

# NATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY SOCIETY



SHOOTING HANDBOOK  
2024

**It is the member's  
responsibility to ensure ALL  
equipment used complies  
with current NFAS rules.**

**Before making any purchase, it is  
advisable to check the  
NFAS Shooting Style Rules.**

*NFAS Committee*

**The NFAS Child and Vulnerable  
Person Protection Policy  
is available in full at:**

**[nfas.net/cpp](https://nfas.net/cpp)**

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\* to be used when amendments to rules are made at future AGMs.

# SHOOTING RULES

The rules below are current from 1st April 2024 and may be subsequently changed following the procedures set out in the NFAS Constitution.

## General

- 1) All shoots held under the auspices of the NFAS will be over unmarked distances.
- 2) Shooting styles are: American Flatbow, Barebow, Bowhunter, Compound Limited, Crossbow, Traditional crossbow, Freestyle, Hunting Tackle, Longbow, Primitive, Thumb Draw, Traditional Bowhunter and Unlimited.

## Scoring

- 3) For Big Game scoring the use of pegs is that:
  - a) Adults (all archers of 16 years of age and over) shoot their first arrow from the red peg. If this arrow does not score a second shot is taken from the white peg. If the second arrow does not score a third shot is taken from the blue peg. The use of 'wasp' pegs for sighted or compound archers is at the discretion of the course organiser.
  - b) Archers aged 14 years of age and under 16 ('Juniors - under 16') shoot their first arrow from the white peg. If additional arrows are required, both of these are shot from the blue peg.
  - c) Archers aged 12 years of age and under 14 ('Juniors - under 14') shoot their first arrow from the blue peg. If additional arrows are required, both of these are shot from the yellow peg. Yellow pegs should be suitably positioned to take into account the small stature and low bow weight of most young archers.

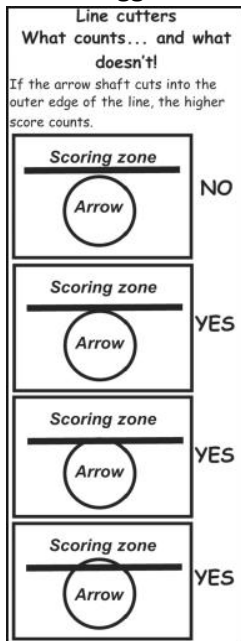
- d) Archers 9 years of age and under 12 years of age ('Cubs over 9') shoot their first arrow from the yellow peg. If additional arrows are required, these are also shot from the yellow peg.
- e) Archers aged under 9 years of age ('Cubs under 9') shoot their first arrow from the orange peg. If additional arrows are required, these are also shot from the orange peg. Orange pegs should be suitably positioned to take into account the small stature and low bow weight of the youngest archers whilst being aware of the risk of bounce-backs.

### Scoring for other rounds is shown under 'Suggested Rounds'.

4) An arrow shaft must touch the line with no visible gap for a higher scoring zone to count.

5) If there are no kill zones marked on a target, the whole target counts as a kill.

6) Kill areas must be clearly marked on targets and drawn on by course organisers if necessary. There must be no ambiguity about which areas constitute inner kill (if used), kill and wound areas. The plug line on a 3D is not always the kill line. This is usually found inside the plug. Also, on paper faces with a heart and lungs, only the red heart lined area counts as the inner 24 kill, and within the lined area for the 20 kill score.



7) Double scoring must be used for all Championships and Open competitions (i.e. two score cards are filled out for each archer and regularly checked). No archer shall score both cards of the same archer. It is preferable that archers do not score their own cards and that scores are checked after every five targets to identify any inconsistencies in scores. At Championships archers are not allowed to score their own cards.

8) Scoring arrows must not be touched by any archer until every score has been recorded for all archers in the group. The only exception is if another arrow needs to be removed before the score of an arrow can be determined. The removal of an arrow can only be done with the consent of all scorers.

9) All arrows must be shot in the correct sequence. If shot out of sequence, all people scoring for the archer must be informed of the order which the arrows were shot before the archer approaches the target. Otherwise, the out of sequence arrow does not score.

10) Where the arrow hits the target and comes to rest in front of it (a 'bounce-back') or completely penetrates the target (a 'pass through') and is witnessed by another member of the group, then that arrow scores. The score shall be that of the lowest scoring zone, unless evidence of a higher scoring hit is positively identified. An arrow hitting the target, or scraping the side of it, but coming to rest behind it is not a bounce-back or a pass-through and does not score. **In the event of an arrow passing through part of the target and into the scoring zone, the score will be taken from the first point of entry. If the first point of entry is a non-scoring zone, the arrow does not score.**

11) Skids and ricochets into the target can be scored.

12) An arrow hitting another arrow and remaining embedded in that arrow without touching the target shall have the same score as that arrow. If the arrow ricochets off another arrow,

it only scores if the arrow penetrates the target, as per a normal shot.

13) Unless the shoot organiser tells you otherwise in the pre-shoot briefing, the following rules apply:

a) All visible and marked kills count (see rule 6).

b) On 3Ds any horns, antlers, hooves and bases do not count.

c) On paper faces only the outer line and zone inside the line counts (i.e. not 'fur and feather') unless the organiser has announced otherwise.

d) Inner kills are to be scored where used. First arrow inner kills count for 24 using 'Big Game' scoring. Inner kills are not scored on subsequent arrows.

e) No target jumping unless with the permission of the shoot organiser/marshals.

### **Arrows (including crossbow bolts)**

14) The arrow speed of any arrow or bolt must not exceed 300 feet per second (fps), plus 3% tolerance for chronograph error. Bows may be randomly tested at any open or Championship event using a chronograph. The person carrying out the testing will select three or more of the archer's arrows to be tested and an average taken as the bow speed. Arrows / bolts must not exceed a speed of 300 fps, (plus 3% tolerance for chronograph error). If the speed of any arrow is found to be over this legal speed, the archer has the right to shoot the same arrow again. If arrow speeds are found to be below 270 fps only two arrows need to be shot.

15) All arrows must bear the archer's name. This identification should be a minimum of the archer's initial and surname.

16) All arrows must be marked to show the order of shooting (first, second and third arrows) by having rings or other markings that are visible from all angles to scorers.

17) Arrows which unduly damage targets, such as broad-heads, bodkins, turbo points and blunts are not permitted and must not be carried during any shoots.

### **Distance judging and spotting**

18) No archer may make use of any mechanism for calibrating the distance to be shot. The use of any equipment capable of range finding/distance judging is prohibited. No archer is allowed to receive information from another person using such a device, nor from an archer waiting to shoot or having shot. Peg-to-peg and peg-to-target distances must not be paced/walked (see Rule 25a).

19) Cameras or any other devices capable of recording photographs (still or video) may be used to take photographs only with the agreement of every archer in the group. It is forbidden to use such a device in any way that could give any archer in the group a potential advantage by using the device as a rangefinder or monocular. No photograph can be taken of a target and/or surrounding terrain by an archer before that archer has finished shooting that target and nor should the device be pointed at or focused on a target before the archer has finished shooting. A photographer must not show pictures of the target and/or surrounding terrain to an archer until the archer has also finished shooting that target.

20) Archers must not discuss the distance to a target until all archers in the group have finished shooting. Archers must ensure that any subsequent discussion is not heard by other archers who have not yet shot the target.

21) No archer may record information regarding distance or positioning of targets or backstops at any time.

22) The practice of spotting is restricted to another member of the group saying 'yes' or 'no' when asked if an arrow is



scoring. Helping other archers to 'range-find' by identifying where misses have landed is not allowed in open shoots or Championships. An archer using a crossbow must not use the crossbow scope to assist another archer to spot and nor is a non-crossbow archer permitted to use a crossbow scope to spot.

23) No forward spotting is permitted (see 'Safety Rules', rule 18).

