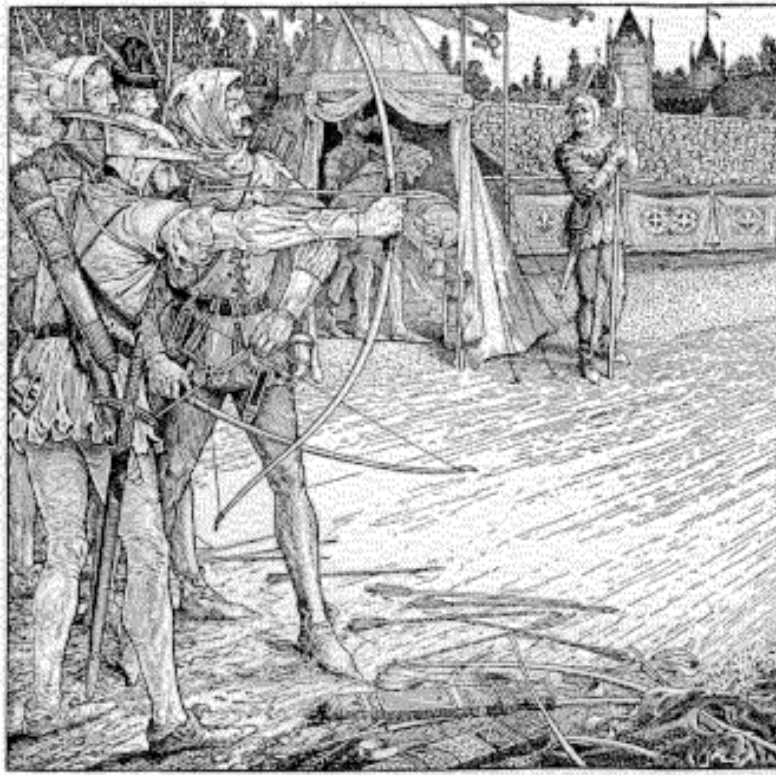


# An Tir Book of Target



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**Signed this 22nd day of January, 2005**

**Skeggi Hrafensfuri  
King, An Tir**

**Taisiia of Ma Elring  
Queen, An Tir**

**Meistari Dungadr Ravensfuri  
Earl Marshal, An Tir**

**Master Ljotr Einarsson  
Kingdom Seneschal, An Tir**

**Loegaire mac Lochlainn  
Kingdom Royal Archer, An Tir**

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# KINGDOM OF AN TIR TARGET RULES

## Introduction

These rules are designed as a set of Target Marshal “rules of the line,” to be used at any and all times the martial art of Target Archery or Thrown-weapons are incorporated into any SCA event or activity in An Tir. The purpose of these rules are to provide a safe framework in which a variety of Archery and Thrown-weapons competitions can be conducted.

## Scoring

All scoring has been turned over to the Missile Guild. Please see the Crier for contact information.

## Senior Target Marshals

- Promote target activities throughout the kingdom.
- Train and warrant Target Marshals (TMs).
- Train Target Archery Marshals and Thrown Weapons Marshals (TAMs and TWMs).
- Establish policy for Archery and/or Thrown Weapons activities.
- Report to Royal Archer and any others required by kingdom law and policy, all injuries requiring professional medical treatment as a result of activity on or around the range.
- Be a current member of the SCA.

## Target Marshals (TMs)

Target Marshals are the front line marshals that handle the actual running of the ranges. They should also be active in promoting Archery and Thrown Weapons and in teaching and enforcing the rules. Individual branches may appoint a Target Marshal for their branch if they desire but Target Marshals do not need to be associated with a branch.

All Target Marshals must be of legal age in their jurisdiction of residence.

The Target Marshal in Charge of a range should be the first point of contact for any issues on that range.

## Target Archery Marshals (TAMs)

Target Archery Marshals are the marshals that assist the running of the Archery ranges. They should also be active in promoting Archery and in enforcing the rules. All Target Archery Marshals must be of legal age in their jurisdiction of residence.

