BOWMEN OF THE DEANS

Range safety and etiquette

Recommended 2026 edition | Prepared 27 October 2026 | Committee approval pending

These rules apply to every archer and every session, including beginners and visitors. Follow the field captain's instructions, the club's risk assessment, venue requirements and the applicable Archery GB Rules of Shooting.

The emergency command FAST

If you hear “FAST”, stop shooting immediately. If you are at full draw, keep control of the string and come down safely without releasing the arrow. Remove the arrow from the string and return it to your quiver.

Anyone who sees a danger may call “FAST”. This includes a person or animal entering the shooting area or any other immediate safety hazard. Do not resume shooting until the field captain gives the all-clear.

The range and shooting line

- A field captain must be appointed before shooting begins. Identify them when you arrive; they control the shooting and collection signals.
- At least two shooting members must be present. Do not shoot alone.
- Shoot only from the shooting line. Do not shoot from in front of or behind it.
- Do not step forward of the shooting line until the field captain gives clearance. This includes retrieving a dropped arrow.
- After shooting an end, return to the waiting line so the field captain can see that you have finished.
- Before shooting, close the outdoor field gates and put the required barriers and warning signs in place. Follow the separate health and safety notice for the full setup checks.

Bows and arrows

- Never point a loaded bow, whether drawn or undrawn, at anyone or anything other than the target.
- Never dry-fire a bow: do not draw and release the string without an arrow nocked.
- Use arrows of the correct length for you and your bow. Ask a coach if you are unsure.
- Check your bow, string and arrows before use and remain alert for damage during shooting. Stop using damaged equipment and tell the field captain or coach.
- Secure long hair and loose clothing, and remove jewellery that could catch on the string or equipment. Wear suitable non-slip footwear.
- Nock an arrow only on the shooting line, with the bow directed safely towards the target and after the signal to shoot.

Collecting arrows

- Wait for the field captain's signal before walking forward.
- Walk; do not run. Watch for arrows on the ground and collect short arrows safely as you approach the target.
- Before pulling arrows, check that nobody is close behind you. Stand to the side of the arrows and keep others clear of their ends.

- If scores are being recorded, wait until they have been recorded and agreed before touching or withdrawing arrows.
- Account for all arrows. Tell the field captain immediately if an arrow is missing. The outdoor field must not be handed back for other users while an arrow remains unaccounted for; follow the club's lost-arrow procedure and the field captain's instructions.

Courtesy and consideration

- Help to set out and put away equipment where you can do so safely. Follow the separate procedure for moving bosses.
- If you damage someone else's equipment, tell them promptly and agree how the matter will be resolved. Where damage is caused by your carelessness, offer to replace or repair it.
- When scoring, call arrow values in groups of three, for example “9, 9, 9; 8, 8, 7”.
- Keep your voice low while others are shooting. Do not interrupt an archer who is preparing for or making a shot.
- Offer coaching or technical advice only when asked or when it has been agreed with the archer. Raise an immediate safety concern straight away.
- Step back from the shooting line before celebrating or expressing frustration.
- Ask permission before touching another archer's equipment.
- Do not walk along the shooting line comparing scores between targets.
- Smoke or vape only in designated areas, away from the shooting line, waiting line and equipment.

If in doubt, come down safely and ask the field captain or a coach before continuing.

Further guidance

Ask the club for help accessing the current Archery GB Rules of Shooting. The rules are available through Archery GB's member resources; do not rely on an old downloaded edition.

Archery GB website: https://archerygb.org/

Document control and change record

Document ID: BOD-HS-01
Proposed version: 2026 R1
Prepared: 27 October 2026
Approval: Pending club decision
Suggested next review: Within 12 months of approval, or sooner after a significant change
Source edition: Updated source PDF created 26 May 2026; no printed policy review date
Formatting baseline: Range-Safety.docx

Edition	Date	Record
F1	27 October 2026	Shared format applied to the supplied source; wording preserved.
2026 R1	27 October 2026	Recommended editorial and content revision. Approval has not yet been recorded.

Recommended changes

1. Editorial. Used sentence case, complete instructions and sequential sections; retained the underlying safety and etiquette guidance.

2. Safety clarification. Made controlled let-down explicit and stated that the arrow must not be released. Anyone may call FAST; only the field captain restarts shooting.

3. Consistency proposal. Added the existing no-lone-shooting rule and linked the setup and boss-handling procedures.

4. Safety proposal. Clarified safe collection and standing clear of arrow ends; removed a blanket instruction to brace the boss by hand, which could place a hand near an arrow point.

5. Safety clarification. Kept the requirement to account for arrows and added immediate reporting and controlled handback of the shared field.

6. Content update. Replaced an unverified compliance claim with a direction to follow the applicable current rules; noted that current AGB resources require member access.

Decisions before approval

- Approve the controlled let-down and arrow withdrawal instructions with the club coach.
- Confirm the lost-arrow procedure and who authorises handback of the shared field.
- Confirm the two-shooting-member minimum and how it operates during supervised introductory sessions.