

Rocky Mountain Yeomen

SAFETY RULES

1. Always practice safety, archery etiquette, good sportsmanship, and common sense.
2. Archers under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
3. Absolutely no horseplay on the archery range.
4. Always check the bow limbs for any damage before you start shooting.
5. Never shoot damaged tackle.
6. Always keep your bow string waxed.
7. If you notice wear on the string, replace it immediately — do not wait for it to become completely non-operational.
8. Take off your watch and jewelry before you begin shooting.
9. Keep your emotions under control and think about safety first.
10. Arrows should only be nocked on the shooting line and pointed in the direction of the targets.
11. Keep your arrow pointed toward the ground as you nock it.
12. Absolutely no sky-drawing — bows are only to be drawn at the shooting line and in the direction of the targets.
13. Always point the bow and arrow in a safe direction.
14. Never point a bow and arrow at another person, even if there's no arrow drawn.
15. Never draw an arrow if there are any people between you and your target, even if you don't intend to shoot yet.
16. Never shoot an arrow until you are positive that no one is behind the targets.
17. Never point a nocked arrow toward anything you're not going to shoot at.
18. Only shoot when you have a safe range or shooting area and are sure of your target, what is in front of it, what is immediately behind it, and what is beyond it.
19. In the field, never shoot at an unidentified target.
20. Never shoot an arrow straight up into the air as you can hit another person or yourself.
21. Never shoot an arrow into the distance where you cannot see where it will land.

22. Don't stand in front of a bow while it is being shot, even if you are to one side of the shooter.
23. If any person or animal, such as a dog, enters the safety zone while shooting is in progress, the emergency signal must be given, such as yelling "HOLD!" or "CEASE FIRE!" or "FAST!" (from "hold fast") or three blasts of a whistle. All shooting must stop immediately, even if the bow is held at full draw. The bow and arrow should be pointed at the ground and the bow string let slowly forward and the arrow removed from the bow until the range is clear.
24. If you drop anything in front of the shooting line, even if it's within reach of your arm, do not retrieve it until the command (such as "CLEAR" or "BOWS DOWN" or "ALL CLEAR") has been given for everyone to stop shooting.
25. Never overdraw a recurve bow past the length of the arrow. This can result in serious injury and damage your equipment.
26. Never "dry fire" a bow (releasing the bow string without a nocked arrow). It may cause serious damage to the bow and can injure the archer.
27. At a target range, wait for verbal approval, such as "Line Is HOT!" or "HOT" before starting to shoot.
28. When the designated number of arrows have been shot, step back several feet from the shooting line.
29. After you are finished shooting, wait for the command "CLEAR," "ALL CLEAR," or "BOWS DOWN" before going toward the targets to retrieve your arrows.
30. Walk, don't run, toward the targets to retrieve your arrows.
31. Always stand to one side and make sure no one is standing immediately behind you when pulling an arrow from the target as you could accidentally injure them.
32. If you are looking for a lost arrow behind a target, always leave your bow leaning against the target face so that it will be seen by other archers. If possible, have one archer from your group stand in front of the target to prevent anyone from shooting.
33. On field archery or 3-D courses, be sure to stay on the marked path and travel only in the direction in which the targets are laid out while shooting is in progress. Going backwards on the trail or across an unmarked area could place you in the path of a flying arrow, resulting in serious injury.
34. Do not shoot across lanes or at other targets at an archery range ("cross shooting").
35. Do not distract other archers at the shooting line.
36. Do not intentionally damage other archer's equipment.
37. Never drink alcohol or take mood-altering drugs before or during shooting a bow. Shooters who are suspected to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed to shoot and will be removed from the premises.

- 38 Be certain that a first aid kit is available at the shooting range.
39. Make sure your cellphone battery is charged so you can call for help in case an accident were to occur.
40. Finish each shooting session by unstringing a flat bow, longbow, recurve bow, or selfbow.