



Incorporated Number: 1400344

# Traditional Archery Australia Inc. and Archery Crafters Guild Australia

## Traditional Equipment Guidelines

The following information contains Guidelines regarding the different styles of Traditional Bows commonly used in Australia. It is hoped these Guidelines will lead to uniform Guidelines being used around Australia at Traditional Archery Shoots and will help Shoot Organisers prepare their Divisions appropriately.

These are Guidelines for general use except at Traditional Archery Australia sanctioned State Titles and the Muster/National Titles where they are regarded as Rules.

It is up to each participant in a Shoot or Tournament to check whether their equipment set up will be acceptable for that particular event.

**These revised Equipment Guidelines will be in trial use at the 2020 TAA National Titles to be held October 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> in Tenterfield. Members are encouraged to attend the TAA Annual General Meeting in Tenterfield on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October PM. At the AGM members are given the opportunity to join the discussion and vote on the future use of these guidelines.**

**TAA Members are encouraged to send feedback to the following email of Mrs Leslie White TAA National Secretary prior to the Nationals: [gladioli015@gmail.com](mailto:gladioli015@gmail.com)  
Member feedback is important. TAA values the thoughts and expertise of its members.**

[www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org](http://www.traditionalarcheryaustralia.org)

A special thankyou to Mr Perry Jackson our National Traditional Skills Officer for all his hard work in researching and preparing these documents. Also Mr David Pender our National Hunting Adviser for his assistance.  
From the TAA Committee and Members.

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The TAA Committee also wish to acknowledge the work of Life Member and Past President Mr Keith Speight for his hard work in compiling the initial guidelines. They have been a good source of reference for developing the new documents.

## LONGBOW

- Longbow refers to the traditional straight end style longbow. In some circles these are also known as American Flatbow's.
- When strung the profile of the longbow's limbs shall show a single continuous curve at brace height, the string will not touch the belly of the bow at all and if a string was laid along the back of the bow from handle to string groove, it is to have no areas where light shows between.
- A longbow can be of any material or use any modern glue in its construction.
- The riser is to be free of any marks or blemishes that can be used for sighting.
- A longbow may have a shelf cut into the handle, but it must not be centreshot.
- A longbow may have an elevated arrow rest such as a toothbrush style rest or a protruding flap or fold of leather attached to a strike plate. Stick on plastic rests and mechanical rests are not permitted.
- A longbow may have a straight, dished or locator grip.
- Pistol grips are not permitted. A pistol grip shall be defined as having a palm swell and on the off side from the palm swell a sharp edge or shelf on a contour the thumb rests on.
- The minimum length for longbows will be 66"/168cm for men and 62"/157cm for women and juniors. Cub bows may be of any length.
- The Longbow can be of takedown construction but two piece only. Three piece construction, ILF etc., will be considered as hybrid bows and should be placed in that division.
- The bow must be shot with one finger touching the arrow. A finger tab or glove is permitted.

- One permanent nocking point is to be used and may be marked by one or two nock locators.
- No draw check, release or sighting aids are permitted.
- Bow mounted, wrist or finger slings are not permitted.
- Limb savers are not permitted.
- String silencers and brush buttons are permitted but must be at least 12 inches/30cm above and below the nocking point.
- Stabilisers and additional weight for the purpose of balancing the bow is not permitted.
- Bow quivers are permitted so long as the attachment points do not protrude into the sight window.

## MODERN RECURVE

- A modern recurve bow can be one piece or can be taken down in two or more parts.
- The riser may be constructed of any material. ILF and risers with similar mechanical adjustment are permitted. No adjustments to the riser's mechanism are allowed to be made during a tournament.
- The riser is to be free of any marks or blemishes that can be used for sighting. The limbs may be constructed of any material.
- A modern recurve's sight window can be cut to any degree of centreshot.
- The bow must be shot with one finger touching the arrow. A finger tab or glove is permitted. One permanent nocking point is to be used and may be marked by one or two nock locators. No draw check, release or sighting aids are permitted.
- Bow mounted, wrist or finger slings are not permitted.
- The bow may be shot off the shelf. Elevated arrow rests are permitted but pressure buttons and mechanical arrow rests, such as, flipper, drop away are not permitted.
- Limb savers are not permitted.
- The recurve may have any grip style.
- String silencers and brush buttons are permitted but must be at least 12 inches/30cm above and below the nocking point.
- Stabilisers and additional weight for the purpose of balancing the bow is not permitted.
- Bow quivers are permitted so long as the attachment points do not protrude into the sight window.
- In the case of mechanical failure authorisation to make the repair/adjustment must be sought from a Tournament Official.

