



Welcome

Welcome to Wangaratta Archers. We are a family club encouraging both adults and juniors from 8 to 80 to enjoy our sport (or younger if the capability is there).

Wangaratta Archers was formed in 2012 by enthusiastic people wanting a sport which the whole family could enjoy. Parents can join in and shoot beside their juniors in a fun and often humorous way.

Our strict policy that juniors have a parent or guardian present at all times is designed to create an atmosphere of family fun and enjoyment. Parents are also welcome to join as Associates (non-shooting) or simply be a spectator and help the club to maximise the archery experience.

Wangaratta Archers is affiliated with Archery Australia and Archery Victoria which are in turn affiliated World Archery and FITA. Therefore the club is administered both on and off the range strictly in accordance with the rules, policies and procedures of these bodies,

There are boundless opportunities for all archers, no matter what the age, to compete with others clubs, state wide, nationally and worldwide dependent on their own skill and ambition. However on the local level an archer and their family may simply participate for personal satisfaction, and family enjoyment.

We expect that the current surge of interest in the sport will grow our club to a premier position in archery in regional Victoria. We welcome you to our club and if you decide that archery is for you, or your family, you will meet many friends with a common interest.

You will never be a good archer if you are not enjoying the sport, and having fun. This applies to the first arrow you shoot to the arrow you fire to win the Olympics or World Championships.



When you are practicing on the range everyone must walk to and from targets at the same time. There is no room for any form of horseplay. Any drawn bow must be pointed towards the designated target and only then if it is intended to be shot. Do not "shoot" a bow without an arrow as this may damage the bow and possibly injure persons nearby.

Targets must be firmly anchored so they cannot tip over. Under no circumstance is shooting permitted if there is someone on the field near or behind the targets. Take care to avoid contact with other archers or their equipment when handling a bow and arrow. Do not distract other archers when they are shooting. Do not handle another archer's equipment without their permission.

If a bow or arrow falls over the shooting line, the archer should wait until the archers either side have finished before retrieving the equipment and then only if it has fallen within reach from the shooting position. If not but is within 3m of the shooting, bring it to the attention of the DOS. Once shooting is completed, under the direction of the DOS, step forward, retrieve the equipment and then complete the missing shot. If it is over 3m it is marked as a miss.

Crossbows are allowed on the range if all police and club requirements have been met.

ALCOHOL MUST NOT BE CONSUMED BEFORE OR DURING A SHOOT
There will be no second chance with immediate termination of membership.



RANGE RULES

SHOOTING

- A bow must not be loaded with an arrow unless the “Come to the Shooting Line” signal has been given and you are standing on the Shooting Line with one foot over the Line. Or you are under direct supervision of a coach.
- A loaded bow must only be pointed at the assigned target. It must not be pointed at another person.
- An arrow must not be shot up into the air.
- A cracked or bent arrow must never be shot.
- A person must never stand forward of an archer about to shoot.
- If an arrow or part of equipment is dropped in front of the shooting line while shooting is in progress, it can only be picked up after shooting has stopped.
- When each archer has finished shooting their arrows, they must stand back from the shooting line so the instructor\DOS can clearly see that they have finished.
- Only when everyone has finished shooting will the signal to move forward to collect the arrows be given

COLLECTING ARROWS

- Walk forward to collect arrows never run
- Always walk up to the side of the target Butt, so as to not to accidentally walk into the rear of the arrows lodged in the target.
- One person at a time should withdraw their arrows from the target
- When withdrawing arrows from the target, make sure no one is standing in front of the target or in the way of the **arrows being withdrawn**. Withdrawing the arrows may require some force and the arrows may come out suddenly from the target butt and the rear end of the arrow could hit someone standing in front of the target.
- If searching for arrows behind target, at least one member of the group must remain standing in front of the target while others are searching.
- When carrying arrows always hold them to the side.
- After each end, everyone must return to **behind** the shooting line and the range must be checked to make sure no one is behind the target butts or in the safety zone before the signal to commence shooting is given

***THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING (DOS)
MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES REPORT ANY PROBLEMS ON***



THE SHOOTING LINE TO THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING BY HOLDING UP YOUR HAND.

ARCHERY A FAMILY SPORT

HISTORY

Archery is one of the oldest arts of ancient times and is still being practiced today. It has played a very important role in many of the world's civilisations. The earliest people known to have used the bow and arrow were the ancient Egyptians, who adopted the weapon at least 5000 years ago. From its first development until the 1500s, the bow was man's constant companion and has been the most widely used of all weapons in recorded history. The bow was important tool in allowing prehistoric humans to become the most efficient hunter on earth, providing him safety, food and raw materials such as bone, sinew and hide.

The bow and arrow was England's principal weapon of national defence for several centuries. It was also used by Genghis Khan and his Mongol hordes to conquer many nations. Native Americans used the bow and arrow as a means of subsistence and existence during the days of English and later American colonization. Since its replacement by firearms as a weapon of war, archery has become a favoured sport enjoyed by millions.

Archery tournaments, as we know them today, can be traced back to England. Competitions were held as part of community festivals as early as the 17th century. By about 1600, three kinds of shooting were practiced in England, and still are practice in some form.

In "butt shooting," the ancestor of Olympic target archery, bowmen aimed at targets mounted on earthen butts at ranges of 100 to 140 yards. In "clout shooting," the target was a piece of canvas, about 18 inches across, with a wooden peg in its centre. Arrows are shot high into the air to descend on the target, which lies on the ground rather than being upright. "Roving," the predecessor of modern field archery, grew out of casual hunting with bow and arrow. Archers are presented with targets of various shapes and sizes, simulating small animals, and they shoot at unknown ranges over rough ground, not a prepared course.

