

Notes on Field Captains Course – Items that Lacetown Archers need to consider/ take action on

1 – Field Captain's Role – the Field captain is the Safety Officer for the shoot. Primary responsibility is for safety, of the general public and archers.

2 – The Archery GB insurance is based on clubs complying with the GNAS Rules of shooting. For our outside field, there are a number of actions that we should take to better comply.

- a) – we need to check the field boundaries for any place where the public can gain access and put suitable signs up warning that shooting is taking place and that there is no access. Signs have been designed and are on order. Entrances must be locked and signed. All have a responsibility to check around the field during shoots, so that intruders are seen, and shooting stopped until they have left.

- b) - the area that we shoot in is called the shooting range. The Rules of Shooting define how a target competition range should be set out. Whilst club shooting does not strictly need to follow this to the letter, best practice is that we do as far as we can. The layout is shown on the diagram accompanying these notes.
We will need to re-assess our previous layout to better provide safety areas. Overshoot is not an issue.
Part of the layout includes a waiting line 5 yards from the shooting line and tent line 5 yards from the waiting line. We will mark out a waiting line, as an addition to past practice. Archers not shooting should always be behind the waiting line.

- c) - the overshoot distance is calculated assuming that only horizontal draw is used. High or overhead drawing of the bow is considered illegal, as is shooting when the range is not occupied (solo shooting) and bow hunting.

- d) - during the discussions, it became obvious that recording of all incidents, findings of possible field boundary breaches by the public, actions taken to mitigate any risks found is very importance, especially if supporting insurance claims. A book has been bought, and will need to be used to record incidents, proof that basic safety checks, such as putting up safety signs at the start of shooting, attendance at each session are made. The process and person(s) responsible for this as well as the content will be decided early in the 2014 season.

- e) - The Field Captain's responsibility for archers' safety is basically to ensure that the range is clear before each end commences. To ensure that club practice is the same as we find in completion, we will normally use that GNAS signalling method for control. Once the range is clear, the Field Captain (FC) will give one whistle blast. The first detail will go to the shooting line and shoot. When they have individually finished, they return behind the waiting line. The second detail goes up and shoots, again returning behind the waiting line after completing the end. Once the FC sees that all archers have completed and are behind the waiting line, 3 whistle blasts indicate that it is safe to collect.
On occasion we will use the signalling method used in FITA round as well as in some GNAS rounds, again to familiarise archers with this method. This will be explained at the time.
- f) The FC is that last to walk to the targets, assists in scoring line cutters, bouncers and "pass throughs" in non record competitions, and is the last to return to the shooting line having checked that the overshoot area is clear. Shooting then recommences once the FC is happy that the range is clear.
- g) All archers are responsible for ensuring that the range is safe to shoot. In the event that it is necessary to stop shooting for safety, the FC or any archer loudly shouts **FAST**. Immediately all archers **MUST** come down and return their arrow to their quiver. Shooting restarts when the range is considered safe.

3 – The above deals with the main points – the notes from the course can be made available to provide further details.