## TRADITIONAL RECURVE

- A traditional recurve may be of laminated fibreglass and timber construction. The riser of the bow should be made mainly of wood. Phenolic and other synthetic materials are permitted so long as they are not the sole material used in the riser.
- The limbs must have a wood core. Synthetic core laminations are not permitted. They may be laminated on the back and belly with fibreglass or carbon fibre. If a recurve bow has synthetic core laminations it is classed as a modern recurve.
- A recurve bow can be one piece or can be taken down in two or more parts.
- The riser is to be free of any marks or blemishes that can be used for sighting.
- Adjustable ILF, formula or similar adjustment systems are not permitted, they are shot in the modern recurve division.
- No draw check, release or sighting aids are permitted.
- The bow may be shot off the shelf or from a non-mechanical, elevated arrow rest. Cushion plungers are not permitted.
- The bow must be shot with one finger touching the arrow. A finger tab or glove is permitted.
- One permanent nocking point is to be used and may be marked by one or two nock locators. The recurve may have any grip style.
- Limb savers are not permitted.
- String silencers and brush buttons are permitted but must be at least 12 inches/30cm above and below the nocking point.
- Stabilisers and additional weight for the purpose of balancing the bow is not permitted.
- Bow quivers are permitted so long as the attachment points do not protrude into the sight window.

## PRIMITIVE/HISTORIC

- A primitive bow is any bow of any design that doesn't have fibreglass, carbon or other synthetic material in its construction. This includes all aspects of the bow, such as, overlays etc. The primitive bow division includes selfbows (bows constructed of one piece of wood) or all wood composites (bows constructed with multiple laminations of wood or bamboo or any natural material).
- This does not include Asiatic type bows which have their own division.
- The use of natural string materials is encouraged however all modern synthetic substitutes such as Dacron are permitted.
- Primitive/Historic bows may be generally regarded as in use pre 1900. Modern glues are permitted but the use of natural glues is encouraged.
- A primitive bow may be of take-down construction. Historical evidence must be provided if the primitive bow takes down into more than 2 pieces if requested.
- A primitive/historic bow may have a shelf but must not be cut past centreshot. This does not apply to selfbows that have a stringline that does not run down the centre of the Bow.
- A primitive bow may be any length.
- The bow must be shot with one finger touching the arrow. A finger tab or glove is permitted. One permanent nocking point is to be used and may be marked by one or two nock locators. No draw check, release or sighting aids are permitted.
- Bow mounted, wrist or finger slings are not permitted.
- A primitive/historic bow may use a simple elevated arrow rest such as a feather rest or flaps of leather.
- Limb savers are not permitted.
- A primitive bow may have any grip style.

- The handle is to be free of any marks or blemishes that can be used for sighting.
- String silencers and brush buttons are permitted but must be at least 12 inches/30cm above and below the nocking point.
- Stabilisers and additional weight for the purpose of balancing the bow is not permitted.
- Bow quivers are permitted so long as the attachment points do not protrude into the archer's peripheral vision.



