

The Austin Archery Club

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Safety Policy

(updated May 16, 2021)

A. Management

1. The Austin Archery Club (“AAC”) places a very high priority on maintaining a safe facility for all members, their guests, and event participants, and endeavors to extend that safety to bordering properties.
2. The Board of Directors (“Board”) adopts, maintains and modifies policy and rules related to safety. The current Safety Director is responsible for overseeing and communicating Club safety policies, recommending changes as-needed to the Board, and addressing safety issues submitted by the Membership.
3. The full Membership plays a role in maintaining a safe facility, and as such each Member is responsible for pointing out potential safety issues immediately and communicating all safety issues to the Board and Safety Director.
4. If any Member, their guest, or Event participant has any question regarding this Safety Policy, they should use the methods available at www.austinarcheryclub.com/contact/.

B. Rules

5. Any person who is under the influence of, or impaired by, alcohol or drugs is prohibited from entering AAC property. While or immediately prior to using a bow on AAC property, an archer may not use alcohol or drugs that impede perception, judgement, reaction time, or in any way impair an archer’s ability to safely shoot a bow.
6. Archery equipment must conform to the following limitations:
 - The maximum draw weight for any bow may not exceed 80 pounds.
 - Arrows must weight at least 5 grains for every pound of maximum draw weight. For example - an archer shooting a 60 pound bow must use arrows with a total weight of at least 300 grains. (5 x 60 = 300)
 - The total weight of any arrow may not exceed 700 grains. This includes the fletching, nock, insert, field point and any additional components contributing to the total weight.
 - Arrows made with wooden shafts may not be shot from a compound bow.
 - Broadheads and broadheads simulators (aka - practice broadheads) are prohibited.
7. Each archer is responsible for ensuring that their equipment is free of defects and functioning as designed by the manufacturer before shooting on AAC ranges. This includes:

- Checking your bow for cracks, dents, breaks separating laminates, peeling glass and defects in mechanical parts;
 - Checking the bowstring regularly for fraying or excessive wear;
 - Frequent waxing with bowstring wax as a regular part of string maintenance; and
 - Checking arrows for cracks, dents, bends, loose fletching, or any other visible flaws, and marking for repair, or discarding if repair is not possible.
8. An arrow may only be nocked and the bow may only be drawn when the archer is standing at a designated firing position and facing the target on any Static, 3D or Field range.
 9. When drawing an arrow back to firing position, the bow may not be elevated any higher than required for the arrow to hit the target. "Skydrawing" – pointing a bow skyward to make it easier to draw the arrow is strictly prohibited.
 - An archer must have sufficient strength to point their bow at the intended target and pull straight back without elevating the bow any higher than the intended target.
 - If an archer does not have the strength to draw in this manner, then they should lower the poundage on their bow until they can correctly draw it back.
 10. Archers using a mechanical release with a thumb or index finger release should apply pressure to the rear of the trigger with their thumb/index finger when drawing their bow back to act as a positive safety and avoid an unintended release.
 11. When shooting on a Static range, all archers must move downrange as a group to retrieve arrows. When there are multiple archers shooting at the same time, it is customary that:
 - Archers stand at a shooting position directly in front of the target they are shooting at. If an archer wants to shoot at a target to the left or right of the target they are standing in front of, then they move to a new position on the firing line that is directly in front of their intended target.
 - An archer will yell "Clear" or "Pull" when they are finished shooting and ready to go downrange to retrieve arrows.
 - All archers on the firing line must confirm that they are also finished and ready to go downrange by responding with "Clear" or "Pull" or visually signaling they are finished shooting. Archers will only proceed downrange to retrieve arrows when confirmation is received from all archers that they are finished shooting.
 - When all archers have retrieved their arrows and returned to the firing line, a visual scan of the downrange area will be done to confirm there are no archers still downrange; then,
 - The command "We're Hot" will be given by one or more archers to signal shooting may commence.
 12. Archers must walk along the 3D or Field ranges following the designated path, always moving from a lower number target to the next higher number target (from target #1 to target #2; from target #2 to target #3; etc). Walking in reverse order (from target #3 to target #2; from target #2 to target #1; etc) puts an archer at risk of walking into the line of fire and being hit by archers shooting at the targets behind you, and is prohibited. Likewise, leaving the designated trail and cutting through the wooded area to walk out may place the archer downrange of a shooting lane, and is prohibited. If you need to depart the 3D or Field range, archers must proceed forward, along the trail, until reaching the club road.

13. **If anyone sees an unsafe or dangerous condition on any Static, 3D or Field range, they will immediately shout out “Cease Fire”. Upon hearing this command, all archers will remove arrows from bows to render them safe. If an archer is at full draw when a “Cease Fire” command is given, the archer will point their bow down toward the ground and let the bow down without firing the arrow.**
14. **If an arrow misses the intended target and the archer wants to go behind or to the side of the target to look for the arrow, the archer must lean their bow against the face of the target before going to search for the arrow. This is a universal sign that an archer is downrange, behind the target, and it is not safe for anyone who comes to the firing position to shoot an arrow at the target. As an alternative, another archer may stand at the designated firing position and alert any archers arriving that someone is downrange behind the target searching for an arrow.**
15. **If an archer has an arrow go completely through a target (a “passthrough”), then the archer will follow the procedures above before going behind the target to search for their arrow. The archer is requested to examine the target to determine if there is a visible weak spot or structural deficiency. Within 24 hours the archer is requested to go onto the AAC web site and fill out a Range Safety Report providing details of the incident. This will allow the Board and Safety Director to investigate and determine if the target needs to be repaired or replaced before used by other archers. It is essential to document:**
 - **The date/time of the incident;**
 - **Where it happened (which range and which specific target);**
 - **Where the arrow struck the target when the passthrough occurred;**
 - **The specifics of the bow and arrow that the archer was using; and,**
 - **Any other relevant details.**