



# EVENT REFERENCE GUIDEBOOK

First time at a USA Archery Event?

Here are some things to know!





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## BEFORE SIGNING UP

1. Make sure your [USA Archery Membership](#) is current.
2. Determine your [Age Class](#).
3. Visit the USA Archery [event calendar](#), select the event and view registration information.
4. Review the World Archery equipment [rules](#). If you will shoot a Basic Compound bow the equipment rules can be found [here](#).
5. **Make sure to practice!** Prepare by shooting the maximum number of arrows required for your age class and distance at the correct size target face (see pages 13-14).
6. If you need refreshing on event protocol, find your nearest Junior Olympic Archery Development Club (JOAD) [here](#) and request further guidance or find a USA Archery Instructor or Coach [here](#)!

### Membership Requirements:

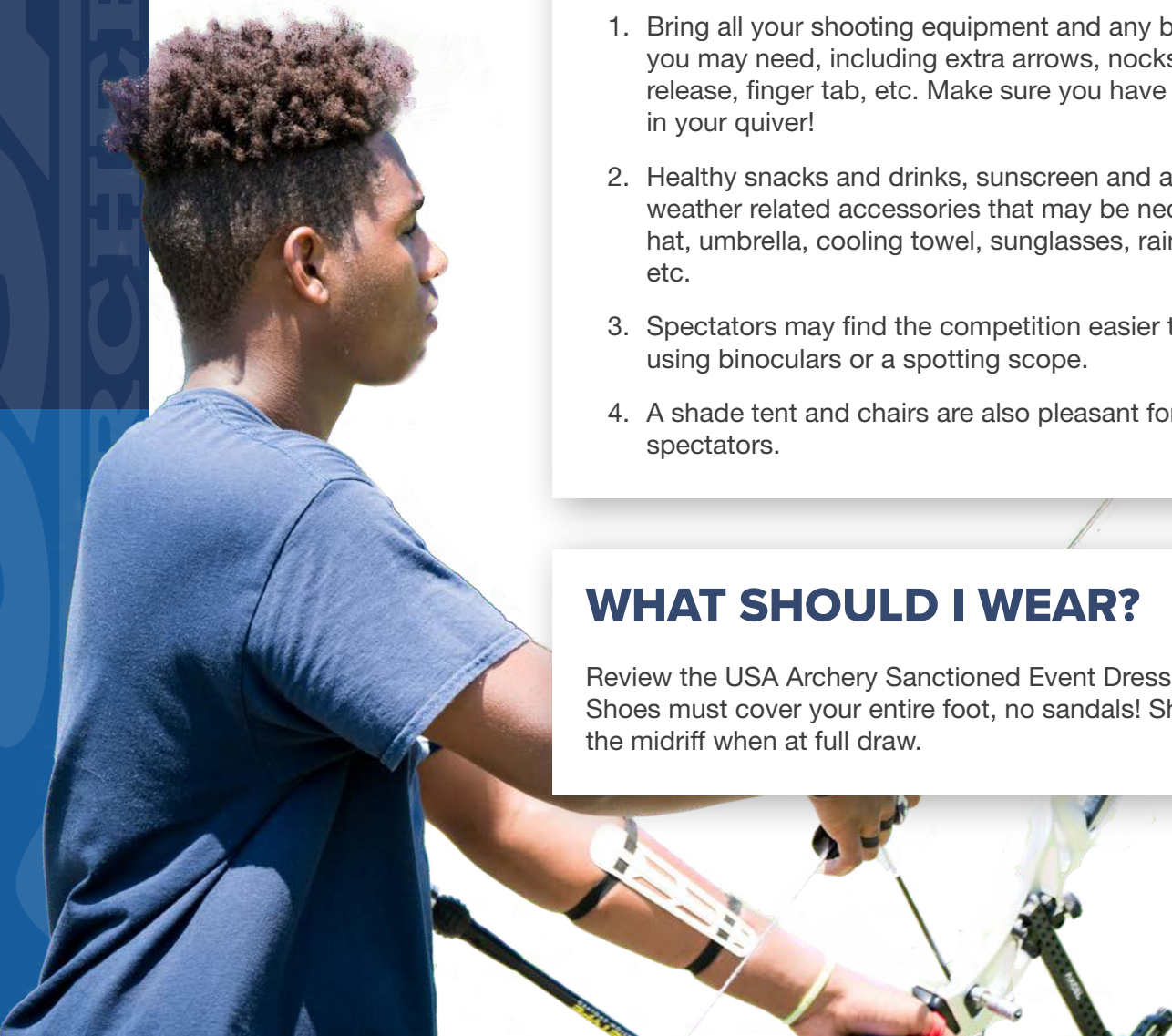
Participants in JOAD State and National Events must have a current USA Archery membership with a JOAD Club Affiliation.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