24) At no time in a Championship competition shall any archer be allowed to compete who has prior knowledge of the course layout to be shot over.

25) Archers may only refer to written sight marks and placement cards as a means of improving his or her score if shooting one of the following bow styles: (a) Crossbow (b) Freestyle (c) Unlimited. Compound Limited archers can only use placement cards, but not written sight marks as a means of improving scores.

a) Shooting Rule 3 sets out the pegs to be shot according to the age group and bow class of an archer. An archer must not move in front of any pegs that he/she has yet to shoot. In exceptional circumstances an archer may decline to shoot from a particular peg and move to the next, lower scoring peg (if applicable). Where a course layer has set a peg out of sequence or made it unavoidable that an archer walks in front of a peg that has yet to be shot, an archer must walk no further forward than necessary to take a shot. If an archer is in doubt about whether an arrow has hit, either the archer should take another shot (if applicable) or remain on the next peg to be shot until another member of the shooting group confirms whether the shot is a hit or a miss. Should an archer genuinely believe that a target has been hit, but upon approaching the target discovers that the shot has missed, it is permissible to walk back and shoot from the next peg in the sequence. It is

recognised that a walkout route may unavoidably take archers directly past pegs to be shot and this does not constitute a breach of Rule 25a.

## **Shooting**

26) The archer's leading foot or knee (e.g. left foot/knee if bow held in left hand) must touch the rear of the peg s/he is shooting from.

27) No coaching is allowed during Open and Championship competitions. The only exception is at Open shoots if every member of a group decides it is permissible to allow guidance to be given to inexperienced archers.

28) Archers suffering from prolonged disability shall be allowed, at the discretion of the Committee, to use appropriate aids and/or methods on production of adequate medical evidence. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, any dispensation granted may have a time limit attached and may require the archer to shoot non-competitively.

29) In replacing or repairing broken equipment or bows, the archer must not disrupt other archers' shooting or break any safety rules.

## **Conduct of Members**

All members must conduct themselves in a manner that ensures they do not cause unreasonable offence to others. The following list provides examples of behaviour which will not be tolerated by the Society and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the member (as defined under 'Enforcement of rules' in the Constitution). The list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive:

- Abusive or threatening behaviour;
- Physical or sexual assault;
- Harassment, discrimination or victimisation on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, disability or age;
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- Willful damage to premises or property.
- Refusal to comply with reasonable requests from marshals, course officials or helpers;
- Willful neglect of NFAS' rules (as defined in clause 3.2 of the Constitution).

Any breach of NFAS rules may be subject to the disciplinary processes set out in section 3 of the Constitution.

## **Championships**

To be eligible to enter the National Championships or 3D Championships you must have either:

- a) Shot in a previous NFAS National or 3D Championship and can be verified; or
- b) Provide three score cards (signed and dated by the shoot organiser) for the shooting style you intend to shoot at your first Championships. The score cards must be for shoots that have taken place within the last three years, be from three separate NFAS open shoots (though not necessarily from three different clubs) and must not be from your own club.

## **SAFETY RULES**

The rules below are current from 1st April 2022 and may be subsequently changed following the procedures set out in the NFAS Constitution.

### **Safety Policy**

The National Field Archery Society (NFAS) exists to foster and promote Field Archery in all its forms. The General Committee of the NFAS will carry out the affairs of the Society with due respect for the environment and the health, safety and welfare of its Members and others who may be affected. The NFAS is committed to the promotion of best practice amongst its membership and as such will take steps to communicate this and ensure that all Members may draw from the experience of others. The NFAS will devise and maintain systems and procedures to achieve its aims and comply with the law. Where appropriate the NFAS will consult and involve the Membership. All members have a responsibility for safety and the Society depends on the compliance of individuals to ensure these safety standards are met.

Because a bow and arrow (including a crossbow and bolt) can be a lethal weapon every member of the Society is responsible for ensuring that she/he shoots safely. All members are expected to intervene and take constructive action where she/he identifies unsafe situations caused by another archer or any other person/s on a course or because of the course design.

Any proposed change to NFAS' Rules or Constitution that has the potential to increase the lethality of any bow and/or arrow (including a crossbow and/or bolt) or, in the opinion of the Committee, has other detrimental safety implications is to be treated as being a change to the Safety Rules and will therefore be subject to veto by the Committee as provided in Rule 7.2 of the Governance Rules of the Constitution.

## **Learning from safety issues**

The NFAS Safety Advisor will publish information about all shots perceived as dangerous, Near Hit incidents and accidents in the NFAS Newsletter, giving the nature of the incident so that all archers can learn from the experiences of others (see rules 1-5).

## **Rules about shooting safety**

- 1) It is the responsibility of each archer to ensure that others in the group are shooting safely and in accordance with NFAS rules.
- 2) Archers must report dangerously laid targets, dangerous behaviour and Near Hit incidents to course officials or marshals at the earliest opportunity.
- 3) Archers must report accidents to course officials or marshals immediately.
- 4) Course officials and/or marshals must be experienced members of the Society and be in possession of an up to date NFAS Rule Book. Officials must investigate as soon as it is safe to do so any report of dangerously laid targets, dangerous behaviour, near hit incidents and accidents made by archers and take necessary steps to reduce any hazard.
  - a) Any non-archer who accompanies an archer around a course, whether as a shoot guardian or observer, must hold

a minimum of Associate Membership in order to be covered by NFAS insurance. Such an individual must follow all applicable NFAS safety rules. Any marshal or course official at an open, Championship or friendly shoot must be a NFAS member and have an up to date NFAS Rule Book available.

5) All dangerously laid targets, dangerous behaviour, Near Hit incidents and accidents must be reported by all the archers witnessing these incidents to the NFAS Safety Advisor within seven days, regardless of any subsequent action taken by course organisers. It is unfair to report any issue only to the NFAS Safety Advisor without having raised the same issues with the shoot organiser or a marshal. All shoot organisers must submit a near hit/accident report to the NFAS Safety Advisor within seven days of any incident.

6) Archers must always ensure that the target and visible overshoot are clear of other archers before shooting. If you have concerns about the safety of a shot, do not shoot but call a marshal to take appropriate action.

7) Whilst someone else is shooting be alert for possible danger. Where possible danger exists shout "STOP". On hearing "STOP" all members of the group must stop shooting immediately.

8) Never point or loose an arrow in any direction other than at the intended target.

9) Never point an arrow at a person and never shoot to the side of a person.

10) Never point a bow – whether loaded or unloaded - at anyone.

11) Never knowingly shoot a damaged arrow.

12) Never move between targets with an arrow nocked on the string.

13) Bows must not be drawn in a manner where an accidental release could be dangerous. A bow must never initially be drawn above a line parallel to the target. Crossbows must only be loaded with the track and bolt pointing towards the floor.

14) It is only permitted to physically assist another archer where there is a genuine safety issue, e.g. high wind, dazzling sun or slippery terrain. This can only be done with the unanimous agreement of all members of the shooting group and only if there is no risk to the archer, the person providing the assistance and all other members of the group.

a) The use of shooting sticks (or any other seat) is not allowed when shooting any type of bow or crossbow as recognised by the NFAS. The use of such equipment is inherently unstable and, therefore, an unacceptable hazard.

b) Wheelchairs used to enhance the mobility of a person with a recognised disability are not viewed as 'any other seat' and, therefore can be used by the disabled wheelchair user to shoot from a seated position. Wheelchairs are inherently more stable and safe from which to shoot as long as the terrain is deemed by the club (for open shoots) and/or the NFAS (for National events) as compatible.

c) Shooting a crossbow from a floor-based sitting position is not allowed as other crossbow related rules regarding the cocking and/or loading of the crossbow cannot safely be complied with.

