

Bows and Bow Competency

Introduction

Bows and crossbows are one of the more dangerous weapons in LARP, if they are used inappropriately. If you are planning to play an archer at Macifaria Games then you must make sure that you follow all these safety rules. Failure to do so could result in you being asked to leave the game. You must take your bow to the weapons checking team and have it checked before you use it.

Competency

At Macifaria Games any player wishing to use a Bow or crossbow must undertake a weapon competency test. To take the test please see a member of the Weapons Checking Team. On completion of the test you will be given a Card which marks you as having been tested. This must be kept with you at all times when using a bow or Crossbow. We require any player using a bow to adhere to the same standards of safety and control as players using melee weapons.

As a minimum, when you take a bow to weapon check they will ask you to string and unstring the bow, as an incorrectly strung bow is a danger to both you and other players and demonstrates a lack of experience with a bow. You must know how to string a bow correctly. If at any point the weapon check team are not satisfied that you are safe enough to use a bow you will be asked to store the bow and arrows in an OOC area for the remainder of the event.

Projectiles

As well as checking your bow/crossbow before the start of the event, we recommend that you check your arrows before, during and after each combat, as they may have become damaged.

Projectiles must also be checked by a weapons checker. If the weapons checker is unsure of the construction of any arrows or bolts then they will ask that one be cut open to see the construction. This will then be returned to you so that if the construction is called into question again, a sample will already be available.

General Rules and Guidelines

Below are the Rules and general considerations all players should follow when using this type of equipment at a Macifaria Games event:

- ❖ The string must be in good condition e.g. must not be fraying
- ❖ The body of the bow or crossbow, whether wood or fibreglass, must not show signs of cracking
- ❖ The string notches must not be worn and must be able to hold the string firmly
- ❖ The shaft must have a nock, which is securely attached
- ❖ The draw of a bow must be less than 30 lbs at 28" draw. Crossbows are also limited to 30lbs draw weight
- ❖ Ensure that your bow is correctly and securely strung
- ❖ Take the distance to your target into account before firing
- ❖ You must not aim a bow or crossbow at the head
- ❖ Do not parry or strike with your bow
- ❖ You must check the head, shaft and nock of any arrow or bolt you are given or recover yourself before loosing
- ❖ The shaft must be made of fibreglass or wood. Carbon fibre, metal and dowel are not allowed
- ❖ The shaft must not be cracked or damaged

- ❖ Flights must be adequate to keep the arrow stable in flight and must be securely attached to the shaft
- ❖ The arrow must have some kind of blocker of 3mm thickness of leather/rubber or a 2 pence piece between the shaft and the foam of the arrowhead to stop the shaft pushing through
- ❖ The head must be securely attached and not move on the shaft
- ❖ The arrowhead must be at least 50mm (55mm recommended) across and have a circular cross-section
- ❖ There should be no sharp points, bodkins, broad heads, bullet tips or piles on the end of the arrow shaft, even under the foam
- ❖ Dome headed arrows are allowed as long as the width of the widest part of the soft foam dome, and the foam behind it are of the appropriate diameter
- ❖ The soft foam portion of the head must be designed in such a way as to allow it to collapse fully (so there must be no latex within 5-10 mm of the face)
- ❖ Any gaffer tape used on the arrowhead must not be within 25mm of the face of the arrow
- ❖ Crossbows fire much slower than a bow with equivalent poundage. As you cannot reduce the pull for a crossbow you must not fire it at a target closer than 3m.
- ❖ Any dome headed arrows with latex, rubber or similar coating and designs are banned from Macifaria Games