## ASIATIC BOWS

- Asymmetric bow designs such as the Andaman Island, Yumi, Hangkyu or similar are defined as Asiatic.
- Hungarian, Turkish, Mongol, Assyrian, Tartar or similar Asiatic styled bows (sometimes referred to as horse bows) are defined as Asiatic.
- Asiatic Bows generally have static tips known as Siyahs.
- These bows can be made from any materials including fibreglass and carbon fibre. Natural composite construction Asiatic bows are encouraged.
- These bows cannot have a pistol grip or a large riser as per modern or traditional recurves. The riser is to be free of any marks or blemishes that can be used for sighting.
- No shelf is to be cut into the handle/ riser. A strike plate is permitted Asiatic bows must be shot off the hand; a shelf of any type is not permitted.
- Thumb rings are permitted however if the Asiatic bow is shot using a finger release it must be shot with one finger touching the arrow. A finger tab or glove is permitted.
- One permanent nocking point is to be used and may be marked by one or two nock locators. Limb savers are not permitted.
- String silencers and brush buttons are permitted but must be at least 12 inches/30cm above and below the nocking point.
- Stabilisers and additional weight for the purpose of balancing the bow is not permitted.
- Bow quivers are permitted so long as the attachment points do not protrude into the archer's peripheral vision.

## HYBRID

- Hybrid bows are deflex/reflex style bows. When unstrung the hybrid bow limbs may show more than one curve direction, that is, it may deflex towards the belly of the bow and then reflex towards the back of the bow.
- When strung and at brace height, the string must not touch the belly of the bow at all. If it does, the bow must be considered to be a recurve.
- The hybrid can be one piece or of any take down construction.
- The hybrid's riser may be constructed of any material. ILF and risers with similar mechanical adjustment are permitted. No adjustments to the riser's mechanism are allowed to be made during a tournament.
- The hybrid limbs may be constructed of any material.
- The riser is to be free of any marks or blemishes that can be used for sighting. The hybrid may have any grip style.
- No sighting, release or draw check aids are to be used.
- Stabilisers and additional weight for the purpose of balancing the bow is not permitted. All types of sling are not permitted.
- A hybrid's sight window can be cut to any degree of centreshot.
- A hybrid may be shot off the shelf. Elevated arrow rests are permitted but pressure buttons and mechanical arrow rests, that is, flipper or drop away are not permitted.
- No slings, stabilisers, additional weight to balance the bow or release aids are permitted. Limb savers are not permitted.
- In the case of mechanical failure authorisation to make the repair/adjustment must be sought from a Tournament Official.

## PARA DIVISION

- The Para Division was formed in honour of Grant Cawthorne, aka Roadie. The purpose of the Para Division is to allow TAA Members with a physical impairment to compete against other archers with a physical impairment. The impairment must affect their ability to shoot a bow. The division will allow archers to use apparatus that assist them to shoot, such as, but not limited to, a mechanical release aid, body brace or a shooting stool.
- The archer must ensure that they are able to shoot safely using their apparatus and that they are safely able to move through an archery course. Any such apparatus will need to be approved for use by the Shoot Director or their appointed TAA member prior to shooting.
- TAA members with a physical impairment that limits their ability to shoot a traditional bow safely, can submit an application with supporting documentation. The documentation must be from a medical practitioner stating that they need to use a method or an apparatus that enables them to shoot a bow safely at TAA sanctioned State Titles or the Muster.
- The division will have Male, Female, Junior and Cub Sections. Bows and arrows must meet the aforementioned guidelines.
- It will always be decided by the club in relation to Club Shoots if they wish to support this division or not.
- Archers that wish to shoot in this division will have to submit their application, together with a Medical Practitioners Supporting Document, at least 4 weeks prior to the shoot date along with their entry form.

## ARROWS

- Arrow shafts must be wood or bamboo.
- There is no minimum or maximum point weight.
- Feathers and natural materials only, synthetic vanes are not permitted There is no minimum length for fletching.
- Arrows used in TAA State Titles and the TAA Muster/National Titles must be of identical appearance. They must be the same length and diameter. The points must all be the same weight. If the arrows are crested they must be matching.
- Cresting is encouraged but must not extend so far down the shaft so as to be used as a sight mark. An exception is made for replicas of historic arrows used in the Primitive/Historic Division. Historic evidence must be shown if requested.
- Arrows must meet the above guidelines for archers to be eligible to compete in or for record claims to be considered for Traditional Archery Australia's State Titles and the Muster/ National Titles.
- Individual Shoot Organisers may choose to allow carbon or aluminium arrows for Non-Title Tournaments.

