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/swUPf8aMmyUzfCh1A>. **The hall is part of the school and we cannot enter it until all pupils are gone.**

Entry to the hall is either via the main entrance through the door under the stairs in the lobby or via the hall's fire exit door in the far corner of the car park

Make sure you **wear clean, non-marking indoor footwear**.

Equipment is stored in the container located outside around the side of the sports hall. Equipment is normally brought in via the fire exit door located nearest to the container in the far corner of the car park. There is a mat in the container to put across the fire exit threshold to minimise mud and moisture brought into the hall.

Please **help to bring in the equipment when you arrive**. There are trolleys to help transport the bosses from the container to the hall door, and mats to place the stands on to avoid damage to the hall floor. **Make sure bosses are securely tied to the stands** before you commence shooting.

Before shooting commences, **the backstop netting located at the far end of the hall must be deployed** to avoid damage to arrows and to the hall (there is already one broken window).

Targets are set up in front of this netting but should not be placed in front of the fire exit on the right-hand side. The door to the left (next to the climbing wall) must be secured to avoid anyone entering via it while shooting is in progress.

If you arrive and all of the bosses are full, please get another one from the container (the club has plenty!). Ask for help when setting up bosses and help others.

If the container is locked, ask a committee member for the key.

DO'S & DON'T'S

Do's

- Allow time to **arrive early/leave later to help set up/put away the equipment**. This is a volunteer run club and **all members are expected to participate!**
- If you arrive late/once shooting has commenced, **make sure there is space on a target for you and ask before joining others on it**. If necessary, get another target out
- If you leave early, **ensure you put away any club equipment you have been using unless someone else is still using it**
- Take into account other archers shooting on the same target and **allow sufficient space for them on the line**.
- **Before joining or leaving the shooting line, check that the archers to either side of you are not at full draw**, and, if possible, wait until they shoot or come down before you step to or away from the line to avoid distracting them
- **When you've finished shooting, step back from the line** to allow the second wave of archers to start shooting.
- **Check your equipment regularly while shooting** to make sure nothing is damaged or has come loose – shooting nice tight groups can mean damaged arrows and it can be embarrassing if a loose sight or stabilizer falls off on the shooting line
- **Keep the noise down when others are shooting** – by all means chat with your fellow archers but consider the volume
- **Make newcomers feel welcome** – don't ignore them. Introduce yourself and offer to show them what to do/get them on a target – remember how you felt as a new member
- **Help others look for lost arrows**.
- Ask if you're not sure about anything

Don'ts

- **Do not start shooting on a target before making sure there is a free space for you**. If all targets are full, ask for help to set up an extra target.
- **Never touch another archer's equipment** without permission - EVER!!!

- **Don't run when approaching a target.** Always walk to and from a target, or the field captain will tell you off
- **Don't be distracted when approaching a target.** Watch the ground in front of you for stray arrows and make sure you don't walk into a target full of arrows – it hurts or worse.
- **Do not touch either the target or any arrows until everyone scoring is finished** – you could knock a loose arrow out of the face and cost someone several points!
- **Do not snarl at the beginners' (or even some more experienced archers) mistakes**– remember you were a beginner once. Be helpful and constructive
- Some archers like to keep to themselves in order to remain focused. **Do not insist on talking to another archer who prefers to be silent.**
- **Do not distract others who are shooting.** Refrain from exclamations on the shooting line in joy or disgust. **Put your phone on silent** and if you must take a call, try to stay away from the shooting line.
- **Do not express frustration or annoyance with your shooting in a forceful way towards your equipment, yourself or others.** Doing so can be upsetting and distressing to others. Sometimes things don't go right, and if they aren't it may be worth taking a break for a few ends, talking to one of the coaches or one of the experienced members of the club.
- Do not smoke near the shooting or waiting line, or in the hall or near the exit/entrance
- **Avoid joining or walking off the shooting line while a neighbour is at full draw**, it could be off-putting.
- **Do not shoot distances beyond your capability**, continually missing, holding up shooting and potentially losing arrows
- **Do not leave litter** on the archery ground or in the hall. Put it in a bin or take it home with you

FURTHER READING:

- GA articles on etiquette - <https://glasgowarchers1948.co.uk/2024/09/20/etiquette-1/> and <https://glasgowarchers1948.co.uk/2024/10/04/etiquette-2/>
- Archery GB Rules of Shooting: <https://archerygb.org/files/rules-of-shooting-270625093402.pdf>.
- GA policies and procedures: <https://glasgowarchers1948.co.uk/life-of-the-club/meeting-reports/>