

Exeter Sportsman's Club, Inc.

Archery Policy

ESC-013

Effective Date: 8 Sep 2021

Introduction

The Exeter Sportsman's Club (ESC) was founded in 1878 as a non-profit club rich in history and tradition. The club offers members access to multiple facilities including the Archery range.

The purpose of this document is to familiarize members with the Archery Range. This document covers such topics as physical operations and various safety rules.

Archery Range Introduction

The ESC Archery range is designed to provide a safe and comfortable setting for archery related activities. The Club offers an archery range with 4 covered shooting lanes/positions.

A primary goal of the ESC is to provide a safe and comfortable setting for the members and guests. The General Rules / Safety Procedures provided in this document are established to ensure we meet this goal.

Administration

The BOD member assigned with Archery manages the general operation of the ranges. The Archery Committee/volunteers who the BOD Archery member designates shall maintain all equipment and assets necessary to operate the ranges.

Membership

All regular current members have access and use privileges to the archery range.

All members using the facilities of Exeter Sportsman's Club MUST complete a range orientation for EACH range they wish to use.

All persons entering club premises consent to audio and video surveillance and the use of images or recordings in any investigation, disciplinary action and/or prosecution resulting from their actions while on said premises.

Members are allowed to bring guest visitor(s) to the range, subject to the conditions presented in ESC Visitor Policy ESC-003.

Hours of Operation

The range will only be active from sunrise to sunset. Shooting is allowed during daylight hours only. The archery range will be closed during the holidays the Club is closed; Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and all scheduled events when safety is a concern (firearm training, fishing derby, hunter education classes, scheduled archery classes, maintenance, etc).

Other closing times will be posted on one or all of the following: ESC website and email, street sign.

Archer Responsibilities

It is each shooter's responsibility to know the range rules, handle his/her archery equipment appropriately, and shoot in a safe manner. Any unsafe situations should be corrected immediately and be brought to the attention of the BOD. Failure to follow the range rules may result in suspension of shooting privileges.

General Rules

Safety is of paramount importance to everyone using the ranges and it is the top priority of ESC. Any person utilizing the ranges must adhere to the safe handling and use of archery equipment. The following rules and safety procedures will be followed by all recreational shooters and enforced by all members.

The ESC Archery Ranges contains several pieces of equipment including targets and other miscellaneous items. All range equipment is property of ESC and may not be altered or removed from the range without prior permission of the ESC BOD.

Archery Safety Rules

- NEVER point a bow and arrow at another person.
- NEVER shoot an arrow straight up into the air.
- NEVER shoot an arrow off into the distance where you cannot see it land.
- TARGET POINT OR FIELD POINT ARROWS ONLY. NO BROADHEADS ALLOWED
- NO CROSSBOWS ALLOWED
- ALWAYS BE AWARE OF OTHER ARCHERS AND THEIR LOCATION
- SHOOT ONLY AT THE FIRING LINE. MOVE THE TARGET CLOSER TO YOU IF IT IS TOO FAR AWAY.
- NEVER MOVE DOWNRANGE OF THE FIRING LINE WHILE RANGE IS ACTIVE/HOT.
- If you are shooting wooden or fiberglass arrows, check them regularly for cracks. If one is found cracked, break it immediately to insure that it will not be accidentally used.
- Always use a bow stringer for longbows and recurve bows.
- Check your bow regularly for cracks or twisting.
- Check the condition of your bowstring regularly.

- DO NOT draw a bowstring back further than the length of the arrow for which it is intended.
- DO NOT draw the string back except with an arrow on it and, especially, do not release the bowstring with no arrow on it. Doing so is called dry firing and can damage the bow.
- On the range, the only safe place is behind the shooting line. Never shoot an arrow until you are positive that no one is in front of you or behind the targets. Conversely, do not stand in front of a bow while it is being shot, even if you are to one side of the shooter.

