

KINGDOM OF NORTHSHIELD



ARCHERY HANDBOOK

Introduction From the Kingdom Earl Marshal

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Northshield Archery Handbook. It must be read in combination with the current corresponding Society handbooks and policies for each martial activity. This should also be read in combination with the Northshield Marshal Administration Handbook. This book has the policies, procedures, and forms to be used by all marshals in the Kingdom of the Northshield. This is to cut back on the redundancy in the numerous handbooks we now have for the marshallate, although rapier has a separate procedure book for marshals.

These handbooks are to be printed in a 3-ring binder format, so that when updates are made they can easily be placed in the book. As part of his duties, the Adjutant Marshal will publish updates, (if there are any), on a quarterly basis in the Northwatch and online.

I ask all of you to keep in mind the tough job marshals have. This is their fun time too, which they are giving so you may play. This time involves the many aspects of running a tourney, the pleasant and the unpleasant. Please be patient on the field when things are not going quite smoothly. The marshals have a lot to contend with, from the participants to the autocrat and Crown. So, even if you'd rather these marshals would look the other way, let something slide, etc.; remember that they're doing this for you, and for your safety. Throughout the history of the S.C.A. there have been many injuries. Our rattan swords don't need an edge to deliver fatal blunt trauma; necks can be broken by a fall from a horse; blades break in fencing; arrows and thrown weapons can go astray. Imagine what could happen in just a heartbeat if the marshal's weren't there doing their (unpaid) job. Please show your appreciation of the marshals; your safety is in their hands.

To all the marshals, thank you for your time, energy, and enthusiasm. You are an integral part of the game we play. Keep up the good work; but take time to play yourself.

Mistress Cassandra Antonelli, OP
Earl Marshal of Northshield
16 October, A.S. XXXVIII
(2004)

Introduction From the Archer General

Welcome to the first edition of the Kingdom of Northshield missile weapon handbook. As Northshielders, we are born of the dragon of Midrealm; and as such, the way we have learned to do our jobs as marshals is also steeped in Midrealm's traditions and policies. Even though many may be critical of this method, it has successfully served to guide many marshals and keep the participants safe. Considering the size and scope of Midrealm, this was not always an easy job for the Archer General and the Earl Marshal. Northshield is itself still a large kingdom by anyone's standards; but we still have a much better chance to know our fellow participants, our regional deputies and the Archer General. With this in mind, my goal is to merely improve the original Midrealm handbook, rather than scrapping it entirely and starting over with just the Societies minimums. I am also hoping we can clarify some sections better and make the handbook easier to refer to. I still expect the marshallate to use common sense be able to solve problems not specifically addressed in this handbook. The MIT rules and requirements are being revamped and there will be a new section regarding equestrian archery. Thrown weapons will be entirely on its own in the future so that section will be deleted from this manual and will be an individual handbook from now on. The TW marshallate will also be completely separated from missile marshals in the future. These are only a few of the major changes so please read this manual carefully and do not assume there are no changes from Midrealm. Best of luck, and safe shooting.

THL-Hrothgar the Lucky
Northshield Archer General

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THL-Hrothgar the Lucky
Northshield Archer General

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1. TARGET ARCHERY

1.1 Rules and Conventions

Please refer to the Target Archery Handbook, (current edition), SCA, Inc. for the Society rules and conventions.

A. Rules for Archery Participation in Northshield

In addition to the rules and conventions of the SCA, Inc., the following are the rules of the Kingdom of Northshield.

1) Rules of the Line

- a) Each archer shall recognize that his/her equipment is a potentially lethal weapon, and understand the possibilities of physical injury to him/herself or others, and shall assume onto him/herself all risk and liability for harm.
- b) A warranted archery marshal must be present at all S.C.A., Inc. shoots and practices.
- c) All bows, and a representative sample of either arrows or bolts must be inspected by an archery marshal [or supervised archery marshal-in-training] before the archer steps to the line.
- d) Archers shall approach the shooting line only when instructed to do so by a marshal.
- e) Archers shall straddle the line. Prone and seated archers must assure that the point of their projectiles are in front of the line before shooting.
- f) Archers shall nock arrows only at the command of the marshal. Whenever any person is in front of the line of archers, no arrows will be nocked!
- g) Nocked arrows and loaded bolts must always point downrange.
- h) When pulling an arrow, an archer should place one hand on the target face and one hand on the arrow shaft close to the target face. Only one archer should pull arrows at a time and all others should stand off to the side. Remember to approach the target from the side and not straight on. Some arrows appear to be invisible when viewed straight on.
- i) Archers are responsible for continuously assuring that their equipment meets the Equipment Standards after its original inspection. Should any questionable damage occur – consult with the Marshal-in-Charge.
- j) Inappropriate behavior on the part of any participant or spectator may result in the Marshal-in-Charge removing that person from the shooting area.
- k) A copy of the “Rules of the Line” shall be posted near the archery range.

1.2 Equipment Standards and Conventions

Please refer to the Target Archery Handbook, (current edition), SCA, Inc. for the Society rules and conventions.

A. Archery Equipment Standards of Northshield

In addition to the rules and conventions of the SCA, Inc., the following are the rules of the Kingdom of Northshield.

1) Recurve or straight bows

- a) String silencers are allowed.

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- b) String material should be appropriate to the bow. If the bow can have a standard string, even if it is for a child's bow, it should have one. Most commercial strings are 48" or longer. Loops in strings made by compressed metal clips are only allowed for bows that have low poundage and are too short for standard strings.

2) Crossbows

- a) It is preferred that prods are not wrapped but it is not necessary to take off any wrappings currently on them.
- b) Rolling nuts can be made of any appropriate material (wood, metal, ivory, and plastic). Rolling nuts that are tied in are preferred but not mandatory. Other string release mechanisms are allowed.
- c) String material should be appropriate to the bow and its poundage. Metal cable is not allowed.
- d) A bolt clip or other device for keeping the bolt in place is required.
- e) Pistol crossbows are not allowed for Northshield Royal Rounds. Use in other competitions is at the discretion of the Marshal-in-Charge. Direct any commentary or questions to the Archer General. Note: pistol crossbows are illegal in Canada.

3) Arrows and Bolts

- a) Arrow shafts may be made of any type of wood or bamboo. Japanese arrows (39 inches or longer) and arrows used for junior archery competitions may be made of fiberglass and aluminum. However, the archer must be making efforts to secure arrows made of period materials (Direct any commentary or questions to the Archer General). Fiberglass and aluminum shafts are not allowed for the rest. Footed shafts (two kinds of wood spliced together) are allowed. This requirement may be waived for beginners who are not competing at the discretion of the Marshal-in-Charge.
- b) Points must be target points, field points, blunts, bullet points, or bodkin points. Hunting points, broadheads and fish points are not allowed.
- c) Arrows may have self-nocks, plastic nocks, hardwood reinforced or horn nocks. Nocks may be reinforced by wrapping with thread.
- d) Should any archer have a repeated problem with losing points in the target or losing nocks off of their arrows, the archer should leave the line until their equipment has been properly re-glued. Points lost in the target can damage other arrows. Lose nocks can cause misfires from the bow.

