

SHOOTING STYLE RULES - 2009

The rules below were approved at NFAS' AGM on 24 January 2009 and replace all previous rules. At the next AGM members will have the opportunity to accept this set of rules, propose amendments or revert back to the previous set of rules.

Unless explicitly forbidden in the rules below, any equipment is permissible.

As per rule 14 of the NFAS 'Shooting Rules', the arrow speed of any bow should not exceed 300 feet per second (fps). Bows may be randomly tested at any open or national event using a chronograph. The person carrying out the testing will select three or more of the archer's arrows to be tested and an average taken as the bow speed. No arrow should exceed a speed of 300 fps, (plus 3% tolerance for chronograph error). If the speed of any arrow is found to be over this legal speed, the archer has the right to shoot the same arrow again. If arrow speeds are found to be below 270 fps only two arrows need to be shot.

American Flatbow, Bowhunter, Compound Limited, Hunting Tackle and Longbow require the use of a 'Mediterranean loose'. It is optional in other bow styles. A Mediterranean loose means one finger above and the middle and ring fingers below the nock.

Archers using facewalking or stringwalking must shoot in Unlimited or Freestyle depending on whether a compound or non-compound bow is used.

American Flatbow (AFB)

A one-piece bow, of any draw-weight, may be used where the braced limbs curve in one direction only from the handle riser to the string nock. When braced the string must not come into contact with the face of either limb except at the nock grooves. The limb cross-section may vary from oval to rectangular.

The handle may incorporate a cut-away of less than centre-cut to provide an arrow-shelf and the shelf may have a protective cover.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow).

Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the sting serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed. No additional vibration dampeners are allowed on or in the handle section or limbs of the bow.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. The "Mediterranean" loose only is permitted. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

No internal or external stabilisers are allowed.

No form of release aid is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

Arrows shafts must be of wood, fletched with natural feather.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his or her score.

Barebow (BB)

A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow, may be used.

No sight of any description can be used.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow).

Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the sting serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot and no face or string walking is allowed. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

A single stabiliser of any length is permitted.

Any arrow rest used cannot have an over-draw of more than 5cm (2 inches) behind the throat of the hand-grip. This is measured along the length of a nocked arrow from the point where the arrow touches the rest to the point vertically above the throat of the hand-grip.

No form of release aid is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

Bowhunter (BH)

A compound bow of any draw-weight may be used.

No sight of any description can be used.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow).

Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the sting serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot and no face or string walking is allowed. No additional draw-checks can be added to the bow above the manufacturer's specification and any such draw-check must not be able to be used as a sighting aid.

Any arrow rest used cannot have an over-draw of more than 5cm (2 inches) behind the throat of the hand-grip. This is measured along the length of a nocked arrow from the point where the arrow touches the rest to the point vertically above the throat of the hand-grip.

A single stabiliser of any length is permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted. The 'Mediterranean' loose only is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

Compound Limited (CL)

A compound bow of any draw-weight may be used.

A multi-pin sight with up to five fixed pins may be used. None of the pins or sight block can be adjusted on the course unless the archer suffers from equipment failure. No spirit level of any kind is permitted. No additional deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming. Pinguards are permitted.

A peep-sight or kissers button is permitted but not both.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. No additional draw-checks can be added to the bow above the manufacturer's specification and any such draw-check must not be able to be used as a sighting aid.

Any arrow rest used cannot have an over-draw of more than 5cm (2 inches) behind the throat of the hand-grip. This is measured along the length of a nocked arrow from the point where the arrow touches the rest to the point vertically above the throat of the hand-grip.

Any stabiliser(s) or stabiliser system and/or dampeners are permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted. The 'Mediterranean' loose only is permitted.

Crossbow (XB)

The maximum (or peak) draw weight of the prod is to be no more than 105 lbs (one hundred and five pounds). The prod can be made from any materials except aluminium alloy.

The maximum distance from the front of the prod to the string latch is to be no more than 40cm (16 inches).

Minimum bolt length is to be no less than 30cm (12 inches).

All crossbows shall be fitted with a bolt retaining clip. No cocking aid other than a foot stirrup is permitted. A crossbow archer may only cock his/her bow when at the shooting peg. Once loaded the crossbow shall only be pointed in the direction of the target.

Telescopic or magnifying sights are not permitted.

