

III. COMBAT ARCHERY

The Combat Archery Marshal-in-Charge is: Captain Arnora in Skarpa

The Combat Archery Inspection Point will open on Wednesday, July 30 at 9:00 AM. Hours are generally 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM daily until the last day of battles.

All combat archery equipment and procedures must be legal based on current Society rules.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT AND FEATURES

These items are specifically prohibited at Pennsic War 52:

1. Hand slings.
2. Stone bows.
3. Small pistol-style crossbows.
4. Forward- or rear-style pistol grips.
5. Combat archery crossbows which utilize a mechanical advantage cocking lever. ("Goat's foot", "cord and pulley" and "belt and claw" systems are a few examples.)
6. Repeating crossbows.
7. Split prod design for crossbows utilizing a center shot system (an individual prod on each side instead of a solid one).
8. PVC bows or PVC crossbows.
9. Non-Society-period sights, spring/flipper rests, plunger buttons, stabilizers, clickers, or modern release aids.
10. Compound bows and compound crossbows.

Moreover, NO experimental combat archery equipment (bows and crossbows) or ammunition (arrows and bolts) will be permitted for use at Pennsic War 52.

We need volunteers to serve as inspectors and scribes. If you or someone you know would be good at inspecting or scribing, please come up and get trained! In order to inspect combat archery equipment or ammunition you will need to go through orientation, which takes about twenty minutes and includes a review of ammo/equipment inspection processes (to ensure consistency) as well as the proper way to fill out the Pennsic inspection forms. Oriented Combat Archery Inspectors will then be issued a Pennsic War 52 Combat Archery Inspector badge, which will quickly identify what they are allowed to inspect at Pennsic War 52. Wear this badge anytime you inspect CA equipment or ammo. Inspectors can choose to inspect only specific categories (such as fiberglass ammo but not tubular ammo, or just ammo but not bows or crossbows). While it helps to be a CA Marshal in your home kingdom, it is not required.

Anyone who shoots combat archery ammunition is responsible for seeing that the proper initial and post-battle inspections are done. Please check, sort and repair your ammunition before bringing it to Inspection Point. In order to help ensure a safe and healthy war for all, all combat archers at Pennsic War 52 need to read all these regulations.

Anyone may bring combat archery bows, crossbows and ammunition to be inspected. If we need to find the owner, we'll come ask you for help finding them.

INSPECTION PROCESS

All armor inspections shall occur at the Armor Inspection Point.

All initial Combat Archery weapon and ammunition inspections shall occur at the Combat Archery Inspection Point during posted hours (usually 9:00 AM to 16:00 PM daily). The Combat Archery Inspection Point will be open the same hours as the Armor Inspection Point. Any changes in the inspection hours will be posted outside the Inspection Point as early as possible and will supersede the hours posted in the Pennsic event guide.

Ammunition shot will not be inspected for use in consecutive heats of the same War Point. Tubular ammo may be inspected by the owner and reused immediately. We are going to attempt to reinspect non-tubular ammo between non-consecutive heats of battles where combat archery occurs. We'll assess the viability of that as the War goes on.

All arrows or bolts must be inspected for a specific day's use and be marked with the "color of the day".

All combat archery ammunition must have a printed label (not handwritten) with the owner's name and kingdom affixed to it. The label must be in English utilizing a legible/readable font and be completely covered with clear packing tape. NO reinforced or strapping tape may be used to cover the label.

If the combat archery ammunition is group ammunition, the group name can be used in place of the owner's name. If the group name is used, a point of contact within the group is required. Specifying the kingdom is mandatory on all labels.

It is strongly encouraged to get your Combat Archery ammunition inspected AT LEAST one day before any battle, since showing up on the day of the activity will likely result in insufficient time to have equipment inspected.

Inspections will officially cease 45 minutes prior to the posted start time of any battle so that the marshals have time to get ready for the battle. We'll stay open if we have the staff for it.

The Pennsic Combat Archery Marshal-in-Charge, their deputies, and approved designees may inspect all Combat Archery equipment and ammunition to the above "Pennisic standard", which supersedes any kingdom-level standard. Any decision may be appealed in the usual manner.

RULES SPECIFIC TO COMBAT ARCHERY

1. On the Field

All bows, crossbows, and ammunition shall meet, at minimum, all Society standards for construction. They must also meet any additional restrictions described in this document, or restrictions declared by the Pennsic War Combat Archery Marshal-in-Charge as needed.

