



Tournament Preparation Guide

Entering your first tournament is an exciting time in your archery development, You have worked hard by coming to practice prepared to learn and grow. Now hopefully we have prepared you to take the next step. It is important for me as your coach to stress that a tournament is not a competition against a group of archers.

I want you to pause and reflect on that for a moment.

The tournament, is a place for you compete against *yourself*. Winning at the tournament is not scoring the most points, but scoring the most points *you* ever have. Sure its nice to win a medal, trophy, or a plaque at one of these events and have your name called out. I get it. But at the end of the day, the medal, trophy and plaque is just a piece of metal or plastic. You can order them for yourself if you really want one.

The reason we compete, is to measure how good we can perform, when we feel the pressure of competition. This pressure should only come from one place, yourself. You are not shooting archery for your parents, you are not shooting archery for your coach. Our roles are to support and encourage you at all times. Our job is to help you remember what it takes to execute a *Good* shot. Bad shots will happen, I promise. I have them all the time. Don't let one bad shot have an impact on all the rest of them.

Most importantly, have fun. Always remember that is why you signed up for your first tournament to begin with. Its because you love the sport.

We hope this guide takes out some of the stress of the day.

Sincerely,

Brandon Wright

Head Coach

What to Expect

I remember our first tournament. It was a lot of fun and we met some great people from the archery community that have helped shape the program we offer. But a lot of things are just assumed you know when you sign up. Hopefully this will help you to be a bit more prepared.

Day 1

First, let me say, BE EARLY. If shooting starts at 9:30, arrive by 8am. You are going to be lost, nervous, and lost. You will want to locate your targets based on the distance you will be shooting and set up your *camp*. Yes I said camp. You are going to spend hours if not days at the tournament, be comfortable.

Install a canopy for shade, set up chairs, and bring out an ice chest. But more suggestions are on the included checklist. These are all just suggestions, well except for your bow, and arrows etc.. It will take time to set up camp.

Check-in will begin about an hour before the shoot, potentially sooner. The earlier you know your target assignment, the closer your "camp" can be constructed to it. Your equipment will need to be inspected prior to use. This means the poundage on your bow will be tested (No bows over 60#'s are allowed), the type of equipment on your bow will be checked, (You cannot have multiple pins on your bow sight, just one), and your arrows will be inspected (Be sure to have the archers initials written on the arrow shaft, not on the vanes in sharpie, preferably silver if you have black arrows).

Practice will be only two rounds long. If you are not sighted in, it is going to be a frustrating day.

Shooting lines will vary by tournament, ask a judge for clarification, that is why they are there. Scoring ends will begin on time.

Parents/coaches are not allowed to coach from the stands, so don't yell out instructions or cheer when they do well. Archery requires concentration, distracting others can get you removed from a tournament. (Archers may visit while waiting their turn to shoot).

Parents/coaches are only allowed on the field if the archer is in the Yeoman class (9yrs and younger). This is encouraged for this class so that the rest of the tournament is not slowed down.

NEVER touch an arrow on the target until it has been scored or judged and marked. Only then can an arrow be touched to pull it from the target.

Score as you go. The two archers assigned to scoring should be double checking the accuracy of their score cards after every round. *A mistake always results in the lower score.*

Score cards must be signed by both scorers and the archer.

Dress Code.

Yes archery has a dress code. Blue jeans and Camo prints are not allowed at most tournaments. If it is cold, I suggest, Kaki pants or other solid color pants, or sweats. Yes, sweats are allowed and not jeans.....I did not write the rules. Shorts are permitted if they are of a solid color. Close toed shoes are required. Fancy sandals that cover 90% of the foot are not permitted. Shirts must be plain, unless they are from a club or sponsor. Women may not reveal their mid-drift or wear tang tops. Archers will be required to wear their quiver. No ground quivers are allowed. Hats are permitted.

Archery Etiquette

Archers are expected to adhere to a set of standards for conduct. NO TALKING while on the shooting line. Archers will not make movements off the line while another is at full draw. Archers will attempt to alternate their shots when possible with the adjacent archers.

Day 2

Once you have survived day 1, day 2,3,etc depending on your tournament are a breeze. All the same rules apply except you no longer have to undergo equipment inspections. Be sure to pay attention to when practice begins and arrive at least 30 minutes prior for equipment set-up and warm-ups.

End of day2/tournament

Here are where things get tricky, the archer is responsible for turning in their own score cards, but they also need to be totaled and signed by the score keepers first. Often the running totals are not calculated as the tournament progresses. I can't explain why many archers don't but it is a fact. This delays the submission of that cards until that process is complete which ultimately delays the awards presentation. You can wait an hour to two hours until after the tournament has ended to discover the medalists. This makes for a good time to socialize with others in the community.



Indoor Nationals 2014

Tournament Checklist

Mandatory Items:

- ❑ Bow (Yes we had to say it)
- ❑ Arrows (A minimum of seven (7) with matching fletching's and marked with archers initials, preferably with a silver sharpie)
- ❑ Quiver (No ground quivers can be used)
- ❑ Single pin sight (You may need to remove multi pins from sight or switch to an adjustable single pin sight)
- ❑ Shoes (close toed, no sandals)
- ❑ Single color shorts or pants (No jeans or camo)
- ❑ Orange Shirt—That is our team color, and it is awesome.
- ❑ Release (mechanical or finger tab)
- ❑ **Did you remember to register for the tournament?**

These items are the minimum you will need to be competitive. I always bring a number of back-up items and tools to help assist the archers if a need arises.

Tournament Checklist

Optional Items:

- ❑ Chairs (No grandstands are provided, unless you are at the Olympics)
- ❑ Arrows Back-up set
- ❑ Canopy/Pop-up You will be either sitting in the sun all day or the rain.
- ❑ Ice Chest stocked with quality food. (Fruits, cheeses, meats, energy bars, water, Gator-aid. Keep the candy at home unless it's a minimal amount to be consumed during the afternoon portion.
- ❑ Hats, sunglasses, sunblock etc
- ❑ Binoculars (arrows are small and we shoot at far distances)
- ❑ Orange Shirt—for everyone else in the family.
- ❑ Back-up Release (mechanical or finger tab)
- ❑ Camera
- ❑ Calculator, note pad and pens
- ❑ Arrow parts, extra knocks, target points.