## Thrown Weapons Marshals (TWMs)

Thrown Weapon Marshals are the marshals that assist the running of the thrown-weapon ranges. They should also be active in promoting Thrown Weapons and in enforcing the rules. All Thrown Weapon Marshals must be of legal age in their jurisdiction of residence.

## **Running Target Archery or Thrown Weapons at an Event**

Each event holding Archery and/or Thrown weapons activities must have a designated Target Marshal in Charge (TMC) who is responsible for all Archery and/or Thrown weapons activities at the event. The TMC must be an experienced TM and be acceptable to the Kingdom Royal Archer and/or Earl Marshal. The TMC may appoint TMs, or TAMs, and TWMs to run the actual ranges during the event. The TMC shall report to the Kingdom Royal Archer and any others required by kingdom law and policy, all injuries requiring professional medical treatment as a result of activity on or around the range.

In addition to the rules of common sense the following rules apply to all Archery and Thrown Weapons activities:

- No Archery or Thrown Weapons activities are to take place at an event unless a TM (or TAM and TWM) is present at the target range.
- A copy of these rules should be posted or placed in an area where it can be read.
- In the event of any disagreement, the TMC shall have authority for resolving the dispute.
- The TMC or the assisting TMs and TWMs shall inspect all archery equipment and thrown weapons for damage and compliance to the equipment standards as described in these rules.
- All TMs, TAMs and TWMs are responsible for the enforcement of the rules and safety standards for Archery and Thrown Weapons activities.
- **Minimum age for competing with Adults in Thrown Weapons or Target archery is 12 years of age.**
- **All children under the age of 13 must have a parent or court appointed, legal guardian present when participating in Archery or Thrown Weapons.**
- **All TMs, TAMs and TWMs may refuse to allow someone to participate in Archery or Thrown Weapons activities if they are deemed unsafe to themselves or others.**

## Rules of An Tir Thrown Weapons

### Equipment Standards For Thrown Weapons

Equipment standards vary depending upon the type of thrown weapon and the techniques the thrower uses to throw the weapon. To accommodate these variations the following questions should be considered during the inspection of each weapon.

- How will the user be throwing the weapon? E.g., for knives, will it be thrown by the handle or by the blade?
- Is the weapon designed for throwing?
- Is the weapon sturdy enough to be thrown?
- How sharp is the blade?
- Is the handle taped? If a weapon's handle has been taped or reinforced, it must have been done for a reason. Ask the owner about it. Give it extra attention; make sure that it is structurally sound and safe. Duct tape is not an acceptable fix for a handle with a major crack. If it can't be inspected due to coverings, fail it.

### Knives

The following rules apply specifically to thrown knives:

- The handle (or scales) of the knife, if any, must be firmly attached.
- The throwing surface should be free of burrs or protrusions that can cut or injure an unprotected hand upon release.
- Knives are to be a minimum of 12 inches in length and a maximum of 16 inches in length and not more than 2.5 inches wide.
- Knives are to have one sticking point only and must have the traditional shape of a knife.

### Axes

The following rules apply specifically to thrown axes:

- The handle must be firmly attached.
- The handle cannot have any major cracks.
- The handle cannot have any burrs or rough surfaces that can cut or give splinters.
- All axes shall have wooden handles between 12 inches and 24 inches in length.
- All axe heads shall be metal, with a single blade of not more than four (4) inches.
- No top spikes, spike polls, or butt-spiked handles are allowed.

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### **Spears**

The following rules apply specifically to thrown spears:

- The spearhead must be firmly attached to the shaft of the spear.
- The haft cannot have any burrs or rough surfaces that can cut or give splinters.
- The haft must be sound and without major cracks.
- Spears shall not have flights or any stabilizers attached.
- Spears must be no less than 4' in length and no longer than 7' in overall length.

