

ST SEBASTIAN ARCHERS

ACTIVITY
ASSESSMENT BY
REVIEWED BY
ASSESSMENT DATE

Outdoor Archery
Jo Taylor-Hunt
Paul Briggs
13 July 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

AGB rules of shooting to apply at all times.

The hazards and associated risks with this activity have been identified and given a scored rating using semi-quantitative risk assessment methodology. The risk assessment ratings are a subjective estimate based on the knowledge of the assessors and identify the level of risk without controls and the level of residual risk once the control measures have been implemented.



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Hazard Description	Who might be harmed	How harm may occur	Inherent Severity	Inherent Likelihood	Inherent Score	Control Measures	Residual Severity	Residual Likelihood	Residual Score
Members of the public entering the shooting ground	• Members of the public	People or animals straying onto range could be hit by an arrow in flight.	5	3	15	- Physical barriers and clearly visible warning signage shall be positioned at all access points to the field and remain in place at all times while shooting is in progress. - All archers shall remain vigilant and continuously observe the shooting area and overshoot zone. - All archers shall be trained in and understand the FAST/STOP emergency procedure. - Any person may call "FAST" or "STOP" immediately if an unsafe or hazardous situation is identified.	5	1	5
Lack of control of the shooting area	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers) Spectators	Conflicting actions or misunderstandings during shooting may result in arrows being released while people are forward of the shooting line, leading to serious injury or fatality.	5	3	15	- The shooting field shall be under the absolute control of a designated Field Captain at all times. - The Field Captain shall be an experienced senior archer and shall brief all participants before shooting commences. - The Field Captain shall be clearly identified, with their name displayed on the club notice board before each session. - Shooting shall only take place using recognised whistle and/or voice commands, which must be explained and understood by all participants prior to shooting.	5	1	5

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Arrow overshoot when shooting at long distance by inexperienced archers and a chance of an arrow passing through to school field at the far end of the range.	Members of the public	An arrow shot beyond the target may overshoot the range boundary and enter adjacent land, potentially striking members of the public or property.	5	3	15	- During school hours, shooting at distances of 80 yards or 100 yards towards the infant school field is prohibited. - At all other times, shooting at 80 and 100 yards shall take place on a separate range layout with the shooting line positioned 20 yards further back to increase the overshoot safety distance. - Only archers who have demonstrated competence at distances of at least 70m / 80 yards may shoot at 100 yards. - The Field Captain shall ensure these controls are followed at all times.	5	1	5
Inadequate or incorrect instruction given to beginners or "Have-a-Goes"	Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers)	Incorrect technique, unsafe behaviour, or misunderstanding of commands may lead to accidental release of arrows, equipment misuse, or injury to the archer or others.	4	3	12	- Only senior archers authorised by the Field Captain shall provide instruction. - A designated instructor shall remain on the shooting line at all times during instructional activities. - Beginners and have-a-go participants shall not shoot unsupervised.	4	1	4
Setting up and manual handling of targets	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers)	Incorrect lifting techniques may cause musculoskeletal injuries, crushed fingers, or dropped equipment causing injury to feet or legs.	3	3	9	- Safe manual handling techniques shall be used at all times. - Beginners and volunteers shall be supervised and assisted when handling targets. - Members should avoid lifting large target bosses alone, particularly 130cm foam bosses.	3	1	3
Retrieving Arrows	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers)	Incorrect arrow extraction or poor awareness of others may result in hand, face, or eye injuries from arrows being pulled suddenly from the boss.	3	3	9	- All persons retrieving arrows shall be suitably experienced or briefed beforehand. - Instruction shall include correct arrow-pulling techniques and safe handling of arrows. - Arrows shall always be carried point-down when returning to the shooting line.	3	1	3