1. Bring all your shooting equipment and any backup items you may need, including extra arrows, nocks, fletchings, release, finger tab, etc. Make sure you have a pencil or two in your quiver!
2. Healthy snacks and drinks, sunscreen and any other weather related accessories that may be necessary, such as hat, umbrella, cooling towel, sunglasses, rain jacket, gloves, etc.
3. Spectators may find the competition easier to follow when using binoculars or a spotting scope.
4. A shade tent and chairs are also pleasant for parents/spectators.

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Review the USA Archery Sanctioned Event Dress Code [here](#). Shoes must cover your entire foot, no sandals! Shirts must cover the midriff when at full draw.



# WHAT DO I DO WHEN I GET TO THE EVENT?

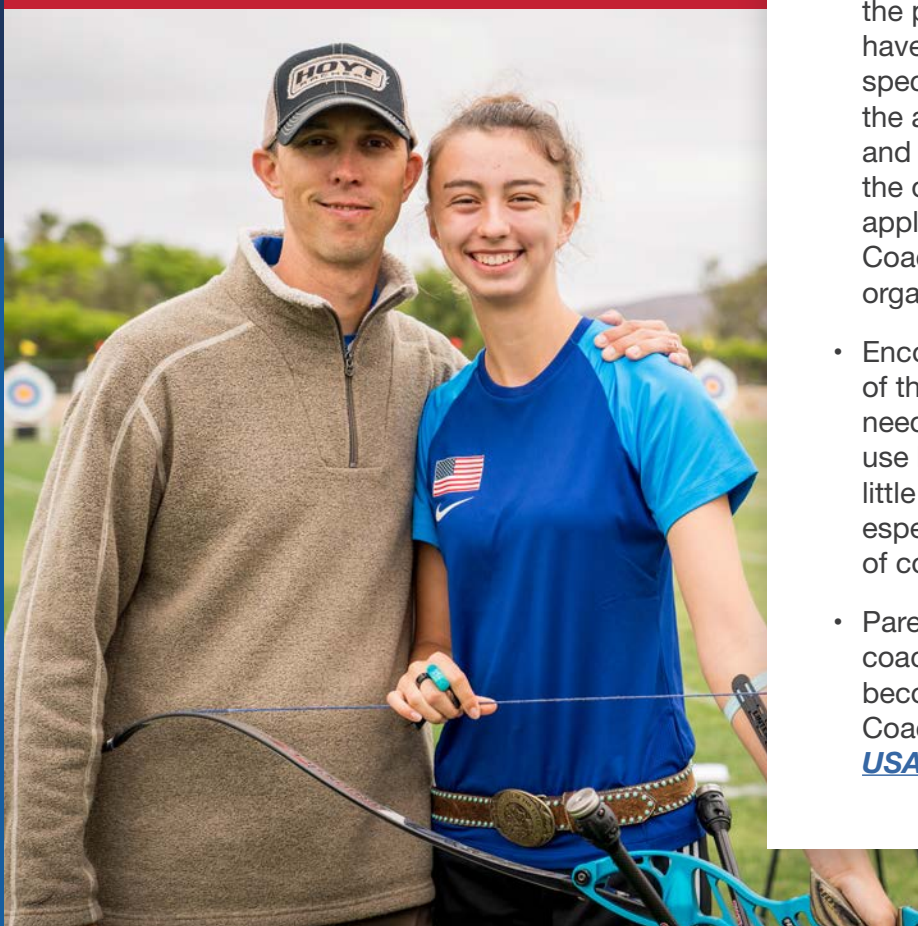
## ARCHERS

- Arrive about one hour prior to your shooting time. An indoor round of 60 arrows can take up to 4 hours, and an outdoor round of 72 arrows will take roughly the same amount of time.
- Most tournament organizers will have a list of target assignments posted so that you may check your lane assignment. Typically, events will designate a shooting position of A, B, C, or D.
- Your equipment will need to be inspected by a USA Archery Judge before the tournament. This should take place 30 minutes or more before the start of shooting, or on official practice day. Be sure to show the Judge that your arrows are marked in a consistent location on each shaft with your name or initials. For more on equipment specifications see the World Archery Rulebook.
- Most tournaments will have the archers hang their own target faces on the target. Be sure to secure your target face at all four corners, especially outdoors where the wind can detach the face.



