



Age Groups Rule change decision

Last year Archery GB decided to review the current age bracket for junior and senior archers. This was in response to confusion over the years about the differences set by Archery GB and World Archery.

In November 2021, proposals were laid out and a survey opened to receive views of the membership.

Following the survey, the percentage for change was a total of 76.7% but no clear consensus on which of the proposals we should implement. This means Archery GB will go ahead and change the age groups in 2022. However, the age group rule changes will not come into effect until 1 October 2022.

Therefore, we will do the following:

- Age group rules will follow World Archery's lead in terms of when someone qualifies for an age group (see section 4.2, <https://worldarchery.sport/rulebook/article/15>)
 - Rule example for Under 16's - An athlete may participate in a Under 16 Class in tournaments when the competition takes place up to and in the year of their 15th birthday.
 - Rule example for archers aged 50+ - An athlete may participate in a 50+ Class in tournaments when the competition takes place in the year of their 50th birthday and thereafter.
- World Archery terminology to be used for genders (Men / Women).

Rounds

There isn't a clear consensus on which of the two proposals outlined we should adopt, so rule changes will be delayed to **1 October 2022**. More information on rounds will be communicated shortly. Outdoor Competitions for the 2022 season will stay under the current rules.

Records

The assessment of any impact to existing records will be made when the Rounds and Age group combinations are published.

Frequently Asked Questions

These have been received from members with questions or concerns around the proposed rule changes.

Q. Over 50 why do I have to shoot a round shorter?

- Any archers can shoot any round, the table within rule 308 which defines the age and round group combination (Table 3-4) describes the round which allows archers to gain UK record and performance awards. All rounds in Tables 3-1, 3-2, 3-2A and 3-3 may be shot by any archer irrespective of age.



- The new 50+ category is to allow archers who are aged 50+ to gain a record at a shorter distance and shoot/compete with archers of their age. Alongside this there will be the relevant handicaps and classifications.

Q. What about over 70's and 60's?

- We will monitor what the uptake is for the 50+ age groups within competition before adding any more age groups.

Q. Why aren't all rounds available for the 50+ group?

- TO's put on any round for archers aged 50+ at any shoot i.e., in any round an archer would shoot the round below in distance however Archery GB only recognises the rounds in respect of the WA rounds and the York/Hereford rounds. If the 50+ category grows, Archery GB will look to add more records, handicaps and classifications as appropriate.

Q. Will the new age change for the archer's year of birth disadvantage juniors born later in the year and force them out of the sport?

- Unfortunately, whichever rule is used – either the year or date of birth – there are archers disadvantaged. Under the current age rules archers born in the summer are disadvantaged and have to change their distance part way through the outdoor season. Under the new rule an archer will not have to change mid-season if they are born during the summer.

Q. Will boys and girls be expected to shoot together under a mixed gender category?

- No, it is not expected that they compete under a mixed gender category.

Q. Why is this being done when there has been so much change with covid?

- This project was something we were looking at prior to the pandemic and the development of the sport shouldn't be held up due to covid.

Q. Why do we have Archery GB rules?

- The World Archery rules only cater for the 50+ (masters), Adult, under 21 and under 18 ages. Participation in the UK covers a wider range of age groups and therefore it is felt archers need appropriate opportunities.

Q. How will this impact classification and handicaps?

- New tables and scores will be released with the rule changes.

Q. What will be the impact on membership fees?

- Membership fees were not part of this review. There is a wider membership review taking place during 2022 and we would welcome everyone to take part in this. Please keep any eye on the website and social media for more information.

If you have any comments or question please use this link <https://forms.gle/8ZiQTPXCJ6T16Xu98>

