

Archery Safety Rules

Archery is fun, but the fun can quickly turn into tragedy unless every archer observes some common rules. Before you even think about using your bow, learn these rules and make up your mind to follow them every time you hold a bow. Be attentive and thoughtful.

As an archer, you must learn and practice these few simple rules:

1. **Follow the instructions of the range commander.** Give attention and listen to the range commander. Ask questions if you do not understand what is said.
2. **Always use proper safety equipment.** Including an arm guard, finger tab or glove. A leader will ask you to reposition your safety equipment if to help prevent injury if the equipment is incorrectly positioned.
3. **Always use arrows of the proper length.** Arrows that are too short can cause injuries before or as you attempt to fire the bow.
4. **Always inspect your equipment before shooting.** Damaged equipment should be repaired or replaced to avoid injuries. Replace the bowstring whenever it becomes worn.
5. **Wear snug fitting clothes, tie back long hair, remove large earrings, and clear off any pins and remove anything from chest pockets.**
6. **Aim and shoot only at a definite target.** Never shoot just for the sake of shooting. Always be sure you know what your target is and that it is safe to shoot. If you're not sure, take a closer look; if you are still not sure, do not shoot.
7. **Always be sure the area around and behind your target is clear before you shoot.** Never shoot if there is a chance your arrow may ricochet from the target or another object and hit someone.
8. **POINT, DRAW and AIM your arrow only in the direction of your target.** The arrow must always be pointed (aimed) in a proper, safe shooting position. A leader will ask you to change your shooting position if your stance is incorrect.
9. **Never "DRYFIRE" your bow.** Always have an arrow on the string when shooting the bow. "Dryfiring" (shooting a bow without an arrow) can seriously damage the bow.
10. **Always walk, never run, on the archery range.** If you run, you might accidentally cross in front of another archer, step on arrows lying on the ground, or trip and fall into the target and be injured by the arrows that may be sticking out of it.
11. **Follow the whistle commands given by the range commander.** Whistle blasts will be given with verbal commands.

WHISTLE:

VERBAL:

Meaning:

TWO BLASTS

"Archers to the shooting line."

Pick up the bow and move into position on the shooting line. Do not pick up the arrows.

WHISTLE:

VERBAL:

Meaning:

ONE BLAST

"Begin shooting."

Archers may take the arrows out of the quivers and begin shooting.

WHISTLE:

VERBAL:

Meaning:

THREE BLASTS

"Walk forward and get your arrows."

Archers have completed their shooting. All archers have set their bows down and are standing behind the waiting line. They may now go forward to the target line and pull their arrows.

WHISTLE:

VERBAL:

Meaning:

FOUR OR MORE BLASTS

"STOP, STOP, STOP, STOP" or "CEASE FIRE"

Immediately let down off the bow and put arrows back in the quiver, step back behind the waiting line. There is an emergency on the range.

Always follow *Range Etiquette*.