



## **Tournament FAQ for Archers and Parents**

### ***Q: Am I (or “is my child”) ready to shoot in an archery tournament?***

**A:** This can be a hard decision, especially if an archer is very enthusiastic, but perhaps, reasonably new to target archery. While coaches are often eager to get archers into tournaments as a means of pushing the learning experience, they don't want to see an archer enter a tournament if it is likely that the archer will perform poorly, and especially if the archer has higher expectations than likely outcomes for the tournament. For this reason, it is generally best to trust the coach, and get multiple coaches' opinions on the matter who have seen the archer perform regularly at the distance and at the target size they would shoot at in the tournament. For instance, while a new archer may be shooting well outdoors at 20 meters, but is in an age division that would call for tournament shooting at 30 or 50 meters, it is probably best to wait until the archer has trained at the distance and target size for the competition for enough time to regularly hit the target.

### ***Q: How do I find out about tournaments for archery?***

**A:** The best option for finding out about the various archery tournaments is by talking to one of the JOAD coaches. Most of these coaches have been in your shoes - most were parents of young archers who progressed to the point of shooting in local, state, and even national level archery. The coaches can not only tell you about various tournaments, but will give suggestions for registration and preparation for the various tournaments. In addition, you can also find a list of the upcoming archery tournaments that are relevant for WMAC archers through the [wmarchery.org](http://wmarchery.org) site.

### ***Q: What are the different “types” of tournaments for target archery?***

**A:** First, target archery can be divided into two main “seasons” - indoor and outdoor. Indoor archery typically involves shooting from distances of 9 or 18 meters, or alternate distances in yards, depending on the organization and set of rules for the tournament. Outdoor archery ranges from 10 to 90 meters, depending on the age of the archer. In addition to this, indoor and outdoor archery will vary in the number of arrows per end, and number of ends per target, as well as other considerations. The other main difference in target archery has to do with the type of bow being used. Recurve or compound bows are typical for most tournaments, though some archers will shoot bare bow (recurve with no sight or added equipment), or traditional compound, which may be referred to as “Compound fingers”, which involves using fingers to draw the bow string. Finally, there are different kinds of events which may take place at a tournament, including the most common target archery, as well as olympic rounds (a seeded bracket arrangement pitting two archers against each other in a small number of rounds), and team competitions, which involve teams of two or three archers taking turns shooting, and combining for a team score. Check with a coach for additional information.

There are other types of archery tournaments as well, including 3D and field archery. Check with coaches for more information.

***Q: What should we do to prepare for a tournament? What should we bring?***

**A:** Because most indoor archery tournaments are in local facilities that will have access to food, water, etc., in a climate controlled environment, the archer has less to worry about. Outdoor tournaments require additional consideration, including an easy-up tent or similar shade cover, portable lightweight chairs, sunscreen, insect repellent, a cooler (preferably with ice and cold water or other drinks), and a hat. Of course, archers should bring the bow in a bow case, a quiver, arrows, a bow stand (though most have their own large stands for all bows), a silver sharpie marker (to mark arrows, if needed), pencils (for scoring), money (for registration and food), appropriate clothing (see list of approved clothing items) and food and water during the tournament. Parents will likely also want to have a remedial toolkit, or access to one of their coaches to help in the event of any equipment failures, and will want to remember their cameras. Archers at official events should also have their NAA membership card.

***Q: What will my child (the archer) need to do at the tournament? What will happen at the tournament?***

**A:** Most important for the archer is to focus on the shooting and form that one is accustomed to in practice. It is easy to get nervous at a tournament - especially one's first tournament - and so archers should focus on their shooting form, as well as all of the other practices that are addressed in our JOAD practices.

Upon arrival and check-in, archers will need to assemble the bow and prepare for an equipment check. Check with your coaches on bow assembly procedures for your bow. For the equipment check, the archer should bring a fully assembled bow to the judge to review, and should hold the bow appropriately during that time. The archer will also need to show the judge his or her arrows to ensure the points are appropriate, that none are bent or missing fletchings, and that they are marked with the initials of the archer.

Archers should warm up with stretches and a stretching band as done in practice, and will want to locate their appropriate lane as assigned by the tournament. Archers should place any needed equipment prior to the start of the event (such as bows on bow stands, etc.). Archers will also need to place their target face on the appropriate target location. They should NOT write anything on the target face prior to the tournament.

Archers will be called to the line to receive instruction from the judges for the event. It is critical to listen to everything the judges say, and to pay attention to any specific considerations for the tournament.

Archers will typically have two practice rounds prior to the first shooting arrows. It is critical for archers to pay attention to other archers, and to follow line etiquette during the event. Archers will need to score using tournament protocols. In this, teams of archers will work on scoring, with one caller, two writing scores on separate sheets, and one to mark the arrow holes prior to removing arrows. This process is critical, so archers need to pay attention, and follow instructions - these will be addressed more by our coaches.

Most of all, archers should have fun at the tournament. Don't get down if you have a bad end or shot!