### **Atl – Atls**

The following rules apply to Atl-Atls used to throw darts:

- Darts used must be designed for use in the Atl-Atl.
- The haft must be sound and without cracks.
- Breakaway heads are not permitted at any time.
- The dart holder and any other attached components must be firmly attached to the Atl-Atl.
- Atl-Atls may not be used in normal spear throwing competitions

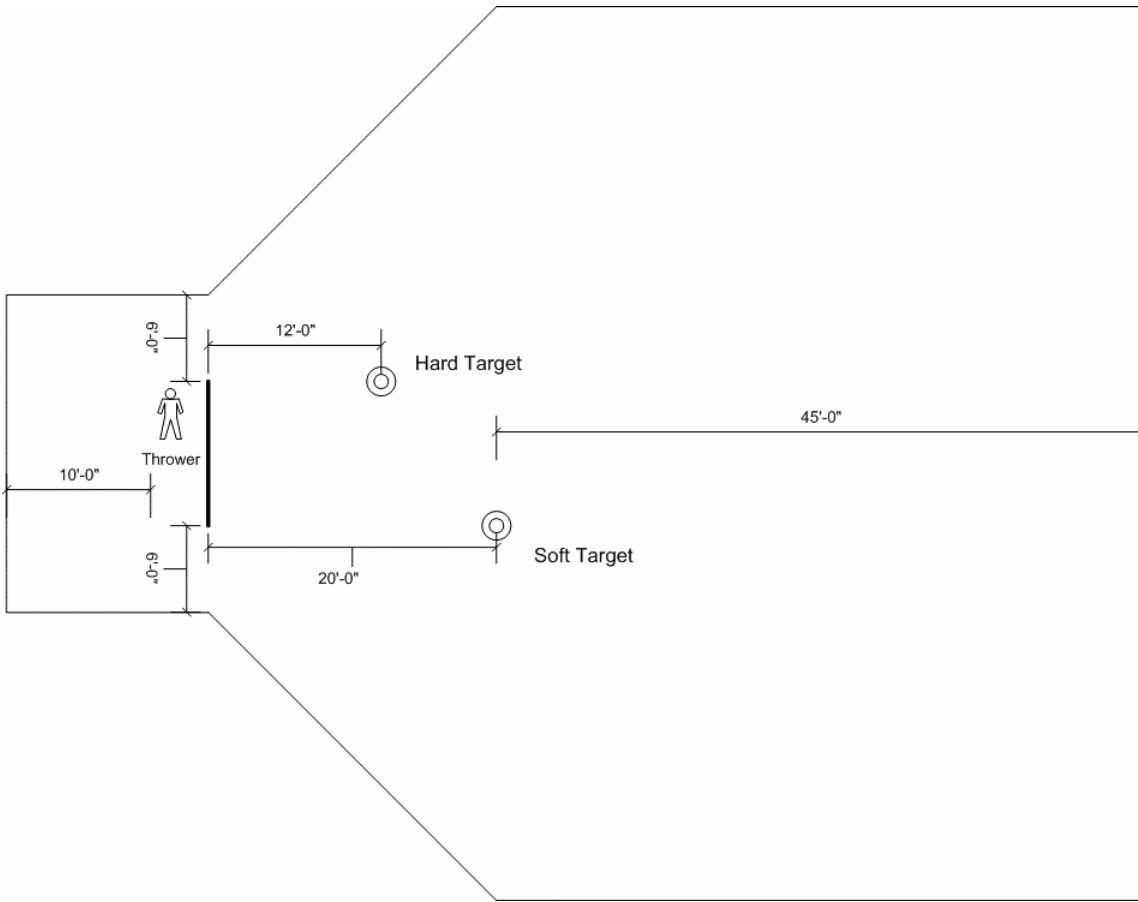
### **Throwing Range Set Up**

Safety is always the primary concern when setting up a throwing range. The following rules are provided to define the minimum safety requirements for a range. When ever possible these requirements should be exceeded.

A safety zone must be defined for all thrown weapons ranges. The following dimensions should be used as the standard. Special exceptions can be made for situations where terrain or structures can prevent a miss-thrown weapon from being a danger.