15) Every adult archer must carry a whistle:

a) In the event of an emergency or accident, only one capable person (normally an adult) shall use a whistle to give the emergency signal of three blasts followed by a pause.

b) On hearing the emergency signal, all archers must stop shooting immediately.

c) The emergency signal shall be repeated only by one of the group originating the signal until the shoot organiser or a marshal arrives at the scene.

d) On hearing the emergency signal any other persons on the shoot site (such as caterers, trade stalls etc) must stay where they are until told otherwise by the shoot organiser or a marshal.

e) The shoot organiser and marshals, on hearing the emergency whistle signal, shall immediately sound the shoot's 'stop shooting' signal, which should also be three blasts. The source of this signal (e.g. an air horn) must be announced to archers in the shoot organiser's pre-shoot safety briefing.

f) Only the shoot organiser can restart the shoot (with the information passed on by marshals if necessary). The restart signal is normally one blast of the same source (e.g. an air horn) which was used to stop the shoot which should also be highlighted at the pre-shoot safety briefing. A whistle must not be used to restart a shoot.

16) No one must be on a NFAS course under the influence of alcohol or drugs. No alcohol should be present or consumed on the course, or during any activities held under NFAS rules. Archers must not be under the influence of any medication which causes drowsiness whilst shooting. Advice can be sought from a medical practitioner or pharmacist if there is any uncertainty about whether any medication affects an archer's ability to shoot safely.

17) The NFAS Child and Vulnerable Person Policy is available to ALL members on the NFAS website (nfas.net). It is the responsibility of parents/guardians, shoot organisers and clubs to ensure that the policy is followed. Any person coaching or involved in coaching must hold a current DBS



(previously CRB) Certificate. This is available at [dbs@nfas.net](mailto:dbs@nfas.net).

18) No one in a group is permitted to stand forward of the archer on the shooting peg (including no forward spotting).

19) Do not alter the setting of the shot. If you believe there is a safety issue alert the shoot organiser or marshal.

20) Give the archer on the peg sufficient room to avoid creating a safety hazard or distracting the archer.

21) When scoring, drawing or looking for lost arrows, at least one adult member of a group must remain standing in front of the target

22) Walk away from the target as a group and never go back to the target. The group must always be led by an adult and have an adult at the rear, keeping all children walking between them.

23) Always keep to the marked path when moving from one target to the next. The marked path should also be followed when a round has been completed because other groups may still be shooting.

24) Keep dogs under close control. Anybody bringing a dog to a venue used for field archery is responsible for its behaviour at all times and in all areas. During competitions and when in proximity to anybody shooting (including practice), all dogs must be controlled and on a lead of no more than three metres in length.

## **Safety of provisional members**

Provisional members are not allowed to shoot at any NFAS friendly, open or Championship shoot until they have received their Full membership card. To receive this they need to have been deemed competent and be signed off by one of the

recognised person/s designated on the membership form (as in 2.3 Governance Rules).

Provisional members can shoot at club shoots under the guidance of a coach or experienced archer. The shooting participants of a club shoot can only be members of that club (but may also belong to other clubs). If another NFAS member who is not a member of that club participates in a shoot organised by the club, that shoot will be designated as a friendly or open shoot and a provisional member is no longer allowed to participate as an archer.

It is not permissible for clubs to grant temporary membership to bypass this rule.

#### *Safe equipment guidance*

See Guidance Section

### **Rules about Course Laying**

25) All courses must be evaluated for safety risks prior to a shoot by a responsible individual or individuals who will take the necessary action to make a shoot as safe as possible.

26) Any potential hazards (for example potentially slippery bridges, rabbit holes) identified when evaluating course safety risks (rule 25) must be highlighted to archers in a pre-shoot safety briefing.

27) To avoid dangerous deflections every shot must have a clear shooting window or windows which makes the shot potentially hittable for all types of bows and all archers shooting from each peg. This includes space to each side to allow for crossbow prods.

28) Shooting pegs should be positioned in as straight a line as possible to the target to maximise the effectiveness of

backstops and overshoots and reduce the risk of damage to arrows.

29) Safe overshoots must be provided for all targets taking into account different bow types, the potential for deflections and the terrain (for example a longer overshoot will be required if the ground drops away).

30) Sufficient sideways separation between targets must be allowed, taking into account different bow types, the potential for deflections and the terrain. Greater distance for sideways separation must be allowed for long shots or shots involving shooting through gaps in or between trees, where there is greater risk of deflections occurring.

31) Do not set out targets where the direction of shooting faces towards areas used by the general public (e.g. roads, public footpaths, parking and catering areas) unless a safe overshoot can be provided.

32) Enough space must be provided for three members of a group to stand in front of the target to score and pull arrows.

33) Course direction markers must be clearly marked along the whole route.

### *Course laying guidance*

See Guidance Section

## **Rules about organising shoots**

34) The shoot organiser must provide a safety briefing prior to each shoot commencing, identifying any high-risk matters (see rule 25), information about what to do in case of an accident (first aid and instructions for stopping/restarting the shoot in case of an accident – also see rule 15), whether smoking is allowed and what signal will be used to start the shoot.

35) The shoot organiser must ensure that course officials and marshals have safety information to use in the case of an emergency. This would normally include: map reference for the shoot; the name of the access road(s); the address of the nearest Accident & Emergency hospital; the nearest helicopter landing site (if applicable).

36) All competitors and non-shooting persons (including marshals) that are or intend to be on any course at any competition - open, friendly or Championship - must be current members of the NFAS. If any of these persons cannot produce their current membership card to the shoot organiser or admin then any other NFAS Committee approved proof of membership can be used. A Provisional Member is not permitted to shoot at any open, friendly or Championship event. Non-NFAS persons such as caterers must be confined to restricted areas within a designated safe zone.

37) All marshals should wear high visibility clothing.

*Safe organisation guidance*

See Guidance Section

*Course etiquette guidance*

See Guidance Section

## SHOOTING STYLE RULES

The rules below are current from 1st April 2022 and may be subsequently changed following the procedures set out in the NFAS Constitution.

Unless explicitly forbidden in the rules below, any equipment is permissible except for Barebow, HT, TB, FS. Binoculars and monoculars are not allowed to be used on the course unless stated specifically in the rules for the style being shot.

Binoculars and monoculars are not allowed to be used on the course unless stated specifically in the rules for the style being shot.

Bows may be randomly tested at any open or Championship event using a chronograph. The person carrying out the testing will select three or more of the archer's arrows to be tested and an average taken as the bow speed. As per rule 14 of the NFAS 'Shooting Rules', the arrow speed of any arrow or bolt must not exceed 300 feet per second (fps) plus 3% tolerance for chronograph error. If the speed of any arrow is found to be over this legal speed, the archer has the right to shoot the same arrow again. If arrow speeds are found to be below 270 fps only two arrows need to be shot.

American Flatbow, Bowhunter, Compound Limited, Hunting Tackle and Longbow require the use of a 'Mediterranean loose'. It is optional in other bow styles except TD, XB, TXB. A Mediterranean loose means one finger above and the middle and ring fingers below the nock.

Archers using face walking or string walking must shoot in Freestyle and Unlimited.

## **American Flatbow (AFB)**

A one-piece bow, of any draw-weight, may be used where the braced limbs curve in one direction only from the handle riser to the string nock. When braced the string must not come into contact with the face of either limb except at the nock grooves. The limb cross-section may vary from oval to rectangular.

The handle may incorporate a cut-away of less than centre-cut to provide an arrow-shelf and the shelf may have a protective cover.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow). Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the string serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed. No additional vibration dampeners are allowed on or in the handle section or limbs of the bow.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. The "Mediterranean" loose only is permitted. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

No internal or external stabilisers are allowed.

No form of release aid is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

Arrows shafts must be of wood, fletched with natural feather. No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his or her score.

## **Barebow (BB)**

A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow or crossbow, may be used.

