

Kingdom of the Outlands

Combat Archery Rules

December 2003

Equipment Regulations

A. Bows

All bows must be in good repair and safe to operate. Recurve, take-down (where the limbs are detachable) and long bows are allowed. Compound bows are prohibited. Metal cable strings or strings made of elastic material such as bungee cord or surgical tubing are prohibited.

1. Light Handbows

- a. Light handbows may not exceed 30 lbs draw weight measured at 28". Light handbows may shoot golf tube, Siloflex, or shafted arrows.

2. Heavy Handbows

- a. Heavy handbows may not exceed 50 lbs draw weight measured at 28". Heavy handbows may shoot golf tube or Siloflex arrows. Heavy handbows must be covered with red tape over the top 6" of the front and back sides of the upper limb.

B. Crossbows

All crossbows must be in good repair and safe to operate. Crossbows must be of medieval European design and materials unless otherwise noted.

1. Crossbows may not exceed 1000 in/lbs draw weight.
2. Crossbows may shoot golf tube, Siloflex, or Fellwalker bolts.
3. Crossbow prods must be constructed of 3/16" minimum 7075 T6 aluminum, 1/4" 7075 T6 51 aluminum, or from commercially produced fiberglass or steel crossbow prods. Prods made of fiberglass electric fence posts are specifically prohibited. Other prod materials will be considered on an individual basis.
4. All prods must be covered with rawhide or an equivalent material or method, as approved by the Earl Marshal and his Combat Archery Deputy, so that in case of breakage the limbs of the prod are tethered to the body of the bow.
5. Crossbow prod tips must be covered or built up so that they cannot pass through a legal helm grill by more than 1/2".

C. Arrows

All arrows must be marked in English with name of their user or maker, their local group, their kingdom of residence, and the month and year they were constructed. Cresting is not an acceptable equivalent. No arrow shall have a nock end that would allow it to pass through the bars of a legal helm grill more than 1/2 inch.

Golf tube arrows:

1. Golf tube arrows are constructed by attaching a tennis ball to the reinforcing ring end of a golf tube. The tennis ball must be secured to the golf tube by either of two methods:
 - a. Two or three lengths of strong cord of less than 1/8" in diameter passed through the tube under the reinforcing ring, crossed over the top of the ball, and tied on the side of the tube below the ball, or:

- b. Using two lengths of flat leather lacing passed through the tube under the reinforcing ring, crossed over the top of the ball, with at least 4" of lacing extending down the tube below the head. The laces must be tightly taped to the tube using fiber-reinforced tape.
2. The tennis ball must be securely taped to the tube using fiber-reinforced tape and then the entire ball and the area covered by fiber-reinforced tape must be covered using duct tape or electrical tape.
3. The striking surface of the ball must be marked with a cross of red tape. Red tape or coloring may not be used on any part of the arrow except the head.
4. Yellow tape may not be used on the tube to avoid confusion with siege missiles.
5. Maximum allowable arrow draw length (bottom of the nock slot to just behind the blunt) for golf tube arrows is 33 inches.
6. The use of lightweight foam to stiffen the shaft is permitted. Sprayed foam insulation is not permitted.
7. The nock end of all golf tube and Siloflex arrows and bolts should be reinforced to prevent the tube from compressing enough to be capable of penetrating an SCA legal helm, and the opening plugged or taped over to reduce the chances of picking up dirt and other debris.
8. Fletching must be of soft, flexible material such as foam, soft leather or duct tape and rounded so as to present no sharp corners. Commercial fletching or vinyl vanes are also acceptable.

D. Siloflex Arrows

1. Siloflex arrows with tennis ball tips must be constructed by following the same steps as used in golf tube arrow construction and using 100 PSI 1" inner diameter Siloflex brand polyethylene pipe or an approved equivalent.
2. Siloflex arrows may alternately be constructed with Omarad tips:
 - a. Omarad tips must be constructed using a 6.5 rubber stopper and 1" of closed cell foam padding with a minimum compressed diameter of 1 1/4".
 - b. The tip must be secured in the same manner specified for tennis ball tips.
3. Maximum allowable draw length (bottom of the nock slot to just behind the blunt) for Siloflex arrows is 28 inches.
4. Siloflex shafts should not be filled with any material.