The safety zone starts 6 feet to the outside of the outermost throwing position on the range. If not all of the throwing positions are in a line the farthest back position must be used for measurement. The safety zone extends down range from the throwing position at a 45-degree angle away from the targets to a line even with the farthest target and continues straight down range until it is at least 15 yards past the farthest target. The safety zone extends at least 10 feet behind the farthest back throwing position.

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**Figure 1: Thrown Weapons Range Layout**

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### **The following rules shall apply to all thrown weapons ranges:**

- The Throwing Range will be identifiable at all times. Bright-color rope, tape, etc will be used to mark off the throwing range and the safety area.
- The entrance to the throwing range should be at the side and not the back if possible. The entrance must be behind the farthest back throwing position.
- “Hard” targets, i.e. wood, must be at least 12 feet down range from the throwing line.
- "Hard" targets, i.e. wood, must have the center 40" to 60" off the ground.
- “Soft” spear targets, i.e., hay bales, must be at least 20 feet down range.
- No one should ever stand or pass directly behind the thrower.

### **Throwing Range Procedures**

The following procedures are to be followed when throwing is in progress at the range:

- The Marshal will call a thrower (or throwers) to the line.
- The Marshal will look to see that the range is safe.
- If all is clear, then the order “Throw when ready!” or the equivalent will be given.
- When done, the thrower(s) are to put down any weapons in hand and wait until the order to retrieve is given.
- When all weapons are down the Marshal will give the command “Retrieve weapons!” or the equivalent.
- Only one weapon may be thrown at a target. All weapons must be re-inspected prior to being thrown again.
- If individuals wish to throw from different distances, use the following guidelines:
  1. Have everyone on the line move to the farthest distance.
  2. When the range is called, have the gentle(s) who wish to throw from that distance throw at their leisure.
  3. When done, have everyone on the line move forward to the next furthest position.
  4. Have the thrower(s) toss their next volley.
  5. Continue this pattern until everyone is done.

## **Throwing Range Etiquette**

Etiquette on the throwing range should always be guided by the principles of honor and courtesy. This is a game we play for fun and should be treated as such.

The following rules should be observed while at the range:

- Always remember that you are throwing live steel weapons that can cause great harm.
- Keep alert. Weapons can and will bounce back from the target occasionally.
- Do not stand or walk behind throwers on the line.
- Side-armed throwing of weapons is not allowed.
- Just before EACH throw, look behind you to ensure that it is clear. Do not throw when someone is down range.
- Ask the Marshal for permission before “filling in” on the line.
- Throw only at designated targets.
- Do not throw until commanded to do so.
- Do not retrieve until commanded to do so.
- If “HOLD!” is called put down your weapon(s) and stop in place until you know the reason for the hold and wait for instructions from the Marshal.
- Do not throw weapons that have not been inspected and approved.
- Remove only your weapon from the target unless you have permission to remove someone else’s.
- Remove weapons by “worrying” them out. **DO NOT YANK THEM OUT.**
- Do not handle other people’s weapons without their permission.
- Do not participate in Thrown Weapons activities while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## Rules of An Tir Target Archery

