

Interested in becoming a judge?

Archery judges are an essential part of the community, keeping our sport fair, safe and fun for everyone. If you're interested in finding out more about the role, you can do a free taster session. There's no commitment involved; the session is a helpful way for you to see if judging is for you.

Why should I consider becoming a judge?

It's a great opportunity to volunteer and give back to the sport you love!

Becoming an Archery GB judge is an excellent way to take an active part in the archery community, whether you are still shooting, taking a break from shooting, or are no longer shooting.

Do I have to give up shooting to become a judge?

You can still compete as an archer and be a judge, just not at the same event. When you judge is up to you, as is how many competitions you volunteer at. Most judges participate at a minimum of 12 events a year, though it is possible to judge more often.

How do I book a judging taster session?

1. Contact a judge to see if you can attend a competition with them. If they agree, ask for contact details for the tournament organiser
2. Contact the tournament organiser to check they are happy for you to do the taster session with the judge at their event

Please try to contact a judge or tournament organiser one week prior to the competition. Your attendance should not be a surprise to the organiser nor should it become an expense.

After the event:

3. Fill in the AGB survey about your experience
4. If you are happy to be contacted, a judge liaison officer will get in touch with more information about becoming a judge

What happens during the taster session?

At a competition you will have the opportunity to follow a judge around for as long or a little as you wish to understand what it is like to be a judge. The judge supporting you will explain elements of judging. The experience should be engaging and is intended to help you decide if judging is something you would like to take up.

Please note, you should not interfere with the competition at any point - the taster session is your chance to observe and ask questions, not to be a judge for the day.

Judges – how to run a taster session

If a potential candidate approaches you at a shoot, please check with the organiser that they are happy for the individual to complete a taster session. Once you have permission from the tournament organiser, check the candidate is not acting as a responsible adult (if they are, see if there is anyone else who can take over these duties).

If you are approached outside of judging duties, pass them to a tournament organiser who can put them in touch with the chair of judges for the shoot.

Guidance for supporting a taster session

Explain who the judging team is and ask the individual if there is anyone on the field they would like to shadow.

Your role is to mentor the individual so they can see what the role involves, they are not there to act as a judge for the day.

DO NOT leave them on their own. This could make them feel left out and discourage them from going further.

Make the session interesting, chat to them and find out why they want to become a judge. Give them the chance to ask you or another member of the team any questions they have. If you cannot answer the questions, don't be afraid to tell them that nobody knows the rules inside out and "assist" them in finding the information. This could involve going and asking another member of the judging team or showing them how to find the information in the rule books.

Try and give them as varied an experience as you can. In the time allowed, rotate mentors if necessary and let them question and shadow other members of the judging team so they get a full view of judging.

Ideas on how to include them within the day:

- Make sure you find out what they drink and include them in the "drinks run"
- Let them assist with checking the range layout. Make it informative rather than a dry checklist, explain why the range needs to be set out a certain way
- Show them how to check the target faces and what is required to check them. Let them do one on their own if they feel up to it
- Ask them if they would like to give you a hand with equipment inspection. Talk about what you are looking for and how to use the bow scales/bowring
- Make sure they know what the sound signals are and ask them if they want to assist with pushing buttons/using the stop watch
- Let them watch you deal with arrow value corrections and then let them have a go. Check with the archers first

Before they leave the event, ask them if they have any questions and get feedback on their trial, please also send them to the Archery GB website to fill in the feedback survey.

<https://forms.gle/97usj3c8SScP9SGu7>

If they are undecided, ask if there is another event they wish to attend and trial (i.e., a different round, or a different discipline such as clout).

If they want to take it further, provide them with the Judge Liaison Officer's contact details or ask them to email judges@archerygb.org