



Tournaments and Competitions, A beginner's guide...

Thank you for your interest in the Bath Archers Novices Tournament. As this may be the first tournament you've attended, I wanted to share some information and pointers that might be helpful. I appreciate there's quite a lot of information, but it's collected from questions we've been asked in the past so hopefully you will find it useful.

- **What time does it start:** Our tournament starts at 10:00am, PLEASE ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME. When you arrive at a tournament it can take a little while to park, register, find your allocated shooting space, carry your equipment to your space and set up your bow (and tent/umbrella/chair, see below). If you have to rush, this can affect your enjoyment and your shooting, so arriving at least 30 mins before the official start is recommended.
- **Will there be somewhere to park:** This varies by tournament, but usually yes, though sometimes there may be a short walk between the parking and the tournament field. For our tournament, parking is on the field right next to the tournament. There will be plenty of space, available on a first come/first served basis. If you have mobility issues, please contact the Tournament Organiser ahead of the event as closer spaces can be reserved.
- **What time will we finish:** Tournaments are different from shooting a round at your club. For example, we will be shooting at the speed of the group (which may be slower than your own speed), we will have a break for lunch, clear the field once we've finished, have a raffle and award prizes. All these things considered, I estimate we'll finish around 4:00pm. Whilst you are free to leave at any time, it is generally considered 'good practice' to remain until the end of the event (and you don't want to miss the prize giving!).
- **AGB membership:** All tournaments will require you to show your active/current AGB membership. Archery GB insurance requires all archers to be active members, and if only one archer is not, that can invalidate the insurance for the whole event. Because of this, tournaments take this quite seriously and may prevent you shooting if you don't have it. You can use either the plastic card, an eCard/eWallet or a copy of the membership email. If you can't find those, you can also login to agb.sport80.com to show the details or resend your membership email. Alternatively, please contact your club's membership secretary or the Tournament Organiser ahead of the event for advice. You will usually be asked to show this when you register on the day (see '*what to do when I arrive*' below).
- **What to wear:** Archery GB issues standard rules (called the '[Rules of Shooting](#)') which apply to all tournaments. The rules cover many things, but tournaments will usually specifically mention Rule 307 which applies to dress code. This is mostly for safety (eg. no shooting in open toed footwear) but it does include some restrictions on what you can wear at a tournament. The main things to avoid are blue denim, camouflage, and 'branded clothing' (other than your archery club/team branding, which is allowed). For our tournament, we pay attention to the safety related rules but are a little more relaxed on the dress code. Some tournaments can be strict though, so it is worth being aware.
- **What should I bring:** There can be a fair bit of waiting at tournaments so, as well as their equipment, a lot of people bring a chair. The fold up camping ones are quite good, but anything that's easy to carry would do. Also, you will be outside for several hours. If it's sunny (hopefully) please think about shade (hats, fishing umbrellas, small 'pop up' tents) and/or sun cream. If it's rainy (hopefully not), again umbrellas or pop up tents can be good. There will be space behind the line for setting up (small) tents and this is quite a common sight at competitions. And a pen, always bring a pen!

