

# Archery



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## **Introduction**

This is the second edition factsheet on the subject of archery within the Scout Association. It provides a technical support to Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association, Rule 43.2 Archery and reference to the rules of shooting.

Further revisions will be published in the light of experience and any changes in national guidance. Publication of future revisions will be notified in SCOUTING magazine, *Talking Points* and the Activities Newsletter.

## **General**

This factsheet will not give the reader automatic approval to lead or instruct archery, but is produced as an additional resource to ensure archery ranges are safe and that the activity itself is undertaken in a safe manner.

Archery is a potentially dangerous sport due to the speed at which an arrow travels and the silence of the shot. As a consequence, anyone who instructs archery must do so to the standards of the Community Sports Leadership Award of the Grand National Archery Society(GNAS). Archery must be undertaken according to the standards and controls of GNAS.

There is no reason why archery should not be taught as a sport within Scouting. Archery as a sport can provide the opportunity to improve skills and learn new ones. It can be the ideal sport for those who do not like to take part in team sports. Archery is an ideal sport/activity for individuals and groups where a variety of special needs are present.

Most Scout facilities are capable of being used for archery, whether indoors or outdoors. Some Scout campsites have purpose built archery ranges.

## **History**

The role of archery has changed over the centuries from one of the primary weapons of war through to the modern day where it is that of a sport and leisure pursuit. Folklore has played its part in keeping archery alive, with everybody having some knowledge of the pursuits of excellence and the man from Sherwood Forest!

## **Types of archery**

This factsheet covers Target Archery being the main form of archery undertaken by Scouts. Other forms of archery may be undertaken (Field, Clout, Flight, Golf etc.) however these activities must be practised using the full rules of the GNAS. Arrangements for these forms of archery must take into account the different safety issues raised. Scout archery involving shooting at animal targets (Field Archery using animal targets, Popinjay, Papingo etc.) are not permitted.

## **Getting Started**

The equipment required for undertaking archery is as follows:

- A target (boss), stand and target faces.
- Bows
- Arrows
- Arm bracers and finger tabs
- Sufficient space including the specified safety area (Back-cloth netting indoors and in restricted areas)
- Warning signs, rope or other cordon, line markers etc.
- First aid kit

All equipment should be regularly examined for defects.

## **Targets, stands and target faces**

The target faces are placed on a 4 ft diameter coil of straw or a purpose built ether foam block known as a BOSS. This is placed on or against, a wooden stand leaning back at an angle of 15°.

Whenever possible, especially when outdoors, the boss should be secured by guys (or similar) so that it does not fall over. The layered ether foam bosses are lighter and more durable if left outside in all weathers. Bosses do not come with target faces, these are available separately in a range of different styles. Humanoid or animal target faces may not be used.

For "Have-a-go" type ranges the lower edge of the boss must rest on or be no more than 15cm (6 inches) above the ground. For approved Tournament Layouts the centre of the target face should be 1.3m from the ground.

### **Bows**

These come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The most common bow for Scout use is the fibreglass training bows whose design is similar to the old-fashioned wooden long bows. All bows come in a variety of lengths and require differing strengths to pull back - this is known as the draw weight. Bows are available with draw weights suitable for the smallest Beaver Scout.

Other common varieties of bow include recurve and compound. Compound bows have an offset wheel (cam) at each end, which reduces the draw weight and increases the power, when the bow is fully drawn. Recurve bows are similar to the fibre glass bows but are in three parts (known as a take-down bow).

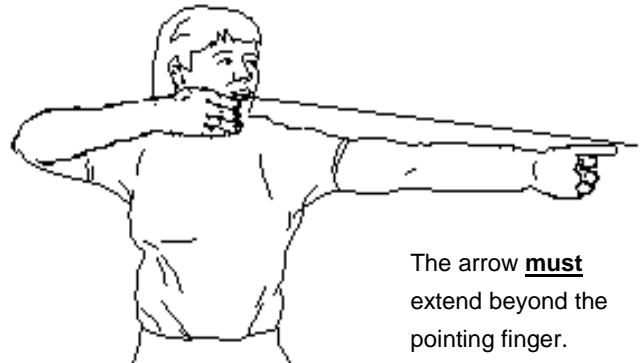
Bows must be stored and cared for appropriately and must be checked before use. Particular attention should be taken that glass fibre limbs are not cracked, strings are not frayed, that the servings and nocking points are in appropriate places and in good condition.

Bows and arrows should be stored separately.

### **Arrows**

The length of the arrow will depend on the draw length of the person shooting. To test for correct arrow length, the person shooting should raise out to their side, the arm that is going to hold the bow, pointing their index finger. The arrow is then held along the line of the arm with the back end level with the corner of the person's mouth. The arrow tip must extend beyond the end of the pointing finger. If the arrow does not extend beyond the finger, a longer arrow **must** be selected. If none is available the person **must not** be allowed shoot.