B. Northshield Target Archery Equipment Experimentation

1) General

Continuing experimentation with alternate materials and historical weaponry discovered in the course of study has broadened the range of weaponry and armory available for participants in the S.C.A., Inc. and the Northshield. In all cases where a participant wants to try out something new, safety should be considered paramount. Any marshal can restrict or refuse the use of experimental equipment or construction materials that are considered to be unsafe. Restrictions and refusals can be appealed to the next level in the Marshallate, up to the Kingdom Earl Marshal and Crown. The Kingdom Earl Marshal or designated deputy can also appoint special testing supervisors from among senior Marshallate staff to field test equipment and materials for general use. All equipment not classified in Section 1.2 - Equipment Standards (see above) are considered experimental and subject to Marshallate restriction in practices and competition. For equipment constructed of other than Section 1.2 accepted standards, the equipment must be inspected and approved by

the Kingdom Earl Marshal or a designated deputy. The primary concern of this section is to maintain safety.

2) Standards and Restrictions

a) Use of experimental equipment and materials

- Marshals can restrict or refuse the use of any experimental equipment or construction technique found by the marshal to be unsafe or dangerous to the user or other participants.
- The decision to refuse or restrict an experimental item can be appealed up the Marshallate chain of authority, until final a decision is made by the Kingdom Earl Marshal or the Crown.
- Anyone producing experimental equipment must show the item first to the Marshal-in-Charge, explain the experimental nature of the item, and request a thorough inspection and test before the item can be used. This is meant to include any equipment configuration from outside the European area and its nominal contacts during the recognized period of historical recreation in the S.C.A., Inc.
- Unauthorized use of experimental equipment, that is, without the express permission of the Marshal-in-Charge and without the knowledge and consent of the other participants is grounds for being barred from participation. The participant will be reported to the Regional Deputy Marshal, the Archer General, Kingdom Earl Marshal and subject to other restrictions including Marshals Court and any other action deemed appropriate by the Kingdom Earl Marshal.

b) Construction and Materials

- Construction of experimental equipment will follow the guidelines as prescribed in Section 2 - Equipment Standards (see above).
- Materials other than those described in Section 2 will be subject to testing to ensure safety in use and failure, and are subject to restriction based on testing as specified by the Kingdom Earl Marshal or a designated representative.

3) Experimentation Procedures

Experimental procedures will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Kingdom Earl Marshal, Archer General or designated Deputy Earl Marshal.

2. EQUESTRIAN ARCHERY

2.1 Rules and Conventions

A. Rules for Equestrian Archery Participation in the SCA, Inc.

Rules of the Line for both mounted and chariot archery:

- 1) Each equestrian archer must be aware that they are using a weapon that is potentially lethal to themselves, spectators and the horses. For this reason, they must assume that they are liable for all the results from their actions during participation in this activity.
- 2) The archery equipment (bows, arrows, targets, etc) and range must be inspected by a warranted SCA archery marshal.
- 3) It is acceptable and highly encouraged that the Equestrian Marshal (EqM) may also serve as Archery Marshal if they hold the appropriate qualifications (i.e. a valid archery marshal warrant).
- 4) See rule 2.2.1 for specific guidelines for the equipment standards of horse bows.
- 5) Please be reminded that archery marshals are there to provide equipment and range safety inspections only. Proper technique and methods of shooting from horseback may differ from standard target archery and are NOT the purpose of these inspections. Archery marshals do not conduct authorizations.
- 6) Running of the range is also the responsibility of the EqM once equipment inspections are completed.

2.2 Equestrian Archery Equipment Standards – S.C.A., Inc.

A. Arrow types

- 1) There are two general types of arrows that may be used on the Equestrian archery range. Standard target points and field tips may be used if the range layout offers sufficient protection for bystanders. See range layout (Appendix A) for further guidelines. Maximum bow poundage is 50 pounds for this type of arrow.
- 2) Non-target points such as golf tube arrows, HTM blunts, small game blunts and Markland type arrows may be used where inadequate range space is available to protect the bystanders. Maximum bow poundage is 35 pounds for non-target style tips. If the range is approved for target points, either target or combat arrows may be used. If the range is approved for combat arrows only, they must be used exclusively.

B. Target requirements

- 1) Equestrian archery is to be done with inanimate targets.
- 2) Swinging targets are prohibited.

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- 3) Targets that fall over when hit, are still considered inanimate and are acceptable.
- 4) Targets that make a loud noise when struck, (ie. Gongs, etc) are highly discouraged to prevent spooking the horses.

C. Range requirements

- 1) The course is to be set up with a shooting lane approximately 4 yards wide within a larger area that is safely cordoned off from the spectators. There should be some type of barrier that will not allow either the horse and rider or the horse and chariot to pass closer than 10 yards (30 feet) from the target. This is to prevent the danger of “bounce back” of the arrows.
- 2) Beyond the target area must be a solid wall, an archery proof net, or a clear area a minimum of 200 feet deep and 120 feet wide (or 60 feet beyond either side of the target area if the target is very wide). The clear areas may be overlapped if multiple targets are present. A solid wall is exactly that. Chain link fences, stockade panels, tube gates, sucker rod and woven wire do NOT constitute a solid wall and must have an archery net placed behind the target to qualify if the area is inadequate. Combat type arrows and blunts will then be used for those ranges with inadequate backstops or space. Non-solid walls have the tendency to deflect arrows in unpredictable ways and MUST be treated carefully to avoid dangerous consequences to bystanders and property.

3. NON-COMBAT SIEGE WEAPONS

3.1 Rules and Conventions

A. Rules for Non-Combat Siege Weapons Participation – S.C.A., Inc.

The utilization of Siege Weapons outside of combat in target or range scenarios and/or with ammunition, which is not authorized for combat due to weight or configuration, is beyond the scope of the current S.C.A., Inc. rules for participation.

B. Rules for Non-Combat Siege Weapons Participation – Northshield

1) Regulations and Conventions

All standard range regulations and conventions apply to siege weapon ranges except as specifically noted herein.

2) Scenarios

NOTE: Siege weapons are used in two different and independent scenarios:

- a) In combat where the siege weapons [engines] are limited by range and ammunition configuration. In these situations, Authorized Combat Marshals in lieu of Archery Marshals conduct the marshaling process.
- b) In scenarios where the weapons are being employed with greater distances and/or ammunition that is not approved for combat [i.e. bowling balls, water jugs, rocks, etc.], the marshaling is conducted by Authorized Archery Marshals.

