

# Target Sports Risk Assessment

This document contains the risk assessments and controls for the following activities:

- Archery
- Soft Archery
- Tomahawk Throwing
- Soft Tomahawks
- Rifle Shooting
- Tin Can Alley
- Crossbow Shooting

This document should be used in conjunction with the Standard Operating Procedure and the Activity Specific RA at the bottom of the page.

<b>Name of Section or Activity (and version number)</b>	Waddecar Scout Activity Centre Target Sports V2026-02	<b>Date of risk assessment</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026. Revised: 16/03/26	<b>Review Date</b>	January 2027	<b>Name and Role of who undertook this risk assessment</b>	Damian King - Centre Manager NSRA Crossbows Tutor Archery Permit Holder Bushscout Tomahawk Leader
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Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?
<i><b>Hazard</b> – something that may cause harm or damage. <b>Risk</b> – the chance of it happening.</i>	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	<b>Controls</b> – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. <i>For example - you might use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way the activity is carried out.</i>
Injuries or accidents from poor behaviour, or novice participants taking part in adventurous activities.	Participants	Suitable session ratios are detailed in the activity SOP and are normally a ratio of 1:12 for group members to instructors. Any deviation from this must be agreed by the Centre Manager in advance. Give an activity safety briefing to help orientate guests and identify any specific hazards and safety rules they must follow. Set boundaries for operating areas in the safety briefing. Check that rules (including boundaries) were understood and are followed. Ask visiting staff to provide extra supervision of behaviour if appropriate.
Pre-existing health issues including personal injury or illness	Individual	Discuss health risks with the group leader at the start of the session. Check that any existing cuts are covered up with waterproof plasters. Conduct a warm-up activity at the start of active sessions, repeated if needed. Vary activities if appropriate to avoid excessive strain. Check that accompanying adults have any essential medication accessible (e.g. asthma inhalers, auto-injectors for allergies).
Injury sustained during participation in the activity.	Participants	All instructors hold a minimum of First Response training and can deal with minor and emergency first aid scenarios. A large capacity “reactive” first aid kit is available at reception. If the injury cannot be managed with a first aid kit, then contact the Duty Warden / Site Staff – if you think an ambulance is needed tell them if there is a significant injury. Check that you have access to a first aid kit at all times.
Injury caused by failure of an item of equipment	Participants	Quarterly checks of activity equipment are completed to identify any defects or developing hazards. Brief the group on any specific hazards identified from your daily check. Follow any specific instructions for equipment – these are detailed in the manufacturer’s instructions. Prior to use each, check the venue and equipment for hazards. If the venue/equipment cannot be made safe do not run the session.

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](#) and other information at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://scouts.org.uk/safety)



