

Empire of Chivalry and Steel Target Archery Rules

Target Archery events will take place at closed (non-public) events.

Archery Marshal Requirements

1. All Archery Marshals shall have knowledge of range safety and of target archery.
2. All Archery Marshals shall be familiar with the Empire of Chivalry and Steel archery rules.
3. All Archery Marshals are officers of the ECS Empire of Chivalry and Steel and shall maintain membership as required L.I.
4. While on duty, Archery Marshals are responsible for taking all reasonable steps to enforce the rules and safety standards for archery activities or events.
5. As part of their duties, Archery Marshals are responsible for ensuring that all archers are familiar with and comply with the Imperial target archery rules.
 - a. Verbal briefings/inspections
 - b. Posting rules

Responsibilities of Archery Marshals:

1. Archery Marshals shall ensure that the Imperial target archery rules are followed at all Imperial archery events and that basic range safety standards, equipment standards, and reporting procedures for Archery Marshals are followed.
2. Archery Marshals may request the assistance of Assistant Marshals in the performance of his/her duties. However, the responsibility for safely setting up and running the range remains with the event Archery Marshal.
3. No target archery activities are to take place at an event unless an Archery Marshal is present on the range.
4. In the event of any disagreement, the Archery Marshal shall have final say and control in resolving the dispute, subject to appeal to the Territorial or Imperial Combat Minister.
5. All archers and assisting Marshals should explicitly follow the commands of the event Archery Marshal who is in charge of their range. Failure to follow instructions may result in removal from the range for the event.
6. Archery Marshals or assisting Marshals have the authority to inspect all bows and arrows/bolts for safety and compliance with Imperial rules.
 - a. Equipment that is found to be unsafe or does not meet the standards laid out in the Imperial Archery rules shall not be used.

Equipment Standards

General Standards

1. All equipment should be consistent with traditional archery standards in look and function. The use of modern traditional archery equipment is permitted provided it meets the equipment standards below. Modern compound bows are not permitted.
2. Each archer has the ultimate responsibility for the proper care, inspection and safe use of his/her own equipment and for reading and following the Imperial Archery Rules.
 - a. An archer shall not knowingly use unsafe equipment.
 - b. If an archer is unsure of the safety of his/her equipment, he/she shall request the assistance of an Archery Marshal in inspecting the equipment.
 - c. The Archery Marshal assisting in the inspection shall make a reasonable attempt to locate any unsafe conditions or violations of Imperial rules and inform the archer of what is found and how to correct it.

- d. The inspection by the Archery Marshal may not find all equipment faults and is conducted as a service to all the archers on the line. It does not remove the archers' primary responsibility for the safe condition of their own equipment.
 - e. Any equipment observed by an Archery Marshal to be unsafe shall not be used until it is made safe and is re-inspected by an Archery Marshal.
3. Exceptions to the use of prohibited equipment may be allowed as follows.
 - a. The Imperial or Territorial Archery Marshal, or his/her designee, may approve the temporary use of prohibited equipment for an archer on an event by event basis, such as permitting a new archer to use a prohibited arrow rest.
 - b. The Event Archery Marshal shall make necessary allowances for handicapped archers, provided that range safety is not compromised by these allowances.

Bows

1. Bows may be made of any material, provided they are judged safe to shoot by the Archery Marshal.
 - a. Bows of unusual materials or construction will be required to pass the inspection of the Archery Marshal or designated deputy.
 - b. No compound bows are allowed in competition. There will be no exceptions to this prohibition.
2. Adjustable or fixed sights are not allowed.
 - a. If adjustable or fixed sights are attached, they shall either be removed or made inoperative.
 - b. Sighting and/or ranging marks on the limbs or riser are allowed.
3. Draw weight limits for target archery bows will be 60 pounds for traditional target shoots. However, should an Archery Marshal observe that an archer is using a bow too heavy or overdrawn for them to safely shoot, the Archery Marshal will require the archer to stop using the bow.
4. No modern spring/flipper rests or plunger buttons are allowed. The use of simple rests is allowed, such as simple one piece plastic or non adjustable wire rests; feather, bristle, leather, etc. rests; built out shelves or rests. The use of the shelf in a cutout window is also allowed.
5. No stabilizers, clickers, or modern string release devices are allowed.
6. Bows with cut out risers (i.e., those that can be seen through from the side, often found in take down bows with metal risers) must have the openings covered so as to present a solid surface and an appearance more in keeping with medieval archery equipment.

