

Nethermoss Archers

Risk assessment - Outdoor archery target shooting at Hurlston Hall

Date of revision - 19th September 2021

Revised by - S J Brown, Nethermoss Archers Club Secretary

Approved by - Nethermoss Archers Club Committee

Scope

This risk assessment addresses the hazards and risks arising from archery target shooting conducted on the archery field at Hurlston Hall, Hurlston Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, L40 8HB. This field is private land which is fenced all round with no right of access to the public.

The hazards (potential sources of harm) arising from the activity are identified and the risk control measures are described.

It replaces all previous risk assessments for this activity.

Reference - Archery GB Rules of Shooting, latest revision

Definitions

Competent archer - a person who has the training and experience necessary to undertake archery in accordance with the Archery GB Rules of shooting

Field - the archery field at Hurlston Hall, Hurlston Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, L40 8HB

Hazards & Risk Control Measures

Hazard - Arrows in flight

Potential harm

- person (on or off the field) struck by an arrow in flight causing potentially serious injury

Risk controls

- a) range layout to be in accordance with Archery GB Rules of Shooting
- b) only competent archers, or other persons under the instruction of an experienced club member, may undertake archery at the field.
- c) bows to be drawn, and arrows released, only in accordance with instruction and training.
- d) when more than one archer is shooting at the field, a suitable trained person must be designated as the 'field captain' and must ensure, by providing clear commands, that arrows are shot only when all archers who are shooting are on the shooting line and all other persons are behind the waiting line.
- e) if anyone becomes aware that shooting should be halted for safety reasons that person must clearly call 'FAST' or 'STOP'. On hearing this command all archers must immediately stop shooting and return any unshot arrows to the quiver. Shooting must only resume on the instruction of the field captain.

- f) warning notices are to be posted at all entrances and points of access
- g) only competent archers over the age 18 may shoot alone.
- h) junior archers (under the age of 18) must be supervised by at least one adult member of Archery GB.
- i) spectators to be briefed on safe range behaviour

Hazard - Arrows (other)

Potential harm

- arrows may cause injury during the process of shooting, when being collected from the target or when lying on the ground.

Risk controls

- a) arrows must be selected to be of sufficient length to ensure they do not drop off the bow's arrow rest when at full draw.
- b) only suitably trained persons may collect arrows from a target.
- c) arrows must be carried by the side, point down, or in a quiver.
- d) footwear that fully encloses the toes and front of the foot must be worn by all archers.
- e) every reasonable attempt should be made to find arrows that miss the target.
- f) lost arrows must be recorded on the club 'lost arrow' register

Hazard - Bow string

Potential harms

- the bow string may strike the forearm when it has been released, causing bruising.
- the bow string may become entangled with long hair, jewellery or clothing
- the bow string may be pulled back against the chest, causing abrasion

Risk controls

- a) drawing a bow is to be undertaken only in accordance with instruction and training.
- b) a correctly fitted armguard must be worn (except when using a compound bow).
- c) long hair must be tied back.
- d) a correctly fitted chest guard is to be worn, if required.
- e) jewellery, facial piercings or badges on tops or jackets must be removed or covered.

Hazard - Equipment failure

Potential harms

- facial or eye injury caused by bow limbs or string breaking.

- splinters caused by damaged carbon or wooden arrows

Risk controls

- only properly maintained equipment to be used. Members should inspect their own equipment regularly for signs of damage. Club equipment is maintained by the Maintenance Officer.
- anyone who becomes aware of potentially dangerous equipment must report it to a committee member.

Hazard - Target stand and boss

Potential harms

- a boss falling from a stand causing impact injury
- lifting a boss and/or target stand causing musculoskeletal injury
- handling stands causing cuts or splinters

Risk controls

- target stands and bosses to be properly placed and secured with guy ropes
- target stands and bosses to be lifted and moved only by suitably trained persons
- gloves to be worn when handling target stands

Hazard - vehicles driving along Hurlston Lane

Potential harms

- road traffic accident resulting in serious injury

Risk controls

- speed limit
- speed bumps
- warnings to raise awareness

Hazard - equipment and bags lying on the field

Potential harms

- tripping over equipment and bags causing injury

Risk control

- all persons to keep their own equipment and bags tidy and to ask others to move their equipment or bags if presenting a hazard.

Emergency Procedures

A first aid kit is provided (in the outdoor storage chest) for minor injuries. Any use of this is to be reported to the club secretary.

In the event of a serious injury call 999 and contact any committee member as soon as possible.

An Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) is available for anyone to use - this is positioned on the wall to the left of the entrance to the Hurlston Hall golf shop.