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		Carry out visual checks of equipment and the area throughout the session.
Injury from misuse of equipment	Participants	<p>All instructors to hold relevant qualifications as outlined in the SOP.</p> <p>Brief the group about what may and may not be done on the activity and with the equipment. Use demonstrations where appropriate and check understanding.</p> <p>Choose equipment suitable for the group and conditions if you have options.</p> <p>Plan ahead but also be ready to dynamically change the plan.</p> <p>Stay vigilant for developing hazards as the session progresses.</p> <p>Monitor and manage group behaviour and use of equipment throughout – if appropriate use accompanying adults to help check instructions are followed.</p> <p>Be especially vigilant when participants are inexperienced, tired or cold.</p> <p>Participants are instructed to ensure that projectiles are always pointing down the range or towards the ground at all times.</p> <p>Give a demonstration of how to use the equipment.</p> <p>Remove all spare projectiles from the shooting line if you need to step away from it.</p> <p>Make sure equipment is counted at the start and end of the session</p>
Injury resulting from environmental/weather conditions	Participants	<p>Check the weather forecast prior to the day's activity.</p> <p>If extreme weather is forecast, make alternative arrangements for safety</p> <p>Make participants aware of the effects of the weather – be particularly mindful of wind speed, direction and wind chill</p> <p>Be ready to dynamically change or adapt the activity if the environmental condition compromises the safety or learning of the group.</p> <p>Check everyone has suitable clothing during the activity.</p> <p>Be vigilant for signs of foreseeable conditions related to the weather conditions (e.g. hypothermia, dehydration) and take appropriate action.</p>
Injury from low levels falls and slips on activities	Participants	<p>Activity bases are checked quarterly to ensure they are not in dangerous condition.</p> <p>PPE must be worn if directed by the activity SOP.</p> <p>Check that everyone has suitable clothing for the activity, including suitable footwear for the conditions and task (consider grip, closed toes, ankle support)</p> <p>Check participants understanding of correct spotting and remind them throughout.</p>
Impact from projectile due to poor range management	Participants	<p>Ranges comply with Scouts and/or NGB safety specifications.</p> <p>Participants to shoot from behind the designated shooting line.</p> <p>Spectators must remain seated in the waiting area or outside the range perimeter.</p> <p>Any suspected dangerous behaviour to be controlled immediately.</p>
Walking into projectiles in the target or on the ground	Participants	<p>Tell participants that when collecting projectiles, they must walk, and they must follow the route around the sides of the range to their target.</p> <p>Tell participants to collect projectiles in the target first, then on the floor second.</p>
Injury removing projectiles from target	Participants	<p>Give a demo of how to safely remove a projectile.</p> <p>Provide clear instructions when it is time for groups to collect their projectiles.</p> <p>Check that you do not leave any spare projectiles at the shooting line when you go down range.</p>
Falling with the projectiles when returning to the shooting line	Participants	<p>Pathways are clear of obstructions.</p> <p>Demonstrate to the group how they should carry projectiles.</p>
Someone entering the range or crossing the shooting line.	Participants	<p>Ranges are enclosed with clear physical boundaries to the sides and back.</p> <p>Tell the group about the "STOP / FAST" command and what to do if someone uses the command.</p>
Projectiles bouncing back - Hit by projectile.	Participants	<p>Range constructed of materials designed to minimise risk of bounce backs.</p> <p>Bounce backs to be reported to Waddecar Centre Management.</p>



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Unauthorised use – disqualified from shooting		All participants to produce a signed permission form for Crossbows and Rifle Shooting, or Leader to provide Declaration Form
Clothing and equipment caught in equipment	Participants	Instructor to ensure that long hair is tied back and loose clothing (scarves, neckers etc. are removed before the session)

## Activity Specific Risk Assessments

### Archery

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?
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Injuries due to over bowing Arrow slipping Bowstring catching and bruising arm	Participants	Ensure the correct size bow and draw weight for participants. Correct shooting technique demonstrated and instructed. Strings correctly fitted Ensure the correct size arrows for the participants Ensure arrows are in good condition with no cracks, bent shafts, damaged nocks or loose piles Arm guards to be worn by all participants

### Crossbow

	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?
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Injuries due to wrong handling of crossbow	Participants	Monitor that safety mechanism functions correctly. Check trigger operates smoothly. Demonstrate and Check string are drawn correctly by participant to trigger position. Participant instructed that fingers are to be kept beneath the stock when shooting crossbows and no part of the arm to get in the way of the string.

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## Air Rifle Shooting

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Injury from mishandling rifle i.e. Trapped hand in the breach Misfires cut or bruised hand when cocking and loading rifle	Participants	Ensure that rifles are in good working order Safety catches functioning properly Barrels unobstructed Rifles unloaded until instructed  All participants to be properly briefed prior to the start of the activity.
Use of lead pellets – lead poisoning, injuries due to rebound	Participants	Correct pellet type and calibre Pellets undamaged and appropriate for the rifles Participants instructed to wash hands after session or before eating. Eye protection available and worn

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<b>Completed by</b>	Name, Damian King Role / level: Waddecar Centre Manager Date: 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	<b>Checked by verifier</b>	Name: Alan Campbell Role / qualification: Archery GB. Scouts Archery Permit Assessor Date: 12th January 2026
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HQ Template Published June 2020



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