E. Fiberglass Shafted Arrows

1. Shafted arrows shall be constructed only of 1/4" minimum diameter solid pultruded fiberglass rod.
2. The shaft of the arrow shall be longitudinally wrapped with fiber-reinforced tape, totally covering the surface from the front of the fletching to 1" from the tip of the shaft.
3. Shafted arrows must use Heavy Modified UHMW blunts, constructed either from commercially available kits or according to the directions for the construction of Fellwalker crossbow bolts.
4. The blunt should additionally be covered with duct, gaffers or electrical tape.
5. All arrows shall have an SCA legal Full APD (Anti helm Penetration Device) on the nock end. APD devices approved for use on shafted arrows are:
 - a. The 1 1/4" round solid UHMW APD,
 - b. The octagonal solid UHMW APD and,
 - c. The 160 PSI routed channel Siloflex tube APD.
6. If the APD for an arrow does not have a self nock, it must use either:
 - d. An SCA approved 5/8" diameter flat nock (HTM bird blunt or tapered UHMW "bulbous" nocks) or,
 - e. A commercially manufactured Arizona HT Nock. (This is an un-tapered over-nock design - do not taper the end of your rod). The 16/64" size should be used on 1/4 inch fiberglass rod. No other commercial target nocks are approved for use.
7. Maximum allowable draw length (bottom of the nock slot to just behind the blunt) for fiberglass shafted arrows is 28 inches.

F. Crossbow Bolts

1. Golf tube and Siloflex crossbow bolts should be constructed using the same methods as for golf tube arrows, but should be cut appropriately to match the crossbow such that just the blunt (tennis ball or Omarad blunt) extends beyond the prod.
2. Fiberglass shafted crossbow bolts must be the Fellwalker APD bolt design, and must be constructed from commercially available kits or from the following specifications:
 - a. Fellwalker Crossbow Bolts
 - i. All shafts shall be constructed from a 12" length of 1/4" diameter solid pultruded fiberglass rod.
 - ii. The shaft shall be spirally or longitudinally wrapped high quality fiber-strapping tape leaving only 1" at the tip and 1/4" at the rear of the shaft uncovered. The tape should be strong enough so that if the shaft should break, it will still be held together.
 - iii. All blunts shall be of the Heavy Modified UHMW Blunt design. This consists of:
 1. A 2" long by 1 1/4" diameter core of UHMW polyethylene, drilled to a depth of 1" to accept the shaft.
 2. All cut edges of the UHMW core shall be blunted/rounded off.
 - iv. The shaft should be friction fit into the core and the core secured by at least two strips of 1/2" wide (minimum) high quality fiber strapping tape. These strips shall cross over the face of the core and down the sides, and onto the shaft for at least 1".
 - v. The striking surface of the blunt shall be covered with no less than 1" thick by 1 3/8" diameter resilient closed cell foam.
 - vi. The sides of the blunt centering on the join between the UHMW and foam tip shall first be wrapped with 1/8" thick closed cell foam (or 2 wraps of 1 1/4" wide x 10" long strip of standard 1/16" mailing foam), then covered by a layer of strapping tape (a single wrap of 1 1/2 inch wide tape is recommended).
 - vii. Padding on the face of a blunt which has compacted under use to less than 3/4" in thickness must be replaced.
 - viii. The assembled blunt shall be secured by at least two strips of 1/2" wide (minimum) high quality strapping tape. These strips shall cross over the face of the blunt and down the sides, and onto the shaft for at least 1".
 - ix. It shall be secured to the shaft by another strip of tape that wraps around it as well as the base of the blunt and the shaft.
 - x. The APD disk shall be a disk 1/2" thick by 1 1/4" diameter UHMW polyethylene rod, drilled 1/4" deep to accept the shaft.
 - xi. All cut edges of the UHMW disk shall be rounded off.
 - xii. The shaft should be friction fit into the APD and the core secured by as many strips of 1/2" wide (minimum) high quality strapping tape are required to completely cover and attach the disk to the shaft, leaving no gaps between the strips of tape. These strips shall cross over the face of the core and down the sides, and onto the shaft for at least 1" past any additional foam or taper used in front of the disk.
 - xiii. It shall be secured to the shaft by another strip of tape that wraps around it and the shaft.
 - xiv. The assembled bolt must additionally be covered with duct, gaffers or electrical tape.
 - xv. It is required that the shaft and APD be taped in a solid base color, and the blunt taped in a contrasting color.
 - xvi. Fletching is allowed and may be of any standard method approved for SCA combat arrows (feathers, vinyl vanes, card, foam, etc.).

Armor Regulations

- A. Armor requirements for combat archery are the same as for other heavy weapons fighting with the sole exception that archers may wear a half-gauntlet on the hand they use to pick up and draw the arrow.
- B. Crossbowmen may use half-gauntlets on both hands.