No sight or sighting aid of any description can be used.

There shall be no markings that could be used to aim in the window of the bow riser. If present they must be covered up with a vertical solid colour tape that does not in itself become a marking.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour.

One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow). Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the string serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot and the index finger must touch the nock at full draw. No face or string walking is allowed. No drawchecks of any kind are permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted.

A single stabiliser of any length, riser weights and dampeners are allowed. Any additional weights attached to the stabiliser must be attached to the end furthest from the bow. The bow, de-strung and without bow quiver and the one permitted stabiliser, must fit through a 13cm internal diameter solid ring, with the weights and dampeners attached. The stabiliser must only protrude to the front of the bow.

A bow quiver that attaches to the side of the riser, be it by bolts or limb grippers, is allowed if the arrows are used from the bow quiver. Additional arrows can be carried but must only be used to replace lost or damaged arrows on the bow quiver.

A rest, pressure button and unmodified shelf are allowed.  
No over draw is allowed behind the throat of the handgrip.

Archers shooting in the Barebow class may use binoculars/monocular or placement cards, but not both, to identify the position of the scoring zones while standing at the shooting peg, only as part of their first shot. Any binocular/monocular must not be capable of measuring the distance to the target.

### **Bowhunter (BH)**

A compound bow, but not a compound crossbow, of any draw-weight may be used.

No sight of any description can be used.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow). Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the sting serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot and no face or string walking is allowed. No additional draw-checks can be added to the bow above the manufacturer's specification and any such draw-check must not be able to be used as a sighting aid.

Any arrow rest used cannot have an over-draw of more than 2 inches (5cm) behind the throat of the hand-grip. This is measured along the length of a nocked arrow from the point where the arrow touches the rest to the point vertically above the throat of the hand-grip.



A single stabiliser of no more than 12 inches (30cm) measured from the back of the bow is permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted. The 'Mediterranean' loose only is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

With effect during the whole day, archers shooting in the Bowhunter class may use either (but not both) placement cards or binocular/monocular, at any point during the day. Spotting must comply with rule 22 and 23 of the shooting rules for other styles. Any binoculars/monocular must not be capable of measuring the distance to the target.

### **Compound Limited (CL)**

A compound bow of any draw-weight may be used. A multi-pin sight with up to five fixed pins may be used. None of the pins or sight block can be adjusted on the course unless the archer suffers from equipment failure. No spirit level of any kind is permitted. No additional deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming. Pin guards are permitted.

A peep-sight or kisser button is permitted but not both. One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. No additional draw-checks can be added to the bow above the manufacturer's specification and any such draw-check must not be able to be used as a sighting aid.

Any arrow rest used cannot have an over-draw of more than 2 inches (5cm) behind the throat of the hand-grip. This is measured along the length of a nocked arrow from the point where the arrow touches the rest to the point vertically above the throat of the hand-grip.

Any stabiliser(s) or stabiliser system and/or dampeners are permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted. The 'Mediterranean' loose only is permitted.

With effect during the whole day, archers shooting in the Compound limited class may use either (but not both) placement cards or binocular/monocular, at any point during the day. Spotting must comply with rule 22 and 23 of the shooting rules for other styles. Any binoculars/monocular must not be capable of measuring the distance to the target.

## **Crossbow (XB)**

A bow of any draw weight may be used, but not of compound design.

The crossbow prod can be made from any materials except aluminium alloy.

The minimum bolt length is to be 14".

The bow must have a full trigger guard.

A manual or automatic safety mechanism must be fitted to the crossbow and be fully functional.

The crossbow must be fitted with a bolt retaining clip. A foot stirrup or T-bar is permitted. A cocking rope only may be used, no other cocking devices/aids are allowed. Bolt weight must not exceed 500 total grains (including point, fletches and insert). A telescopic sight with adjustable parallax is not permitted. A telescopic sight with an adjustable focus objective lens is not permitted.

Telescopic sights with variable magnification are allowed but cannot be adjusted during a shoot. All types of reticule including mil dot and illuminated are permitted. Telescopic sights with an adjustable ocular lens (eye piece) focus are permitted but cannot be adjusted during the shoot. The archer must allow scrutiny of the sight by any NFAS official, shoot

organiser or marshal.

A crossbow archer may only cock his/her bow at the shooting peg. Once loaded the crossbow shall only be pointed in the direction of the target.

The archer must not use a rest of any description which provides an additional point of support for the bow whilst shooting. This does not include the archer's own body.

It is an offence for a person under 18 years of age to have in their possession:

- a) A crossbow which is capable of discharging a missile, or
- b) Parts of a crossbow which together (and without any other parts) can be assembled to form a crossbow capable of discharging a missile

UNLESS the person is under the supervision of someone who is 21 years of age or older.

With effect during the whole day, archers shooting in the Crossbow class may use either (but not both) placement cards or binoculars/monocular at any point during the day. Spotting must comply with rules 22 and 23 of the Shooting Rules for other styles. Any binoculars/monocular must not be capable of measuring the distance to the target.



## **Freestyle (FS)**

A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow or crossbow, may be used.

Subject to the 'NFAS Rules of Shooting', archers shooting in this class have complete freedom of choice of equipment, with the exception that no form of release aid is allowed and no electrically powered or electronic equipment can be used including laser sights and lights on sights.

The sight may be moved at will during shooting.

Attachments, knots or bands of any size or design (including a peep sight) may be used on the string irrespective of whether the use is for aiding the sighting or shooting technique.

Any draw-length checking mechanism may be used.

## **Hunting Tackle (HT)**

A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow or crossbow, may be used.

No sight or sighting aid of any description can be used. There shall be no markings that could be used to aim in the window of the bow riser. If present, they must be covered up with a vertical solid colour tape that does not in itself become a marking.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour.

A rest, pressure button and shelf are allowed.

One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow, at least one nocking point must be attached to the serving). Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the string serving) that could be used for

sighting or location purposes are allowed. One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. The 'Mediterranean' loose only is permitted.

No draw-checks of any kind are permitted. No over draw is allowed behind the throat of the handgrip.

No internal or external stabilisers, dampeners or weights are allowed. A bow quiver that attaches to the side of the riser, be it by bolts or limb grippers, is allowed if the arrows are used from the bow quiver.

Additional arrows can be carried but must only be used to replace lost or damaged arrows on the bow quiver.

Arrows shafts must be of natural material and fletched with natural feather.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving a score.

## **Longbow (LB)**

The bow, of any draw-weight, must be of wood only (although partial bamboo construction is permitted), and of "D" or oval section.

When braced the limbs must curve in one direction only from the handle riser to the string nock. When braced the string must not come into contact with the face of either limb except at the nock grooves. The ends of the limbs cannot be recurved. Limb nocks must be of self-nature or made of horn. The handle section/grip must not be shaped in a way that assists hand location. Any hand grip must not be capable of supporting an arrow when the bow is held vertically. The bow must be free of stabilisers or added weight, sights, arrow-rests or cut-aways for the arrow to rest on.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the

string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow). Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the string serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed. No additional vibration dampeners are allowed on the handle section or limbs of the bow.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. The "Mediterranean" loose only is permitted. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

Arrows shafts must be of wood, fletched with natural feather.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

## **Primitive (PV)**

A Primitive bow is a hand bow made using natural materials only, although synthetic glues, finishes and string may be used in its construction. A cable-backed bow may include a natural or synthetic tensioning cable running along the back. A bow that conforms to the NFAS Longbow class definition may not be used in Primitive class.

Crossbows may not be used in Primitive class.

The bow must be free of stabilisers, sights, or other features which could be used as a sight, such as deliberate marks, bindings, or decoration.