# WHAT DO I DO WHEN I GET TO THE EVENT?

## PARENTS



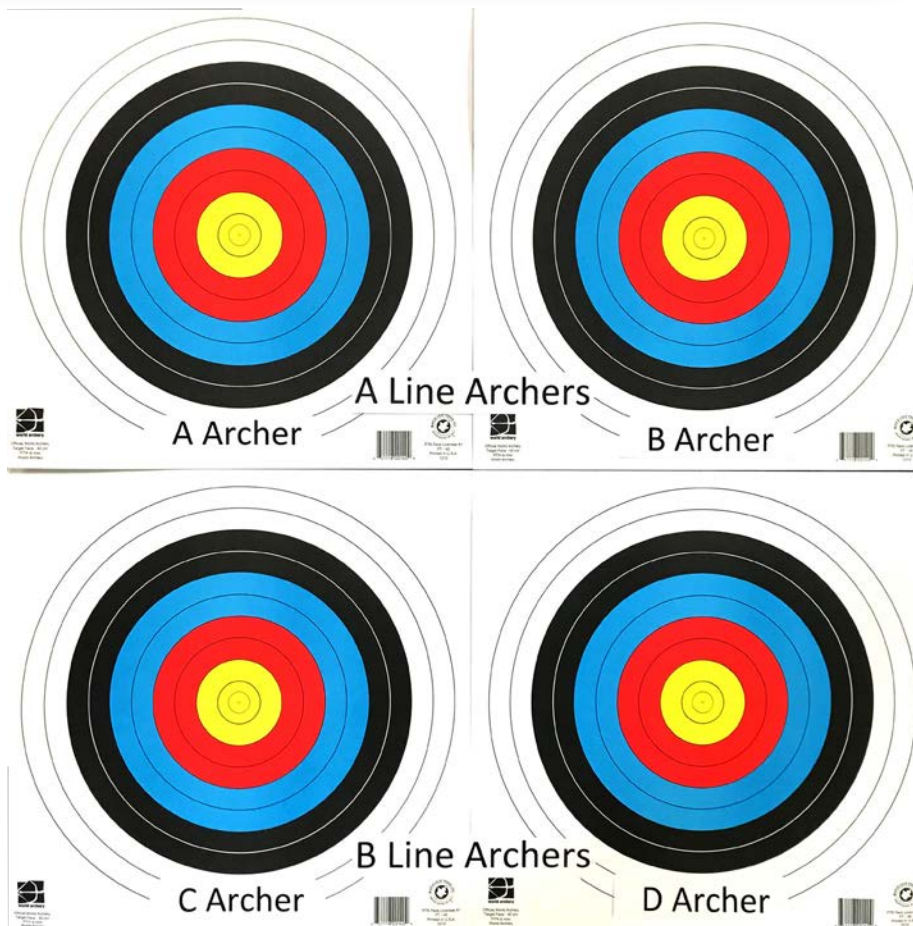
- Help your archer to find their target assignment and set up equipment. When finding a place to spectate, be mindful that the archers will have the priority seating. Most venues have archer-only seating, and a spectator area. In these cases, only the archers, and USA Archery Judges and Coaches may proceed past the designated spectator area. If applicable, coaches may purchase a Coach Credential from the tournament organizer.
- Encourage your archer between ends of the competition. If your archer needs feedback during the event, use hand signals. There should be little to no verbal communication, especially during the scoring rounds of competition.
- Parents who are interested in coaching can learn more about becoming a USA Archery Instructor or Coach [here](#) or may attend the [USA Archery Coach Symposium](#).

The A position is the top left and will shoot on the “A line”.

