

**Below are some common, yet critical, archery safety rules. Please make sure to go through them and keep it handy – give it a read once in a while and you'll internalize everything very quickly. Enjoy Archery through safe shooting skills.**

## 1.0 Archery Shooting Safety Rules

- Always keep your arrow pointed down range.
- Never nock an arrow with someone down range.
- Keep your arrow aimed towards the ground as you nock it.
- Never point your bow at anyone, even if there's no arrow drawn (this is important for creating proper shooting habits).
- Never draw an arrow if there are any people between you and your target, even if you don't intend to shoot yet.
- Always know your target and what is beyond it.
- Never fire the arrow high into the air as you cannot predict where it's going to land.
- It's strongly recommended that you wear an arm guard.
- If you are unsure about your target, relax your draw using your bow hand and reacquire your target before releasing an arrow.
- Never over-draw your bow (over-drawing is when you pull the string further than the actual length of your arrow). This can result in serious personal injury and damage to your equipment.
- Always check your arrows for cracks or splintering before your shooting session.
- Make it a habit to always check the bow limbs for any damage before you start shooting.
- If you notice signs of wear on the string (e.g. separation of the string serving), replace it immediately – do **not** wait for it to become completely non-operational.
- Make sure your string is waxed regularly (wax the string once every 100 arrows shot).
- Never dry fire your bow (pulling and releasing the string without an arrow seated); this will be dangerous to both you and your bow
- We recommend you take off your watch and/or loose jewelry before you begin shooting.

## 2.0 Indoor/Outdoor Range Safety Rules

- Listen carefully to commands given by your instructor/Range Safety Officer (RSO). If you can't hear them, ask the person to speak louder.
  - **“Clear to Fire”** You can nock the arrow at the Firing Line and shoot at the target.
  - **“All Clear – Retrieve Your Arrows”** You can go down range and retrieve arrows.
  - **ANYONE can call “CEASE FIRE” or “HOLD” in an emergency!!! DO NOT release an arrow!** Safely relax the bow arm and wait for additional commands.
- **DO NOT** retrieve anything in front of the shooting line (even if it's within reach) until you hear the All Clear command
- Do not nock or draw an arrow unless you are at the shooting line and unless the instructor/RSO has given everyone the command **Clear to Fire**.
- Never cross the Firing Line until the instructor or RSO gives an **All Clear** command.
- Always use field points at a regular archery bow range. Hunting broad-heads are more dangerous to handle and should only be shot at the approved Broad Head targets.
- Never approach the shooting line without inspecting your equipment for damage.
- Never run while retrieving your arrows; you could hurt yourself with an arrow lodged in the ground, or fail to stop in time and hurt yourself with the arrows lodged in the target.
- Make sure no one is standing immediately behind you when pulling out an arrow from the target, as you could accidentally hurt them when forcefully pulling the arrow out.
- If arrows travel too far and lands behind the arrow stops, make sure your instructor/RSO is aware of this before you retrieve the arrow as you may not be visible to others on the range.
- Make sure the range you shoot at has a first-aid kit available.
- If used; Display the Down Range flag before going down range to retrieve arrows.

**LEARN THESE ARCHERY SAFETY RULES AND DEVELOP SAFE SHOOTING SKILLS!**