

# British Blind Sport - Archery Section



## Guidelines for Spotters

July 2011

## **Introduction**

This document attempts to provide the information on the role of a Visually Impaired (VI) Archer's spotter.

## ***Spotters Role***

The role of the spotter is to fulfil a number of functions. These are:-

- Provide information on the fall of that arrow to the archer during shooting.
- Provide assistance to the archer with their equipment (when allowed).
- Provide safety and any other important information to the archer that they might not otherwise be aware of.
- Represent the archer. Sometimes it is more practical if the archer is not present when their arrows are scored and in this situation the spotter will represent the archer.

## ***Informal Summary of Rules for Spotters***

This document is not a set of rules as these are covered elsewhere.

Specifically:-

- GNAS Rules of Shooting.
- BBS Additions and Exceptions to GNAS Rules of Shooting.

These documents should be consulted for the formal rules but the following can be treated as an informal summary.

- The spotter can assist the VI archer to set up the sighting aid by adjusting it in any way when scoring arrows are not being shot. I.e. the spotter may not help between the whistle to start the scoring end of arrows and the whistle to collect.
- The spotter will also be responsible for checking and informing the VI archer of safety issues.
- The spotter must stand between the shooting line and the waiting line. At some events a spotter's line is marked and the spotter is required to stand just behind this.
- Once the scoring arrows have begun, the spotter may relate the strike of each arrow on the boss only, i.e. red 2 o'clock blue 5 o'clock etc. This must be done in a quiet manner so as not to disturb fellow archers on the shooting line.
  - The spotter should state the archer's name before relating the strike of the arrow if necessary to avoid confusion with other archers.
  - When the archer has a hearing impairment, the spotter may step forward to a closer proximity to the archer so that they can relate

the strike of the arrow. The spotter must then immediately move back to the spotter's line, until the strike of the next arrow, and so on.

- The spotter must not coach or give any advice on shooting whilst the archer is shooting an end of scoring arrows (between the whistles).
- The archer must adjust their own sighting devices during ends of scoring arrows (between the whistles). Spotters may adjust the sighting devices between scoring ends or during sighting arrows.
- When the archer has completed their scoring end, the spotter, with or without the archer, must stand behind the waiting line. The archer may either, keep the bow but place it on a stand, carry the bow with them behind the waiting line, or pass the bow to the spotter for the spotter to take with them behind the waiting line leaving the archer on the shooting line. This will indicate to the judge that the archer has completed the end.
- Spotters are regarded by GNAS's as "assistants" and are therefore not covered by the dress regulations. However, BBS Archery request that spotters wear green and/or white for their events.

### ***Spotters Responsibilities***

Remember, you are responsible for the archers' safety.

- Ensure they follow any directions given by the judge.
- Ensure that the archers do not approach the target straight on but to one side so as not to walk or risk tripping into the arrows.
- Make sure they do not stand behind the person who is pulling the arrows from the butt.
- Make sure that they (and you) don't walk into or trip over any other archer's equipment.

Spotters are regarded by GNAS's as "assistants" and are therefore covered under the insurance whilst on an archery range as long as GNAS's rules are followed.

The spotter can also represent the archer at the target for scoring purposes etc.. However, remember that as the spotter is the archer's representative, if the archer accompanies the spotter to the target, they are not regarded as two individuals and only one of them should get involved in scoring etc..

### ***Information on Scoring etc.***

#### **Scoring**

A spotter will be required to score for the VI archer. This will involve either calling the scores to the scorer or possibly acting as scorer. If acting as scorer then another spotter or sighted archer is required to call your archers scores.

A "target captain", who is nominally the third archer on the target list for that target, takes responsibility for the scoring. However, in reality, who takes this responsibility is often decided by mutual agreement.

### *5 or 10 Zone Scoring*

Scoring can either be 5 or 10 zone depending on the round being shot. Generally 5 zone scoring is used where the distances are measured in yards and 10 zone scoring where the distances are measured in meters. The main exception is the GNAS Portsmouth round which uses 10 zone scoring at 20yards but if in doubt for any round please ask the Judge.

From the centre the two methods are scored:-

- 5-zone scoring (GNAS "imperial" Rounds)
  - gold - 9,
  - red - 7,
  - blue - 5,
  - black - 3,
  - and white - 1.
- 10 zone scoring (GNAS "metric" and Portsmouth, FITA and VIIR Rounds)
  - gold inner inner ring - X or 10 (see later)
  - gold inner/middle ring - 10 (also see later)
  - gold outer ring - 9
  - red inner ring - 8
  - red outer ring - 7
  - blue inner ring - 6
  - blue outer ring - 5
  - black inner ring - 4
  - black outer ring - 3
  - white inner ring - 2
  - and white outer ring - 1
- In all cases all other arrows are a miss. Misses are marked on the scoring sheet as "M" rather than "0" to avoid possible confusion with "10".
- The inner inner gold may not always be present on the target face. If it is present then it only has any significance for indoor rounds.
  - A compound archer is required to score in the inner inner gold to score 10 for indoor rounds. The middle and outer of the 3 gold rings will score 9 for compound bows.
  - Other bow types may be required to mark arrows in the inner inner gold as an "X". This will score 10 so is no different to the middle gold ring but the number of "X"s scored may be used to determine places at the end of a competition.

## *Calling and Recording the Scores*

The following explains the procedure for calling scores. It may seem a bit long winded but it is actually there to prevent either you or your archer from being accused of cheating.

- Do not touch the arrows or target face until all arrows from all archers on that target are scored and agreed and ensure the archer does the same.
- The scores are called in groups of 3, starting with the highest scoring arrows.
  - The archer/spotter will call the first group of 3 arrows and then should wait for the scorer to read them back from the score sheet.
  - The archer/spotter points to the nock of each arrow as they call its score, taking care not to actually touch the arrow as this could move it and tare the paper further, leading to accusations of cheating.
  - If agreed then the archer/spotter calls the second set of 3 scores and again the scorer reads them back before continuing to the next archer on the sheet/card.
  - All the arrows shot must be called even if 6 misses which will be called as "miss", "miss", "miss", followed by "miss", "miss", "miss" after waiting for the scorer to repeat the first 3 back. Do not call "6 misses" as this could be interpreted as "6, miss, miss etc."
- A spotter (and the same for a sighted archer) may not both call and record (write) a set of scores regardless of which archer this is for.
  - If there are only two archers then one spotter may call both sets of scores whilst the other spotter records them all. Alternatively, spotter A calls archer A's scores while spotter B records them before passing the score sheet/card to spotter A to record archer B's scores as called by spotter B.
  - Remember that the spotter acts as the archer's representative at the target. Therefore if the archer is also present then only one or the other may call or record the arrows because as far as the rules are concerned they are the same person.
- If the arrow has cut the line, the highest score counts.
  - If you are unable to agree a score then call the judge.
- If a mistake in recording the scores (but not in the adding up) on the score sheet/card then call the judge.
  - Only a judge may alter the arrow scores.
  - Do not touch the arrows or target face prior to the judge arriving.
- At the end of the shoot, the archer must sign their score sheet/card.
  - Score cards that have had scores (but not adding up) that has been altered but not signed by the judge will be disqualified.
  - See "Completing Score Sheets" below.
- At the end of the shoot, etiquette also dictates that you thank your fellow archer/spotter.

## **“Marking Faces”**

For “FITA” and some other rounds, the officials will ask that the target faces are marked. This is a method of determining if a “bouncer” or “pass-through” has actually occurred. The idea is that the target face is marked to show every arrow and therefore, when an archer claims a “bouncer” or “pass-through” the Judge can check the target face. If a “bouncer” has occurred all the holes should be marked or still have an arrow in it. If there is an empty, unmarked hole then this is where the arrow bounced from or passed-through. Therefore the arrows must be clearly marked. This is done after all scores are recorded (no arrow or the target face may be touched before this). The marking is done with two lines. One line is vertical, touching the 12o’clock of the arrow. The other line is horizontal, touching either the 9o’clock or 3o’clock of the arrow.

## **Picking up non-scoring Arrows**

Arrows falling short of the target (or having bounced from it) should be picked up on the way to the target for safety.

Arrows that have overshot or gone past the target should be left until ALL arrows in the target have been correctly recorded (See “Scoring”). Only then should an archer or their spotter walk behind the target to find “stray” arrows.

## **“Bouncers” and “Pass-throughs”**

The rules differ depending on whether a “GNAS” or “FITA” round is being shot. For GNAS rounds:-

- “Bouncers”
  - If an archer (or their spotter) believes that they have a “bouncer” they complete that end of arrows (3 or 6 as appropriate) and then they (or their spotter) attracts the judge(s) attention by standing back from the line and holding their bow above their head.
  - If the judge is satisfied then the archer will be allowed to shoot a further arrow once it has been marked or otherwise identified by the judge.
  - The judge will then take part in the scoring for that target.
  - If it is found that the archer now has too many arrows in the target then at the discretion of the judge the highest scoring one will be discounted.
- “Pass-throughs”
  - An arrow passing through a boss can not be scored.

For FITA rounds:-

- "Bouncers"
  - If an archer (or their spotter) believes that they have a "bouncer" all archers on that target must stop shooting immediately and attract the judge(s) attention.
  - Once everyone else has finished shooting that end (3 or 6 arrows as appropriate) the judge will accompany the archer (or spotter) to the target to identify the unmarked hole (See "Marking Faces").
  - The Judge will mark the unmarked hole and note the score for that arrow.
  - All archers on that target will then complete their remaining arrows for that end.
  - The judge concerned will participate in scoring that end of arrows for that target.
- "Pass-throughs"
  - Provide all holes are marked and an unmarked hole can be identified the score will be that value of the unmarked hole.

**Remember!**

**Check out the rules on the day; listen to the officials opening remarks.**  
**If in doubt, check the scoring rules with the official/judge of the competition as these may change.**

### **Completing the Score Sheet**

Whilst the procedures described above ensure that the scores are recorded correctly (involving the Judge if necessary), the addition is up to the archer/spotter/scorer.

There will be a number of things to add up.

- The total number of hits which is the number of scoring arrows that the archer had.
- For a GNAS round, the total number of "golds" may be required for the score sheet. For FITA rounds it may be that "10's" and/or "X's" are required. It is usually the number of times the archer has scored maximum points with an arrow. For FITA/metric rounds sometimes "10's plus X's" (i.e. maximum scoring arrows) is required in one column and "X's" only in another but check if not sure.
- The total score.

Normally there is space on the score sheet for the number of hits, number of "golds" ("10's" etc) and score for each dozen arrows. On most score sheets there is also space to add up the dozen totals for each distance (or target face). At the end of the shoot it is then possible to add up these "distance" totals. Adding the dozen scores to produce "distance scores" and then adding

these to produce an overall total can be a useful check and is worth taking advantage of.

When this addition is complete on the official score sheet the archer is usually required to sign it. In doing so they are signing to state that their score (and adding up) is correct. Although the GNAS rules aren't explicit in how to deal with errors in the addition, the following are usually applied.

- If the submitted and signed for total score is lower than it should be then the lower (signed for) score is taken and will stand.
- If the submitted and signed for total score is higher than it should be, then this is taken as a form of cheating and the archer is disqualified and their score void.

Therefore it can be seen that it is important that the archer (and/or spotter) checks the score that is being signed for. The easiest way of doing this is to either keep a separate copy of the score, add it up independently and compare it with the official score sheet, or to check the official score sheet periodically. Actually checking the official score sheet rather than just comparing scores may give the appearance that the scorer isn't trusted so should be done with care.

If keeping an independent copy of the score then there are a few points to note.

- Ensure that doing so does not interfere with the official score recording procedure. For example, if using a Dictaphone do not talk into it while scores are being called.
- Ensure that you still comply with the proper scoring procedure described in "Scoring" above. As most archers quickly fill in their personal score pads as soon as they arrive at the target it is very tempting to just read back from the personal score pad rather than pointing to the arrows and calling them properly.

It is unwise to let the archer sign the official score sheet until they are happy that the score on it is correct. If the archer (or spotter) have any doubts then they should be sorted out before the score sheet is signed. Remember, once the score sheet is signed, that is the official score that is submitted and it will be hard to go back on.

When claiming a National Record it is necessary to reclaim the score sheet from the tournament organiser having asked for the Judge to sign it first. This signed score sheet (signed by both archer and Judge) will need to be submitted along with an official copy of the results and the record claim form. Sometimes you will not be able to get hold of the signed score sheet until the official results are completed and checked which may take a few days.

Please note that VI National Records may be claimed at County Championship status shoots and above (see BBS SAP 5) even if the shoot isn't record status. A lot of organisers and judges will not be aware of this variation for VI Records but will happily comply when it is explained. The reason for accepting these shoots is that there is very limited opportunity for VI archers to shoot at suitable competitions in some parts of the country.

The warnings in this section may seem rather scary for those starting out. In most of the competitions that you take part in the scoring won't be taken this officiously and it is unlikely that anyone would be disqualified. However, it is advisable to use "best practice" as described above and get used to it for when the time comes and it does matter.

### ***Finally - Get Involved***

This is a partnership, without spotters, many VI archers could never participate. Get to know your archer and their ability and most of all enjoy the sport.

A spotter does not need to be an archer (although this can help) but they will acquire knowledge of archery over time. However there are courses available for those who want to provide the best for their archer. There is a "GNAS Spotters Course" for those that are interested. Contact the BBS Archery Development Team for more details.

### ***Document History***

July 2011

- Minor rewording in "Spotters Role".
- Renaming of paragraph "Informal Summary of Rules for Spotters" and minor rewording.
- Rewording and expansion of "Calling and Recording the Scores".
- "Spotter's Responsibilities" expanded.
- Addition of "Bouncers and Pass-throughs".
- Addition of "Marking Faces".

July 2009

- Reordering sections on "Spotters Role", "Spotters Rules" and "Spotters Responsibilities".
- Minor rewording of "Spotters Rules" and "Spotters Responsibilities".
- Addition of "Completion of Score Card" and minor modifications to "Scoring".

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- Initial release of "Guidelines for Spotters"