The B position is top right and will shoot on the “A line”.

The C position is the lower left and will shoot the “B line”.

The D position is bottom right, and will shoot the “B line”.



**EXCEPTION:** For JOAD Indoor events, the Bowman and Cub division shoot a 60cm target face. A and C archers will shoot the left target, B and D archers will shoot the right target.

For a detailed list of what size target face you will shoot, please reference **pages 13-14**.

## OUTDOOR RECURVE

- Your target position, A/B/C/D, will only indicate where you stand on the shooting line and if you shoot A or B line.
  - » Position A shoots the left side of the center target hash mark, on the “A line”.
  - » Position B shoots the right side of the center target hash mark, on the “A line”.
  - » Position C shoots the left side of the center target hash mark, on the “B line”.
  - » Position D shoots the left side of the center target hash mark, on the “B line”.
- All four archers shoot on the same (122cm) target face in the outdoor competition format. The target number is shown on the target downrange, and in front of your shooting position, on or near the 3-meter line.

# RANGE COMMANDS AND TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE

## WHISTLES/BEEPS AND TIMING

- Most venues will have a sign posted with an A or B, which will indicate which archers shoot first. A/B position archers will have the chance to shoot first when the sign says “A”. C/D position archers will shoot first when the sign shows “B”. (In some locations, the sign may say “A/B” or “C/D”.)
- When you hear two beeps, you may pick up your bow and proceed to the shooting line. USA Archery Sanctioned events allow you to nock an arrow on your string at this point, but you may not raise your bow until you hear one beep. All archers must stand straddling (one foot on either side of) the shooting line.
- When you hear one beep, you may proceed to shoot your arrows at your target. Indoors, you will shoot three arrows, outdoors you will often shoot six. During the practice ends, you may shoot as many arrows as you like during the time allotment.
- Most events will have a timing clock, indoors you will have 2 minutes to shoot 3 arrows. If shooting 6 arrows outdoors you will have 4 minutes to shoot your arrows. In the case of no timing clock, a judge will display a green flag until 30 seconds of shooting time remain. At this time they will display a yellow flag, until time runs out.
- **DO NOT EVER SHOOT AN ARROW AFTER THE TIME RUNS OUT!** This will cause you to lose hard-earned points.
- If you were in the first of the two groups to shoot their arrows, place your bow on the bow rack (indoor) or on your bow stand (outdoor) and retire behind the waiting line. Allow space for the archers in the second group to access their equipment and make their way to the shooting line. Remove your spotting scope from the line unless you have made previous arrangements to share with the archer who will shoot in your same position on the opposite line.
- If you are in the second group of archers to shoot, you should be prepared with your bow as the first group is finishing their end. When you hear two beeps, you may proceed to the shooting line and continue as above.
- If you drop an arrow, you may leave it on the floor/ground. As long as the arrow is not completely past the 3 meter line, it is not considered to be a shot arrow.
- When you hear three beeps, all archers may advance to the target to score the arrows.



## SCORING THE ARROWS

Scorecards will be provided to you on or near the shooting line before or during your practice ends. In some events, a tablet will be provided. Familiarize yourself with the order of the scorecards and identify who will be scoring, calling, and overseeing the scorekeepers.

- » Two archers will be the scorekeepers. They will record scores on either: one paper scorecard each, OR one paper scorecard and one tablet.
  - » One archer will call the arrows, in descending order from highest to lowest for each archer.
  - » The fourth archer will oversee the scoring to be sure all is correct. The minimum number of archers per target is three. If you do not have three or more archers on your target, notify a judge.
- **Do not touch the target or arrows until every arrow score is written on paper and entered in the scoring tablet!**
  - If you are one of two archers who have been assigned to record the scores, write neatly. Confirm with the other scorekeeper the end score and total score after each end. It is important to add the scores to double check your partner. If there is a difference in scores, find out why before pulling the arrows!
  - When scoring, if your arrow is touching the line, it scores the higher value. When in doubt, ask a judge.