A primitive bow may not include a cut away arrow pass or arrow shelf. No form of arrow rest may be added to the side of the bow. Arrows must be shot off the hand.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the

coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. Synthetic and natural string materials may be used. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow). Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the string serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed. No additional vibration dampeners are allowed on the handle section or limbs of the bow.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. Any form of hand loose may be used including Mediterranean, two finger, pinch, thumb ring etc. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted on the bow.

No form of release aid is permitted.

Arrows shafts must be of natural material, fletched with feather. Nocks to be self nocks or reinforced with natural material. Plastic taper nocks may not be used.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

### **Thumb Draw (TD)**

A one-piece hand bow made of any materials, but not a compound bow, may be used.

There must be no arrow shelf, arrow rest, arrow pass or hand grip on the side on which the arrow is drawn that is capable of supporting an arrow when the bow is held vertically.

The bow must be free of stabilisers or added weight, and of sights or other features which could be used as a sight such as deliberate marks, bindings or decoration.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour.



Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the string serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed.

The thumb loose only is permitted. Arrows must be shot off the hand 'and on the opposite side of the bow to the hand which holds the bow. If the bow is held in the left hand, the arrow is shot off the bow's right-hand side, and vice versa'. A thumb ring or other form of thumb protection may be worn. No draw checks of any kind are permitted. No form of release aid is permitted.

### **Traditional Bowhunter (TB)**

A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow or crossbow, may be used. The bow may be of one-piece construction, or a 2 or 3-piece takedown.

The arrow must be shot from the bow shelf or hand. No rest or button of any description can be used. The handle may incorporate a cut-away of any depth to provide an arrow shelf. The shelf and side plate may have a protective cover no more than 5mm thick. A rigid strike/side plate of a thickness required to bring the arrow to centre shot of the bow is permitted.

No sight or sighting aid of any description can be used. There shall be no markings that could be used to aim in the window of the bow riser. If present, they must be covered up with a vertical solid colour tape that in itself does not become a marking.

Only one nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow, at least one nocking point must be attached to the serving). No other knots or attachments in addition to the string serving (excluding silencers), that could be used for sighting or

location purposes, are allowed.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot and the index finger must touch the nock at full draw. No face or string walking is allowed. No drawchecks of any kind are permitted. No over draw is allowed behind the throat of the handgrip. No form of release aid is permitted.

No internal or external stabilisers, dampeners or weights are allowed. A bow quiver that attaches to the side of the riser, be it by bolts or limb grippers, is allowed if the arrows are used from the bow quiver.

Additional arrows can be carried but must only be used to replace lost or damaged arrows on the bow quiver.

The bowstring may be of different colours if the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour.

Arrows shafts must be of non-wooden and non-bamboo materials, fletched with natural feathers.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving a score.

## **Unlimited (UL)**

A hand-bow, which can be a compound bow but not a crossbow, of any draw-weight may be used.

Subject to the General Rules, archers shooting in this class have complete freedom of choice of equipment.

No electrically powered or electronic equipment may be used (e.g., electronic release aids, laser sights), with the exception of sight lights that solely illuminate the pin(s) 'and electronic displays as long as they are not range finders

Any release aid used must be safe and not prone to premature release from any cause.

With effect during the whole day, archers shooting in the

Unlimited class may use either (but not both) placement cards or binocular/monocular, at any point during the day. Once the shot has been taken no archers may glass the target from the shooting stake. Spotting must comply with 22 and 23 of the shooting rules for other styles. Framing and the act of range finding is not permitted. Any bino/mono must not be capable of measuring the distance to the target.

## **Traditional Crossbow**

A crossbow (but not a compound crossbow) with a wood stock, wood butt, wood barrel and wood or natural material rail must be used. No sight of any description can be used. Only wooden bolts, sizes 5/16", 11/32" or 23/64", can be used. The bolt length excluding pile and separate nock (if used) must be between 14" and 16". Bolt length and pile weight must uniform throughout a competition. Natural material or feather fletches only. A foot stirrup must be used in conjunction with a cocking rope or goats foot to conform to manufacturer's safety instructions. The crossbow must be fitted with a bolt retaining clip. A trigger guard must be in place and a safety mechanism must be used when the bow is cocked. Prods must be made of either steel, fibreglass or wood. Draw-weight must not exceed 200lbs. Stroke length must not exceed 10".

A crossbow archer may only cock their bow at the shooting peg. Once loaded the crossbow shall only be pointed in the direction of the target. The archer must not use a rest of any description which provides an additional point of support for the bow whilst shooting. This does not include the archer's own body.

It is an offence for a person under 18 years of age to have in their possession:

- a) A crossbow which is capable of discharging a missile, or
- b) Parts of a crossbow which together (and without any other parts) can be assembled to form a crossbow capable of discharging a missile UNLESS the person is under the supervision of someone who is 21 years of age or older.

## SUGGESTED ROUNDS

The following rounds were approved at NFAS' AGM in January 2009 and have remained unchanged.

The following rounds are suggestions for use by Clubs. Clubs may use any of the rounds below, variations of these rounds or invent new rounds as long as all the rounds conform with NFAS' Safety Rules.

### Rules specific to target types

Unless the shoot organiser tells you otherwise in the pre-shoot briefing, the following apply:

#### Three dimensional targets (3Ds)

- a) All visible and marked kills count.
- b) If there are no kill zones marked on a target, the whole target counts as a kill.
- c) Kill areas must be clearly marked on targets and drawn on by course organisers if necessary. There must be no ambiguity about which areas constitute inner kill (if used), kill and wound areas.
- d) If the animal has multiple kill areas (e.g. front, side and top) all of these count. If the shoot organiser wishes only one kill area to be used, the shoot organiser should specify which kill area counts.
- e) Horns, hooves and bases do not count.
- f) Inner kills are to be scored where used. First arrow inner kills count for 24 using 'Big Game' scoring. Inner kills are not scored on subsequent arrows.

(g) 'Predator - Prey' target pairs. At some pegs, two animals may be laid, one representing an animal predating on the other animal. The idea of the shot is to kill the predator first so that it is no longer a threat, and then to shoot the prey.

The shot should be clearly marked as a Predator - Prey shot by a sign visible from the first shooting position. This sign must clearly define which target is the predator and which is the prey.

- I. A maximum of 3 arrows may be shot at the pair of targets.
- II. Shoot at the predator from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd pegs as normal until you have hit it.
- III. You may then use any remaining of your three arrows to shoot the prey, starting from the 1st peg and progress to the 2nd peg if necessary.

Scoring for each target is as defined in Section D of the Big Game rule. A maximum score is therefore two 24s

*Two dimensional targets (e.g. cut-outs, 2Ds)*

- a) Rules a – c above apply.
- b) The narrow side of a 2D target does not score unless the target is clearly on an angle to the archer.
- c) On a cut-out or 2D only the animal image counts scores (i.e. any border outside the wound line is not part of the target).

*Faces (e.g. paper faces, hessian faces)*

- a) Rules a – c above apply for one dimensional targets containing pictures of animals.
- b) For animal targets only the outer line and zone inside the line counts (i.e. not 'fur and feather'). Also see Shooting Rule 6.

**Big Game Round (also called Animal or Game)**

- a) This round uses one, two or three-dimensional animal targets or mixes of these targets. The NFAS National Championships shoot Big Game Rounds using paper faces whilst the NFAS 3D Championships shoot Big Game Rounds using 3D targets.
- b) Targets have a kill zone and an outer 'wound' zone. The kill zone may be split into an inner kill and an outer kill (and the latter is simply known as the 'kill'). The NFAS National Championships and NFAS 3D Championships use inner kills.
- c) Each archer shoots the target from a maximum of three pegs. One arrow is shot from each peg until a score is made. The use of pegs is as Scoring is as shown in 'Shooting Rules' rule 3.

d) Scoring is:

1st arrow inner kill (if used)      24  
*(inner kills only scored on first arrow)*

1st arrow kill	20	1st arrow wound	16
2nd arrow kill	14	2nd arrow wound	10
3rd arrow kill	8	3rd arrow wound	4

e) During winter with limited amounts of daylight shoot organisers could consider restricting archers to only shooting a maximum of two arrows.

f) At the end of a round if two archers' scores are tied on points, the archer scoring the highest number of spots/inner kills (if used) or highest number of kills will take the higher position in any scoring rankings.

g) 'Predator-Prey' target pairs. At some pegs, two animals may be laid, one representing an animal predating on the other animal. The idea of the shot is to kill the predator first so that it is no longer a threat, and then to shoot the prey. The shot should be clearly marked as a Predator-Prey shot by a sign visible from the first shooting position. This sign must clearly define which target is the predator and which is the prey.

