

Archery GB Classification Changes

Archery GB have released a significant change to how the indoor and outdoor classification schemes work. Here is a quick summary of the changes and links for further information. If you have any queries please contact the records officer at records@southamptonarcheryclub.org or ask a member of the committee.

The Outdoor classification system was implemented during January 2023 for the 2023 season and the new indoor classifications will begin from 1st July 2023. Further information on the indoor scheme will be released as we get it.

Outdoor Classifications

Outdoor classifications are now split into three tiers, and to obtain a classification you need to have shot a minimum number of arrows in qualifying rounds.

The Archer Tier

This covers Third, Second and First class badges.

At least 12 dozen arrows required, and can be shot at any event including practice.

The Bowman Tier

New levels of Bowman have been added, Bowman 3rd Class, Bowman 2nd Class and Bowman 1st Class.

At least 18 dozen arrows required, and must be shot at any competitive event.

Master Bowman Tier

The elites get the titles of **Master Bowman**, **Grandmaster Bowman** and **Elite Bowman**.

At least 36 dozen arrows are required and must be shot at any record status event.

The Archer and Bowman tiers are administered by the clubs and the master bowman tier is administered by Archery GB.

It is worth noting that a lot of online tools that you may have been using may not have been updated, currently www.archerycalculator.co.uk and www.archerygeekery.co.uk are known to be up to date.

There are going to be new outdoor badges for Archer and Bowman but at present they are still being designed and will be sold in some archery retailers.

What is a competitive event?

There has been some confusion around this definition, but there has actually always been a requirement to shoot classification scores in a competitive environment.

Below are the relevant excerpts from the rules:

Archery GB Shooting Admin Procedures:

5. Target Archery – Outdoor

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- (d) Archer classifications (3rd, 2nd, 1st)
 - (i) Qualifying Rounds: As shown in the classifications tables referred to in 5c
 - (ii) Total number of arrows across all qualifying rounds: 12 Dozen
 - (iii) Standards: Scores may come from practice but must be shot under Archery GB Rules of Shooting.
 - (iv) Claims: Dealt with at club level
- (e) Bowman classifications (3rd, 2nd, 1st)
 - (i) Qualifying Rounds: As shown in the classifications tables referred to in 5c
 - (ii) Total number of arrows across all qualifying rounds: 18 Dozen
 - (iii) Standards: All scores must be shot under Archery GB Rules of Shooting, at a meeting organised by Archery GB or a body affiliated to Archery GB, or at any associated club target day (Rules of shooting - Rule 313)

Archery GB Rules of Shooting

313. Club Target Days

- (a) A Club Target Day is any day and time appointed under the Rules of the Club and previously announced to the Members.
- (b) There is no statutory limit to the number of officially appointed Target Days in any one week.
- (c) All scores made must be entered in the Club Record Book.
- (d) Target Days should commence punctually at the announced time.
- (e) All shooting shall be in accordance with these Rules of Shooting.

How is Southampton Archery Club interpreting these rules?

We are designating multiple “club target days” per week, the details of which can be found in the indoor range. As long as you are shooting a round at a target day, with at least one other archer completing the same round, qualifying scores will be eligible for the Bowman Tier badges.

How to Calculate the new Classification

There is a minimum number of arrows required to be shot as part of qualifying rounds (ie the Archer tier requires rounds totalling 12 dozen arrows). They don't need to be the same round, you can mix and match as long as the score you achieve equals or exceeds the required score for a particular classification. You hold that classification for one year. The defined year for indoor classifications is from 1st July to 30th June, however outdoor is a calendar year January 1st to December 31st. Once you achieve a classification, you never regress to a lower one during that year but can improve.

Further information can be found on the Archery GB website:

<https://archerygb.org/news/outdoor-classifications-and-handicaps-update>

How can I find out more about these changes?

Archery GB have a comprehensive explanation of the new classification system, including links to all the new classification tables here:

<https://archerygb.org/resources/outdoor-classifications-and-handicaps>

Archery GB Rules of Shooting:

<https://archerygb.org/files/rules-of-shooting-240123160956.pdf>

Archery GB Shooting Administration Procedures:

<https://archerygb.org/files/shooting-administrative-procedures-240123161155.pdf>