- Archers will need to mark their arrow holes. This is to ensure that in the case of a bounce out or pass through, a judge may identify which arrow hole is unmarked. With confirmation from a judge, the archer may be credited with the points from the unmarked arrow hole.
  - » Be sure that all scores are recorded for each archer before proceeding to mark the holes.
  - » With a pencil or pen, (no felt tip) make a small mark next to each arrow. The mark should touch the arrow and extend approximately a centimeter away from the hole in any direction.
- Be careful, pulling arrows is the most dangerous part of our sport! Be sure to stand clear of an archer pulling their arrows, and always look behind you before pulling each arrow from the target.



For more information about scorekeeping, check out our video [here](#).



If you experience a problem with your equipment during shooting, immediately notify a judge by stepping back from the shooting line and raising your hand. Equipment Failures can include a broken D-loop, arrow rest, or sight aperture. Medical issues will be evaluated to see if the archer is fit to continue. More on equipment failures from World Archery [here](#).



## TURN IN YOUR SCORECARD



Once scoring is complete, total all scorecards with your target mates. You may use a calculator and/or a parent to double check that your math is accurate.

Make sure all scorecards are correct and sign each card in the appropriate space. In the case that the archer and the scorekeeper are the same person, the other scorekeeper will need to initial this scorecard next to the scorekeeper signature.

If you are using tablet scoring, turn in all scorecards and tablet to the scoring table as a group with your target mates.

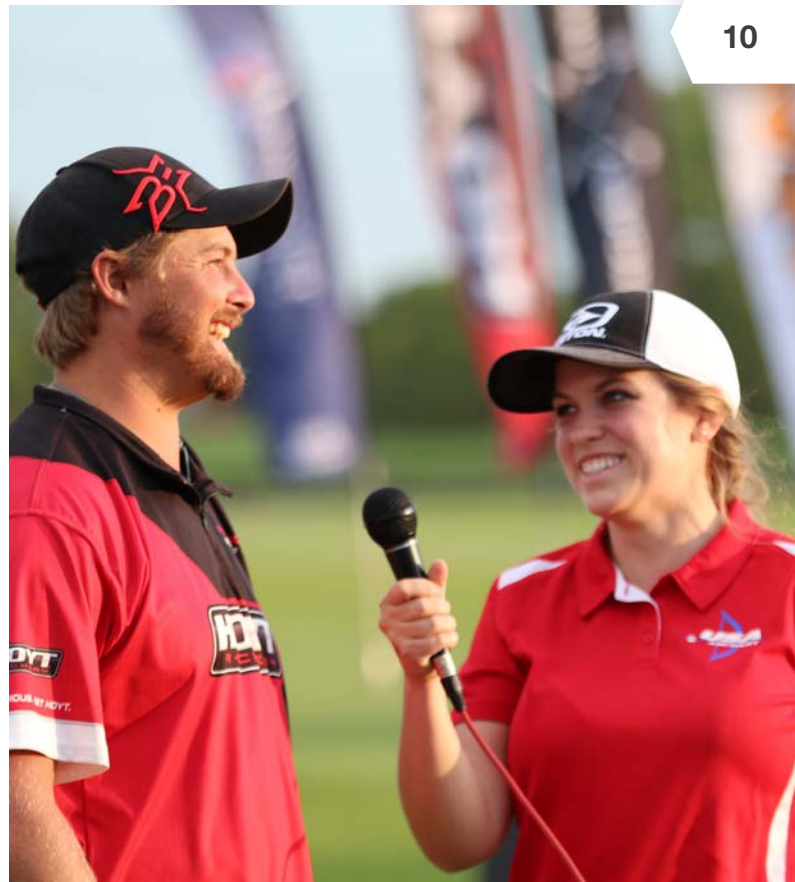
If you are scoring on two paper scorecards, each archer may individually turn in their scorecards to the scoring table. You do not need to be together with your target mates in this case.

## ARCHERY ETIQUETTE

If you have shot all your arrows, always be mindful of other archers who are near you on the shooting line. If the archer next to you is at full draw, be very cautious not to disturb them when retiring from the line.

**Mobile Electronic Devices** - Items such as cell phone, tablets, music players and computers are not allowed beyond the waiting line. Archers should secure these items in their bow case or leave them with their coach or parents. Spectators should reduce the volume on their electronic devices or turn them off to avoid disturbing the archers.

**Photography** - Flash photography is not allowed during tournaments. Photographers may apply for a media credential by contacting [media@usarchery.org](mailto:media@usarchery.org). Credentialed media are allowed downrange with the approval of a judge.



