

Discover Field Archery 29/1/23

Part 2

Welcome to today's discover field archery session.

Today is going to be a continuation from the last session, but we are going to concentrate on a Marked WA field round.

We are doing this as, at the end of May, the All British Open is being held in Sandy in Bedfordshire. So, in field archery terms on our doorstep! Anyone can entry if they are an AGB member.

The ABO consists of; Day one, 12 unmarked distances and 12 Marked distances. All distances are in Metres. Repeated on the second day.

Part 3 of the Discover field archery sessions with a session of distance judging included.

Marked Field round.

As a recap from last session there are 4 target size faces in field, 80cm, 60cm, 40cm and 20cm. All have set distances for each size face. Each target size face has 3 set distances each therefore on a normal 24 target course you will shoot the same distance twice in a day. (4 size faces X 3 distances = 12, 12 x 2 =24).

We are going to go through 1 x 12 distances today in a competition format if you want to stay on and do another 1 x 12 to see how 24 targets feel you are more than welcome.

Scoring.

As you can see the target idea is not too different to what you have been used to seeing on a target range. Roundels of different sizes with increasing values as you get nearer the centre. In this case 1-6 rather than 1-10 or 1-9 on 5 ring scoring.

The archer gets 3 arrows that all count towards your score on that target.

On WA Field shoots like target shoots they can be Record Status (RS) and/or Arrowhead shoots. RS are the only ones you can claim County/Regional/UK /World records. Arrowhead shoots are the equivalent of the Rose awards in target or Tassel in Clout.

Foot Position

In target you are taught to straddle the shooting line, however with field there are pegs to indicate where you shoot from.

WA Field rounds you must be behind the line of the peg but within a 1m radius of the peg.

Coloured Pegs

There are two standard pegs RED and BLUE for adults, Sighted and Unsighted.

In recent years due to the increasing popularity of field archery shorter distances for juniors have been introduced.

Normally the pegs are in as straight a line as possible to avoid arrow damage on the bosses.

Order of shooting

The red and blue pegs shoot first (alternating) then the other coloured pegs as the distance decreases towards the target boss.

How many archers can shoot at a time?

Field faces - 2 archers shoot at the same time, then the other 2 and each pair then alternate to shoot first. Whoever decides to shoot on the LHS stays on the LHS and the same with whoever shoots on the RHS stays on the RHS for the complete round.

4 face targets - 1st pair shoot the top two targets 2nd pair shoot bottom two targets. Bunnies from the left are numbered 1-4, 1st pair shoot columns 1 & 3, 2nd pair shoot columns 2 & 4.

Start/Stop the shoot

Most shoots are started by Judges/marshals by whistle/air horn/shotgun.

Normally you shoot your target, then when all the group has shot, score, retrieve your arrows and then as a group move onto the next target and as soon as the target is clear start shooting. Because field courses are laid out like a golf course the groups self-manage themselves for the most part.

TODAY

We have separated the red and blue pegs onto different targets so will be shooting at the same time followed by any juniors from their coloured peg(s). when all have shot, a signal will be given for everyone to go forward and score and withdraw arrows. You will then move on to the next target (Red or Blue as appropriate). Once everyone has shot all the longest distances the "shooting line" will move forward to the mid distance pegs and again once all these have been shot the shooting line will move forward to the shortest distances. Remember that to wait for any juniors that need to move forward to their peg before the signal will be given to retrieve.

Scoring

At field shoots double scoring is required, which means 2 of the group record the scores on the score sheets and the others to retrieve the arrows after all arrows have been scored, so think about if you want your arrows pulled by someone else, do you want to (or not) score, if you are pulling arrows, you can tire your shooting arm! Same motion!

Field faces all 3 arrows score and like target scoring valves are called in descending order.

AGB shoots tend to call out, totals, RT and specifics like number of 6s or 5s every target.

When your group has shot all the targets you make your way back to the control desk, after your scorers have totalled your scores, they sign and the archer counter sign to say they agree with the score. Then hand in your scores to the TO as a group.

Emergency Stop

Known as the **RED** Call. In the event of a medical emergency, to stop the shoot the group with the issue Shout RED followed by the target number they are on. The groups on either side or within earshot will stop shooting and repeat the call and so on until everyone has stopped shooting.

e.g. "RED 4" is called by the group on target 4, the groups around target 4 also call RED 4 not RED 3 or 5! This allows the shoot to be stopped quickly making it safe for the judges and marshals to go direct to the incident rather than following the course they will then deal with the issue and resume the shoot in the normal way when safe to do so.

Types of bows

Most types of bows are welcome at AGB field shoots in this country, however depending on how serious you want to take your field archery could impact on the type of bow you shoot!

International competitions.

WA Field: only compound, recurve and barebow are recognized

WA3D, sighted compounds, barebow, AFB (known as longbow) and Traditional.

Example in target AFB would shoot against Barebow, in field Longbow would shoot against AFB, as the old saying goes it's like "bringing a knife to a gun fight".

Inspection

So, on a day of a competition you will book in, make your bow ready, warm up/practice have a bacon butty, then inspection – some very basic rules

BOWS

Compound, draw weight must not exceed 60lbs sight marks are allowed.

Recurve, no magnification on sights, sight marks are allowed.

Barebow, bow and any attachments goes through a 12.5cm circle when strung (excluding the string) no marks on bow or string to act as sight marks.

AFB, no recurve, 1cm max arrow rest leather, no visible marks on bow or string to act as sight marks. Mediterranean or 3 finger under.

Longbows, no sighting aid (elastic band).

ARROWS

Can have a mixture, for long /short distances but must shoot the same type at each target should have name on shaft not vanes. Each set must have matching vanes.

Bino/mono's

No range finding ability including scale on dials etc.

Red Pens are for judges use only on score cards.

Tabs

Are inspected for marks/interference.

Then the shoot briefing happens, group changes, safety notes, status of shoot, how it will start, course make up.

Archers are then divided into their groups and are led out onto the course to their starting pegs to await the starting signal.