- **Can I get a drink or a snack:** There is usually a tea/coffee/cakes stall at tournaments. This helps raise funds for the club hosting the competition, so it's considered 'good sportsmanship' to buy the odd muffin (or raffle ticket). You will usually need to bring cash as not all clubs can take card payments 'in the field'. Whilst there are usually hot/cold drinks and cakes available, there may not be full catering so please bring your own packed lunch and drinks/water.
- **Weather:** We recommend you check the weather forecast the night before and again before you set off. Please remember, you will be in a (very nice) field for most of the day, so plan accordingly (see '*What should I bring*').
- **What should I do when I arrive:** When you first arrive, you will need to register. There is usually a table or tent towards the 'front' of the tournament area, if in doubt head there and someone will be able to help. Please also have your proof of AGB membership ready when you register. For our Novices tournament, we also start the tournament with an introduction and explanation of what will happen, what to do, where to go, etc. We will also have experienced club members around on the day to help, answer questions, etc.
- **What about my equipment:** Usually, you're fine to bring whatever equipment you usually shoot with. Depending on the status of the tournament, your equipment may need to comply with the [Rules of Shooting](#), and you may need to have your bow/arrows/tab inspected by the judges before shooting starts. Most tournaments will require you to have your arrows marked with: a) a mark that identifies them as yours (usually your name); and b) a mark that identifies them individually (usually, a number 1, 2, 3, etc.). For our tournament, we don't insist on this so you'll be fine if your arrows aren't marked, but it is a good thing to get if you want/can. You'd be surprised how often you find someone else on your target has the same-coloured flights as you! One of the easiest ways to mark your arrows is to use 'arrow wraps' which can be ordered online from sites such as [ArrowSocks](#).
- **Do I need a handicap score:** Archery has a handicap system like other sports, eg. golf. Some tournaments use handicaps, and some don't. For our Novices tournament you don't *need* to have a handicap, but we have a special prize for the best handicap adjusted score, so I would encourage you to send in a handicap if you can (this can be done after you've registered). To get one, you'll need to submit three official scores to your club records officer, and they can calculate it for you. If your club doesn't have a records officer, you can use the scores from your last three official rounds and a site such as [ArcheryCalculator](#) (calculate the handicap for your three scores, and *your* handicap is the average of those three handicap scores). If you're not sure, feel free to get in touch and I will be happy to help.
- **How many arrows and what distance will we shoot:** The distances and number of arrows (called a Round) will depend on the tournament. For our Novices, we shoot a National round and you can choose what distance you feel comfortable at. A National round includes 4 dozen arrows at your first/longer distance, then we have a break for lunch, then 2 dozen arrows at your second/shorter distance.
- **How are Junior age categories calculated:** Archery GB follows the World Archery age group classifications. The categories are Under 12, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 21. They're based on the age 'at the end of the year', ie. not their current age. For example: if the tournament is in June and the junior was 14 in January, they're in the Under 15 category. If it's June and they're currently 13 but will be 14 in November, they're still in the Under 15 category (because they'll be 14 at the end of the year). It's not the most obvious of systems, but hopefully that helps. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the Tournament Organiser.
- **Target List – what is it and when do I get it:** The Target List tells you which target and position you'll be shooting at on the day (basically, where to stand) and also which category and round you'll be shooting. You should receive a copy after the closing date and before the competition. Once you receive it, please

find your entry and check it. Mistakes do sometimes happen and it's much easier to correct them before the day of the event. A copy of the final list will also be on display during the tournament.

- **How do I score on the day:** Scoring at a tournament is very similar to scoring at a normal club shoot, but there are a few differences. Firstly, tournaments will often have pre-printed scoresheets for you to fill in on the day. Secondly, there will usually be up to four people per target, allocated A, B, C and D. Whoever is allocated as C acts as 'target captain', which just means they a) add up scores, or find a volunteer to do the adding up; and b) are responsible for checking and handing in the completed scoresheets at the end of the shoot. Apart from that, scoring is just the same as a club shoot:
 - Don't touch any arrows until all the scores are written down.
 - Call all the scores before going behind the target to look for missed arrows.
 - When filling in the scoresheet, start at the top left and go all the way along each row (2 ends/full dozen arrows) before moving down to the next row.
 - Never write down your own scores, someone else on the target must write yours down.
 - Call out your scores in two groups of three arrows, starting with the highest scores and going down to the lowest (eg. call "9,9,7", pause, call "7,5,3").
 - The person writing down the scores should call the scores back to you as they write them down. It is your responsibility to listen/check your scores are recorded correctly.
 - If you need help, call for the Judge or Field Captain.
- **Do I need to enter a Team, and how do I do that:** Some tournaments have a team element to the competition, and our Novices is no exception. The Team part is usually optional, and rules vary between tournaments. For ours, the main aspect is fun and to encourage getting to know your fellow archers. You can enter a team of up to four archers, formed from any other archers in the competition (eg. other members of your club, people on your target, that guy over there who's shooting really well, whoever you want). To enter a team, you need to fill in a Team Form and hand it in to the Tournament Organiser before the end of shooting.
- **Are spectators welcome:** Yes, spectators are absolutely welcome. I would recommend they bring a chair (camping chair etc.). The only exception is pets/dogs, who are not normally allowed at tournaments on the grounds of safety. If you have a guide or service dog, please contact the Tournament Organiser ahead of the event for advice.
- **Can I take photos:** Yes, you can take photos on the day, but tournaments (under AGB rules) require you to sign a Photography Register on the day and provide your name and contact details (as a safeguarding practice). Quite often, the Photography Register will be on the registration desk, but if you're not sure please ask.

I hope this helps, and if you've any questions (now or on the day) please feel free to ask. And I look forward to seeing you at the tournament.

Kind regards,
Richard Entwistle,
Tournament Organiser.
[Bath Archers, Contact Us](#)