## SPORTSMANSHIP

USA Archery and archery in general are regarded as a highly professional and respected Olympic and Paralympic sport. To continue our mission of providing the necessary resources to foster strong athlete participation, competition and training in the sport of archery, we invite all members to actively practice the High Performance Ethos. Ultimately, we want to be an organization that members are proud to belong to while achieving our goal of being the best archery nation in the world. The High Performance Ethos defines those specific behaviors that we want to exemplify throughout all levels of the organization. The specific behaviors are:

1. Communication
2. Respect, Integrity and Humility
3. Trust and Standards of Excellence
4. Duty, Legacy and Team Player
5. Engagement and Support
6. Priorities and Follow Through
7. Success



For more on the High Performance Ethos, continue [reading here](#).



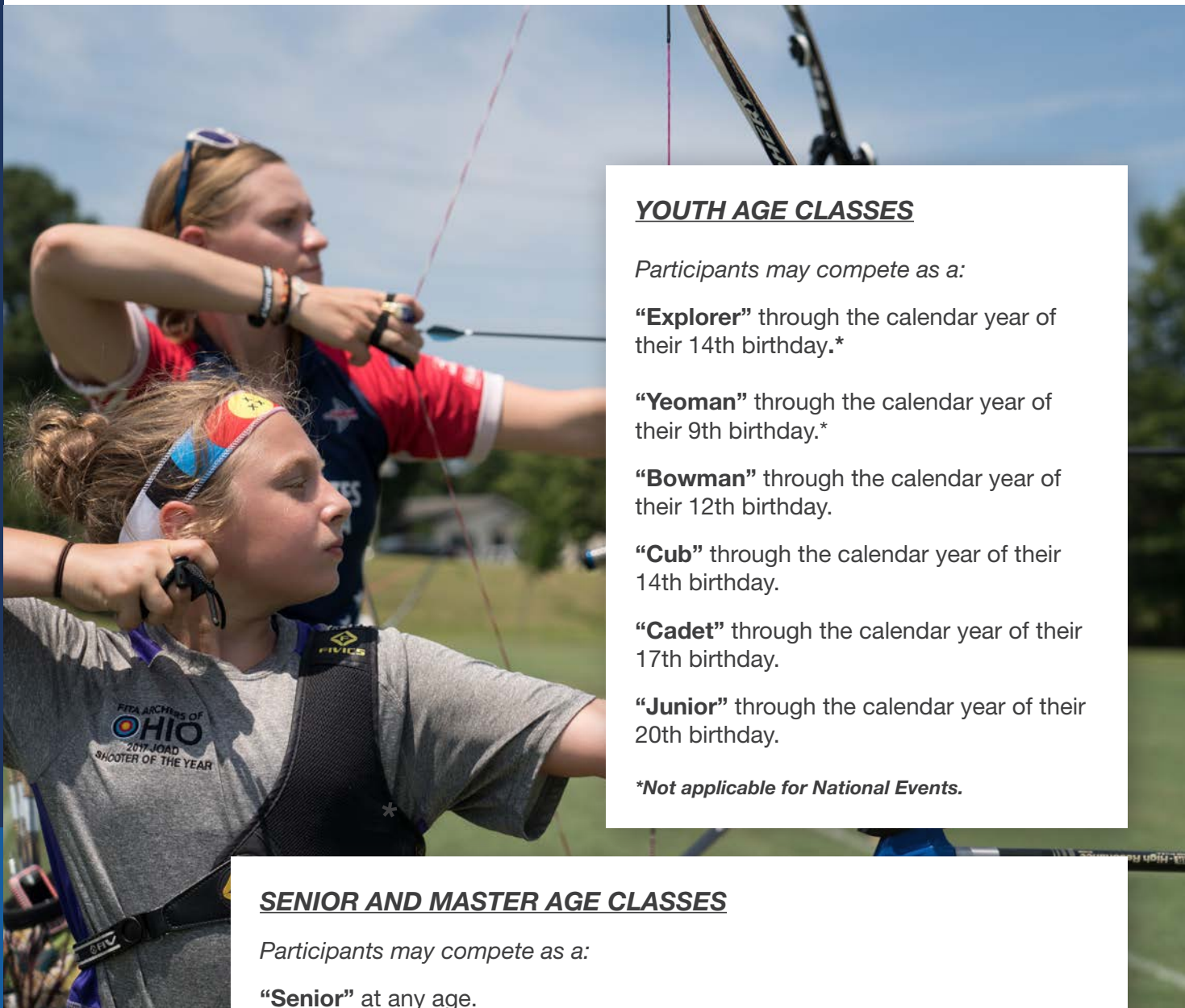
Whether you are a top archer or just starting out, reflect on what went well and where you can improve in your next event. This self-evaluation process is assisted by stopping for pizza and/or ice cream on your way home.

