

# Strathardle Archers Family Membership Guide to Parents

Children are welcome as family members. A parent must remain with and supervise children at all times. Instruction and help is offered, but there is no creche-type facility for children to be dropped off.

If you are not a parent of the children you bring to the club, both you and the children must already be members, and the children present and in your charge with their parents'/guardians' full knowledge and permission.

The attention of parents is drawn to item 3c of the constitution. "Members under the age of sixteen shall be family members and shall be accompanied on the course by an adult member who has been judged safe and who accepts responsibility for their conduct."

It is our aim therefore to help parents achieve a satisfactory level of safety awareness at an early stage so they can supervise children effectively at the club. This information sheet lays out the essential safety considerations that parents must demand from those in their charge.

The Safety Rules of the club are repeated below with explanations and comments specific to children added in italic.

## Strathardle Archers Safety Rules

- 1** Never loose an arrow where you cannot see where it will land. *Danger to archers and public.*
- 2** Never loose an arrow straight up into the air. *It will come straight back down again at high speed.*
- 3** Never shoot a cracked or bent arrow. *Possible fragmentation could injure the archer and those nearby. All archery gear should be well maintained.*
- 4** Never point an arrow at a person and never shoot to the side of a person.
- 5** Never pretend to shoot towards a person. *No place here for humour, and heart failure is a not unheard of.*
- 6** Never stand in a shooting lane forward of an archer about to shoot. *Whether at the practise area or on the course the importance of this rule cannot be over-stated.*

**7** Remember at all times that the bow and arrow are deadly weapons. *Even the lightest draw weight bows are definitely not toys. We want above all for our sport to be fun, but it is imporatnt to prevent any fooling about that could compromise safety.*

**8** Whilst another archer is shooting be alert to potential dangers. *Walkers or dogs coming your way?*

**9** Where possible danger exists, shout 'FAST!' *This is the traditional instruction to stop shooting. Even if the archer is ready to release, he or she must come down from full draw in a controlled manner.*

**10** If you have doubts of any kind don't shoot. *Each archer must decide whether it is safe to shoot, but for under-16s you as the parent must be ready to intervene.*

**11** In the event of an arrow over-shooting a butt at least one adult member of a group should remain standing in front of the target whilst others search for arrows. *The next group of archers arriving at your target must be in no doubt that an arrow search is still under way behind the target.*

**12** Always keep to the marked path from one target to the next shooting stand. *It is vital that children and all archers keep to the marked route around the course. Spontaneous games of hide and seek or similar are therefore out of the question.*

**13** Don't just think things are safe, make sure. *Please try to instill this in the minds of those in your charge.*

## Practise Area

Initially a fair amount of time will be spent at the practise area. The safety rules apply here as much as to the course itself. In addition to the safety rules, children need to be made aware of the following:

*Never shoot a bow without an arrow on the string.  
Never try to shoot an arrow that is too short.*

*Wait for instructions to shoot and to collect arrows.*

*Even the back end of an arrow has the potential to cause injury. Approach the target with caution and without running. Approach from one side to avoid walking into any arrows in the ground. Stand to one side of the arrows to pull them out. Check other archers are clear of the arrows being pulled.*