



# **The Lowell Sportsmen's Club, Inc.**

50 Swain Road, North Chelmsford, MA 01863, 978-251-3637

Mail: PO Box 912, N. Chelmsford, MA 01863 • [info@lowellsc.org](mailto:info@lowellsc.org)

## **Archery Range Rules**

**12/7/2023**

### **1. Use of the ranges.**

The following are the only persons permitted to use the Archery Ranges:

- a. Member of the LSC who has been approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. Guests and participants of a LSC member in accordance with the By-Laws.
- c. Certified Instructors providing lessons to members and the public.

### **2. Types of Archery ranges and their uses.**

- a. The Outdoor and Field Target ranges are for use on a first come, first served basis during daylight hours or when illuminated.
- b. The Outdoor Broadhead/Crossbow range is located to the right side of the Outdoor Archery range and is used for hunting tips and Crossbow bolts.
- c. The Indoor Archery Range is in the main LSC hall. It is used in the Fall-Winter-Spring time or when inclement weather precludes use of the outdoor ranges.
- d. National Archery in the School Program (NASP) Certified instructors provide Archery lessons free to the public on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to ~9 pm.

### **3. Authorized Equipment.**

- a. Bows and arrows of any type and poundage on all ranges.
- b. Non-standard or Handmade bows and arrows provided they do not present a safety hazard to participants.
- c. Crossbows and related equipment are limited to the Outdoor Broadhead /Crossbow ranges or Field Target ranges when field tips are used.
- d. Hunting tips (e.g., broadheads, mechanical, small game fixed/spring...) are only permitted on the Outdoor Broadhead/Crossbow range.
- e. Massachusetts Illegal or Forbidden equipment will not be operated or used on the LSC ranges or property.

### **4. Range Safety**

At least one Range Safety Officer (RSO) must be present on the range during live fire and has complete control of the shooting activities and conduct of the shooters. Commands given by the RSO must be obeyed immediately. Failure to do so is cause for revocation or suspension of range privileges. The RSO may, at his/her discretion, stop anyone from shooting if he/she feels that they represent an unsafe condition. All Archery Instructors are RSO's and there may be multiple instructors on the range teaching students. In this case they will choose one instructor to coordinate and control the range while others are teaching.

For safety reasons **the Indoor Archery range cannot operate at the same time as the Indoor Range (downstairs).**



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## 5. Archery Specific Safety Rules

Below are some common, yet critical archery safety rules.

- a. Always walk on the range and carry arrows in a quiver or with field points in your hand like a bouquet of flowers.
- b. Use caution when handling/shooting broadheads or hunting arrows.
- c. Never dry fire your bow (pulling and releasing the string without an arrow seated); this will be dangerous to you and may damage your equipment.
- d. Arrows dropped in front of the firing line are considered "dead" and will not be retrieved until the range is cleared.
- e. Only release the bow string when an arrow is Nocked and safely pointed toward the target.
- f. Always know your target and what is beyond it.
- g. Never nock or draw an arrow if there are people between you and your target.
- h. 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 injury and damage to you or your equipment.
- i. Always check your arrows for cracks or splintering before your shooting session and **NEVER shoot a damaged arrow!**
- j. Check your bow limbs and strings for damage before you start shooting.
- k. If there is an emergency on the range immediately alert the Instructor/RSO.
- l. Do not cross the shooting line until the Instructor/RSO gives the appropriate **WHISTLE or VERBAL COMMANDS.**
- m. Know the range shooting commands given by the Instructor/RSO:
  - **Two whistle blasts...GET BOW and GO TO LINE**
  - **One whistle blast...SHOOT**
  - **Three whistle blasts...RETRIEVE ARROWS...GO GET ARROWS**
  - **Five or more whistle blasts... EMERGENCY – Immediately stop shooting, return bows to the rack and go behind the waiting line.**
- n. Make sure the Instructor/RSO knows if you or someone else are going behind the arrow stop/berm.
- o. Ensure no one is directly behind you when you pull the arrow from the target.
- p. Upon completion of a shooting session, the shooter is required to pick up all paper/plastic and other debris that accumulates on the range and deposit it in appropriate containers.
- q. All shooting must be from the authorized firing line or shooting area (Field Targets), except by special permission from the on-site event coordinator.
- r. Targets can be made from Paper, Clay, Wood products, Foil, 3D Foam, Plastic, Rubber, Cardboard, Foam Sheet, Light Metal (soda/tin can), Cloth, or Organic Materials. Use target pins, roofing nails, toothpicks, clothes pins, or other similar items to hold targets in place.