



# 2026 L3NJ Practical Preparation Guide

Welcome to the Level 3 National Judge Practical Assessment process. Thank you for committing to furthering your development as a judge. Judges play a critical role in maintaining the integrity of competition by role modeling and safeguarding honesty and fairness on and off the field of play. We are thrilled you have made it to your Level 3 National Judge (L3NJ) practical and have compiled some guidance for you to help you prepare for success during the assessment and after as you serve as a National Judge.

## Candidates

The 2026 Level 3 National Judge (L3NJ) Practical Assessment is available to anyone who passed their Level 3 National Judge online course, is at least 20-years of age, and holds a current USA Archery membership, USA Archery background screening, and U.S. Center for SafeSport Training. In addition to these prerequisites, candidates must have held a Level 2 Judge certification for at least two years, must have fulfilled Judge duties at a minimum of one indoor and one outdoor National level event before taking the Level 3 National Judge Practical Assessment, and must have completed the interest survey sent by USA Archery.

## Practical Assessment Format

Two facilitators will work with one candidate at a time during times that are mutually agreed upon by a candidate and the two facilitators. Facilitators are Continental or International Judges. Practical Assessments take place when facilitators and candidates are free of other contracted duties, if any, associated with the national event. Facilitators will use the L3NJ Practical Assessment Checklist to prompt candidates and guide the assessment process. Candidates will have 3-4 hours to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding, and skill relative to L3NJ content. Candidates may not use this study guide or notes of any kind once in the testing environment.

## Preparing for Your Practical

Here are some tips to help you prepare for the L3NJ Practical Assessment.

1. Review the new [World Archery Rulebook](#) , effective in January 2026 (amended in March 2026). Understand that the most recent version of the Rulebook takes precedence over any material presented in previous coursework.
2. Revisit the L3NJ online course. Those materials are there for you to constantly refer to as a resource except where they have been revised by the new Rulebook.
3. Review USA Archery policies, including but not limited to the USA Archery [Dress Code](#) and the USA Archery [Policy for Adaptive and Accessibility Equipment](#).
4. Use the study guide below to help identify which areas to focus on.
5. Write out your responses to the material in the study guide, then read your responses out loud. This will help reinforce the information learned.
6. Practice your decision-making surrounding penalties for infractions, determining arrow values, and problem-solving.
7. Consider reaching out to a L3NJ or higher for mentoring.
8. Consider having a friend or family member facilitate “mock” practical assessments with you.

### ***What to Bring to the Assessment***

- Any personal tools you use to layout and measure a field (a 100m tape will be provided)
- Equipment inspection tools
- Tools for determining arrow values
- Writing implements for judging
- Note paper

## Passing the L3NJ Practical Assessment

There are about 100 competencies L3NJ candidates need to demonstrate on the L3NJ Practical Assessment Checklist. Candidates are rated on each response on a scale of 1 (No response or incorrect response) to 4 (Correct and thorough response). Each subsection on the checklist will receive an average score for that subsection. Candidates must have no more than 3 failing marks (1's) overall. Candidates must not have any subsection that has an average score of less than 3.0. In addition, candidates who will likely take significantly longer than 3 hours or require numerous prompts from facilitators to recall information are not strong candidates for passing the L3NJ practical. If it appears that a candidate is not likely to pass early in the assessment (e.g., candidate already has more than 3 failing marks) the facilitators will confirm whether the candidate wants to continue with the assessment. Please note, candidates must self-fund to the practical assessment and will not be reimbursed. If a candidate does not successfully pass the practical assessment, they may not register again until the following calendar year.

Please reach out to [mandygriego17@gmail.com](mailto:mandygriego17@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Level 3 National Judge Practical Assessment Study Guide:

### Part 1: Field of Play

- Review Book 2 of the [World Archery Rulebook](#), particularly Chapters 3 and 7
- Demonstrate your ability to lay out a compliant outdoor field of play, including:
  - Target distances and lane widths
  - Field lines
  - Clock placement
  - Windsock placement
  - Safety boundaries
  - Target bale requirements
- Explain how to set up target faces for the different bow divisions and age classes
- Demonstrate your ability correctly verify target faces and hang them on the bale
- Demonstrate how to set up Chronotir clocks in various situations (DOS duties)

### Part 2: Equipment Inspection

- Review Book 3 of the [World Archery Rulebook](#), particularly Chapter 9, and the USA Archery Dress Code policy
- Identify all the points of inspection for Compound bows
- Identify all the special points of inspection for Fixed Pins division bows
- Identify all the points of inspection for Recurve bows
- Identify all the points of inspection for Barebow recurve bows
- Identify the points of inspection for USA Archery [Dress Code](#), including how to address violations
- Identify all the points of inspections for arrows and accessories

### Part 3: Shooting and Scoring

- Review Book 3 of the [World Archery Rulebook](#), particularly Chapters 10-13, 15, and 17
- Explain the procedure for addressing a high or wide draw
- Explain how you would handle archers taking up more than their allocated space
- Explain how you would handle a disagreement about leaving scopes on the shooting line
- Demonstrate the proper procedure for calling arrow values in a target
- Demonstrate proper procedures for identifying and addressing arrows shot out of time
- Explain the purpose of the “yellow card” and how it is applied in a team match
- Demonstrate proper procedures for managing a single arrow shoot-off, including preparing the target and using calipers
- Explain the procedure for addressing an arrow bounce out
- Explain the procedure for addressing a hanging arrow
- Explain the procedure for addressing a loose target face
- Explain the procedure for addressing arrows left in the target face
- Explain the procedure for addressing another archer’s arrows in the center of a target during shooting
- Demonstrate the procedures for handling an equipment failure
- Demonstrate the procedures for handling a medical issue during shooting
- Explain how you would handle finding an arrow on the ground during scoring
- Explain how you would instruct archers to correct values when the paper scorecard and tablet do not match

- Practice solving scoring anomalies such as shooting more than the allowed arrows, shooting more than the allowed arrows into a multi-face target, shooting out of time, and shooting the incorrect number of arrows into target faces during compound teams matches

#### Part 4: Field and 3D

- Review Book 2, Chapters 4 and 8, and Book 4, Chapter 19 of the [World Archery Rulebook](#),
- Describe the format of a 3D event, including distances and target types
- Describe the format of a Field event, including distances and target sizes
- Explain the unique equipment rules for Traditional and Longbow

#### Part 5: Para Archery

- Review Book 5 of the [World Archery Rulebook](#), particularly Chapters 29, 34, and Appendix 2
- Review the USA Archery [Policy for Adaptive and Accessibility Equipment](#)
- Identify the additional elements of equipment inspection for Para Archers
- Identify the target face requirements and distances for the Para Compound, Para Recurve, W1, and VI1/VI2 divisions
- Explain the accommodations USA Archery makes for all athletes, with or without Para classification

#### Part 6: COJ Roles and Responsibilities

- Review the USA Archery [Judge Selection Procedures](#)
- Explain the duties of the COJ before, during, and after a tournament
- Describe how you would handle a request by an archer or coach to appeal the decision of a judge