### EQUIPMENT STANDARDS FOR TARGET ARCHERY

#### General Standards:

1. All equipment should be consistent with pre-17<sup>th</sup> century archery in appearance and function. The construction, use, and knowledge of period style equipment and its safe use are among the primary goals of SCA archery. However, the use of modern equipment is permitted provided it meets the equipment standards laid out below.
2. Nothing in these rules shall be interpreted as preventing a Kingdom or branch from making rules requiring the use of period style equipment in a period division or a specific competition. The rules allow the use of modern style bows, but do not require that all competitions allow their use.
3. Each archer has the ultimate responsibility for the proper care, inspection and safe use of their own weapons, and for knowing and following the SCA and Kingdom target archery rules.
  - An archer shall not knowingly use unsafe equipment
  - If an archer is unsure of the safety of their equipment, they shall request the assistance of a Target Marshal in inspecting the equipment.
  - The Target Marshal assisting in the inspection shall make a reasonable attempt to locate any unsafe conditions or violations of Kingdom rules and inform the archer of what is found and how to correct it.
  - The inspection by the Target Marshal may not find all equipment faults and is conducted as a service to all archers on the line. It does not remove the archers' primary responsibility for the safe condition of their own equipment.
  - Any equipment observed by a Target Marshal to be unsafe shall not be used until it is made safe and is re-inspected by the Target Marshal.
  - A Target Marshal can and may inspect all archery equipment before allowing it onto any Archery range.
4. Exceptions to the use of prohibited equipment may be allowed as follows:
  - The Kingdom Royal Archer, or his/her designee, may approve the use of prohibited equipment by class, such as the use of plastic vanes or non-wooden arrows for children's archery.
  - The Target Marshal in Charge of an event may allow the temporary use of prohibited equipment for an archer on an event-by-event basis, such as permitting a new archer to use aluminum arrows with plastic vanes. (No scores can be recorded with the prohibited arrows but they can be used to practice.) This use should be reported to the Kingdom Royal Archer for tracking purposes.
  - The Target Marshal in Charge shall make necessary allowances for handicapped archers, provided that range safety is not compromised by these allowances.

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### Bows:

1. Bows may be made of any material, provided they are judged safe to shoot by the Target Marshal in Charge.
  - Bows of unusual material or construction will be required to pass the inspection of the Kingdom Royal Archer, or designated deputy, prior to use at official SCA events.
  - No compound bows are allowed in competition. There will be no exceptions to this prohibition.
2. Adjustable or fixed sights are not allowed, except as noted for Crossbows.
  - If adjustable or fixed sights are attached, they shall either be removed or made inoperative.
  - Sighting and/or range marks on the limbs or riser are allowed, except in divisions or competitions that exclude their use. "String walking" or similar disparate placement of the fingers upon the string designed to compensate for distance changes is specifically not allowed. However, the use of different anchor points upon the body to compensate for distance changes is allowed.
3. There are no draw weight limits for target archery bows. However, should a Target Marshal observe that an archer is using a bow too heavy in draw weight, or too overdrawn for them to safely shoot, the Target 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. In regards modern string releases, in special circumstances involving handicapped archers, the Target Marshal may make an exception and reporting this exception to the Kingdom Royal Archer and Kingdom Score Keeper for tracking purposes.
6. Bows with riser cut-outs (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 center-shot, trackless crossbow styles are allowed for target shooting.
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 a Target 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 Target Marshal. Prods of unusual material or construction will be required to pass the inspection of the Kingdom Royal Archer 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, which are intended for gripping the stock, need not be covered. Openings may be covered with tape, leather, cloth, etc.

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### 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, so long as the strings are properly constructed.
  - 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, i.e., no separate nocking points for different ranges are allowed.
  - The nocking point may consist of one or two locators, which may be of any type.
  - The locators may not extend above or below the arrow nock in such a way as to allow them to be used as sighting mechanisms or aids.
3. Peep sights or kisser buttons mounted on the string are not allowed. String silencers, such as "cat whiskers", and brush guards are allowed.

### Arrows and Bolts:

1. All shafts shall be of wood or of bamboo or bamboo-like materials.
2. Both self and footed shafts are permitted.
3. No broadheads or tips that cause excessive damage to the targets shall be used, except for special competitions using these heads with the permission of the Target Marshal in Charge and / or the Kingdom Royal Archer.
4. Fletched arrows and bolts shall use feathers or other pre-17<sup>th</sup> century material. Plastic vanes are not allowed, except as noted above.
5. Nocks for arrows may be of any material. Caps, rings, or nocks for bolts may be of any material.

## RANGE SAFETY, RANGE PROCEDURES, AND RULES OF THE LINE

### 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 Target Marshal in Charge 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. 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 overshot or 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, by straddling the shooting line. Archers shooting from prone, kneeling, seated, etc., 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, with recommended spacing being at least four feet. Other shoots with special circumstances may require different spacing and heightened Target Marshal supervision.
8. During shooting, all spectators shall remain outside the marked safety zones and/or at least ten feet to the rear of the shooting line.

