Risk Assessment

RA003 – Practice in woodlands using NFAS approved equipment

(previously RA008 Shooting in woodlands using NFAS approved equipment)

**Who is at risk?**

|  |  |  |
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| Classification | Description/examples | Risks |
| Archer | Those members shooting | Slips, trips and falls. Strains and sprains. Lacerations, abrasions and bruising. Insect bites and allergic reactions. Impact injuries and death |
| Others attending | Those members not shooting | Slips, trips and falls. Strains and sprains. Lacerations, abrasions and bruising. Insect bites and allergic reactions. Impact injuries and death. |
| Others | Any other persons in the vicinity | Slips, trips and falls. Lacerations, abrasions and bruising. Insect bites and allergic reactions. Impact injuries and death. |

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| No. | Hazard description | Who is at risk? | Hazard likelihood | Possible severity | Pre-control risk rating | Control | Hazard likelihood | Possible severity | Post-control risk rating |
| 1 | Preparation for a shoot | Club  Public | 1 | 3 | 3 | Use and add to the Course Checklist to ensure a safe practice ground. If using machinery ensure club members are trained to do so safely and, where required, seek advice from a contractor. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | Woodland course environment | Archer  Others attending  Others | 2 | 2 | 4 | Only NFAS registered members (Full, Provisional or Associate) shall make use of a clubs or the Societies woodland course.  Appropriate signage shall be in place to warn non-members not to enter areas used for the course.  NFAS rules shall be applied and used without exception.  Caution shall be taken when walking around woodland to avoid holes, roots. vines and low / loose branches.  At all times, archers shall be observant for other woodland users (authorised or unauthorised).  Archers shall be aware of the environment and the likelihood that animals may appear without warning.  All archers must wear suitable footwear for the environment | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | Archery equipment - General | Archer  Others attending | 2 | 2 | 4 | Only the necessary equipment required should be taken around the course.  Any equipment used shall be in good condition and be used appropriately.  All knives shall be folded or sheathed.  All arrows shall be identified as per NFAS rules. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 4 | Bows | Archer  Others attending  Others | 2 | 3 | 6 | All bows used shall conform to NFAS safety rules.  All bows shall be shot following NFAS rules.  Bows will be checked for safety before any use.  High drawing is not permitted.  Arrows will only be offered to the string when the archer is in position to shoot.  Arrows will only be loosed when aimed at the target and the target is clear.  Bows will never be carried with an arrow strung on it. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Crossbows | Archer  Others attending  Others | 2 | 3 | 6 | All Crossbows used shall conform to NFAS rules.  All Crossbows shall be shot following NFAS rules.  Crossbows will be checked for safety before any use.  When drawing back the string on a crossbow, care shall be taken to avoid injury to the back, arms and shoulders by following good manual handling practices.  Bolts will only be offered to the string when the Archer is in position to shoot.  Bolts shall only be loosed when aimed at the target and the target is clear.  Crossbows shall never be transported in the woodland when loaded. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 6 | Targets | Archer  Others attending  Others | 2 | 3 | 6 | All targets shall be of appropriate materials to reduce possibility of 'pass through'.  All targets shall be of an appropriate size to accommodate the faces attached.  All targets shall be placed so as to offer a challenge but also to reduce the chances of ricochets and over shoots. | 1 | 3 |  |
| 7 | Searching for missing arrows | Archer | 2 | 3 | 6 | Care shall be taken to ensure any following groups are aware that you are searching for arrows; especially if searching to the rear of a target. One member would stand in front of the target whilst the others search.  Care shall be taken in case Adders or a wasp’s nest are disturbed. Seek advice from the owners of the woodland. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 8 | Adverse weather conditions | Archer  Others attending  Others | 1 | 3 | 3 | During adverse weather conditions, e.g., high winds, heavy rain, lightning, snow, ice. Archers should consider avoiding the woods, or sheltering in a club house if available, until the weather subsides. If the weather does not subside archers should not proceed.  If the weather subsides, checks of the woodland are undertaken to ensure the area is safe for use. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 9 | Violence and aggression | Archer  Others attending  Others | 1 | 2 | 2 | *Please see the Shooting Rules section of the rulebook for expected Conduct of Members.*  Consider issues arising from members of the public who take exception to our sport and may wish to damage targets or use threatening behaviour. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 10 | Light | Archer  Others attending  Others | 1 | 2 | 2 | Ensure there is enough light to shoot and be seen by. Consider wearing high visibility clothing in poor light and ensure anyone attending a night shoot uses good portable light between shots. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Manual handling | Archer  Others attending | 3 | 2 | 6 | Consider issues of setting of courses, practice and admin areas. Club members should be aware of good manual handling techniques, example of which can be found on the Health and Safety Executive website:  <https://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/manual-handling/good-handling-technique.htm>. | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 12 | Catering | Archer  Others attending  Others | 1 | 2 | 2 | If applicable, there should be adequate instruction and safety information regarding any catering equipment that can be used by club members. | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Additional notes   * At all times the NFAS rulebook takes precedence * At all times have care for the environment * At all times follow the NFAS rules and etiquette * See other relevant risk assessments * All risk assessments must be reviewed regularly, particularly after any changes | | | | | | | | | |

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| Assessor signature: |  | Print name: |  | Date: |  |

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| Implemented by: |  | Print name: |  | Date: |  |
| Position: |  |

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| Implemented date: |  | Last reviewed date: |  |

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|  |  |  | SEVERITY | | |  | 1. The risk is assessed as high if the value is 7 to 9 (**Red**).   *It is unacceptable for this level of risk to remain, and additional measure shall be put into place.*   1. The risk is assessed as medium if the value is 4 to 6 (**Amber**).   This activity can only take place with committee authorisation and additional measure should be looked at.   1. The risk is assessed a slow if the value is 1 to 3 (**Green**).   The activity can take place and no additional measure are required. |
|  |  |  | Trivial injury | Minor injury | Major injury |  |
|  |  |  | LOW (1) | MEDIUM (2) | HIGH (3) |  |
| PROBABILITY AND LIKELYHOOD | Unlikely | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |  |
| Likely | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 |  |
| Highly likely | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 |  |

Trivial injury: Basic 1st aid or not requiring treatment at all

Minor injury: 1st aid and/or requiring professional medical attention or trip to hospital

Major injury: Disabling, life threatening or fatal

**Committee revision date due: 31/12/2025**