

Adaptive Sports USA Archery Sanctioning Requirements

Adaptive Sports USA Archery Philosophy

Adaptive Sports USA Archery exists to provide all participating athletes with archery competitions that promote a positive, educational, challenging and safe experience. Young athletes are only going to continue to pursue a sport if they experience some success, enjoy the competition and feel challenged. If young archers are struggling to meet the criteria in their respective age divisions (unable to strike the target from required distances) and it is obvious that the young athlete will not meet qualifying standards, the Archery Venue Coordinator should have a discussion with the coach/parent, encouraging them to move the young athlete to distances from which she/he can achieve success. A successful experience will hopefully encourage the athlete to continue in archery and improve their skills to the point of future qualification for Junior Nationals.

Adaptive Sports USA Regional Levels

Prerequisites for All Adaptive Sports USA Archery Level Competitions

The number one priority at any archery competition, workshop or seminar is SAFETY.

Proper range management protocol should always be followed and overseen by a knowledgeable, experienced person, In the case of Level 2 and 3 meets, this person must be a USA Archery official. All participants, coaches, volunteers and spectators should be reminded of all safety rules and regulations prior to commencement of the competition, workshop or seminar. At no time are unauthorized personnel allowed in the firing zone during competition.

All competitions should be held on a level, well-groomed surface that provides enough buffer space to ensure that any overshoots will land safely. For all Adaptive Sports USA archery competitions, a well groomed football field provides an excellent venue for archery. The longest distance in any Adaptive Sports USA is 50 meters which means, with a common firing line, there is at least another 50 meters of buffer space for overshoots. The surface should be well-groomed because arrows can be easily lost when the thatch is very thick. A suggestion for competition would be to utilize a metal detector for quicker location of missing arrows.

All competitions should have well built, sturdy target stands that will hold the weight of the batts and withstand arrow impact. The target stands should be secured to the competition surface with ratchet straps and stakes to ensure that high winds will not topple the target. The target batts can be made of multiple materials, including straw, polymers and/or composite materials but must be dense enough to allow penetration of the batt while arresting the flight of the arrow - the arrow should not bounce off the target. The batts should be attached to the target stand securely. This is usually done utilizing bungie cords.

All competitions must have the 80 centimeter and 122 centimeter target faces. These are available commercially online or at most archery retail outlets. The target faces are attached to the batts utilizing spikes or specialized pins.

There should never be more than three archers shooting at an assigned target at any given time. It is conceivable that there might be a time when four archers are assigned to a single target but this is highly discouraged. The Event Coordinator should secure enough target stands and batts to ensure that no more than three archers shoot at a single target.

The distances for competition should be painted prior to the competition/workshop (i.e. 10 Meters, 20 Meters, etc.). There is a common firing line that is utilized by all archers and a firing zone line in which all spectators, coaches, etc. must remain behind. For more information on event layout, go to the World Archery Rules at rulebook.worldarchery.org.

Most competitions will require archers to provide their own equipment, i.e. bows, arrows, releases, etc) for use in competition. For athletes seeking to qualify for Junior National competition, it is recommended that archers compete with their own equipment as personal equipment will not be provided at Junior Nationals.

Releases (mouth, trigger, puff) are allowable for competition and would fall under the appropriate Age/Competition Division (i.e. Yeoman Compound, Yeoman Recurve). See the World Archery rulebook for additional information on releases.

Level 1 Competition

This is a non-qualifying, educational level competition designed for young novice archers who have little or no experience. This level of competition is designed to introduce the potential archer to the sport. At this level of competition, it may be necessary to provide appropriate equipment to the competitors.

A Level 1 meet is designed to be educational, fun and successful for the novice archer. In a Level 1 competition, it is permissible for coaches, volunteers, etc. to manually assist the archer (i.e. assist in drawing the bowstring).

Safety is still the number one priority and activities should be overseen by a competent and knowledgeable Event Coordinator.

Level 2 Competition

Level 2 competition is a sanctioned competition that will qualify archers to compete at Junior Nationals if standards are met. Archers should have their own or team equipment to utilize for competition.

A Level 2 competition must have at least one USA Archery certified official to oversee competition. All safety and management rules, including the prohibition of coaching during competition, must be adhered to. See the World Archery rulebook for further clarification (www.rulebook.worldarchery.org).

A maximum of three archers per target should be allowed. There should be a minimum of two scorers per target

Level 3 Competition

Level 3 competition is the highest level of competition and should be conducted accordingly.

There should be at least two USA Archery certified officials at this competition, including the range master.

The set up and conduct of the competition should comply with World Archery rules, with the exception of age/competition divisions for junior archers

A minimum of three scorers per target should be utilized. Targets should include wind socks or flags for archers to gauge wind speed

Adaptive Sports USA Age/Competition Divisions

All archers wishing to qualify to compete in the Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals event (ages 7 to 22) must compete in the corresponding age division qualification criteria listed below. All age division archers must achieve a score of 100 or better in their corresponding age level to qualify for Adaptive Sports USA Junior National competition.

Age Divisions: if the athlete's 12th birthday is September 22nd, they will still compete in the Bowman Division through December 31 of the competition year, etc.)

Yeoman (From the year of their 7th birthday through the year of their 9th birthday)

15 meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm target face

10 meters - 36 arrows - 89 cm target face

Bowman (through the year of their 12th birthday)

20 meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm target face

15 meters - 36 arrows - 80 cm target face

Cub (through the year of their 14th birthday)

30 meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm target face

20 meters - 36 arrows - 80 cm target face

Cadet (through the year of their 17th birthday)

40 meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm target face

30 meters - 36 arrows - 80 cm target face

Junior (through the year of their 20th birthday)

50 meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm target face

30 meters - 36 arrows - 80 cm target face

Young Adult (through the year of their 22nd birthday)

60 meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm target face

40 meters - 36 arrows - 80 cm target face

Adaptive Sports USA Adult Division (any age archer may shoot from adult division - however, only the above listed divisions will be shot at Junior Nationals)

50 Meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm target face

30 Meters - 36 arrows - 80 cm target face

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Competition - competitions may opt to include the IPC distances in their competition for athletes requiring that division. However, these distances will require a shooting venue with a much longer buffer zone than a football field.

90 Meters - 36 arrows - 122 cm Target Face

70 Meters - 36 arrows - 80 cm Target Face

The divisions for awards breakdown at regional meets are compound bow; recurve bow; and bowstand (vertical or horizontal). Awards at regionals should recognize the different divisions, if applicable: i.e. Yeoman Compound Division or Yeoman Recurve Division.

For more information on archery requirements for qualifying meets, contact Gregg Baumgarten at chairman@adaptivesportsusa.org.

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