As with any weapons form, an archer may yield to an opponent, and archers should feel free to loudly express their "dead/yield" status.

Courtesy taps delivered by an opponent should be accepted by the combat archery combatant as the gift they are. Likewise, an opposing fighter throwing excessive or repeated blows into a "subdued/dead" opponent will face disciplinary action.

Targeting of the back of an individual (alone or in an organized unit) is prohibited. A cluster of folks may be targeted within 180 degrees of the direction the group as a whole is facing, and a rearward

facing opponent shot thusly should accept the strike. This applies equally for an opponent who has rotated after release. The actual specific targeting of the back side of any individual is prohibited.

There is no limit on the amount of ammunition an archer may carry unless defined in a specific battle scenario.

All Combat archers must remove ammunition from crossbows and hand bows when a hold is called. Crossbows may remain cocked. Archers may nock at “Make Ready” and fire at “Lay on”.

2. Bow/Crossbow using Fiberglass Shafts

A hand bow shooting fiberglass arrows must not exceed the Society maximum pull at 35- pound pull at 28-inch draw.

The handbow must be designed/constructed to safely draw 28 inches or it cannot be used in SCA combat.

A crossbow shooting fiberglass bolts must not exceed the Society maximum 600 inch-pounds rating.

Any bow/crossbow that is allowed to shoot fiberglass ammunition may also use any tubular ammunition approved for use at Pennsic.

3. Bow/Crossbow using Tubular (Sil-o-Flex or Equivalent) Arrows

A handbow that measures over 30 pounds pull and less than 50 pounds pull is considered a heavy handbow and may only shoot tubular ammo. A heavy handbow must be marked with a 4-inch wide band of red material (tape, cloth, etc.) that goes completely around the upper limb of the bow.

A crossbow that measures greater than 600 inch-pounds and less than 1000 inch-pounds is considered a heavy crossbow and may only shoot tubular ammunition. A heavy crossbow must be marked with a 4-inch-wide band of red material (tape, cloth, etc.) that goes completely around the right-hand side of the prod as viewed by the archer.

POST-BATTLE SORTING

After ANY Pennsic sponsored battle, ALL Combat Archery participants are required to help collect ALL arrows and bolts (not simply their own) and bring them to the designated area for re inspection (likely SOUTH of Battlefield just outside the boundary).

The Process: After each battle, all fiberglass ammunition shall be placed in one pile & all tubular ammunition in another to facilitate reinspection by the marshals. The piles should then be subdivided by bolts and arrows, forming four piles. Combat archers, not marshals, will then divide the piles by owner, so cooperative help is appreciated at this critical juncture. Once an owner claims a pile is likely complete, marshals will begin the re-inspection process for ammunition integrity as quickly as possible. Be sure you do not remove your arrows or bolts from the field until they have been inspected and marked for the next battle, as it is vitally important that we ensure the safety of all ammunition as well as discover incidents of failure, if any. This process should also reduce loss due to theft as any ammunition noted as heading “away” should be suspect and questioned.

Note: If you are unable to help with the sorting/inspecting process, you must designate someone to take care of your ammo in your place.

Scheduling occasionally requires you to be elsewhere, but do not abandon your ammo; it will not get inspected without someone claiming it.

OVERPOWERED AND NON-INSPECTION WARNING

Anyone using fiberglass-shafted ammunition in a heavy bow or heavy crossbow will be banned from all fighting activities for the rest of the Pennsic War and will be subject to other disciplinary action via the proper Armored Combat Violation Review procedure.

This will result in a trip to Marshals' Review at the least.

Likewise, ANY use of uninspected ammunition or weapons on the battlefields of the Pennsic War will prompt immediate removal from the battlefield and will be subject to other disciplinary action, including a potential fighting ban, via the proper Armored Combat Violation Review procedure.

NOTES:

Play safe and fair. We have a specialized weapons form that requires specialized skills, understanding and accommodations. Please play responsibly.

Help clear the field after battle – many hands make light work.

Thank the marshals, both CA and otherwise. They give freely of their time so YOU can play.

Lastly, consider becoming a marshal-in-training. You can find no better place to “see it all” than Pennsic. As our community grows, so too must its Combat Archery marshal corps and you are welcome to be a part of that growth. Come to the Combat Archery Inspection Point to volunteer!