3) Rules of the Line

- a) Each engineer shall recognize that his/her equipment is a potentially lethal weapon, and understand the possibilities of physical injury to him/herself or others, and shall assume onto him/herself all risk and liability for harm.
- b) A warranted archery marshal must be present at all S.C.A., Inc. siege weapon target shoots and practices.
- c) Engineers shall pay heed to the archery Marshal-in-Charge and follow his/her commands.
- d) All siege weapons and ammunition must be inspected by an Archery Marshal (or supervised Archery Marshal-in-Training) before the weapon is shot.
- e) When employing a crew or team to load, aim or shoot a siege weapon – each member of the team must be familiar with the commands used to load or shoot the engine. They must be informed of any potential pinch points or other hazards. Additionally, they must know where they are to stand safely when the weapon is shot.
- f) Engineers will only “cock” or “load” their weapon when the Archery Marshal has cleared the line appropriately (see range setup Section 4.3.3).
- g) Once “cocked”, an engine may not be moved unless constructed with a pivot to allow for aiming.
- h) At the call of “HOLD!” engineers/crews shall immediately stop all activities and apply any safety mechanisms they may have. Depending on the circumstances, the marshal may further request that the weapons be unloaded or shot into the ground. As the word “HOLD” is exclusively used when safety issues are at hand, it should not be used to end timed rounds (use “stop” or “time”). Further, any participant, Marshal or spectator has the authority to call “HOLD” on the siege weapon range should they

- observe a perceived unsafe situation. However, the Marshal-in-Charge will evaluate and will execute any required corrective action before allowing shooting to resume.
- i) The engineer must notify the Marshal-in-Charge when s/he is ready to shoot and wait for confirmation from the marshal that the line is clear before discharging the weapon.
 - j) When finished shooting, the engineer shall step back from the siege weapon.
 - k) Engineers shall retrieve their ammunitions only at the command of the marshal.
 - l) Engineers are responsible for continuously assuring that their equipment meets the Equipment Standards (see Section 3.2) after its original inspection. Should any questionable damage occur – consult with the Marshal-in-Charge.
 - m) The engineer is responsible to return the range to its original condition. Holes are to be filled, water jugs removed to the trash, etc.
 - n) Inappropriate behavior on the part of any participant or spectator may result in the Marshal-in-Charge removing that person from the shooting area.
 - o) A copy of these “Rules of the Line” must be posted near the siege engine line.

3.2 Equipment Standards

A. Non-Combat Siege Weapon Equipment Standards - S.C.A., Inc.

At this time there are no S.C.A., Inc., Inc. equipment standards for non-combat usage of siege weapons. Although, several of the construction and equipment standards for Combat Siege Weapons provide useful information and should be referred to as guidelines.

B. Non-Combat Siege Weapon Equipment Standards – Northshield

1) Construction

Siege weapons are constructed in several configurations. This creates a situation where the engineer and marshal must exercise good judgment, as new designs are always evolving. When in doubt – DON'T SHOOT IT. The great amount of mechanical energy involved between the weapon and munitions demands caution at all times.

2) Log

Each weapon is to be accompanied by a log. Said log is to include the following information in chronological sequence:

- a) Name of the engineer
- b) Generic name for the engine
- c) History of the engine [where it's been shot and what the ammunition was]
- d) A sequential list of any repairs or modifications involved

3) Evaluation

The marshal will use the log to evaluate the weapons construction and safety record. Special attention will be given when the engine has been reconfigured for greater force or is using heavier ammunition. If a log hasn't been prepared, the marshal will stop the inspection until one has been created.

4) Stability

Each engine is to be stable. When the energy is transferred to the ammunition, the machine must not rock or otherwise show signs of tipping or collapse.

5) Failure

A Siege Weapon, which frequently displays the same manner of failure, must be decommissioned until permanent and adequate repairs are made. The marshal must make the decision if the failures are simply a matter of “tuning” the siege weapons performance and

design, which do not present any hazard, or are major workmanship or design flaws. These decisions are the sole responsibility of the Marshal-in-Charge. Failure descriptions are to be entered into the engine's log. Said entries are to be signed and dated by the Marshal-in-Charge.

4. MARSHALLING GUIDELINES

4.1 Marshal Field Duties

A. **Setting up the Archery Range**

General: The considerations for and the layout of an archery range for practice or an event are the same. They differ only in degree of permanency. Ideally, a practice range should be able to be put up in the same place on a regular basis, or perhaps even left up continually. An event range is usually set up once for a day or two, then must be cleared away completely.

For setting up any range, the marshal should be thoroughly familiar with the site available and know the space requirements of the planned shoots. In the case of an event, this means working closely with the event steward when the site is chosen and the activities planned. It may also be necessary to arrange for lawn mowing prior to the event or practice. With knowledge of the site and shoots in mind, the actual layout of the range can proceed.

- 1) Laying out the Range - Standard:
 - a) Pace out or measure the space available. For shoots of 50 yards or less you will need one and a half as much space behind the target as you have between the target and the shooting line. For example, a 40-yard target needs 100 yards of space beyond the shooting line ($40 + 1.5 \times 40 = 100$ yds. Shoots over 50 yards need half as much space beyond the target as you have in front. For example, a 100-yard shoot needs 150 yards of space to allow for overshoots. Obviously, even more space is desirable if available.
 - b) Check the area for spectator and participant safety
 - c) Observe if there are any paths or roads that may be within accidental target range or overshoots. If there are, decide whether they can be avoided by adjusting the direction the range is pointing. If not, any place with foot or vehicular traffic must be blocked off if possible. The line marshals should be alerted to the danger so the areas may be closely watched and a hold called if necessary.
 - d) Look for any physical hazards to participants' safety; ditches, gopher holes, poison ivy, etc. It would be best if they can be eliminated, such as filling in hazardous holes. If this is not possible, then mark the hazard and/or continually warn participants about the dangerous conditions each time they must enter the hazardous area.
 - e) Check for physical obstructions that might cause unexpected deflection of arrows. This is especially of concern for clout shoots and woods walks where arrows may deflect off of low hanging branches or tree trunks. Arrange the target positions to minimize the hazard.
 - f) Consider the orientation of the range. If possible, the range should be facing north, or in whatever direction allows for most of the shooting to be done where participants do not have the sun directly in their eyes.
 - g) Based on the distances available, set out a shooting line. Its length will depend on the number of expected archers, the number of line marshals available, the space available, and the number of targets planned. Each archer usually needs about 4 feet of space on the line, so a line of 10 archers will take up 40 feet. Mundane indoor leagues often only allow 30 inches per archer. For adults, the required ratio is one line marshal to 10 or less archers. (When youth shoots are being run, the ratio is one line marshal to 5 or less children or young people.) For any one target, it is recommended that no more than 4 archers shoot at it at any one time. An exception to this would be a timed shoot with changing distances such as the "Advancing Soldier" war point shoot at Pennsic. Since only one or two arrows are striking each target, an entire line of 10 archers can shoot at all the targets. The shooting line

should be distinctive but not an imposition to crossbow shooters who sit or to archers in wheelchairs. Archers need to be able to straddle the line to shoot. Lines can be drawn with flour or lime on the ground, or a rope can be placed on the ground as a marker as long as it is securely pinned down so no one can trip on it.