- i. A maximum of 3 arrows may be shot at the pair of targets.
- ii. Shoot at the predator from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd pegs as normal until you have hit it.
- iii. You may then use any remaining of your three arrows to shoot the prey, starting from the 1st peg and progress to the 2nd peg if necessary. Scoring for each target is as defined in Section D of the Big Game rule. A maximum score is therefore two 24s.



## Woodsman Round

a) This only differs from the Big Game Round in that archers stop shooting only when a kill is scored. Rules (a) and (b) for Big Game apply.

b) Inner kills are not used. Scoring is:

1st arrow kill	30	1st arrow wound	5
2nd arrow kill	20	2nd arrow wound	5
3rd arrow kill	10	3rd arrow wound	5

Example scores would be:

1st arrow wound (5) + 2nd arrow kill (20) + 3rd arrow not shot = 25 points.

1st arrow wound (5) + 2nd arrow wound (5) + 3rd arrow kill (10) = 20 points.

c) On score cards show the number of scoring arrows and total score, for the first example above put '2 for 25'.

## **Swedish Forester Round**

a) This round uses Swedish Game paper faces. These animal faces have an outer ring, an inner ring and a spot and come in three sizes:

- i. Large: 12 inch / 30 cm outer ring
- ii. Medium: 9 inch / 23 cm outer ring
- iii. Small: 6 inch / 15 cm outer ring.

b) A round is made up of one or more 'units' of 14 targets. A unit comprises five large faces, five medium faces and four small faces. Two small faces are often put on one boss to avoid arrow damage.

c) Three arrows are shot from different pegs at large faces, two arrows are shot from different pegs at medium faces and one arrow is shot at small faces. Hence a 'unit' of 14 targets involves 26 arrows (3 x five large faces, 2 x five medium faces and 1 x 4 small faces).

d) Pegs used are as for Big Game, with all three pegs being shot for large faces, the furthest two pegs used for medium targets and the furthest peg used for small targets.

e) Non-adults shoot the furthest pegs (as per Shooting Rule 3) for their age group. For a medium face on a Swedish Forester Round, an archer aged 12 years of age and under 14 would shoot blue and yellow pegs.

f) Scoring is 5 for an outer, 10 for an inner and 15 for a spot.

g) On score cards show the number of scoring arrows, total score and number of spots.

## **Swedish Bushman Round**

a) This is identical as for the Swedish Forester Round except that:

- i. Three arrows are shot from different pegs for large and medium targets.
- ii. Two arrows are shot from different pegs for small targets. Consequently, a 'unit' of 14 targets involves 38 arrows (3 x five large faces, 3 x five medium faces and 2 x 4 small faces).

## **Swedish Poacher Round**

a) This is identical as for the Swedish Forester Round except that:

- i. Three arrows are shot at all size of face (making a total of 42 arrows in a 'unit').
- ii. Three small faces are normally put on a boss to minimise arrow damage.

## **East Midlands Round**

a) As the Swedish Poacher Round using Big Game faces.

b) Scoring is 10 for a kill and 5 for a wound. No inner kills are used.

The previous version of NFAS Rounds showed Forester, Bushman and Poacher rounds. Targets for these rounds are no longer available and so these rounds have been omitted. The 'Swedish' rounds have been modified since the previous version of NFAS rounds because some sizes of targets previously used are no longer available.

# THE NATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY SOCIETY CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS

## CONSTITUTION

The Constitution below has remained unchanged since January 2009.

This Constitution was adopted by the National Field Archery Society ("the Society") at its Annual General Meeting held on 24th January 2009 to replace all previous Constitutions and Rules of the Society.

### 1. Name

The name of the Society is The National Field Archery Society.

### 2. Objectives

2.1 The Society exists to foster and promote Field Archery (as defined in the Shooting Handbook of the Society) as a sport in which archers enjoy themselves by shooting at inanimate objects, placed at distances unknown to the archers, set in natural undulating terrain populated by trees and shrubbery with few or no clear-laned targets;

2.2 The Society believes that Field Archery being originally devised to simulate hunting and to provide as much pleasure as possible in the practice of the sport, all courses should be constructed with this in mind;

2.3 The Society believes that, in the true spirit of field archery, the archer is competing against himself, the field, the

peculiarities of the terrain, the organiser's design and layout of the round with the natural objects and obstacles that have been included;

2.4 The Society is not interested in international competition.

### **3. Constitution**

3.1 The Society is a private members' society administered on behalf of its members by a General Committee, and subject to the ultimate control of the members in General Meeting;

3.2 The Constitutional Documents of the Society ("the Constitutional Documents") shall consist of the Constitution and Governance Rules of the Society contained in this document together with the following documents known collectively as "The NFAS Shooting Handbook" - the NFAS Shooting Rules, NFAS Safety Rules, NFAS Shooting Styles Rules, NFAS Rounds and the Society's Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons and other rules subsequently introduced by the Society;

3.3 The Constitutional Documents including this Constitution shall be subject to amendment as set out in the Governance Rules of the Society.

### **4 The Company**

4.1 The sole purpose of NFAS Limited (Company Number 05065370 incorporated on 5 March 2004) ("the Company") is to act as the custodian trustee of the Society to hold and administer the Society's funds and other property. The members of the Company at the date of adoption of this Constitution will procure that the Company adopts a new Memorandum and Articles of Association in a form

commensurate with its intended purpose as the Society's custodian trustee;

4.2 As shall be provided in the new Memorandum and Articles of Association the Trustees of the Company will be the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Membership Secretary of the Society. They will also be the only members of the Company and, immediately following the adoption of the new Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company all other members and directors will resign;

4.3 The Company will conduct its affairs through its Trustees in accordance with the instructions of the General Committee. The Trustees, in carrying out their function will take due account of the wishes of the members of the Society expressed at General Meetings and of the Company's overriding responsibility to the Society in its capacity as the Society's custodian trustee.

## **GOVERNANCE RULES**

### **of the National Field Archery Society**

("the Society")

#### **1. The Officers and General Committee**

1.1 The General Committee consists of the Officers and the Ex-Officio Members who shall be responsible for all matters affecting the administration of the Society except in those matters requiring decision at general meetings of the members of the Society ("General Meetings");

1.2 The Officers of the Society shall consist of the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Field Officer, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Coach Training Co-ordinator, Safety Adviser, Supplies Officer, Shoot Dates Organiser and Webmaster;

1.3 The President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Field Officer and Membership Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of the Society between meetings of the General Committee;

1.4 The Officers of the Society shall be elected by postal ballot and, if available, and at the discretion of the General Committee secure web-based voting. Ballot papers shall be circulated to all members at least ten weeks before each Annual General Meeting of the Society and the results of the ballot shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting. One third of the Officers shall stand down at each Annual General Meeting but may offer themselves for re-election. The Officers to retire in any year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or re-appointment. For the purposes of determining order of retirement, lengths of service prior to the adoption of this Constitution shall be counted. If more than one third of the Officers have served the same current term in office they shall either agree among themselves who shall retire or decide by drawing lots;