Crossbows

1. No non-period center shot trackless crossbow styles are allowed.
2. No compound prods or break cocking crossbow styles are allowed in competition. There will be no exceptions to this prohibition.
3. No archer shall continue to use a crossbow that is observed by an Archery Marshal to have too heavy a draw for the archer to use safely.
4. Prods of most materials are allowed, provided they are judged safe to shoot by the Archery Marshal. Prods of unusual material or construction will be required to pass the inspection of the Imperial Archery Marshal or a designated deputy.
5. Simple rear sights are allowed. Front sights are not allowed.
6. Stocks may be of any material.
7. If a modern stock with openings that can be seen through from the side is used, all such openings must be filled or covered to appear more period. Openings that are intended for gripping the stock need not be covered. Openings may be covered with tape, leather, cloth, etc.

Strings

1. All strings shall be appropriate in length and strength for the bow type and weight. Linen, silk, artificial sinew, and any modern bowstring materials are acceptable, as long as strings are properly constructed.
 - a. Strings that have become knotted, or those that have been repaired by knotting strands together, shall not be used. This rule does not forbid those string designs that incorporate knots, such as a bowyer's knot, in their original design.
2. A nocking point may be attached to the string. It may be made of metal or tied on. A single nocking point is allowed.
 - a. The nocking point may consist of one or two locators, which may be of any type.
 - b. The locators may not extend above or below the arrow nock in such a way that they are used as sighting mechanisms.
3. Peep sights or kissers buttons mounted on the string are not allowed.

Arrows and Bolts

1. Shafts must be in good condition. Shafts may be made of any material and must be rated for the weight of the bow to prevent injury to the archer or others.
2. Both self and footed shafts are permitted.
3. No broadheads or tips that cause excessive damage to the targets shall be used. Standard field tips are recommended.
4. Nocks for arrows, and caps, rings, or nocks for bolts may be of any material, provided they are securely attached.

Range Safety

Range Set Up

1. The range and safety zone must be clearly marked off. This may be done by the use of ropes, poles, signs, tapes, etc.
2. At events where large numbers of archers are shooting, the Event Archery Marshal shall be easily identifiable.
3. There shall be a safety zone behind and to the sides of the shooting line and targets. It shall be of reasonable size to prevent injury to bystanders. It must be free of traffic, campsites, list fields, parking areas, or other hazards.
 - a. The distance of the safety zone behind the targets may be reduced if there is a hill, permanent backstop, archery netting, etc., that will stop stray arrows.
4. If there are roads or paths within the safety zone or range, they shall be blocked off to traffic at both ends during shooting.
5. The shooting line shall be clearly marked. It must not present a tripping hazard.
6. So that no archer unduly endangers another by shooting from behind, all archers will line up the same way, either all toeing the shooting line or all straddling it. Archers shooting from prone, kneeling, or seated positions shall have the head of their arrow or bolt, at full draw, in the same line as the other archers on the line and should be placed together at one end of the line.
7. Each archer shall have, at a minimum, three feet of space on the line. Other shots with special circumstances may require other spacing and heightened Archery Marshal supervision.
8. During shooting, all spectators shall remain outside the marked safety zones and/or at least 10 feet to the rear of the shooting line.

Range Procedures

1. An Archery Marshal shall not allow more archers on a line than can be reasonably and safely supervised.

2. Experienced archers, known to and approved by the Archery Marshal in Charge, may assist the Archery Marshals. When this is done, the ratio of Archery Marshals to archers on line may be reduced.
3. At events where many of the archers are inexperienced, it may be necessary to increase the ratio of marshals to archers. This increase need not be as great if experienced archers, as well as Archery Marshals, are used to supervise the inexperienced archers.
4. Conditions around the range and safety zone may require the use of additional Archery Marshals or assistants to observe and prevent traffic through the area.
5. At specialty shoots where the archers are shooting under unusual conditions, such as off handed, with restricted vision, etc., a one to one ratio of Archery Marshals and/or assistants to archers may be necessary.
6. Any conditions or artificial handicaps that create an undue safety hazard, even with an increased Archery Marshal/assistant to archer ratio of one to one, are forbidden.
7. The Archery Marshal in Charge may remove archers exhibiting unsafe behavior from the range.