- h) From the set and marked shooting line, measure the required distance or distances out to the target position(s). If the field or shooting line is wide, check distances to each target from the shooting line (diagonal distances are longer than distances perpendicular to the shooting line - see the range diagram in Appendix 2) Set the targets or target backstops/stands so that the face of the target is the correct distance. If all yardages will be shot from all line positions, do a sight check to be sure that every line position has a clear shot to each target. Shift targets sideways if necessary to ensure that targets are not blocking other targets. If other shoots are to be run at other distances, these can also be measured out and marked at the same time so targets can be easily and quickly moved into the correct position later. A ground mark can be easily made with a piece of paper or plastic ribbon held in place with a nail or target pin pushed fully into the surface of the ground. Lime or flour can also make a good mark if it is not raining. Some practice ranges are set up and taken down in the same place for each practice. Permanent markers can also be used to mark ends of the shooting line(s) and the target position(s). Be sure that the markers are waterproof and shorter than cut-grass length so they don't interfere with lawn mowing. There are some instances on narrow ranges with few shooters where only one target is set up. In order to run different distances, the target is left in a set place and multiple shooting lines are marked out. The archers move as a group forward or backward to the needed distance for each round. Set up these ranges for the furthest distance to be shot and add lines closer to the target for shorter distances. In this instance it is highly important to be sure that participants will not trip on the other shooting lines as they go to retrieve their arrows.
- i) To finish out the range, set up your inspection station behind the line. It is also recommended that a 10-foot space is marked off behind the line as a clear zone. This allows archers to have space to concentrate on shooting as well as providing a safety zone should an equipment failure or shooting problem occur on the line.

2) Laying out the Range - Woods walks

- a) Woods walks are special shoots that involve targets at varying distances usually placed along a trail through a wooded area. Generally, each archer takes a single shot at a target from a single point. They can also be set up in open fields from one shooting point aiming at several targets with different distances or using individual shooting points for each target and letting archers progress along from point to point. Due to its nature, some archers will still be on the course while others are shooting, so it is necessary to be very aware of the angles of possible overshoots when laying out a woods walk course. There are three special considerations:
 - The first is the actual logistics of the shoot. The shooting point should be clearly marked and archers well instructed in whatever position (kneeling, sitting, standing) must be used to shoot that target as well as any unusual scoring conventions. It will also be necessary to limit the number of archers at each target in order to speed retrieval of arrows. Participants can go individually but small groups of 4 to 6 archers also works well. If a woods trail is used then marshals should be stationed at each target or with each group of archers, depending on the number of target stations and the number of marshals.
 - A second consideration is the placement of the targets and the possible interference from one target to the next. The 'trail' can not loop in such a way as to bring either the path, a target, or a target shooting point in possible alignment with another target's overshoot. This is extremely dangerous and

should be checked with a non-shooting walk-through of volunteers after layout but prior to the shoot. Stand at each shooting point and sight along all the possible overshoot directions as volunteers walk along the trail and stand at nearby shooting points. If one of the volunteers walks into your sight window and is within range of an overshoot (as far behind the target as the distance to the target) adjust either the target or the shoot point in direction or distance. In a field situation, targets must be far enough apart or angled sufficiently from each other (45 degrees away) so as to allow retrieval from one while another is shooting.

- Lastly, consider what physical hazards such as tree branches, tree trunks, or rocks might deflect arrows and adjust your shooting points to avoid such complications. Also consider what difficulties the participants might encounter (boggy ground, steep hills, downed tree trunks to climb over, poison ivy, etc.) These should be clearly mentioned to all participants at the beginning of the shoot so they can either dress appropriately or decline to participate if necessary.

3) Laying out the Range - Indoor shoots

Indoor Shoots also pose special problems, the most notable being how to avoid damage to the building.

- a) Most indoor shoots are done at 20 yards or less.
- b) When choosing an indoor site be sure that there is sufficient room behind the targets and in front of the shooting line. A 30-yard building (90 feet) will allow for 10 feet behind the targets and 20 feet before the shooting line for waiting archers. If the space before the shooting line is too small, there will need to be an adjacent area where archers can wait their turn to shoot.
- c) Check out the floor and walls of the room and the exposed surfaces and light fixtures. Arrows can and do penetrate metal and will chip chunks out of masonry and plaster. Arrows sliding across a wooden floor will leave gouges. All of these must be protected against damage to the best of your ability.
- d) Ideally, the site should have no internal roof support pillars. If it does, targets should be carefully placed to try to prevent arrow deflection off the pillars. For the same reason, targets should be kept near the center of the building and away from walls so those arrows that deflect off the target stands will be less likely to hit the walls.
- e) Unless all your archers are experts, you will have arrows miss the targets. Therefore, some kind of arrow-stopping backstop will be needed. If hay bales are readily available, a 10-foot high wall of hay can be built behind the targets. This works best if the hay bales can be braced against something like the back wall of the building. However, hay bales can be penetrated by arrows from strong bows, especially in the spaces between the bales. To make it more damage-resistant, place thin plywood sheets behind the bales. A wall of plywood boards will stop arrows but it tends to be noisy. Covering the plywood with carpet will lessen the sound but makes the plywood very heavy. A more lightweight arrow-stop is a 4' x 8' sheet of solid foam fiberglass insulation. A thickness of 2" to 4" stops arrows from even high poundage crossbows, although the arrows can be difficult to pull out. Insulation panels may shift when hit so they need to be securely supported. The best solution is a professional archery net designed specifically to stop arrows. Most are 10 feet high and can be ordered in any length. They are available from archery or sports equipment catalogs. When they are hung loosely behind targets, they absorb an arrow's energy in order to stop it. A double row of heavy blankets or a row of quilted coverlets can provide a similar effect but weak places in the fabric may let arrows through. Whatever system is used should be tested with high poundage bows before the event.
- f) Beginning archers and young archers are more likely to miss the target, especially by shooting too high. Their shots may go over any barrier. Marshals may need to be

stationed close by to assist and teach, or targets may be moved to 10 yards for more focused practice.