### Range Procedures:

1. A Marshall shall not allow more archers on a line than can be reasonably and safely supervised.
2. Experienced archers, known to, and approved by the Target Marshal in Charge, may assist the Marshals. When this is done, the ratio of Marshals to archers on line may be reduced.
3. At shoots 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 Marshals, are used to supervise the inexperienced archers.
4. Conditions around the range and safety zone may require the use of additional 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 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 Marshal/assistant to archer ratio of one-to-one, are forbidden.
7. The Target Marshal in Charge may remove archers exhibiting unsafe behavior from the range.

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### Range Commands:

1. The Marshal will call the archers to the line.
2. The Marshal will look to see that the range and line are clear and safe.
3. The Marshal will call out "Range clear!" or the equivalent, and wait momentarily for any responses.
4. If all clear, then the order "Loose!", "Loose at will!", "You may begin!" 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 shooting, the Marshal will call "Bows down!", "Cease!" or the equivalent and wait for compliance.
7. When all weapons are down, the 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 Marshal for permission before filling in on the line.
2. If "Hold!" is called, lower your bow, remove your arrow/bolt and pay heed to the marshal's instructions.
3. If an archer sees an immediate problem, they should call "Hold!" and inform the Marshal in Charge.
4. If an archer sees a potential problem, they should report it to a Marshal.
5. All archers shall follow the instructions of the Target Marshal in Charge and of Marshals assisting on the line.
6. Step back from the line when you have completed shooting if it does not interfere with the archers around you.

### Safety Rules:

1. Archers should always remember the potential danger of their weapons.
2. No arrows or bolts shall be nocked when anyone is in front of the shooting line.
3. No archer shall discharge a bow when anyone is downrange.
4. No archer shall shoot while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
5. In the case of overshoots of the targets, place an arrow upright in the target (whenever possible) before going behind the targets to search for the overshoot arrows. By corollary, if an arrow is standing upright in the target, it may be assumed that someone is behind the targets and the range is not clear. Always investigate and verify before clearing the shooting line to commence shooting.
6. Never reach in front of the line to retrieve an arrow while the range is open for shooting.

## 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, tape, 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.

### For Target Shoots:

1. The safety zone behind the farthest target should extend at least 40 yards back, or for  $\frac{1}{2}$  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 farthest target, and continue straight back from there to the required distance.
3. For shoots over 50 yards, the safety zone to the sides of the shooting line and targets should extend outward at a 30-to-45 degree angles from both sides of the shooting line to a line 50 yards away or  $\frac{1}{4}$  the distance to the far end of the safety zone, whichever is greater, and continue straight back from there to the required distance.

### For Specialty Shoots:

1. For clout shoots, the safety zone should extend beyond the target for at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  the target distance, and to each side for at least  $\frac{1}{5}$  the target distance. (It is recommended that the Target 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 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 shall be placed within the shooter's line of sight with another target.
4. For York Rounds, the safety zone should extend beyond the target for at least 50 yards, and to each side for at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  the target distance. As in the clout shoot, archers unfamiliar with the York Round should attempt to practice in advance, starting with their bows aimed at a low angle and working their way into the target area to prevent overshooting the safety zone.

**RANGE COURTESY:**

1. When moving to the targets to retrieve arrows, first pick up any of your arrows lying short of the target.
2. Remove arrows by “worrying” them out. Place one hand against the target face, if possible, and use the other to work them free from the target. 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 archer’s arrows unless you have asked for and received the owner’s permission.
5. Keep distraction, such as loud talking and laughter, to a minimum near the shooting line.
6. Be careful when moving around behind the shooting line of equipment left on the ground.
7. Avoid loud exclamations of either positive or negative import while on the shooting line. An archer is expected to maintain their dignity while in the act of shooting so as not to distract other shooters.
8. Archers shall not take unfair advantage of their opponents.

**SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Miscellaneous Equipment:

1. Any type of quiver may be used, with the exception of one that attaches directly 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 bowstring 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.
4. Footwear is strongly recommended as most ranges are in rough terrain.