1.5 The General Committee shall appoint a Disclosure and Barring Service Adviser (DBS), formerly Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Administrator, a Child Protection and Safeguarding Adviser and a Trophy Administrator (“the ex-officio Members”) who shall be ex-officio members of the General Committee and entitled to attend and speak at all

meetings of the General Committee, but not to vote at such meetings. The ex-officio Members shall be appointed on an annual basis and serve until they resign or until their appointment is terminated by the General Committee;

1.6 Should the General Committee decide it appropriate to amend the roles of Officers or ex-officio members of the General Committee or introduce new roles, it shall do so and submit the changes for approval at a General Meeting of the Society;

1.7 The General Committee shall meet approximately every two months or as necessary (and may conduct meetings wholly or partly by electronic communication with the agreement of two thirds of the members of the General Committee). The quorum for any meeting of the General Committee shall be five Officers and at least any two of the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor or Membership Secretary must form part of such quorum;

1.8 The President (if present) shall be chairman of all meetings of the General Committee. Any meeting of the General Committee at which the President is not present shall elect a chairman for the meeting who shall be one of the General Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor or Membership Secretary;

1.9 Any Officer who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the General Committee without the agreement of a majority of the Officers may, at the option of the Officers, be taken to have resigned and a new Officer may be co-opted to replace such Officer.

## **2. Membership**

2.1 Membership of the Society is open to any person who wishes to participate in the sport of Field Archery, is willing to



and does abide by the Constitution, the Governance Rules and the NFAS Shooting Handbook and pays the current membership fee or has been voted an Honorary Life Member;

2.2 The following classes of membership exist at the date of adoption of this Constitution:

2.2.1 A Full Member

Is any person aged 16 and over at the time of joining or renewal;

2.2.2 A Junior Member

Is a child under the age of 16 years at the time of joining or renewal;

2.2.3 Family Membership

Is open to any adult or couple, and their children under the age of 16;

2.2.4 Associate Member

Is a non-shooting member who subscribes to the objectives of the Society;

2.2.5 Honorary Life Member

Honorary life membership may on the recommendation of the General Committee be conferred on an existing and fully paid up member who has given valuable service to the Society by Resolution at the Annual General Meeting of the Society;

2.2.6 Overseas Member

Is a member who is not resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom;

2.3 The membership of all shooting members is provisional until they are certified as competent to shoot by an NFAS Coach or Sign Off Appointee and registered as such with the membership Secretary / DBS Administrator.

## 2.4 Subscriptions

2.4.1 The levels of subscription for each category of membership shall be proposed annually by the General Committee for approval at the Annual General Meeting;

2.4.2 Subscriptions are payable in advance on 1st April each year;

2.4.3 Any former full member re-joining the Society within 24 months (from the expiry date of the last membership) will not be treated as a provisional member unless subject to a disciplinary measure requiring certification of competency to be undertaken;

## 3. Enforcement of Rules

3.1 It is the responsibility of each archer to inform a course official or marshal of any significant breach of any rule in the NFAS Shooting Handbook. A shoot organiser, a course official or marshal has the right to disqualify an archer for significant or repeated breaches of NFAS rules during a shoot and the archer will be asked to leave the course immediately; there is no appeal from that decision.

3.2 A shoot organiser, a course official or marshal may decide that a breach of rules, as per rule 3.1, is so significant that the archer should be reported to the NFAS President or General Secretary on behalf of the NFAS General Committee for consideration as to whether the archer shall have his/her membership withdrawn for a period of time for a specific competition or competitions or permanently. The shoot organiser, course official or marshal shall set out in writing the reason(s) for reporting the archer and provide details of any witnesses to the incident(s);

3.3 If, after an archer(s) reports a breach of rules to a shoot organiser, a course official or marshal, the archer(s) believes

that the action taken by the shoot organiser, course official or marshal is inadequate then the archer(s) can report the breach of rules direct to the NFAS President or General Secretary on behalf of the NFAS General Committee. The same level of evidence as for rule 3.2 is required;

3.4 The President or General Secretary will assemble a Disciplinary Panel of four NFAS Officers to judge any significant breach of rules sent to them under (rules 3.2 and 3.3 above). The Disciplinary Panel will be chaired by either the President or General Secretary, unless they will, or may, make representations to the Panel or are not available to chair, in which case the Treasurer, Newsletter Editor or Membership Secretary will chair. The Disciplinary Panel will judge on the basis of the evidence presented. At least two weeks before the meeting of the Disciplinary Committee the member under scrutiny shall be invited to give in writing or orally at such meeting any explanation or defence of his or her conduct he or she may think fit. The Disciplinary Panel shall also hear such representations from any Officers, ex officio Members or other members of the Society as it shall consider appropriate;

3.5 The Disciplinary Panel shall give such ruling and, if appropriate, impose such penalty as it sees fit having considered all representations. Penalties may include disqualification from an event or even exclusion from the NFAS in extreme circumstances. A decision will be made on the basis of a three quarters majority vote by the Disciplinary Committee;

3.6 If the member being complained about is dissatisfied with the decision reached by the Disciplinary Panel, the member may appeal by writing to the President or General Secretary. An Appeal Panel of four Officers will be

assembled, none of whom have been involved with the original Disciplinary Panel. The Appeal Panel will be chaired by either the President or General Secretary (whichever was not involved with the Disciplinary Panel), unless they will, or may, make representations to the Panel or are not available to chair, in which case the Treasurer, Newsletter Editor or Membership Secretary will chair. The Appeal Panel will apply the same arrangements for hearing evidence and generally as the Disciplinary Panel. The decision made by the Appeal Panel is binding;

3.7 An Appeal Panel shall be convened soon as possible after any notice of appeal has been received and, in any event, within two calendar months of the date of such notice;

3.8 No officer who will or may make representations to any Panel constituted under 3.4 or 3.6 above shall sit on either Panel.

3.9 Should the General Committee believe any member has wilfully refused or neglected to conform to and comply with the Constitution and Governance Rules of the Society or the rules and procedures contained in the NFAS Shooting Handbook or shall be guilty of conduct which is injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the General Committee can convene a Disciplinary Panel as set out in 3.4 above and the provisions of 3.4 to 3.8 above will apply.

#### **4. General Meetings**

##### **4.1 Annual General Meeting**

The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting in the month of November in each year (or in such other month as the General Committee shall decide) at such time and place as the General Committee shall determine (provided that the

period between Annual General Meetings shall not exceed fifteen calendar months) to transact the following business to:

4.1.1 confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and to consider any matters arising;

4.1.2 receive the report of the President;

4.1.3 receive the report of the General Secretary;

4.1.4 receive and adopt the Treasurer's Report which shall include presentation of the latest annual accounts of the Company;

4.1.5 elect Officers in accordance with clause 1.4 above;

4.1.6 consider any other business approved by the President and any proposal to the General Secretary put forward by Members as provided in sub-clauses 4.2 and 4.3 below;

4.1.7 consider any proposals for alterations to the Constitutional Documents;

4.2 Notice of Annual General Meeting

4.2.1 Notice of the date time and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be circulated to Members by the General Secretary not less than ten weeks prior to the date of the meeting;

4.2.2 The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting and Annual Accounts shall be circulated to all members not later than four weeks prior to the meeting;

4.3 Proposals at Annual General Meetings The General Committee may place such proposals (including any proposal for alteration of any of the Constitutional Documents) as it shall consider necessary before any Annual General Meeting provided that such proposals are clearly set out in the Notice of the Annual General Meeting. A member may require a proposal (including any proposal for alteration of any of the Constitutional Documents other than the

Constitution) to be heard at an Annual General Meeting by forwarding a copy of that proposal to the General Secretary signed by five members eligible to attend and vote on such proposal six weeks prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting. Any proposal for alteration of the Constitution must be signed by 50 members entitled to attend and vote;

#### 4.4 Extraordinary General Meetings

The General Committee may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss business concerning matters of urgent importance and shall give not less than four weeks notice of such meeting to the members. Upon presentation of a Resolution addressed to the General Committee signed and supported by a minimum of 100 members eligible to attend and vote the General Committee shall be bound to call an Extraordinary General Meeting within 42 days of the General Secretary receiving such a requisition.