4) Archery Equipment Inspection Site

- a) Any S.C.A., Inc. sponsored event or practice that includes archery as an activity, must also include a preliminary inspection site staffed by at least one warranted marshal. The purpose of inspection is; to ensure that all equipment being used is safe, to provide participants with information about the state of their equipment, and to inform them of optimal methods of equipment maintenance. ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE INSPECTED, regardless of the experience or S.C.A., Inc. rank of the archer. Unless the marshal is literally the only qualified person to inspect equipment at a site, no marshal should inspect their own equipment.
- b) Assuming that the equipment passes inspection, it can be approved and allowed for use on the range. If there are several participants or several marshals doing the inspections, a sticker system can be used to confirm that the equipment has been inspected and approved at the particular event. The adhesive sticker should be bright and distinctive so it is easy to tell on the line that the participant's equipment has been inspected. It is generally applied to the back of a longbow or recurve or to the underside of the crossbow stock so the line marshal can easily see it, as archers stand ready to shoot. This system may not be necessary for practices or very small events where only one marshal is inspecting and is able to keep careful track to be sure that all equipment has been inspected.
- c) Ideally, the inspection site should be located between the range itself and the entrance point where the participants will be approaching the range. It should be the first thing that the archers encounter. If circumstances will not allow this, then an inspection station should be set up a comfortable distance behind the shooting line but still convenient enough to use as a marshal's station. The inspection site should be clearly identified. For large events, it is recommended that it have a large table sheltered by a tent or dining fly. Announcements or other information can be placed on a portable bulletin board, written on a dry-erase board, attached to clipboards, or taped to the table. Other highly useful supplies would include at least one repair/maintenance kit as complete as possible (archery - string wax, nock pliers and string nocks, bow square, fletching glue, metal point glue, bow stringers)(thrown weapons – wood rasps, tape, metal point glue, spare wedges, handles), a copy of the Rules of the Line, a schedule of events and descriptions of the day's activities, a supply of inspection stickers, pens and markers, score sheets and a calculator, and this Handbook. For more informal practices a specific station need not be set up but it should be made known to all archers who is inspecting equipment for that practice. It is the responsibility of both the archer and the inspecting marshal to be sure that all equipment is inspected before use.

B. Setting up the Non-Combat Siege Weapons Range

Siege weapons store considerable amounts of mechanical energy. Should a failure occur it can be difficult to assess where the ammunition and pieces may fly. Generally, the ammunition, string and prod go forward, although with diminished force. Catapults and trebuchets however can have early releases or sling/bucket failures, which can result in the projectile and pieces to be launched backwards with force near normal forward velocity and force. Once the marshal knows which types of engines are present, s/he can customize the line to assure appropriate safety. Under no circumstances should safety be compromised. It is totally appropriate for the Marshal-in-Charge to not approve an engine because of limitations caused by the site layout.

- 1) Engines that work on principles similar to crossbows require the same type of line layout that the archery range does. However, the gate width will obviously need to be wider than the normal to accommodate the crew and engineer. Spectators should be far enough behind the

engine so as not to interfere with its crew and engineers. Fifteen (15) yards of clearance is the minimum distance for the spectator's line.

- 2) The length of the range must be at least 150% the engine's maximum ranges with the type of ammunition being used. This distance can be calculated from the engine's log.
- 3) Catapults and Trebuchets require a line that keeps the spectators behind and to the side of the engine. This range configuration is defaulted to when siege weapons of both the catapult and crossbow configurations are shooting. The length of the range remains equal to 150% of the engine's maximum range (see the engines log). Additionally, a clear zone equal to 100% of the engine's range is required.
- 4) Topography and heavy cover such as stands of trees need to be considered when laying out the range. Avoid any type of overhead lines or limbs. Shooting bowling balls from hills can considerably add to the distance the projectile can cover.

4.2 Equipment Inspections

A. Archery Equipment Inspection

As archers approach the inspection site it should be made clear to them, either in writing, verbally, or both, that their equipment needs inspection. When a participant asks to have his or her equipment inspected, s/he should be greeted in a courteous manner, and his/her equipment examined in a timely and efficient way.

B. Inspection of Bows - longbows, recurves and other straight bows

Ideally, this equipment should be handed to the inspecting marshal unstrung. This ensures that the bow may be examined under all conditions, and also allows the marshal to evaluate the archer's competence at handling his/her own equipment. It may occur that the marshal will be given a pre-strung bow to inspect. In such an instance, the archer should not be required to unstring it solely for inspection. In this case, simply begin inspection with procedure step 4.

- 1) Hold the bow lightly and look it over in a general way to see if any major flaws or irregularities stand out. Get a general feel for the age and condition of the bow. Check for markings that might tell the strength or poundage of the bow.
- 2) Closely examine the limbs of the bow, on both sides, both visually and tactilely by gently running your thumb and forefinger along the surface and edges of the bow. This is to be a detailed examination of the bow material, with a view toward checking for structural degradation, delamination, hairline fractures, points of impact damage, etc. Any suspected fractures or delamination should be very closely examined and probed gently with a fingernail to determine approximate depth, width and extent. If fractures or cracks extend beyond the first layer of the bow, or if sections of a layer can be lifted with a fingernail this is cause for concern. In molded fiberglass bows and fiberglass, laminate composite bows, check for visible air bubbles at or just under the surface. If they are large (half-inch or more) or are clusters of multiple bubbles, this indicates a potential weak point and is cause for concern.
- 3) Closely examine the nock ends of the bow. Check the bowstring loop for frayed, broken or unraveling servings. If the serving is loose or broken, it should be re-served before use. Check the nock end for cracks, delamination and worn nock channels. If the cracks or delamination extends down the limb beyond the ends, it is cause for concern. If the nock channels are so worn or broken on the edges that they might have difficulty keeping the

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string in place, it is cause for concern. At this point, if the bow is not already strung, the archer should be asked to string the bow, and strongly encouraged (but not required) to use a bow stringer. If the archer does not have one, there should be one available to be borrowed from the inspection station. If the archer is unable to string the bow by any method, the marshal may assist, but should be advised that such action may place the marshal in legal responsibility should the bow be damaged while the marshal has it in hand.