If you qualified for your next ***JOAD Achievement Pin***, make a copy of your scorecard and be sure to let your JOAD Coach know!

Let your friends know how much fun you had at the event. Tag **@usaarchery** in your social media posts and let everyone know how to get started by going to: <http://www.usarchery.org/>!

Still have questions? Please reach out to **clubs@usarchery.org!**

## USA ARCHERY - COMPETITIVE AGE CLASSES



### YOUTH AGE CLASSES

Participants may compete as a:

**“Explorer”** through the calendar year of their 14th birthday.\*

**“Yeoman”** through the calendar year of their 9th birthday.\*

**“Bowman”** through the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

**“Cub”** through the calendar year of their 14th birthday.

**“Cadet”** through the calendar year of their 17th birthday.

**“Junior”** through the calendar year of their 20th birthday.

*\*Not applicable for National Events.*

### SENIOR AND MASTER AGE CLASSES

Participants may compete as a:

**“Senior”** at any age.

**“Master 50”** when the competition takes place in the year of their 50th birthday and thereafter.

**“Master 60”** when the competition takes place in the year of their 60th birthday and thereafter.

**“Master 70”** when the competition takes place in the year of their 70th birthday and thereafter.

## AGE CLASSES AND DIVISIONS FOR STATE AND NATIONAL EVENTS

Age Class	Bow Type	Indoor/Outdoor	Distance	Target Face	Inner Ten?
<b>Bowman</b>	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm*	NO
		Outdoor	30 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	25 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm*	NO
		Outdoor	30 Meters	122cm	NO
<b>Cub</b>	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm*	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	30 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm	NO
		Outdoor	30 Meters	122cm	NO
<b>Explorer (Male/ Female Combined, 14 &amp; Under)</b>	Basic Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm	NO
		Outdoor	25 Meters	122cm	NO
	Recurve	Outdoor	25 Meters	122cm	NO
State Event Level only, contact event host for specific categories for local events.					
<b>Cadet</b>	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	60 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	50 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO
<b>Junior</b>	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	70 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	50 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO
<b>Senior</b>	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	70 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	50 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO
<b>Master</b>	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	60 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	50 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO

\*For the State and National Indoor, all divisions will shoot a 40cm target face.

## AGE CLASSES AND DIVISIONS FOR JOAD STATE EVENTS

Age Class	Bow Type	Indoor/Outdoor	Distance	Target Face	Inner Ten?
Bowman	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm	NO
		Outdoor	30 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	25 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm	NO
		Outdoor	30 Meters	122cm	NO
Cub	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	30 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO
Explorer (Male/ Female Combined, 14 & Under)	Basic Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	60cm	NO
		Outdoor	25 Meters	122cm	NO
	Recurve	Outdoor	25 Meters	122cm	NO
Cadet	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	60 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	50 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO
Junior	Recurve	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	70 Meters	122cm	NO
	Compound	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	YES
		Outdoor	50 Meters	80cm 6-Ring	NO
	Barebow	Indoor	18 Meters	40cm	NO
		Outdoor	50 Meters	122cm	NO

**Membership Requirements:** Participants in JOAD Events must have a current USA Archery membership with a JOAD Club Affiliation. NFAA and ASA members can get a free temporary membership to non-JOAD events. For more information please contact [memberships@usarchery.org](mailto:memberships@usarchery.org)

[VISIT USARCHERY.ORG](http://VISIT.USARCHERY.ORG)



[ADAPTIVE ARCHERY](#)

**USA ARCHERY FOLLOWS THE WORLD ARCHERY RULEBOOK FOR RECURVE, COMPOUND, AND BAREBOW DIVISIONS.**  
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