Marshalling

- A. When any missiles are in use, eye protection in the form of single-lens safety glasses made of shatterproof polycarbonate (lexan), meeting ASTM F803 (such as racquet sports or lacrosse eyewear) is required for all unarmored participants (such as marshals, heralds, water bearers, etc.) on the field during combat. Eye protection in the form of a one-piece lens (rather than glasses or goggles with two separate lenses) is more protective during an accidental impact.
- B. Eye protection should always include a retaining strap to keep it in place during an impact. The lenses of all personal (prescription) eyewear must be of a polycarbonate safety design.
- C. Ordinary glass or plastic lenses are prohibited. Eye protection meeting ASTM F803 is available in “over the glasses” models and must be worn over personal eyewear.
- D. Arrows must be inspected by a designated Combat Archery Marshal before use.
- E. Archers shall be responsible for re-checking the safety of all arrows at the time of use.

Combat Conventions

- A. Arrows may only be used as missiles launched from a bow.
- B. No arrows shall be used as hand-held thrusting weapons.
 - 1. An archer may use an arrow as a weapon when utilizing the arrow as the weapon to perform proper killing from behind.
 - 2. Arrows may not be thrown by hand.
- C. Combatants may not remove their helms or other armor until they have fully left the battlefield.
- D. There is no field gleaning and re-shooting of any fiberglass shafted arrows or bolts.
 - 1. Once shot, fiberglass shafted arrows or bolts must be brought to an inspection point between scenarios under the supervision of an authorized combat archery marshal before being reused in combat.
- E. The minimum range required to discharge an arrow or bolt is 10 feet from the intended target.
- F. All archers are responsible for the flight of their projectiles unless they are blocked, deflected or otherwise diverted after they have left the bow.
 - 1. A fighter should in no instance deliberately direct a missile towards a spectator area.
 - 2. Any fighter that strikes a marshal or other non-combatant with a projectile that has not been deflected shall be considered dead in that scenario.
 - 3. If the same fighter strikes a marshal or other non-combatant twice at the same event this shall be considered grounds for a Marshal's Court.
- G. Archers may not use a rattan weapon, or hold a rattan weapon in their hand, while holding a bow.
 - 1. Archers may carry a rattan weapon as a backup weapon as long as it is secured while they are wielding the bow.
 - 2. An archer may discard his bow by removing it from the field or handing it to another. It may not be "slung" in any manner.
 - 3. If the archer does not have full hand protection the rattan weapon must have a basket hilt to protect the fingers of the bow hand while in use.
 - 4. If the archer later picks up the bow, the rattan weapon must be dropped or re-secured.
 - 5. Any archer caught wielding both a bow and hand weapon shall be considered killed.
- H. When “HOLD” is called, all archers are expected to secure their weapons from accidental discharge.
- I. An archer is considered engaged with all targets within range once combat commences.
 - 1. Shooting an enemy from behind is prohibited. Combatants may not turn their back to an arrow to negate its effect.
- J. Arrows must hit with the force equivalent to a single-handed thrust. Arrows must hit point first and non-glancing to count against a target.
- K. Arrows striking the ground shall be considered dead, even if they bounce up and strike a fighter.
- L. Fighters may not grasp, strike or swing at a bow.
- M. Fighters may strike any archer that has been properly engaged and has not yielded.
- N. Fighters may not strike any archer that yells 'YIELD', signifying that he is to be considered dead.
 - 1. Archers yielding should kneel and place their weapon on the ground or hold their bow behind their back, and shout "yield".
 - 2. A cry of “YIELD” shall be accepted.

3. Yielded archers should attempt to leave the field as soon as possible and at that time hold their bows over their heads while leaving the combat field.
 4. Any fighter that strikes an archer that has yielded, or an archer that has died and is holding his bow over his head, is subject to a Marshal's Court.
 5. A cry of "yield" does not absolve a fighter of the responsibility to protect himself.
- O. Fighters may not intentionally damage, conceal or retain combat missiles in order to remove them from the field of combat.
- P. An archer may not attempt to block a rattan weapon with a bow or arrows.
- Q. Bows that are accidentally struck shall not be fired again until they are inspected off the field by a combat archery marshal.
- R. Bows and arrows given to marshals are considered removed from the field.
- S. A quiver of arrows is not considered armor and will not have any effect on the blows of rattan weapons or missiles.
1. The arrows in a quiver that is struck are not considered to have broken.