- 4) With the bow strung, repeat the first three steps. Structural flaws that were invisible when the bow was unstrung may appear when it is under tension.
- 5) Check to see that the bow has no illegal equipment on it. If it cannot be removed, the archer should find a way to make it unusable for the day.
- 6) You should sight down the length of the bow to check for possible limb twist. This is particularly important with regard to recurve flat bows. If the twist is so excessive that the string will not line up with the bow limbs or is not centered on the nock channels of the bow, this is cause for concern. The string may twist out of position as the bow is pulled. Note: Some self-bows contain natural twists. Examine the overall pattern of the string and the bow. In most cases the ends and the center will be in line regardless of what twists and turns occur in the limbs.)
- 7) Look over the string to determine any obvious problems such as loose or unraveling servings, frayed or broken strands, and the presence of knots. Lightly move your fingers along the length of the string and check for 'fuzzy' areas to determine how dry the string is. Dry or 'fuzzy' strings indicate a need for bow wax to be applied to the bowstring before it is used much more. Loose servings would have to be repaired or the string replaced before the bow could be used. Note: Flemish strings and other period strings such, as linen ones usually do not have servings at the loop ends. However, they should be served in the center. Flemish strings may appear to be unraveling. However, if there is still 2 inches or more of twisted strands, the string is adequate. If there is less than an inch, there is cause for concern. Waxing only addresses the issue cosmetically. It does not strengthen the string. If strands within the length of the string are frayed or broken, this is a cause for concern and the string should be replaced before the bow is used. If knots are present in the string they are a cause for concern due to the unevenness of wear. Knots often hide potential problems. Since knots are impossible to undo, the string should be replaced before the bow is used. Note: One knot is allowed. It is used at only one end of the string and does not stress the string like other knots. If the archer knows what it is and can explain why it is appropriate on his/her string, it probably belongs there.
- 8) Note the distance from the string to the bow at its widest point. This 'fistmele' or brace height should roughly conform to the distance from the bottom of one's fist to the top of his or her outstretched thumb (assuming you do not have excessively large or small hands). For most bows this should be 6" to 9" (although commercial bows exist which specify as low as 5 and as high as 11.5"). A significant variance in this may indicate a string that is too long or too short for the bow and should be replaced with the correct length string. Recurves generally have larger fistmeles than longbows or other straight bows. If a nock point has been placed on the bowstring, you can use its presence to see if the string has been placed on the bow correctly or if it is upside down. Also check the grip position in relation to the string to see if the bow has been strung correctly or if it is backwards. (This is extremely common with light poundage molded fiberglass bows.) These latter two problems can be fixed by restringing the bow correctly.
- 9) The next steps involve examination of the bow while it is held at a full draw. The marshal should ask the archer to slowly bring his/her bow to a full draw, hold it there for a moment,

then let it down slowly back to rest position without releasing the string (i.e.: dry-firing the bow). The marshal should be careful in phrasing these instructions indicating that the archer should "let the string down without releasing it". This careful phrasing is needed with some new archers to whom 'release' means to let go of the string. Misunderstanding these directions has caused some archers to dry-fire their bows during inspection. Care should also be taken to indicate where they should stand and what direction they should point the bow in order to avoid bystanders. The marshal should be at 90 degrees or right angles to the archer in order to see the bow in profile. If needed, the archer may be asked to draw the bow more than once to check it from another angle or to observe a potential problem area.

- 10) With the bow drawn, observe the overall appearance of the drawn bow checking for a uniform and symmetrical form. With the exception of Japanese longbows, there should be even stress on the upper and lower limb that shows as even curvature. If a great disparity is seen, it is cause for concern. Also, observe the archer while the bow is being drawn, in regard to the archer's capability of drawing and holding the bow. If the poundage is too great for the archer, there may be trembling in the arms and/or an inability to keep the bow steadily aimed. If this is seen, you should inquire of the archer as to the appropriateness of that poundage for him or her. Note: There are some disabilities that may cause the same effects but they will be present even when not at draw. If this appears to be the case but the archer has not informed you of any problem, you may inquire.
- 11) If problem areas involving cracks, suspected fractures of possible delaminations were noted earlier in the inspection process, they should now be looked at again under full draw. As the archer, slowly draws the bow look closely at the problem areas. If necessary place your finger lightly over the area. If you see or feel movement, then the damage is deeper than the surface. This is cause for concern and the bow should be returned to rest position, unstrung and not used.
- 12) After the bow has been drawn once and let down, observe the position of the string loop in the nock ends. If it does not return to the midline or groove provided for the string on some bows, it indicates a fairly serious twist of the limbs. Ask the archer to draw the bow a few more times and observe the string position after each draw. If the string continues to 'walk' away from the centerline, it can cause the bow to de-string in mid-shot, an unsafe condition. If the string is only slightly off the mid-line and does not change with successive draws, then the bow may be reasonably safe to use but does have a warpage problem that the archer should consider fixing.
- 13) Finally, yet importantly, look at the archer to observe the appropriateness of his or her clothing and general physical state. The marshal may tactfully point out potential problems with puffed or full sleeves, pins and brooches, lirapipes or hood dags, armor, or anything else which may interfere with a released string in a hazardous manner but refrain from making it an issue. If the archer is experiencing physical difficulty or mental confusion from overindulgence of drink, medication, or less apparent causes, this is cause for concern. The archer should be diplomatically but firmly persuaded not to shoot. Call in a surgeon for advice or a second opinion as needed.

C. Inspection of Arrows

The marshal must also inspect the archer's arrows but it is impractical to evaluate each and every arrow. One or two, taken randomly from the quiver, should suffice to determine if they are legal and safe equipment. If problems are seen with the first two, more should be pulled to see whether an overall pattern develops. When done inspecting return the arrows to the archer or his/her quiver. Note: Some quivers have sections and the archer may have arrows separated for a reason. Exercise courtesy; return them where you got them.

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- 1) Check the composition of the shaft, point, nock, and fletching to see that they match the kingdom and shoot requirements. Beware of wood look-alikes that are actually composed of fiberglass.
- 2) Check the security of the nock and points by gently twisting them at each end. If they feel loose or come off, they should be re-glued before use. It may also indicate that the rest of the points or nocks may have a similar problem if they were all put on at the same time. (Glues lose adhesive ability over time.)
- 3) Look over the fletching to check for any places where it is pulling away from the shaft. Missing fletching is not dangerous, but fletching that is only partially attached may catch on the bow or scrape the shooting hand. A small dab of glue on loose ends can prevent the problem from worsening.
- 4) Run your hands over the shaft and visually check it for dents or gouges. You should sight down the length to check for straightness. You are looking for places on the arrow that may be ready to break or have already broken inside (compression fractures). If many dents and gouges are found then the arrows have been heavily used and it may be time for the archer to get some new ones. Dents that are deep and long may be a cause for concern, talk to the archer about them asking if they are still flying well. If a gouge is large enough that actual wood is missing (about one sixteenth of an inch or more deep), the archer should set that arrow aside and not use it since the strength of the shaft is weakened at that point. A compression fracture often shows up as an abrupt bend or a thin band of irregularity in the painted or varnished surface. This is an arrow that is broken but does not show it on the outside. It should not be used. Recommend that the archer break the arrow at the fracture so s/he cannot accidentally shoot it. The Marshal should not break the arrow unless the archer requests you to do it.
- 5) After handling the arrows, the Marshal should have a good sense of their length. Compare that to the size of the archer. If the arrows appear much shorter than the archer's arm length, there is cause for concern. Arrows that are too short will impact against the bow or the hand when drawn too far. If the Marshal is not sure, ask if the archer could do a quick check for the Marshal. Have the archer hold his/her arms out straight with palms together. Place an arrow between his/her hands with the nock end gently touching the chest. The point should extend at least an inch beyond his/her fingertips.