### **5. Resolutions and Voting**

5.1 Subject to the provisions of clause 7 below Resolutions presented to an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting are subject to a simple majority of those attending and voting;

5.2 Subject to clauses 5.4 and 5.5 below all Full Members and Honorary Life Members may exercise one vote for each proposal, resolution or candidate for election. All Family Members who are over 16 may each exercise one vote in the same manner as set out above. Junior Members and Family Members who are under 16 may attend General Meetings of the Society and shall have the right to speak, but not vote, at such meetings;

5.3 Only members are entitled to attend a General Meeting of the Society, save that the Executive Committee may in its

discretion invite professional or other expert advisors to attend and speak on any matter or proposal placed before the meeting and the President may, with the consent of the meeting, allow any other person to attend but not speak;

5.4 Voting on any proposal for change in the NFAS Safety Rules, NFAS Shooting Rules, the NFAS Shooting Styles Rules or the NFAS Rounds affecting a particular shooting class is limited to members who shoot that class. All members attending the Annual General Meeting must declare their class (one class per member) when registering before the start of the meeting. The General Committee will make such arrangements as it considers necessary for ensuring compliance with this Rule;

5.5 Provisional members (as defined in Rule 2.3 above) who would otherwise be entitled to vote may not vote on any change to the NFAS Safety Rules, NFAS Shooting Rules, the NFAS Shooting Styles or the NFAS Rounds;

5.6 At the discretion of the General Committee postal and secure web-based voting can be made available to vote on motions put forward at General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings.

5.7 Any new shooting style must be voted on by a minimum quorum of 65/35 of the vote to be accepted as a new shooting style.

## **6. Standing Order Procedure**

6.1 This procedure allows the General Committee by simple majority vote to introduce a change to the rules contained in the Shooting Handbook, with effect from publication in the Society's Newsletter. This will then become the official rule until the next AGM at which time it will be debated and voted on by the members.

## **7. Alteration of Constitution and Dissolution**

7.1 Alterations to the Constitution shall be proposed in accordance with sub-clause 3.2 above and require a majority of three quarters of those voting at the Annual General Meeting or at the General Meeting at which the change is proposed to be passed;

7.2 Proposals for the alteration of the NFAS Safety Rules or the Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons shall be passed by a simple majority of those attending and voting at the General Meeting at which they are proposed but shall be subject to the veto of the General Committee having considered such matters and taken such advice as the General Committee sees fit. The General Committee shall consider any proposal and alter the Safety Rules or the Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons prior to the meeting at which it is to be proposed. If the General Committee intends to veto the change the Chairman of the meeting of the General Committee at which the decision to veto was taken shall inform the meeting at which the change is to be proposed and before the proposal is voted on that the General Committee intends to veto the change and shall give reasons why the General Committee intends to do this;

7.3 A Resolution for the dissolution of the Society shall be proposed and may only be passed in the same way as a proposal for the alteration of the Constitution;

7.4 If a Resolution for the dissolution of the Society shall be validly passed at a General Meeting of the Society the Society and the Company shall be wound up (and in the case of the Company by such means as the Trustees of the Company shall resolve) and the assets of the Society and the Company after payment of all the Society's debts shall be transferred to



another organisation proposed by the General Committee and approved by the members with objects which are as similar as possible to the objects of the Society, or, if no such organisation can be identified or agreed to a charity approved by the members.

## **8. Registration of Clubs**

8.1 Any group of National Field Archery Members may form themselves into a Club to foster and promote field archery in compliance with the Constitution and Rules of the Society. Any such Club shall be recognised by the Society subject to the compliance with the following:

8.1.1 each Club must send to the Membership Secretary of the Society a copy of their own Constitution and/or Rules which must not conflict in any way with the Rules and Constitution of the Society. The Membership Secretary will maintain a list of clubs which are registered with and recognised by the Society and publish the list on the Society's website;

8.1.2 each Club must have a minimum of three members and must provide the Membership Secretary of the Society with the names of at least two members as contacts for the Club;

8.1.3 at least three members of the club must be members of the Society. There is otherwise no requirement that members of a Club be members of the Society;

8.1.4 a Club may adopt any name or title which is not in the view of the General Committee:

8.1.4.1 the name or very similar to the name of the Society;

8.1.4.2 already in use by or very similar to the name of another Club;

8.1.4.3 in any way offensive.

## **9. Insurance**

The General Committee will engage an insurance broker, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, to advise and arrange such suitable insurance for the Society, its members, employees and non-member volunteers as is deemed necessary and appropriate by the General Committee. Insurance will include, but not be limited to, public liability insurance for the Society, its members, employees and non-member volunteers.

## GUIDANCE

### *Safe equipment guidance*

Whilst not rules, it is strongly recommended that the following are adhered to:

G1) All archers must follow manufacturer's instructions for minimum arrow spine and weight and ensure a spine and weight is used which is safe for the model and draw-weight of bow being used.

G2) All archers should follow manufacturers' safety instructions and recommendations for all equipment to be used safely.

G3) All archers should consider wearing at least one piece of highly visible clothing or headgear that makes it easier to be seen by other archers.

G4) It is good practice to check an arrow for damage each time before it is shot.

### Course laying guidance

Whilst not rules, it is strongly recommended that the following are adhered to:

G5) At least one person laying a course should have previous experience of assisting in laying a minimum of four courses.

G6) Courses should be tested in advance of a competition by as many different bow types (e.g. compounds, longbows) and different physical types of archers (e.g. tall, short, right-handed, left-handed) as possible.

G7) Walk-away routes from targets should, where achievable, be at 90 ° from the line of the shot.

G8) Bosses used are to be positioned to reduce deflections, for example with wooden supports at the side and not the top and bottom.

G9) Consider having a sign at each target containing the name of the animal to be shot which is visible to archers waiting to shoot that target. It is also recommended that course layers refer to the NFAS 'Club Pack'.

## Shoot organisation guidance

Whilst not rules, it is strongly recommended that the following are adhered to:

G10) Details of the location of the shoot (e.g. map reference and access routes in/out of shoot) are provided to the emergency services and revalidated with the emergency services on a regular basis.

G11) A scale map of the course, showing the location of individual targets is prepared for use by the shoot organisers and emergency services.

G12) All shoots should have a suggestion box and archers should be encouraged to provide their views – verbally or via the suggestion box about good and bad points of the course so that the course organisers can learn for the future. Suggestions made should be evaluated by shoot organisers on a regular basis.

## Course etiquette guidance

Whilst not rules, it is recommended that the following course etiquette be observed:

G13) Keep well back from the group in front.

G14) Keep noise down.

G15) Turn off mobile phones or set them to silent mode.

- G16) Respect other archers and allow them to execute their shots without disruption.
- G17) Be tolerant of archers shooting a different bow style from you.
- G18) Help others to pull or find their arrows.
- G19) Keep children under close control.
- G20) Be polite to course officials, marshals and members of the public.
- G21) Keep courses free from litter and respect the course owner's property by putting all rubbish in the containers and/or skips provided or taking it home.
- G22) If archers see queues forming at the target ahead, ensure that there is a safe space at the next target to wait before moving on.

## AMENDMENTS



# **NFAS Shop**

**Clothing**

**Patches**

**Badges**

**Stickers**

**Score cards**

**Rule books**

**Contact the Shop Administrator  
email [shop@nfas.net](mailto:shop@nfas.net)**

**Further contact details available at  
[nfas.net](http://nfas.net)**