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Lost Arrows	Members of the public	When the range is not in use any lost arrows may be protruding from the ground and could harm anyone who is walking in the area.	4	3	12	- Metal detectors and rakes shall be available to assist arrow recovery. - If an arrow cannot be recovered after a thorough search, the club's Lost Arrow Procedure shall be followed and relevant club officers notified.	4	1	4
Protection of juniors and vulnerable persons	Young & Vulnerable persons	Lack of supervision or inappropriate conduct may place juniors or vulnerable persons at risk of physical harm or safeguarding concerns.	4	3	12	- All juniors under 18 and vulnerable persons shall be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. - Parents of juniors aged 16–17 may only leave them unattended if a signed consent form has been completed. - Coaches must obtain permission before any physical contact for coaching purposes. - No member shall be alone with a junior or vulnerable person; a minimum of two adults must be present.	4	1	4
Inadequate First Aid provision	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers) - Spectators	Delayed or insufficient treatment of injuries could worsen outcomes following an accident or medical emergency.	4	3	12	- Appropriate first aid equipment shall be available on site at all times. - At least one qualified first aider shall be present during beginner sessions and have-a-go events. - If no first aider is present, the Field Captain shall have access to a telephone to summon emergency services. - All participants shall be briefed on emergency procedures.	4	1	4
Other activities taking place on the shooting field	Members of the public	Arrows may be shot towards people engaged in other activities, leading to serious injury.	5	3	15	- Shooting shall be directed away from other activities and nearby property. - Shooting shall not take place during grass cutting or other conflicting field activities.	5	1	5

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Incorrect or inadequate equipment being used by beginners or "Have-a-Goes" likely to cause injury	Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers)	Bow strings or limbs under tension could break and hit others. Bent arrows can fly unpredictably, possibly harming anyone. Shattered arrow could cause sharp shards	4	3	12	- A suitable range of beginner equipment shall be maintained by the club. - All equipment shall be checked before use. - Damaged or unsuitable equipment shall be removed from use immediately. - In extreme circumstances, if adequate equipment is not available, all reasonable efforts will be made to obtain necessary equipment for the future.	4	1	4
Archers wearing loose/unsuitable clothing, footwear or jewellery.	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers)	Loose clothing, jewellery, or unsuitable footwear may become caught in equipment, causing injury.	3	3	9	- Shooting shall not be permitted if clothing, footwear, or jewellery presents a safety risk. - Long hair shall be tied back and jewellery removed or secured. - Open-toed footwear is not permitted. - The Field Captain has authority to refuse shooting.	3	1	3
Damaged or poorly maintained equipment	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers)	Equipment failure under tension may cause parts to break or detach, resulting in impact or laceration injuries.	4	3	12	- All club equipment shall be inspected before use. - Damaged equipment shall be clearly marked and removed from service. - Repairs or replacement shall be completed before reuse.	4	1	4
Emergency vehicle access	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers) - Spectators	Blocked access routes may delay emergency services, increasing the severity of injuries.	4	2	8	Vehicles shall be parked so as not to obstruct access routes required by emergency services.	4	1	4

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A member or non-member having a known medical condition	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers)	Undisclosed medical conditions may lead to sudden illness or incapacity, posing a risk to the individual or others.	4	2	8	All members and non-members with relevant medical conditions shall record details and emergency contacts in the medical register.	4	1	4
Tripping and slipping	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers) - Spectators	Poor housekeeping or wet conditions may cause slips, trips, or falls resulting in injury.	3	3	9	- Equipment shall be stored behind the equipment line and away from walkways. - Items left on the field shall be positioned away from routes between the shooting line and targets. - Extra care shall be taken in wet or poor weather conditions. - Running during archery sessions is prohibited	3	1	3
Lack of awareness of general safety principles and requirements	- Club Members - Non Members (Visiting archers, Beginners, "Have a go" Customers) - Spectators		3	3	9	- This risk assessment document shall be displayed in a prominent location in the clubhouse, on the Members page of the St. Sebastian website (http://www.stsebastianarchers.com) and available for reading by all members and non-members. - All members shall have successfully completed a recognised beginners' course, during which comprehensive safety instruction is provided.	3	1	3