D. Inspection of Crossbows

Crossbows should always be strung when presented for inspection. There are many styles that range from very simple lever release forms to modern rifle-like forms with safety features. If the style is unfamiliar to the Marshal, either get assistance from a marshal with more knowledge of that style or ask the archer to describe or explain its features. Unless s/he just purchased it, s/he is probably more familiar with it than the marshal is.

- 1) Look over the crossbow in a general way to note its features, to see that its form and accessories conform to the required standards, to see if any major flaws or irregularities stand out, and to get a feel for the age and general condition of the crossbow.
- 2) Check the table of the bow (where the string slides and the arrow rests). Inspect it closely for nicks, exposed screws/nails, roughness or anything that might abrade the string. This is very important with heavy poundage crossbows (200-500+ lbs.), due to the speed and force with which the string is released. Note: All heavy poundage crossbows should be treated with extra caution. A potential hazard is doubled with high poundage crossbows and can result in fast and far traveling bolts in unpredictable directions.

- 3) Test the firmness of the attachment of the prod by holding the stock firmly, then grip the prod and gently attempt to move it. The prod as a whole should not slide back and forth, nor be able to be moved or wiggled excessively in its bindings. If it can be moved, the binding system is too loose and needs to be tightened before the bow can be used. For prods held in place with wedges or clamps, even a small amount of play indicates a need to tighten the prod since it will continue to loosen with each shot.
- 4) If the prod is not wrapped, examine the actual surface material of the prod. Check for parallel cracks in metal prods that may indicate possible metal fatigue. Fiberglass prods should be checked for discoloration and cracks. When fiberglass separates just under the surface, the thinner top layer becomes more translucent (lighter in color). These conditions are cause for concern.
- 5) Closely examine the nock ends of the prod to determine any stress damage and any fraying of the bowstring loops. Examine the rest of the string, checking for broken strands and frayed or unraveling servings. Damaged strings should be repaired or replaced before use. Observe the position of the string in relation to the table where the bolt will rest. The prod should be oriented in such a way that the string should be pulled downward slightly on either side of the stock. If it is exactly parallel to the stock surface (just resting with little to no downward pressure), this is cause for concern since it may cause the string to jump over or deflect the bolt when fired.
- 6) Examine the trigger mechanism. A barrel mechanism depends on a cylindrical nut for its action and is usually notched in two places, one for the trigger and one for the string. The nut should rotate freely and evenly but should catch at one point, the set point for the trigger. Rotate the nut to that place and then, while maintaining forward pressure against the string notches, gently pull the trigger. The barrel-nut should roll suddenly but smoothly forward. Some cylindrical nuts are tied in place while other are designed to fit the socket made for them. If the Marshal turns the bow upside down, and the nut falls out, it is cause for concern. If it pops out when the Marshal push forward on it (as though under tension by a string) it is cause for concern. Spring mechanisms involve the dropping of a hook in response to pulling a trigger. These can be tested by passing a loop of heavy string (a bow stringer is a useful test string) behind the hook, then gently pulling the trigger as the Marshal pulls forward on the test string. Again, the response should be smooth and fast. If there is any major hesitation in the release mechanism, especially if it occurs consistently or if it jams without releasing, it is cause for concern.
- 7) If the crossbow has a safety lock, it should also be tested.

E. Inspection of Bolts

As with arrows, it is impractical to try to examine every crossbow bolt the archer has. One or two selected randomly should be sufficient to determine if it is legal and safe equipment.

- 1) Check the composition of the shaft, point, and fletching to see that they match the kingdom and shoot requirements.
- 2) Check the security of the points by gently twisting them. If they feel loose or come off, they should be re-glued before use. It may also indicate that the rest of the points may have a similar problem if they were all put on at the same time. (Glue loses adhesive ability over time.)

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- 3) Look over the fletching to check for any places where it is pulling away from the shaft or is missing altogether. Missing fletching on bolts may cause them to veer upon release, as will loose fletching that gets caught on its way out of the bow. Bolts with these problems should not be used. Check to be sure that the fletching pattern matches the bow.
- 4) Check the shafts for dents and gouges. Dents that are deep and long may be cause for concern. Talk to the archer about them asking if they are still flying well. If a gouge is large enough that actual wood is missing (about one sixteenth of an inch or more deep), the archer should discard that bolt since the strength of the shaft is weakened at that point.
- 5) Check the end of the shaft that rests against the string. It may or may not be capped. If it is capped, twist the cap gently to be sure it is secure. Check to see that the cap edges meet the shaft smoothly. If it is not capped, check the shape to be sure it is flat or concave. If it is worn enough to be convex (rounded outward), the string may be able to slide under it causing a misfire. Bolts in that condition should not be used. Also check uncapped ends for splits or other damage from arrows or bolts that might have hit them. Bolts with split ends or heavy chipped ends should not be used.

F. Non-Combat Siege Weapons Inspection

- 1) Utilizing the weapon's log, inspect any recent reconfigurations for mechanical integrity.
- 2) Verbally establish that the crew is familiar with any commands and know where to stand when the weapon is ready to fire.
- 3) Verify that the siege weapon is stable. In the instance of wheeled siege weapons, verify that the siege weapon dose not wobble side-to-side.
- 4) Once the marshal has accomplished steps 3.3.2.3.1-3, have the engineer demonstrate the siege weapon under light stress load conditions. This can be accomplished by using lighter munitions if other adjustments are not possible. Do not "dry fire" the engine as this may cause damage.

4.3 Line Procedures

A. General

This handbook cannot be regarded as providing solutions for all the various problems and circumstances that may come up in the performance of marshalling duties. Trained archery marshals are expected to possess a modicum of creativity and common sense, and the will to use them when needed. Nevertheless, there may arise from time to time circumstances, which are unusual enough to be rare, but of such a nature as to warrant some general commentary on them. Here, then, are some guidelines for dealing with certain types of situations not covered elsewhere.

B. Responses to Behavioral Issues

Since our system depends heavily on personal honor and integrity, certain expectations and behaviors take on higher values than normal. Marshals may bar participation in martial activities if a participant is obviously impaired by drugs, alcohol, or a medical condition. This falls under the Rules of the Lists of the S.C.A., Inc. #3, which states in part that all combatants must be ... "acceptable to the Crown or their representatives".

Marshals are cautioned that the exhibited behavior or condition must be such that a prudent person without specialized behavioral or medical training would have concern about the safety of the participant, their opponents or spectators. In the absence of such behavior but where the marshal suspects that such a condition exists, the marshals may question the participant about the situation and offer advice on the safety and chivalry of their actions and try to persuade them to voluntarily excuse themselves. If that fails, the marshals may take it upon themselves to advise other participants of the marshal's concerns and let the participants decide for themselves whether or not they will compete with the affected party. Finally, marshals are reminded that they are not obliged to marshal any activity and may excuse themselves without penalty.

