

RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

For all SIFA field archery courses.

1. No course shall receive SIFA approval until all hazards to safety, in the opinion of the Range Inspector have been removed. The event will not proceed until the identified hazards have been removed.
2. The Range Inspector will record his observations on the approved SIFA form, and will be accompanied by the event Course Layer (or his representative) during the inspection.
3. A map of the course, showing the target layout and the paths available, is an asset to inspection.
4. Clear warning notices, along with warning tape or rope, must be placed anywhere around the course where there is any likelihood that members of the public may enter.
5. The route to be followed by competitors must be clearly marked. Targets must be clearly numbered. There must be no possibility of a group wandering about looking for the next target. The route to the next target should take competitors away from the current target at 90 degrees to the current arrow flight path or as close to this ideal as possible.
6. Leaving the course. An ideal course layout is one where competitors can walk the designated route in complete safety, passing other groups without hindrance. They may, however have to wait for other groups to finish in order to exit the course. Any safe exits from a course should be clearly marked.
7. Targets should not be placed where an overshot arrow can disappear from view e.g. on the skyline.
8. Competitors at field events are prepared to cope with some physical difficulties as they negotiate a course, but hazards (items which could be regarded as dangerous) need to be avoided or made safer.
9. The shoot organiser must make competitors aware of areas of the course that require extra care to negotiate. The pre-shoot briefing is the ideal time to do this.
Such hazards include -
 - Very steep banks. Provide substantial reinforced steps cut into the slope or a knotted rope or both.
 - Ditches. Provide a knotted rope or a bridge. Bridges need to be substantial and, if high off the ground, will need a handrail.
 - Brambles. These pernicious weeds, designed to trip the unwary, need to be cleared as much as is practicable.
 - Conifer branch stubs. These stick out from the trunks at right angles and are extremely dangerous, especially if other difficulties are keeping a competitor's attention or the light is failing. They should be knocked off.
 - Extreme hazards, which are near but not on the course, should be marked off with tape or rope.

Course Layout

1. All butts must be stable so there is no danger of tipping.
2. Shooting lanes must be cleared so the arrows will not strike foliage or branches.
3. Any person, regardless of height, must have a clear view of the full face of the target.
4. Paths must never pass directly behind a target butt, it is preferred that paths should leave the butt at such an angle that archers leave the line of shooting quickly. Paths and target lanes must be clearly marked and adequate direction signs placed.
5. Target butts must be placed so that misses do not constitute a hazard to other groups of archers.
6. Bales or butts must not leak arrows or be reinforced with any material that will damage arrows or be likely to cause bounce-outs.
7. If a target butt is situated so that any path, target, road or building is behind at an unreasonable distance, then the target must be provided with adequate backstop.
8. The practice area must be placed so that no paths or roads pass behind the practice butts.
9. A minimum of 25 feet is necessary between any paths or shooting lanes parallel to another shooting lane. This minimum permits a tolerance depending on terrain and length of shot, but the distance used must preserve absolute safety.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES & GUIDELINES for **RUNNING a FIELD ARCHERY EVENT**

1. It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that their equipment is in safe working order. Equipment may be inspected at any event by the Range Inspector or another official of IFAF charged with the task. The use of faulty equipment will not be permitted.
2. Every group of competitors (3 to 6 competitors, normally 4) must have a designated Target Captain, an archer of proven experience who is responsible for safe, fair and correct procedure, must know the rules for the event, and will judge arrow values (except his/her own!), and whose decision is final. (Procedure may vary depending on conditions and circumstances). Target Captains from different groups may consult. Whatever problems are encountered during the event, it is the responsibility of the Target Captain to resolve them in as safe a manner as possible.
3. Groups must know where to start or be guided to their start positions.
4. Groups must know when to start shooting. This will be by a long blast on a whistle, or an air horn or other suitable device.
5. Another long blast is a signal for all to stop shooting. (Very rarely needed but might be used if, for example, lightning is around).
6. All competitors must register their presence at the event.
7. The organisers for future reference should retain the list of names of those present.