

## Risk Assessment – Soft Archery

Baseline <del>X</del>	Site Specific		Vulnerable Person		Temporary		Version	01.08.23	Date of issue:	01/08/2023
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**Operating notes:**

- Supervision ratio is 1 Activity Leader to a maximum of 6 active participants. Maximum group size is 10.
- Soft archery involves suckers instead of arrow heads so requires less archery standard rules and safety.
- Archery range should have marked areas for shooting and waiting, and a maximum of 5 bosses on the range. Archery range will be laid out to ensure spacing of waiting line, shooting line, and target line. Arrow-stop netting should be provided where overshoot areas cannot be guaranteed. Bosses and stands must be secure to prevent them falling when arrows are withdrawn or during high winds. Hard surfaces in the immediate surroundings of the targets must be covered with impact absorbing materials to reduce arrow rebounds.
- All bows used in Archery sessions are subject to inspections as per the Equipment Management Standards.
- Arrow shafts are never shortened; lengths are kept to a maximum to avoid arrows dropping off the arrow rest during the draw.

**Risk – Benefit Statement:** There is a low risk of injury resulting from being struck by an arrow, however high levels of participation in a potentially new activity where participants focus on learning new techniques makes the risk tolerable

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Being struck by an arrow during session or during arrow collection Adverse weather – lightning	Activity Leader All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the STOP command as part of the safety briefing and watch for arrows being pointed towards other people.</li> <li>• Should the fire alarm sound in local buildings, use the STOP command and follow fire evacuation procedures.</li> <li>• No arrows to be left on the shooting line during arrow collection</li> <li>• Scan the ground in front of you as you approach the target, and always approach the target from the side.</li> <li>• Group members are permitted to retrieve arrows only after briefing and under the supervision of the activity leader</li> <li>• Check behind you before pulling arrows out of the boss.</li> <li>• On outdoor ranges, follow the 30/30 rule for lightning</li> </ul>	Low Low
Entanglement of clothing, hair, jewellery, etc.	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check that long hair is tied back, baggy clothing secured and jewellery removed at the start of session. Check each participant before they shoot.</li> </ul>	Low

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Abrasion from bow string	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long sleeves to be worn by all participants.</li></ul>	Very Low
Unsupervised equipment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure bows and arrows are locked away at the end of the activity. Do not leave them unattended on the range.</li></ul>	Low