

Archery



Activity scope

This document relates to student participation in Target archery, Clout archery and Field archery, with a bow and arrow, as a curriculum activity. In Clout archery, archers shoot arrows at a flag (known as 'the clout') instead of a target. Field archery involves shooting at targets of varying (and sometimes unmarked) distances, often in rough terrain.

Special considerations

The [Weapons Act 1990 \(Qld\)](#) classifies archery equipment as a firearm if used as a weapon. For target shooting in schools, however, archery equipment is not a weapon under the meaning of the *Weapons Act 1990*, but strict adherence to recognised safety procedures is essential.

The use of crossbows in Queensland state schools is **not** permitted.

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors

- For a registered teacher:
 - a statement of attainment from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or governing sporting body covering the SISOARC301A – Conduct an Archery Session unit of competency or equivalent, **OR**
 - Competence (demonstrated ability/experience) in the teaching of Archery, **OR**
- For a leader other than a registered teacher, a statement of attainment from an RTO or governing sporting body covering the SISOARC301A – Conduct an Archery Session unit of competency or equivalent.

Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities

- Equipment that is appropriately sized to match the ability and strength levels of students.
- Highly visible markers to identify approach, shooting area, and targets.
- Clearly marked exclusion zones.
- Whistle for command signalling.
- Enclosed footwear (no sandals, thongs, etc).
- Firmly-fitting clothes thought won't become entangled.
- Armguards, finger tabs/shooting gloves, chest protectors, as appropriate.

Mandatory activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures

- Instruct students about safety rules before equipment is issued.
- Continually assess weather conditions. Cease activity if lightning is present.
- Note that the strength and direction of the wind **must** be considered before and during the activity.
- Ensure there is an area clear from obstructions (trees, wires, shrubs) of at least 20 metres beside and 50 metres behind the targets, with a backstop such as a mound or fence or clearly marked overshoot zone behind the targets to stop arrows that may miss the target.
- Ensure there are barriers and/or signs, such as red warning flags and witches hats, to identify exclusion zones and limit access by non-participants, including an 'overshoot zone funnel' as prescribed in [Archery Australia Safety Guidelines](#).
- Supervise approach/launch area at all times.
- Instruct students to check that there is nobody in the shooting sector or exclusion zone before they commence preparation to shoot.

- Use a system of commands, preferably with a whistle, to signal students when to start shooting, cease shooting and retrieve arrows.
- Instruct students regarding safety rules and procedures (see Archery Australia Safety Guidelines) including the following:
 - Do not run while carrying arrows.
 - Do not take an arrow from the quiver until after the 'commence shooting' signal is given.
 - Do not draw a bow with an arrow in it unless standing facing the target and intending to shoot.
 - Never draw a bow without an arrow in it.
 - Leave arrows which fall in front of the shooting line, until a 'cease shooting' signal is given.
 - Position bows vertically with the tip resting on the front foot between shots.
 - When shooting is finished, place bows on racks, ground quivers or on the ground next to the shooting line and pointing towards the target, and then step back two metres.
 - All arrows should be retrieved at the same time.
- Ensure that students wear a finger tab or shooting glove and an arm guard. It is recommended that the arm guard extend above the elbow.
- Targets **must** be easily visible, and for clout archery, targets should be clearly marked.
- Definite parallel flight paths **must** be established for each target.
- All shooters **must** be positioned astride the shooting line before being given a starting signal. Shooters should have at least 1 metre of space on the shooting line. Archers should not approach the shooting line UNTIL the starting signal is given. Then, and only then, should they straddle the line and pick up their bow.
- Teachers **must** take into consideration the types of bows used and relevant equipment to be used with these bows.
- Check equipment for damage before and during use. Arrows which have faulty flights or nocks, or are split, cracked or otherwise damaged, **must** be withdrawn from use. Bows with cracks and stress marks **must** be withdrawn from use. Strings showing signs of abrasion and wear, e.g. fraying or severing (particularly under the nocking point), **must** be replaced.
- Nominate a single person (e.g. target captain) to withdraw arrows from each target, while other archers stand back at least 2 metres. The person withdrawing the arrows **must** stand to one side of the target to prevent eye injury on withdrawal of arrows. Take care when retrieving arrows, so that arrows are not stepped on or shins spiked.
- Ensure that equipment cannot be accessed without direct supervision of a teacher.

Other activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures

- Assign students to one specific target with a maximum of three archers per target.
- Set up a single shooting line, long enough to accommodate all archers comfortably so that all participants shoot from the same line. If different distances are to be shot, the targets (for both field and clout), not the archers, should be staggered. Be aware of positioning of left and right-handed archers.
- Supply students with individual quivers.
- Ensure all bows are strung to their recommended string lengths.
- Ensure long hair is tied back.
- Guidelines/codes of practice have been established for this activity, refer to [Archery Australia](#).

Useful activity-specific links

- Archery Australia
<http://www.archery.org.au/>
- Vocational Education and Training
www.training.gov.au
- *Weapons Act 1990 (Qld)*
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/W/WeaponsA90.pdf>

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