Archery Specific Safety

- Member lanyards with badges, normally required to be always worn when on property, may be hung or set aside when actively shooting. Removing them while shooting eliminates a safety issue of the lanyard getting caught in the bowstring.
- Shoes must cover the entire foot. Sport/athletic shoes are recommended. It is recommended that hair should be tied back and jewelry such as dangling earrings or necklaces should be removed prior to shooting.

Archery Range Use Rules

- When you arrive on the archery range you must sign in at the archery range box. Members shall legibly write in their name, badge number, time of arrival, time on the range, departure time, and type of bow used (compound, recurve, traditional). Bow type will help the range determine the best type of targets to supply in the future.
- Once on the range a member shall have a minimum of one hour to shoot. Arriving members may join the active archery line. If the shooting line is full, newly arriving members must sign in and make their presence known. Current shooters must yield the line no more than one hour after the new archers sign in. A waiting member shall sign in (time of arrival) but need not remain on site but must return by the time the current archers leave. Range time for new archers commences one hour after waiting-in-line archers begin shooting.
- No one may shoot at the target line if the 3D range is in use. And no one may shoot at the 3D range if the target range is in use.
- Round targets are for recurve bows, barebows and compound bows with less than 50-pound draw weight. The clubs vinyl target faces may be left on the targets for use by all members. Paper targets may be attached to round targets with pins provided. Please remove and dispose of paper targets when done shooting. If vinyl targets are removed for any reason, please firmly reattach them before leaving the range.
- Targets should be moved to a distance that is appropriate for archer's skill level. All shooting will be done from the shooting line.
- When using the 3D range all other targets should be moved to the far end of the target range.

Archery Safety Protocols and Etiquette

Archers must obey all rules, safety protocols, and etiquette while on the range.

- ALWAYS WALK, NOT RUN, on the range.
- Arrows may only be loaded (nocked) when on the shooting line, and loaded bows must always be pointed down range and at a specific target.
- While standing on the shooting line, one foot must be in front of the line (matching the hand and arm holding the bow), and one behind. At no time will both feet be in front or behind the shooting line.
- If an arrow is dropped in front of the shooting line while the range is “hot” it must be left until the all clear is called.
- If multiple archers are on the range please be considerate with the number of arrows you are shooting. Example one shooter is shooting 3 arrows while a second is shooting 8+. Please do not force other archers to wait, try to agree on the number of arrows to be shot.
- Once you have shot your arrows, please step back from the shooting line and place your bow on a bow stand or bow rack.
- When retrieving arrows walk with your eyes on the arrows in the target as you near the target. Arrows have a very small nock profile and are very hard to see. Walk to the side of the target to pull your arrows, starting with the one closest to you. Brace yourself on the target if needed to help pull. Begin by placing one hand on the target face, and the other at the base of the arrow. Pull slowly and firmly straight back, while turning the arrow. Always be aware of anyone else on the range near your target. Pulling arrows can take some force and may suddenly pull free. Someone standing close to your target may be injured.
- If arrows shot downrange miss your target, and become lost in the grass you may try to locate them during arrow retrieval. If arrows cannot be located in a timely manner, return to shooting line and try to locate arrows once all other archers have finished their range time. All lost and found arrows recovered from the range will be returned to the designated lost and found ground quiver, to be retrieved by their owners at a later date.
- When carrying arrows back to the shooting line they should be in your quiver or be carried with the points covered by your hand and held to your side.
- Please be considerate while other archers are on the range. Keep distractions to a minimum while others are trying to focus on their shooting.

The ESC requires strict attention to safety, good sportsmanship and polite conduct on its ranges.

Members are directly responsible for the conduct of their guests. Failure to comply is grounds under club by-laws for expulsion from membership in the Exeter Sportsman’s Club.

If multiple archers are using the range, it is up to every member present to ensure safety measures are being followed. If an archer is not following range rules or exhibiting unsafe behavior, members should respectfully correct said behavior to ensure range safety.

Range Maintenance

Each Archery range should be inspected prior to use to make sure they are fully operational including the targets and practice butts.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency the following guidelines should be followed:

- Call 911 for physical emergencies. Members shall guide the proper authorities in order to assist the situation.