



# *Horse Archery USA*

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## **GROUND ARCHERY RANGE RULES & REGULATIONS**

1. Shoot only at a designated target in an appropriate shooting area.
2. All archers must shoot from a common shooting line, either all *toeing* the line or all *straddling* the line.
3. Arrows are nocked **ONLY** after shooting area is cleared and archers are on common line.
4. Don't draw the bow with a nocked arrow unless you are going to release the arrow. Never shoot (release) your bow without an arrow in it (dry fire).
5. Arrows are considered shot (spent) if they fall from the bow and cannot be reached with the aid of the bow while straddling or toeing the shooting line.
6. After shooting the designated number of arrows, the archer should step back from the shooting line until the signal to retrieve arrows is given.
7. Retrieve arrows only on the appropriate signal.
8. Never shoot an arrow up in the air. A bow may only be drawn when pointed toward a target. Sky drawing (aka "sky loading") where a bow is pointed towards the sky to draw it is prohibited. Anyone who repeats this behavior after a warning shall be excused from the range.
9. Make certain arrows are the proper length for your reach (personal draw length).
10. Only one individual at a time should withdraw arrows from the target.
11. Always be conscious of the possible dangers of bows and arrows. Treat the equipment, the sport and your fellow archers with respect.
12. Archers must wear close-toed shoes. (Bare feet and sandals are disallowed)
13. Use of personal music playing devices, ear buds or headphones are prohibited on range.
14. Avoid wearing bulky clothes or jewelry that might interfere with shooting.
15. Behavior considered disruptive, unsafe, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate may result in disqualification (during competition) and or expulsion of the archer or observer from the range.
16. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or anyone who is an obvious danger to other shooters safety will be asked to stop shooting.

## **BASIC HAUSA GROUND TARGET ARCHERY PROCEDURES**

HAUSA and/or USA Archery certified instructors or designated range safety official (RSO) shall not start archery activities until reviewing standard range rules and procedures with the archers present. The following is an overview of range procedures. As safety is not limited to just these rules and procedures, a list that could never address all situations - common sense also applies. Archers are expected to be safety conscious and responsible at all times.

- Archers may NEVER point an arrow at anyone, at any time, even if's not on the bow.
- Archers shall keep all arrows (points down) inside their quiver until they are called to the shooting line by the instructor or range master and the signal is given to start shooting.
- Archers shall all either stand *toeing* the shooting line or all *straddling* line (depending on range rules) facing the correct direction as determined by their dominate eye.
- When shooting, arrows are ALWAYS and ONLY pointed down range at the targets.
- Should an arrow fall to the ground when loading the bow, the archer may reach for it provided it does not fall forward into another archers lane when that archer is shooting, AND it can be reached without crossing over the shooting line.
- After shooting, each archer shall step back from the shooting line, return their bow to the bow rack (table, ground quiver, stand or ground), and remain at least five feet back of the shooting line until all archers have shot their arrows, returned their bows to the designated area behind the shooting line, AND the signal is given to retrieve arrows.
- Archers shall always WALK when retrieving arrows. Running is not permitted on range.
- Upon retrieving arrows, archers shall always pick their arrows off the ground first and immediately return them to their quiver (points down), and then proceed to the target(s) to collect any arrows that have been shot there.
- When at the target, archers shall always check behind themselves when pulling arrows, to be sure that no one is standing close by. Arrows are always pulled one-at-a-time, and immediately returned to the quiver (points down).
- ALL ground archery target shooting at HAUSA events is controlled by either voice commands and/or whistle blasts.

### **The four basic ARCHERY RANGE WHISTLE & VOCAL COMMANDS:**

- Two Whistle Blasts – “Archers to the shooting line”
- One Whistle Blast – “Commence nocking arrows and shooting”
- Three Whistle Blasts – “Retrieve your arrows”
- Five or More Whistle Blasts (series of whistle blasts) – “CEASE SHOOTING!” “Bows down & arrows in quiver”