The above situations are fortunately few and uncommon. The personal safety and honor of the participants are our primary concern and the Marshals should reinforce this by example.

C. Address your concerns to the source

If a participant has complaints about the behavior of another participant, the first response of anyone hearing such, whether Marshal, archer, or otherwise should be, "Have you talked to the person directly about this?" If the answer is no, the listener should insist that such a discussion take place before any other outsiders are involved.

D. Maintain objectivity and neutrality

Marshals brought into the matter when they did not witness or notice the action in question should refrain from taking sides. Instead they should get all parties face to face for a full discussion. If a tournament has been characterized by a high number of complaints, all the participants should be brought together to bring problems into the open before they become permanent hard feelings.

E. Maintain Honor

There are many rules, conventions, and directives concerning archery, siege engines and Marshalling. No matter how much we codify, participation will always be (and rightfully so) a matter of subjectivity we call HONOR. There are three "matters of honor" that, if adhered to by Marshals and participants, will insure both safety and enjoyment:

- 1) Take care of each other at the Line
- 2) If there's a discrepancy or problem at the range, talk right there and then and straighten it out. Don't ever be afraid to call HOLD and tactfully - "ASK THE QUESTION".
- 3) Give other participants the benefit of the doubt.
- 4) These guiding principles overridingly serve both honor and prowess.

F. Equipment failing inspection

If questions arise about a given piece of equipment's safety, or if there is a clear violation or hazard, the inspecting marshal's response will vary according to the size of the event. At large, highly organized events, where there are multiple marshals doing inspections it is common to refer the questionable weapon to other marshals to solicit additional opinions. At some large events, only a certain few marshals may have the power to reject equipment. At such events, the archer should be encouraged to show questionable equipment to those marshals for a final consideration of approval or rejection. Far more typical is the smaller, local event, at which there may be only one or two marshals. In such an instance, the Marshal-in-Charge must be prepared to assume responsibility for all rejection decisions. At all times, if a rejection decision is made, the archer must be informed of it in a courteous manner, and the reason for the decision explained to the archer while showing them where the problem is on their equipment. Inform the archer of the arbitration process as required. Additionally, alternatives for the archer should be discussed,

including the possibility of the archer borrowing other equipment, or if the problem is fixable, repairing his/her own equipment to passable standards.

Due to the nature of the S.C.A., Inc. as a voluntary organization devoted in large measure to the encouragement of chivalry and politeness, marshals will find that archers are generally accepting and good-natured about the inspection process. Nevertheless, evaluation of expensive and cherished property will seem to some to be bureaucratic and arbitrary. A negative decision regarding equipment is unsettling and dismaying at best, and can try the patience of even the most courteous of archers. The inspecting marshal should bear this in mind, and at all times endeavor to be as polite, helpful and competent as possible. Even so, a few archers will be disposed to argue no matter what. They should be encouraged to seek a second opinion from a more senior marshal. Should further conflict exist refer to Northshield Marshal's Administration Handbook, Section 8. At all times the marshals involved are to be models of patience and chivalry.

G. Inclement weather

If you are Marshal-in-Charge of an outdoor range, the weather will of course be a factor in deciding whether to hold the shoot or not. It is clear that a variety of conditions in temperature and precipitation will affect the range, and you will doubtless have made contingency plans with these things in mind. However, as anyone who has spent extended lengths of time in the Northshield knows, there will arise on occasion unpredictable and rapidly changing weather conditions. Sudden thunderstorms, unexpected gusting associated with a shifting weather front, and the threat of tornadoes are all possibilities. Coping successfully with these things requires a certain amount of common sense. Treat the range like an open-air swim meet: if lightning occurs within 2 miles of the range, close down activities and get participants under appropriate shelter. Do not reopen the range until 30 minutes has passed after the last seen stroke of lightning. Gusting winds affect arrow flight somewhat less than people usually believe; nevertheless, if high winds are interfering with the shoot in any way, close the range temporarily or, if the conditions continue cancel the rest of the shooting for the day. If a tornado is spotted, stop all activity at once, and head for shelter. The best shelter is the basement or a small room in a well-built building. If that is not available, take shelter in ditches, in culverts, under bridges or in other low places. Curl up and protect your head and neck from possible flying debris. A radio tuned to the National Weather Service is a useful item to include in your archery range kit.

H. The Media

There will be times when non-S.C.A., Inc. media, including reporters, TV cameras, film crews, etc. will want access to the range. You will very likely not have full control over this circumstance, since such activities are within the authority of the event autocrat. Nevertheless, as your primary concern is always the safety of the participants and spectators on your range, you have the right to require that all media personnel obey the range rules at all times. If necessary, try to find compromises that will let them complete their goals without unduly interfering with or disrupting the archers who are trying to use your facility.

I. Royalty

It may occur that certain participants may request or assume special privileges with respect to range access. The classic example is that of a royal Personage or peers whom wishes to shoot ahead of other archers, or otherwise requires special or particular arrangements. In many instances, some effort should be made to accommodate them. Remember that a Royal's or a peer's schedule is often not theirs to control, but is dictated by meetings to attend, courts to plan, and the like. With a sufficient amount of tact and forbearance, arrangements can be settled to the satisfaction of all. In one respect however, no special consideration should be granted: equipment inspection. As a marshal, you are required to insure that all equipment on your range is safe, no matter who it belongs to. Let no one claim that they are too important or too busy to have their equipment inspected properly.

J. Unusual Equipment

Occasionally, someone will bring some oddball equipment that they will want to compete with, test, or merely demonstrate. The archery marshals may encounter a 125-pound longbow that the owner wished to use to test the armor-piercing qualities of some forged bodkin points. All equipment needs to be inspected, and if there is no one present who can with confidence inspect a given item and/or there aren't guidelines in this text, there is no reason to let it on the range. Demonstrations may have been arranged with the knowledge and permission of the autocrat; in such instances you may need to accommodate rather than forbid. No piece of equipment should be entered in competition that is inappropriate for that competition or that clearly violates the rules of the competition. The testing of unusual items may best be deferred until after the closing of the range. Then, if qualified marshals are willing to monitor, such items may be exercised in a much safer circumstance.

K. Unfamiliar Equipment

The marshal is not obligated to inspect or marshal equipment that is unfamiliar to him/her. This text provides minimum standards but often simple words and diagrams can be ambiguous enough to cause the marshal to be concerned with their ability to adequately inspect equipment or marshal the line. When this happens, make every attempt to hail the area for a marshal more familiar with the issue. If none are available, decline from continuing until one can be found. **WHEN IN DOUBT - DON'T DO IT!!!** The participant is going to be disappointed and should be treated apologetically and with tact. Likewise, it is the marshal's responsibility to become familiar with as many types of weapons as possible to limit this type of situation.

L. Marshallate Authority to Halt an Event

Please refer to the Northshield Marshal's Administration Handbook, section 8.