Range Commands

1. The Archery Marshal will call the archers to the line.
2. The Archery Marshal will look to see that the range and line are clear and safe.
3. The Archery Marshal will call out "range clear" or the equivalent, and wait momentarily for any responses.
4. If all is clear, then the order "loose", "loose at will", or the equivalent will be given.
5. When finished shooting, the archers are to lower their bows, step back from the line, and wait until the order to retrieve is given.
6. When all archers are done, the Archery Marshal will call "bows down", "cease", or the equivalent and wait for compliance.
7. When all weapons are down, the Archery Marshal will give the command "retrieve arrows" or the equivalent.
8. In the case of a serious safety problem on the range such as someone entering, or about to enter, the target or safety zone, the call "hold" shall be given by anyone noticing the problem. All archers are to remove the arrows or bolts from their weapons.

Rules of the Line

1. Ask the Archery Marshal for permission before filling in on the line.
2. If "hold" is called, an archer should lower his/her bow, remove his/her arrow or bolt and pay heed to the Archery Marshal's instructions.
3. If an archer sees an immediate problem, he/she should call "hold" and inform the Archery Marshals.
4. If an archer sees a potential problem, he/she should report it to a Archery Marshal.
5. All archers shall follow the instructions of the Event Archery Marshal and of Archery Marshals assisting on the line.
6. Archers should step back once he/she has completed shooting.

Safety Rules

1. Archers should always remember the potential danger of their weapons.
2. No arrows or bolts should be nocked when anyone is in front of the shooting line.
3. No archer should discharge a bow when anyone is downrange.
4. No archer should shoot while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Additional Recommendations

Miscellaneous Equipment

1. Any type of quiver may be used, with the exception of one that attaches to the bow.
2. It is recommended that arm and/or finger protection be used, according to the preference of the archer.
3. It is strongly recommended that the ends of the string be served, and that a serving cover the nocking area of the string. It should be noted that Japanese and Flemish style strings, which are rarely served at the ends, are acceptable.

Range Set Up

It is recommended that the range and safety zone be posted with signs in addition to the required perimeter markers of ropes, poles, etc.

Suggested Range Dimensions

The following are suggested dimensions for the range and safety zones for target and specialty competitions. These are general guidelines. The actual sizes may vary, depending on terrain, the archers, and other conditions. It is better to err on the side of safety with too much space than not enough.

Target Shoots

1. The safety zone behind the farthest target should extend at least 40 yards back, or for half the distance from the line to the farthest target, whichever is greater.
2. For shoots of 50 yards or less, the safety zone to the sides of the shooting line and targets should extend outward at a 30 to 45 degree angle from both ends of the shooting line to a line even with the furthest target, and continue straight back from there to the required distance.
3. For shoots of over 50 yards, the safety zone to the sides of the shooting line and targets should extend outward at a 30 to 45 degree angle from both ends of the shooting line to a line 50 yards away or one quarter the distance to the far end of the safety zone, whichever is greater, and continue straight back from there to the required distance.

Specialty Shoots

1. For clout shoots, the safety zone should extend beyond the target for at least half the target distance, and to each side for at least one fifth the target distance. It is recommended that the Archery Marshal arrange for any archers who are not familiar with clout shooting to practice in advance. They should start with their bows aimed at a low angle and work their way up. This will help prevent overshooting the safety zone.
2. For flight shoots, the safety zone distance should be at least 300 yards, or the maximum range of the heaviest bow allowed. It is not recommended that a flight shoot be held if space is limited.
3. For roving courses, the safety zone distance shall be a minimum of one and one half times the distance to the target. Include special consideration for the angles and distances required for the other targets in the course. No target should be placed within the shooter's line of sight with another target.

Range Courtesy

1. When going to retrieve arrows, first pick up any of your arrows lying short of the target.
2. Remove arrows by "worrying" them out. Do not yank them out.
3. Do not handle anyone's equipment unless you have asked for and received the owner's permission.
4. Do not remove other archers' arrows unless you have asked for and received the owner's permission.

5. Keep distraction of the archers on the shooting line to a minimum.