Crossbow archers shall not use a rest of any description which provides an additional point of support for the bow whilst shooting.

It is an offence for a person under 18 years of age to have in their possession:

- a. A crossbow which is capable of discharging a missile, Or
- b. Parts of a crossbow which together (and without any other parts) can be assembled to form a crossbow capable of discharging a missile

UNLESS the person is under supervision of someone who is who is 21 years of age or older.

Freestyle (FS)

A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow or crossbow, may be used.

Subject to the 'NFAS Rules of Shooting', archers shooting in this class have complete freedom of choice of equipment, with the exception that no form of release aid is allowed and no electrically powered or electronic equipment can be used (eg laser sights, lights on sights).

The sight may be moved at will during shooting.

Attachments, knots or bands of any size or design (including a peep sight) may be used on the string irrespective of whether the use is for aiding the sighting or shooting technique.

Any draw-length checking mechanism may be used.

Hunting Tackle (HT)

A bow of any draw-weight, but not a compound bow or crossbow, may be used.

No sight of any description can be used.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow).

Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the sting serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. The 'Mediterranean' loose only is permitted. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

Any arrow rest used cannot have an over-draw of more than 5cm (2 inches) behind the throat of the hand-grip. This is measured along the length of a nocked arrow from the point where the arrow touches the rest to the point vertically above the throat of the hand-grip.

No external stabilisers are allowed.

No form of mechanical or electronic release aid is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

Arrows shafts must be of wood, fletched with natural feather.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

Longbow (LB)

The bow must be of wood only (although partial bamboo construction is permitted), straight-limbed and of "D" section with nocks of self nature or made of horn and must be free of stabilisers, sights, arrow-rests or cut-aways for the arrow to rest on. No form of arrow-rest may be attached to the side of the bow. No fibreglass, carbon or similar synthetic fibre is permitted in the construction of the bow.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow).

Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the sting serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed. No additional vibration dampeners are allowed on the handle section or limbs of the bow.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. The "Mediterranean" loose only is permitted. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

No external stabilisers are allowed.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. The "Mediterranean" loose only is permitted. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

Arrows shafts must be of wood, fletched with natural feather.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

Primitive (PV)

A primitive bow must be closely based upon a primitive or ancient bow type. An ancient bow design is one used 500 or more years ago. A primitive bow is one used today by low-tech pre-industrial tribes and peoples anywhere in the world. Longbows fitting the definition above cannot be shot in Primitive class. Crossbows cannot be used in primitive class.

The bow must be constructed of natural materials only but synthetic glues and finishes may be used. The bow can be of any draw weight.

The bow must be free of stabilisers, sights, or other features unless these can be proved to be part of the original ancient or primitive bow design.

No form of arrow rest may be added to the side of the bow. Arrows must be shot off the hand.

The bowstring may be of different colours as long as the coloured strands run continuously and evenly throughout the string's length, but the centre serving must be of one colour. One nocking position is permitted (which may be indicated by nocking points both above and below the arrow).

Brush buttons and silencers are permitted but no other knots or attachments (in addition to the sting serving) that could be used for sighting or location purposes are allowed. No additional vibration dampeners are allowed on the handle section or limbs of the bow.

One anchor point must be maintained throughout the shoot. Any form of hand loose may be used including Mediterranean, two finger, pinch, thumb ring etc. No draw-checks of any kind are permitted.

No form of release aid is permitted.

No deliberate marks can be added to the bow that can be used for aiming.

Arrows shafts must be of wood, fletched with natural feather. Nocks to be self nocks or reinforced with natural material. Plastic taper nocks may not be used.

No archer may refer to any memoranda which could in any manner be a means of improving his/her score.

Primitive bow ethos

(This is not part of the rules, but explains the ethos behind the primitive bow class.)

Archers shooting primitive class are recreating and shooting long-established designs of bow. It is preferable that archers construct bows, strings and arrows themselves and use authentic material, including natural (non-synthetic) glues and finishes wherever possible. Using self-made shafts and natural string materials is desirable.

Unlimited (UL)

A hand-bow, which can be a compound bow, of any draw-weight may be used.

Subject to the General Rules, archers shooting in this class have complete freedom of choice of equipment, with the exception that no electrically powered or electronic equipment can be used (eg electronic release aids, laser sights).

Any release aid used must be safe and not prone to premature release from any cause.