

THE VALLEY BOWMEN OF HUDDERSFIELD

(Established 1963)

General Rules and Regulations

AMENDED VERSION November 2025

1. Discipline shall always be maintained on the field. Members shooting negligently on or off the club premises in such a manner to endanger life or property may be asked to leave the club.
2. Any member acting contrary to the constitution of the club shall be asked to attend a meeting with the club executive to explain their action which may result in their suspension from the club.
3. Clothing Rules: For warm weather, a T-shirt / polo shirt is acceptable. For wet /cold weather, clothing rules can be relaxed. It would be wise to remove any jewellery/piercings, that could be caught and ripped out by the bowstring. You must wear closed footwear to protect against injury by walking into the nock of an arrow on the ground. For members wishing to compete at away shoots if it's a record status shoot or mentions rule 307 (see below) then you need to avoid contravening the Archery GB rules of shooting rule 307.

307 Dress Regulations: The recognised dress of Archery GB is plain dark green and/or white or registered club colours, however, any colour garments may be worn except for blue denim, olive drab and camouflage pattern. Footwear that fully encloses the toes and front of the foot must be always worn when shooting. Full details on Archery GB website.

4. Boundary safety flags should be set out on the field before shooting during club competitions. A whistle for the use of the field captain shall be provided by the club.
5. All trophies won on behalf of 'VBoH' shall be engraved at the club's expense. Trophies won in internal club **championship** competitions i.e. **Club Indoor Championship and Handicap** and **Club Outdoor Championship and Handicap** will be engraved at the club's expense. All other competition trophies and medals can be engraved at the expense of the winning archer but is not mandatory. The cost of replacement or repair of trophies, medals or other club property, damaged whilst in the possession of members shall lie with the member concerned unless there are exceptional circumstances involved.
6. The Gonfalon should be erected at club tournaments and where permitted at events in which club members attend. When taken to external events the custody and safe return of the Gonfalon shall lie with the most senior member present.
7. Archery GB membership must be held and maintained by all club coaches, executive committee members, junior members and visiting archers.
8. All shooting (and archery equipment used at any club venue) must be in accordance with Archery GB's rules of shooting and the rules and constitution of the club.
In particular, "..... When drawing back the string of the bow an archer shall not use any technique which, in the opinion of the judges, could, if accidentally loosed, allow the arrow to fly beyond a safety zone or safety arrangements ". If the top of the archer's drawing hand goes below the bottom of the bow hand during the draw (when viewed parallel to the horizontal), then the archer may be in breach of this rule.

Safety and Security

Although not advised, some people do shoot on their own at the field. Whilst archery is not an inherently dangerous sport, accidents can happen. When shooting alone we suggest you carry a mobile phone with you at all times.

- 1. Look after your equipment:** A bow has been stolen off the shooting line by an opportunist thief whilst the archer collected their arrows up the field. Ensure everything is securely locked if you are the last to leave the field.
- 2. The danger area to the left and right** of the shooting line extends to the boundary of the land owned by the club. No one should walk or drive anywhere forward of the shooting line whilst shooting is in progress. It is the responsibility of all members to shout “FAST” if anyone is seen entering the danger area.
- 3. The land to the right of the shooting line** is sometimes in use and occasionally club land is entered to retrieve property. Please be vigilant. Call “FAST” and stop shooting at any sign of danger.
- 4. All members are responsible for following safe practices** when shooting and promoting safe behaviour at the club.
- 5. Sign in when shooting.**
 - Our insurance requires that we know who is shooting and that they are registered club members.
 - The register is our way of meeting this requirement.
- 6. Respect the shooting line.**
 - Archers should only be on the shooting line when shooting.
 - Archers should only have an arrow nocked when on the shooting line.
 - The shooting line should be clear of equipment and other items to ensure everyone can see and confirm safe practices.
- 7. Use the whistle.**
 - If more than two archers are shooting a whistle must be used to indicate when shooting has stopped and it is safe to collect arrows (3 blasts) and when shooting can commence again (a single blast).
- 8. Use the sign.**
 - The warning sign for cars and people going up the lane must be used when shooting.
 - People coming to site who need to go up the lane must wait until told it is safe by archers on the line.
- 9. Up field warning.**
 - When shooting long distances, setting up or taking down target’s archers may be out of view but still in the danger zone on the field.
 - If you are going into the target shed or have a non-routine task to do on the field, the beacon / flag must be used to show people waiting that it is not yet safe to shoot.

Members are expected to agree to this code of conduct at each annual renewal of membership.

ANY INFRINGEMENT OF THE CLUB RULES MAY RESULT IN CLUB MEMBERSHIP BEING CANCELLED