



RISK ASSESSMENT

When using Soft Shot Arrows

STEP 1: The Nature of the Activity

Activity

Sporting Arrows shooting for all paying/non-paying participants of a suitable age to draw a Bow at promotional Shows, Trade Exhibitions, Game & Country Shows, etc. organised, staged and managed by Laporte/CPC throughout the UK.

Brief Description of Activity and Equipment used

Indoors and Outdoors: Safety and Bow technique instructions with Soft Shot arrows, shooting at moving targets
Equipment used: Bows - Recurve, Long or Genesis Compound bows
Draw weight - not to exceed 26lb draw-weight
Targets - 25cm dia. foam disc targets.
Arrows – Restricted to use of Laporte *Soft Shot* arrows with foam tips only
Target launcher - for the mechanical release of the aerial targets
Distance of shooting line to target launcher – 8 to 10m
Overall safety area required outdoors– 50m long x 30m wide
Indoors the Soft Shot arrow requires no catch netting and can be shot against any suitable wall. Safety area required 12m long x 10m wide

STEP 2: List of Hazards

- 1 Equipment Failure
- 2 Bowstring
- 3 Bow assembly
- 4 Short arrows
- 5 Heavy Bows
- 6 Collection of arrows
- 7 Shooting control
- 8 Range layout
- 9 Arrows shot outside safety area
- 10 People/animals straying into safety area
- 11 Weather

STEP 3: Assessment of each Hazard and Risk evaluation

Hazard 1: Equipment Failure

Nature of Hazard: Equipment failure – string may snap, bow limbs or riser may fail while shooting. Arrows may break on release.

Persons at Risk: Archer and those in immediate vicinity.

Control Measures: Regularly (monthly) inspect strings and bows for wear. Replace equipment deemed to be unsafe. Regularly (weekly) check arrows for loose or damaged nocks, loose heads. Replace damaged or loose components. Check carbon arrows for splintering, discard if deemed unsafe. Instruct new archers against “dry firing” bows, as this can lead to early limb failure.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 2: Bowstring

Nature of Hazard: Bowstring may become caught on loose hair or clothing or hit arm on release.

Persons at Risk: Archer

Control Measures: Ensure that archers tie back long hair and remove jewellery or loose outer garments, which could become caught. Offer all archers the choice to wear arm protection to minimise possible injury and instruct in proper release technique.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 3: Bow Assembly

Nature of Hazard: Bow is assembled or disassembled incorrectly, may come apart while in use (consequences as per failure of bow limb or riser).

Persons at Risk: Archer

Control Measures: Only Coaches or qualified archers may facilitate correct assembly of equipment, including limb assembly and stringing/de-stringing. Monthly inspect limb bolts and nuts for signs of excess wear, replacing where necessary. Check novices' bow setups before allowing them to shoot.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 4: Short Arrows

Nature of Hazard: Arrows too short for the archer may be drawn off the arrow rest and released into the back of the riser or the bow hand.

Persons at Risk: Archer

Control Measures: Check arrow length for all new archers using prescribed technique, issuing only arrows of required minimum length. Do not allow archers to shoot if arrows of the required minimum length are unavailable.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 5: Heavy Bows

Nature of Hazard: Use of inappropriate draw-weight bow may result in muscular or other soft tissue injury.

Persons at Risk: Archer

Control Measures: Ensure that when using Soft Shot arrows bows are restricted to a maximum draw weight of 26lb. Instruct beginners using lightweight bows to employ correct draw technique.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 6: Collection of Arrows

Nature of Hazard: Arrows which land on the ground may cause injury if walked/run into when approaching.
Persons at Risk: Any person collecting arrows
Control Measures: Only those instructed in the technique should be allowed in the target area. Instruct archers in avoidance of the above hazards and of the importance of approaching with caution. Do not allow anyone to run on the range, or to wear open-toed shoes/sandals. Ensure all lost arrows are reported and that every effort has been made to locate them.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 7: Shooting Control

Nature of Hazard: Inadequate control of shooting may result in personal injury to an archer or spectator.
Persons at Risk: All in vicinity.
Control Measures: Shooting must always be under the control of an experienced archer acting as the Coach. All archers must understand that this person is in charge of the shoot and must obey his/her commands. New archers are instructed as to the role of the Coach and the commands they are likely to give.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 8: Range Layout

Nature of Hazard: Incorrect range layout may result in personal injury to spectators or archers.
Persons at Risk: All in vicinity.
Control Measures: The range must be laid out, secured and clearly marked in accordance with the safety zone requirements for Sporting Arrows with Soft Shot arrows. Shooting must not begin until this is the case. Spectators and participants are advised where they may and may not stand whilst shooting is in progress.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 9: Arrows Shot Outside Safety Area

Nature of Hazard: Arrows inadvertently shot outside of safety area may result in personal injury to spectators or archers.
Persons at Risk: All in vicinity
Control Measures: The Coach must ensure that (a) the draw weight of each bow in use is not capable of shooting the arrow beyond the safety zone down the shooting line (b) that the trajectory/speed set for the moving target does not cause the flight path of the arrows to exceed <u>any</u> of the safety perimeters (c) the bows are not pointed at too extreme an angle. (d) Any archer deemed by the Coach not to be conforming to the safety instructions should be asked to stop shooting and leave the field.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 10: People/Animals Straying into Safety Area

Nature of Hazard: A person or animal straying into the safety area may receive personal injury from arrows projected towards the target.

Persons at Risk: Those in the safety area.

Control Measures: Ensure that the range is clearly marked and that the safety area is observable at all times during shooting. The Coach and all archers must remain vigilant and suspend shooting immediately if the safety area is violated. People must not be able to enter the shooting area without passing a suitable barrier warning that beyond which a danger exists. All grounds are deemed accessible to the public even if trespassing. Ensure spectators and those waiting to shoot remain behind the waiting line. Ensure all participants are familiar with commands to start and stop shooting. Do not allow anyone to cross the shooting line unless instructed to do so by the Coach.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

Hazard 11: Weather

Nature of Hazard: Competitors/officials/spectators at risk from elements when shooting outdoors; fog may reduce visibility of safety area, or an archer or his/her equipment may be struck by lightning and electrocuted.

Persons at Risk: All in vicinity.

Control Measures: Shooting must be suspended if the safety overshoot distance is not visible. Shooting must be suspended at the first sign of thunderstorm in the immediate vicinity and not resumed until the danger is past.

Assessment of risk

	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal Injury					
Major Injury					
Minor Injury					

Is this risk acceptable? Yes

STEP 4: Risk Assessment completion and approval

Name:	Signature:	Date:
ACA Officer Completing Form:		
Director/Events Manager Living Heritage Events Ltd:		
Law or HSE Officer if present:		

STEP 5: Review

Date of Review:	Describe changes to the equipment or state 'none':	Assessor Signature:	Next review due:

Prepared by W. Stokhuyzen

NOTES: