

BOWMEN OF THE DEANS



Record Keeping, Handicapping, and Classification Guide

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1. ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide serves as a reference for all club members, irrespective of their level of experience in archery. It does not aim to establish club rules or regulations but rather offers guidance. Most of the information contained in this document can be readily accessed on relevant websites, and we encourage archers to stay updated with the latest information that suits their individual requirements.

Amendments and additions can be found in [section 9](#) at the end of this document.

2. CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION AND HANDICAP SYSTEM

This document refers to the new handicap and classification system implemented for both outdoor and indoor systems. For the previous system please refer to Archery GB's own resources on their website.

2.1 Outdoor Changes

Archery GB changed their archery handicap system in 2023 to make it more inclusive and progressive. The new system includes the following changes:

New Archer tiers: The new system introduces new Archer tiers specifically designed for beginners, providing them with a more meaningful means to track their advancement in the sport.

Elite Master Bowman classification: The new system also introduces an Elite Master Bowman classification, representing the pinnacle achievement in archery classifications. Attaining this status will pose a formidable challenge for archers, but it offers a prestigious avenue for the most dedicated and accomplished individuals to receive well-deserved recognition for their accomplishments.

Rounding down of handicaps: The way handicaps are rounded has changed. Previously, if the new value was not a whole number it was rounded up to the next nearest whole number. This has now changed so that it is rounded down. This change was made to prevent archers having to make a 2 clear point improvement before their handicap was reduced.

New tables: The new system uses new tables to calculate handicaps and classifications. These tables are based on a larger dataset of scores than the old tables, which should make them more accurate.

2.2 Indoor Changes

On September 12, 2023, an announcement was made about the new indoor classification system. This document provides the relevant details about the system, which mirrors the revisions made to the outdoor system but with their own specific tables.

It is important to note that the Elite Master Bowman class is not included within the indoor Master Bowman tier.

The relevant links to these [resources](#) mentioned above can be found at the end of this document.

3. HANDICAPS

The subsequent sections provide an explanation of the Archery GB handicap system. Please be aware that you will possess separate handicaps for outdoor and indoor archery, contingent upon your participation in these disciplines.

3.1. What Is A Archery Handicap

The Archery GB handicap system is a way of measuring an archer's performance and progress over time. It is designed to allow archers of different skill levels to compete against each other on an equal footing, by adjusting their scores based on their previous performance.

3.2 How To Calculate A Handicap

Archery GB have generated extensive tables detailing handicaps and their respective scores across a wide array of archery rounds. Upon achieving a specific score in a designated round, you can then reference the correlating handicap from the specie table. Once you have registered three scores, your handicap value is determined by averaging your handicaps. If you utilise the online record-keeping system used by the club or an archery scoring app that employs the most up-to-date AGB tables, your handicap is automatically calculated for you.

3.3 Handicaps Explained

In the Archery GB handicap system, each archer is given a handicap rating between 0 and 150, the numerical value is based on the archers average score over a number of rounds. The handicap rating is expressed as a number of points, with lower numbers indicating a better performance. For example, an archer with a handicap rating of 30 is considered to be a better performer than an archer with a handicap rating of 50. Essentially the lower the handicap the better the archer.

When two or more archers compete against each other, their handicap ratings are used to adjust their scores. The archer with the higher handicap rating is given a lower target score to achieve, while the archer with the lower handicap rating is given a higher target score. This means that both archers have an equal chance of winning a competition, regardless of their previous performance.

The Archery GB handicap system is based on a sliding scale, which means that as an archer's performance improves, their handicap rating will decrease. This ensures that archers are always competing against others of a similar skill level, even as their own skill level improves.

Assigned handicaps lasts for a year and are reassessed from the 1st of January for outdoor rounds and 1st July for Indoor rounds. The best three handicaps achieved over the previous season are taken and averaged, this will be the handicap rating that will be used for the new season.

In its simplest form, a handicap can be understood as a gauge of precision, representing either group size or consistency. A smaller handicap corresponds to a smaller group and results in a higher score.

3.4 Handicap Resources

For further information from Archery GB about the handicapping system refer to the links at the end of this document.

4. CLASSIFICATIONS

The Archery GB classification system is used to classify archers according to their skill level. The system is based on a combination of scores and shot at verifying distances.

The classification system provides archers with a tangible recognition of their skill level. This can be motivating for archers to continue improving their skills and reaching higher classifications.

There are nine different classification levels grouped into three groups and available to all archers.

At the start of each season all classifications must be renewed.

4.1 Outdoor Classifications

An Archery GB outdoor classification is a ranking system that categorises archers based on their skill and performance in outdoor archery at club level participation through regular and elite competitions.

The following table details each level that can be attained and what is required of the archer to meet each classification level.

	Sub Levels	Awards Requirement					
		From rounds totalling	Rounds	Type of Event	Administered By		
Archer Tier	Archer 3rd Class	12 dozen arrows	All rounds of an appropriate distance	Any Event	Clubs		
	Archer 2nd Class						
	Archer 1st Class						
Bowman Tier	Bowman 3rd Class	18 dozen arrows		All rounds of an appropriate distance		Any Competitive Event	Clubs
	Bowman 2nd Class						
	Bowman 1st Class						
Master Bowman Tier	Master Bowman	36 dozen arrows	Age-appropriate rounds in the York/Hereford/Bristol, WA1440, and WA720 round families.		Any Record Status Competition	Archery GB	
	Grandmaster Bowman						
	Elite Master Bowman						

Outdoor Classification Table

4.2 Classification Tiers

This section describes each of the outdoor classification tiers in the table above. The scores required to meet the minimum requirement for each classification within the tiers vary depending on your age group and bow style. However, the Master Bowman tier only supports the longer distances for each age group.

4.2.1 Archer Tier

The Archer Tier is a classification system for archers who shoot at a club level. It is designed to be achievable for a wide range of our archers, and most archers should be able to achieve Archer 3rd Class within their first year.

To achieve an award in the Archer Tier, an archer must shoot a minimum of 144 arrows, which can be shot during an visit to the clubs range and is managed by the RO. Each round must be shot at the appropriate distance to attain each level within this tier.

4.2.2 Bowman Tier

The Bowmen Tier is a classification system for archers who shoot at a competition level. This classification can be achieved at an official club competition, but most of our archers will attain it at county and national shoots.

This classification is designed to be within reach for our intermediate and experienced archers, and can be achieved within 12 to 18 months

4.2.3 Master Bowman Tier

The Archery GB Master Bowman tier is the highest tier of the outdoor classification system. It is divided into three classes: Master Bowman, Grand Master Bowman, and Elite Master Bowman.

Master Bowman classifications are only awarded at Archery GB Record Status Shoots or Tournaments. To be considered for a classification level in this tier, our members must attend the appropriate competitions throughout the season and shoot a minimum of 432 arrows to be considered for each level within this tier.

If you're seeking assistance in achieving these classifications, especially if you're new to archery, don't hesitate to reach out to the club's records officer for guidance.

4.3 Indoor Classification Annual Reviews

Classifications will undergo annual reviews, with the first reassessment set for January 1, 2024 and subsequent assessments occurring at the same time each year. These evaluations will consider an archer's best performance from the preceding season. Once assigned a classification, archers will maintain this status for the upcoming season or until they achieve an improved classification. Archers who haven't achieved enough qualifying scores in the prior season will be reevaluated and categorised as Unclassified.

5. INDOOR CLASSIFICATIONS & HANDICAPS

Archery GB has updated its Indoor Classification and Handicap system, giving archers of all levels a way to assess their skills and earn awards for indoor rounds. The system has also been expanded to include more bow styles, such as Recurve, Compound, Barebow, and Longbows.

	Sub Levels	Awards Requirement			
		From rounds totalling	Rounds	Type of Event	Administered By
Archer Tier	Indoor Archer 3rd Class	10 dozen arrows	All indoor rounds as shown in tables.	Any Event	Clubs
	Indoor Archer 2nd Class				
	Indoor Archer 1st Class				
Bowman Tier	Indoor Bowman 3rd Class	15 dozen arrows		Any Competitive Event	
	Indoor Bowman 2nd Class				
	Indoor Bowman 1st Class				
Master Bowman Tier	Indoor Master Bowman	Any Record Status Competition			
	Indoor Grandmaster Bowman				

Indoor Classification Table

5.1 Classification Tiers

Refer to [outdoor section classifications](#) for explanation.

It's important to note that, unlike the outdoor classification, the indoor classification consists of only eight levels and does not include the Elite Master Bowman level.

5.2 Indoor Classification Annual Reviews

Classifications will undergo annual reviews, with the first reassessment set for July 1, 2024, and subsequent assessments occurring at the same time each year. These evaluations will consider an archer's best performance from the preceding season. Once assigned a classification, archers will maintain this status for the upcoming season or until they achieve an improved classification. Archers who haven't achieved enough qualifying scores in the prior season will be reevaluated and categorised as Unclassified.

6. CLUB MEMBER RECORD KEEPING

As a club we like to encourage our members to keep score records for each type of round they might shoot as well as for different bow styles. There are several benefits to archers recording their scores, these include but not limited to the following:

1. **Tracking progress:** By recording your scores, you can easily track your progress over time. This can help you identify areas where you need to improve and set goals for yourself.
2. **Identifying trends:** You can also use score records to identify trends in your performance, such as consistently low scores on a particular target or during a certain time of day. The more experienced you become the easier it is for you to identify any deficiencies or problems with your technique and equipment etc.
3. **Identifying equipment issues:** Recording scores may also help you identify potential equipment issues that may be affecting your performance. For example, if you consistently score lower when using a certain bow setup or arrow set, it may be time to make some adjustments or try a different items of equipment.
4. **Evaluating performance in competitions:** We have members who now participate in county, regional and national tournaments. Archers who compete can use their score records to evaluate their performance in competition environments and evaluate their shot process et cetera outside the normal practice environments.
5. **Motivation:** Seeing improvements in your scores can be a great motivator to continue practicing and working towards you own goals.
6. **Return on investment:** Though Archery can be an inexpensive sport to get in to, some members, beside investing time, will also invest financially into their equipment, club memberships, tournament entry fees etc. Keeping records is equally important and allows you to track your performance over time and make more informed decisions about any future investment.

Overall, keeping score records is a valuable tool for archers looking to improve their skills and track their progress over time.

7. ONLINE RECORD KEEPING SYSTEM

The club has a records officer (currently Terry Piper) who is responsible for maintaining accurate records of archery performances, such as scores, handicaps, achievements and classifications. The primary role is to oversee the recording and verification of archery results from practice sessions, club competitions and friendly events et cetera, ensuring that these comply with the rules and regulations set by Archery GB, Gloucestershire Archery Society and the Grand Western Archery Society.

7.1 Registering for Online Record System access

For those members interested in keeping personal score records and would like to use the clubs online system please provide the following information and email to the records officer at terry.piper@icloud.com.

1. Your name, this does not have to be the same name you registered with the club.
2. Your Archery GB No. Your username will incorporate this number.
3. The bow style you shoot the most, Recurve, Barebow, Longbow, Compound etc.
4. The email address you would like the system to use to send you your records. This does not need to be the same that you used to register with the club.
5. The age category you fall under:
(50+ Men, Men, U21 Men, U18 Men, U16 Men, U15 Men, U14 Men, U12 Men)
(50+ Women, Women, U21 Women, U18 Women, U16 Women, U15 Women, U14 Women, U12 Women)

7.2. Registering Your Details

Name:

Email:

AGB No.:

Bow Style:

Age Category:

Once your account is successfully created, I will promptly send you a confirmation email. Additionally, you should expect to receive an email from the online system. If you don't see this email in your inbox right away, please check your spam or junk folders.

Inside this email, you'll find a link that will allow you to log in and set up your password. If you encounter any issues during this process, kindly notify me as soon as possible.

If you would like instruction on the use of the system please engage with the records officer.

8. RECORDS OFFICER ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Some of the specific responsibilities of our club records officer include:

1. Collecting and verifying scorecards or online record recordings from archers after each round submitted by a club member.
2. Calculating adjusted scores, handicaps and classifications using the Archery GB formulas and guidelines.
3. Entering results onto the online records system for those members who do not want an online account for reference and analysis.
4. Verifying records and achievements such as Classifications and club records and where applicable inform the necessary regional records officer of any qualifying country records set by a club member.
5. Responding to inquiries from club members, their guardians or other interested parties about records and handicaps and classifications.

