



New Mexico Department of Game & Fish

Virtual Archery Challenge Series

Safety Protocols

1. **It is preferred that you shoot at your school range**, under the direct supervision of your NASP certified instructor with NASP equipment. However, if you have your own bow (NASP Genesis, Compound, Traditional or Olympic) and equipment and you can safely shoot from home, you may do so.
2. **Always check with your local authorities** regarding City or County ordinances for shooting in your backyard or other outdoor settings. Regulations may vary between counties and communities. Check before you shoot.
3. **Shoot only with approval and direct supervision of your parent or archery instructor.** An extra set of eyes can help prevent a dangerous situation from happening.
4. **Clearly define and mark your shooting area so others understand you are practicing there.** A good range is open and visible to anyone approaching, free of pedestrian traffic and marked with signage or roped off. Never shoot towards houses, sidewalks, or areas frequented by people.
5. **Always use a suitable backstop or natural background to stop stray arrows.** The use of haybales or thick carpet are good options as long as they are larger than the target and capable of stopping the arrows. The use of natural landscapes such as a hillside works well too.
6. **Be sure of your target and what is in front of it, behind it, and beyond it.** An arrow can easily ricochet off something and change direction. A missed arrow can also travel great distances.
7. **Always inspect and maintain your equipment before shooting.** Worn or damaged equipment should be repaired or replaced to avoid injuries.
8. **Always use the proper safety equipment.** Wear an armguard and finger protection while shooting.
9. **Wear snug fitting clothing, remove jewelry and tie back long hair.** Remove anything that may get tangled with your archery equipment.
10. **Always use arrows of the proper length for you.** Arrows that are too short can cause injury.
11. **The only arrowhead approved for the Virtual Archery Challenge Series are field points.** Broadheads are not allowed. Always handle your arrows with care.
12. **Always aim and shoot only at your intended target.**
13. **Always check that the path to your target is clear before you shoot.** Never draw an arrow if there are any people or pets between you and your target, even if you don't intend to shoot yet.
14. **Never "DRY-FIRE" your bow.** A "dry-fire" is drawing your bow without an arrow and releasing the bowstring. A "dry-fire" can possibly hurt you or damage your equipment.
15. **Always walk, never run on the archery range.** You may trip and fall injuring yourself on a sharp arrow or damage your equipment.
16. **Count your arrows before you begin and after your finish shooting.** Lost arrows can become a hazard if someone else comes across one.
17. **Only nock an arrow when it's safe to shoot.** A nocked arrow should only be pointed in a safe shooting direction towards the target.
18. **Do not shoot an arrow straight up in the air.**
19. **Follow all range rules and whistle commands.** If you are unsure, make certain to get clarification immediately.
20. Most archery equipment is very individualized, **use only equipment that you have been properly sized for and approved to use.** Draw length, draw weight and arrow length are just a few things to consider when shooting a bow and arrow.



National Archery in the Schools Program

Social Distancing and NASP®

The following information is provided **only as recommendations** if social distancing and disinfecting practices are required by appropriate government or health authorities to protect the health of participants.

NASP® is being contacted by individuals for guidance, as they plan for the future opening of archery. NASP® has and will continue to follow the advice of state and federal health officials regarding any activities. NASP® is in no way promoting group archery activities until authorities believe it is safe to do so. As has been the case for our nearly two decades of existence, safety is our first priority.

If activities and gatherings are allowed, but with social distancing mandates, these are among the precautions that can be taken in the management of a NASP® archery range and NASP® student archers, be it for a class, practice, or tournament.

Range Lane Spacing - Avoiding Shared Breath and Touching

- Whatever safe spacing distance is required, that would also be the minimum width of lanes on the range. In other words, if 6 feet continues to be the recommended safe distancing, lanes should be 6 feet wide with a single archer per lane; standing in the middle of the lane.
- If archers shoot the same target during a flight, only one archer at a time should go to the target line to score and retrieve arrows.
- The waiting line should also be marked and managed to maintain safe distancing.

Equipment Management - Avoiding Cross-Contamination

- Students should each have their own, without sharing, personal Stringbow, when learning and practicing the *Eleven Steps to Archery Success*. The same would hold true if the archers are using armguards, gloves, or finger tabs.
- If the archer is wearing a face mask, care should be taken that all parts of the mask are such that they won't be snagged by the string when released. Bowhunters routinely shoot while wearing face masks.
- When retrieving or returning bows to the bow rack, only one archer should be at the bow rack at a time. If the range has multiple bow racks, they should be spaced according to social distancing requirements to allow multiple archers to pick up and return bows.
- Each archer's bow should be on its own hook with no sharing of bow or hook unless disinfected between archers.

- Shared bows and arrows should be regularly disinfected. To disinfect, the CDC indicates, "Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work". Except caustic agents such as bleach should be kept off the bowstring.
 - Soap and water
 - 60% or greater alcohol wipes
 - Bleach should be avoided on bowstrings.
- Special care should be taken to maintain safe distancing when setting up or taking down the range if students help.

Scored Shooting - Avoiding Cross-Contamination

- Each archer should have a scorecard on their own scoreboard. The opposing archer (adjacent lane) will record the competitor's arrows, lay the scoreboard/card on the target line, and the archer will review the marked scores for accuracy.
- The approval box of each arrow line should be checked by the scoring archer after the archer who shot the arrows agrees with the score.
- To avoid handling each other's cards, they should be unsigned and collected by a gloved official or handed in by the archer who handled the card.