



Lost Arrows and Arrow Etiquette



It is inevitable you will miss the target with some of your arrows. It is amazing the ability of an arrow to bury itself in the ground even with the shortest of grass. However, it is extremely important that no arrows are left on the field after shooting has been completed. This is because of the potential for serious injury to anyone else using the field, especially the children from the school. This document outlines the process to be followed if an arrow is lost.

We **ALL** need to try to prevent this happening and take appropriate action if an arrow is lost.

How can we prevent it?

- **All-Carbon Arrows are Not Permitted** - Aluminium/Carbon composite arrows can be used but not all carbon arrows. This is because a metal detector will not pick up the shaft.
- **Count Your Arrows** - Always know how many arrows you have brought to the field and are in your quiver when you start shooting. It can be embarrassing if everyone is searching for an arrow which has not been shot.
- **Be Careful with New Sight Marks** - If you are uncertain about a sight mark then please ask someone to watch the flight of the arrow.
- **Avoid New Sight Marks Late in a Session** - It can take some time to find an arrow and losing one late on, especially with dusk approaching, can limit the time to find it.

What to do if an arrow is lost:

- **Everyone Searches** - Everyone should help to look for a lost arrow.
- **Use a Metal Detector** - If it isn't found quickly use one of the metal detectors from the container. Please learn how to use the detectors.
- **Finding Someone Else's Arrow** - If you find someone else's arrow buried, leave it in the ground for them to retrieve. You don't want to inadvertently damage it.
- **Multiple Lost Arrows** - If you have lost more than one arrow during one end, then when you find an arrow stick it upright in the ground. Frequently you will find the other arrows in a similar location or at least on the same line.

If the arrow cannot be found by the end of the session:

- **Use Flags** - Place a flag in the ground to mark the position of the boss you were aiming at, and a flag where you were standing.
- **Inform the Committee** - Inform the Chair (chair@abbeybowmen.org) or a member of the committee so that they can let the school know. Be prepared to come back to search for it.

Label Your Arrows

Labeling your arrows helps reunite arrows with their owner; it is also a requirement for competitions. Your arrows should carry the owner's initials or name and a unique number for each arrow.

This information can be written on the plastic fletchings, but this is not recommended as fletches can become detached. Instead, consider using stick-on printed decals (available online), customised arrow wraps or simply writing on the shaft with a suitable pen, such as a gel pen or a paint pen (e.g. Sharpie permanent).