Archery competition was on the program of the second modern Olympic Games in 1900. However, International rules had not yet been developed, and each host country used its own rules and format. This resulted in great confusion and the sport was eliminated from the Olympic program in 1929. Founded in 1931, the Federation International de Tir à l'Arc (FITA) become the governing body for sport of archery. The organization implemented



standardized, international rules for competition. After enough countries had adopted the FITA's rules, archery was re-admitted to the Olympic Games in 1972.

Today, technology has greatly advanced the equipment and some competitive formats have become obsolete while others have been added. Archery has been combined with skiing in the sport of "ski-archery," and with running in "Arcathlon."

TYPES OF EQUIPMENT.

THE RECURVE BOW – Many contemporary bow handles (risers) are made of aluminium alloys and are machined for a combination of strength and lightness. Some have wood risers and there are some that are made of a magnesium and aluminium mixture, which is heated to a liquid form and poured into a mould. Once cooled, it is cleaned, finely machined and painted.

Bow limbs are generally constructed of man-made materials, such as fiberglass, carbon and syntactic foam. The limbs store the energy of the draw and release it to the arrow. The string and the limbs are commonly removed from the riser when the bow is not in use, allowing for easy storage of the "knocked-down" bow.

Many bows have stabilizers to reduce torque (twisting) in the arrows upon release. They also have sights to aid in aiming and arrow rests to help align the shot.

Most bowstrings today are made of "Fast Flight," a hydrocarbon product that also has medical and other uses, or "Kevlar," the material used to make bulletproof vests. The important point to be made about the string is that it must not stretch under normal environmental conditions, as that would change the bows pull weight and make consistency impossible. A layer of string material called the "serving" is placed where the arrow is knocked, and serves to snugly match the nock on the arrow, and a small ring is permanently placed on the serving to mark where the arrow rests when knocked. A small button, called the "kisser button," is often used to assure that the back end of the arrow is always pulled back to the proper, repeatable anchor point. When properly drawn, the kisser button rests right between the lips.

An arrow is typically pulled back to the anchor point using the middle three fingers of the draw hand. These fingers are often covered with a glove or a leather "tab" which protects them. The tab may have a metal shelf built in so that the two fingers on either side of the arrow do not squeeze it.

On Olympic bows a "clicker" is a small, spring-loaded lever that is held out away from its resting point by the arrow. When the arrow is drawn back to exactly the same point each time, the clicker slips past the tip of the arrow, producing an audible "click," which tells



the archer he has the arrow at the same, repeatable release point. This causes very close to the same amount of tension to be used on every shot, so the arrow flight is the same.

A sight allows the archer, when the arrow is properly drawn, to line the bow up with the centre of the target. The sight generally has adjustments in up-down and left-right dimensions with calliper-style read outs so that aging equipment, weather, temperature and distance to the target may be accommodated. Olympic archery allows for sights that do not have lenses or electronics associated with them.

Arm guards and chest protectors protect the skin from string burn, as well as provide a low-resistance surface that the string may skim over easily upon release. A pair of binoculars or a spotting scope allows the archer to see the arrows in the target, and thereby make corrections to the sight as required. A quiver to hold arrows and other paraphernalia completes the archer's accessories.

THE COMPOUND BOW- A Compound bow, unlike the Olympic bow, is never knocked-down between uses. The great tension pre-set into the limbs can only safely be countered when the bow is couched in a piece of equipment called a bow press. The cams are synchronized when this is done, and are held in place by the tension. Compound bow cases must be able to accommodate the entire bow. Because the compound bow's forte is accuracy, equipment that increases the accuracy is deemed fair for most all compound uses while it is not for Olympic archery. The sight may include electronics and/or lenses to increase accuracy, and a release aide, rather than fingers, may be used. A release aide is a mechanical "finger" that grips the string and releases it when the trigger is pressed by the draw hand.

THE ARROWS- arrows in the recurve (Olympic) bow events can travel in excess of 200 kilometres per hour, while compound arrows can fly excess of 400 kilometres per hour. The shafts are made of either aluminium or aluminium with carbon fibre. Aluminium arrows are more uniform in weight and shape, while carbon arrows, fly faster and provide less crosswind resistance, and are therefore more useful in long distance outdoor archery.

The business end of a target arrow is weighted and tipped with a target point, designed to penetrate but a short distance in the target "butt" (any material backing, bales, or dirt designed to stop and hold and arrows).

The other end features a "nocking point," a plastic cap glued or otherwise attached to the end of the arrow. It grips the string until flung loose, and it provides a protection for the shaft by deflecting hits from later incoming arrows. This generally destroys the nock, but leaves the arrow reusable. Sometimes, of course, the aim is too perfect to deflect; the



resulting “Robin-Hood” is both spectacular and expensive, as both arrows are usually destroyed.

On the shaft itself “fletching” are glued to stabilize the arrow’s flight. Sometimes they are glued in such a way as to cause the shafts to spin around its long dimension, further stabilizing its flight at a cost to its flat trajectory. The fletching is generally three in number, one of which (the index feather) is a different colour than the other two. The nock is put into place by gripping the string perpendicular to the odd fletch, so that the other two fletches or feathers both brush the riser equally, minimally disturbing the arrow’s flight.

Fletching may be plastic “feathers” or solid vanes, in a variety of shapes, length and, of course, colours.

Markings, called crests, may be drawn on the arrows at the owner’s discretion. However the FITA requires at all certified matches that all arrows be marked with the owner’s initials so that they can be unequivocally identified while embedded in the target.