As a club, our primary goal is to actively contribute to upholding the integrity of our members' published records. We achieve this by diligently managing precise and current records through the online records system. This information serves a dual purpose: not only does it allow us to acknowledge individual achievements, but it also facilitates monitoring the development and advancement of members who aspire to excel in the sport of archery.

8. ARCHERY RESOURCES

Below is a table containing valuable online archery resources. We recommend visiting these resources as your initial point of reference for the most current information that may not be included in this version of the guide.

If at any time you find these resources no longer work or are dead links, please inform the author as soon as possible.

Description	Link
Outdoor Classifications & Handicaps	https://tinyurl.com/AGBAboutHandicaps
Barebow Classification Tables	https://tinyurl.com/AGBBarebowTables
Longbow Classification Tables	https://tinyurl.com/AGBLongbowTables
Recurve Classification Tables	https://tinyurl.com/AGBRecurveTables
Compound Classification Tables	https://tinyurl.com/AGBCompoundTables
Outdoor Handicap & Classification Calculator: Excel	https://tinyurl.com/AGBOutdoorCalcExcel
Outdoor Handicap Tables	https://tinyurl.com/AGBHandicapTables
ArcheryCalculator	http://ArcheryCalculator.co.uk
Golden Records Online	https://archery-records.net
Archery GB Rules of Shooting	https://tinyurl.com/AGBRulesofShooting
World Archery Rule Book	https://www.worldarchery.sport/rulebook
Gloucestershire Archery Society	https://glosarchery.com
Grand Western Archery Society	https://www.gwas.org.uk

8.1 Archery Apps

The following list outlines the available apps for various mobile platforms; kindly notify the author of any updates or additions to these links to assist our members.

App Name	Description	Link
ArcherySuccess £14.99	IOS Version Android Version	https://tinyurl.com/ArcherySuccessIOSApp https://tinyurl.com/ArcherySuccessAndroidApp
iArcher £4.99	IOS Version	https://tinyurl.com/iArcherIOSApp
Archers Toolbox Free with IAP	IOS Version Android Version	https://tinyurl.com/ArchersToolboxIOSApp https://tinyurl.com/ArchersToolboxAndroidApp
Archery Scoresheets Free	IOS Version Android Version	https://tinyurl.com/ArcheryScoresheetsIOSApp https://tinyurl.com/ArcheryScoresheetsAndroidApp
Archery Companion	Android Version	https://tinyurl.com/ArcheryCompanionAndroidApp
MyTargets Archery	Android Version	https://tinyurl.com/MyTargetsAndroidApp
ArtemisLite Free Also has paid upgrades for Artemis Premium and Artemis Coached	Android Version	https://tinyurl.com/ArtemisLiteAndroidApp
Expert Archer Scoring	Android Version IOS Version	https://tinyurl.com/ExpertArcherScoringAndroidApp https://tinyurl.com/ExpertArcherScoringIOSApp

9. AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS

This section highlights changes and addition made to this document.

This section outlines changes, modifications, or new content that have been introduced to the original text. This section serves as a record of any alterations made to the document, providing clarity and transparency for our members. Amendments are typically used to revise existing information, while additions involve the inclusion of entirely new material.

This section often includes details such as the date of the change, a brief description of the amendment or addition, and the specific sections or pages affected. It helps readers easily identify and understand the evolution of the document's content and ensures that all stakeholders are aware of the most current information.

Date	Ver.	Section	Description	Author
07 Sept 23	Draft	All	Initial draft	Terry Piper
03 Oct 23	1.1	All	First draft for review	Terry Piper
11 Oct 23	1.2	2.2 Indoor Changes	New section detailing the new indoor classification system announced by Archery GB.	Terry Piper
11 Oct 23	1.2	4. Indoor Classifications & Handicaps	Update to indoor classification and handicaps released by Archery GB.	Terry Piper
12 Oct 23	1.3	8. Archery Resources	Inclusion of useful Archery GB and other online resources.	Terry Piper
8 Nov 23	1.3.1	All	Rearranged many sections. Addition of new Archery Apps section Produced more descriptive handicap section.	Terry Piper