### **Checking Arrow Length**



The arrow **must** extend beyond the pointing finger.

Very serious accidents can occur with the use of arrows that are too short. This possibility can be avoided if **all** arrows are purposely too long. All instructors must know the **Overdraw Recovery Method**.

Do not use arrows that are bent or kinked. Loose or damaged fletchings, piles or nocks should be replaced before the arrow is used. It is recommended that alloy tube arrows are used as wood, carbon and glass fibre arrows are not suitable for beginners' archery.

### **Sufficient Space and marked off area**

There are 4 approved layouts for Scout target archery ranges. Diagrams of each layout are attached to this factsheet. All ranges require an overshoot area, a Target Line and a Shooting Line. The relative positions of these areas and lines depends upon the type of range and the distance being shot. In all types of ranges there must be a Waiting Line 5 yards behind the Shooting Line.

All ranges must be clearly marked with both a physical barrier preventing access (fence, hedge, wall, etc.) and warning signs. The recommended format for the signs is yellow background with black wording:

**WARNING!**  
**ARCHERY IN PROGRESS**  
**DANGER**  
**DO NOT PROCEED**  
**BEYOND THIS POINT**

**Figure 1- Have-A-Go ranges (outside)**

The maximum distance from the Shooting Line to the targets is 10 yards. The lowest edge of the bosses (targets) must rest on or be within 15cm (6 inches) of the ground. Stop nets (see indoor ranges below), must be positioned behind the targets with either a minimum over-shoot area of 100 yards beyond that stop or a 5 yard high wall or similar. The over-shoot area must not contain any ground which cannot be clearly seen from the shooting line ("dead ground") and must be checked before and during use. Only training bows with a maximum draw weight of 20lbs may be used on Have-A-Go ranges.

**Figures 2/3- Rectangular and Trapezoid (funnel) ranges (outside)**

The range length must be the distance from the Shooting Line to the Target Line plus 50 yards with an overall minimum distance of 110 yards (150 yards for Compound bows). In practice this means that for most Scout shooting (i.e. shooting distances less than 60 yards with training or take-down bows) the total range length must be at least 110 yards.

**Figure 4 - Indoor ranges**

Back stop netting is essential for indoor ranges. Consideration must also be given to the need for side and roof netting. It must not be possible for anyone to get behind the netting whilst shooting is in progress. Specialist netting made of un-knotted mesh can be purchased. This must be 3 yards high and hung from a steel cable headline. The nets should be hung loosely 2-3 yards behind the targets with the bottom touching the floor. Nets should never be hung taut but be gathered loosely. When measuring netting at least 50% extra is required to allow sufficient gathering. Netting must not inhibit the use of emergency exits.

It is important that indoor ranges have sufficient space behind the waiting line. Always sacrifice range length rather than the waiting area. Seating is particularly useful in controlling people waiting to shoot.

**Safety**

Archery must always be properly organised, with a competent person in charge (the Field Captain). The following rules must be strictly observed.

- Loose clothing, or anything on the clothing that might catch the bow string should not be worn or should be held back by a bracer and/or chest guard. Long hair should be tied back and

neckerchiefs removed. Long, dangling or intrusive earrings should also be removed.

- Participants must stay behind the Waiting Line until asked to come forward to the Shooting Line. Nothing should be touched until told to do so.
- A bow (even without an arrow on the string) must only be drawn when standing with one foot either side of the Shooting Line, once permission has been given and only then in the direction of the target. Bows should not be "dry shot" i.e. without an arrow, as this damages the bow.
- All participants must know to stop ALL archery when anyone calls 'FAST', or several short blasts from a whistle are heard. In particular participants must be able to "come down" (relax the bowstring tension without letting go of the string and losing the arrow).
- If a person or animal moves towards, or crosses, the shooting area whilst shooting is in progress, all shooting MUST stop.
- An arrow must never be shot upwards into the air.
- No person is to move forward in front of the shooting line until everyone has finished shooting and permission is given by the instructor (Field Captain).
- No one should run to the target (or anywhere else in the archery area). Participants must walk to the side of the targets watching the ground for arrows that have fallen short. Arrows should be removed from the ground before removing those in the target. Nobody should stand behind anyone drawing arrows from the target.
- Misbehaviour cannot be tolerated and people who act in a potentially dangerous manner must be told to leave the activity.
- Spectators must stay at least 5 yards behind the Waiting Line and never go to the target(s) without the permission of the instructor (Field Captain).

**Instruction**

Archery must be instructed to the standards of the Community Sports Leadership Award of the Grand National Archery Society. (The instructor does not need to hold a current GNAS Community

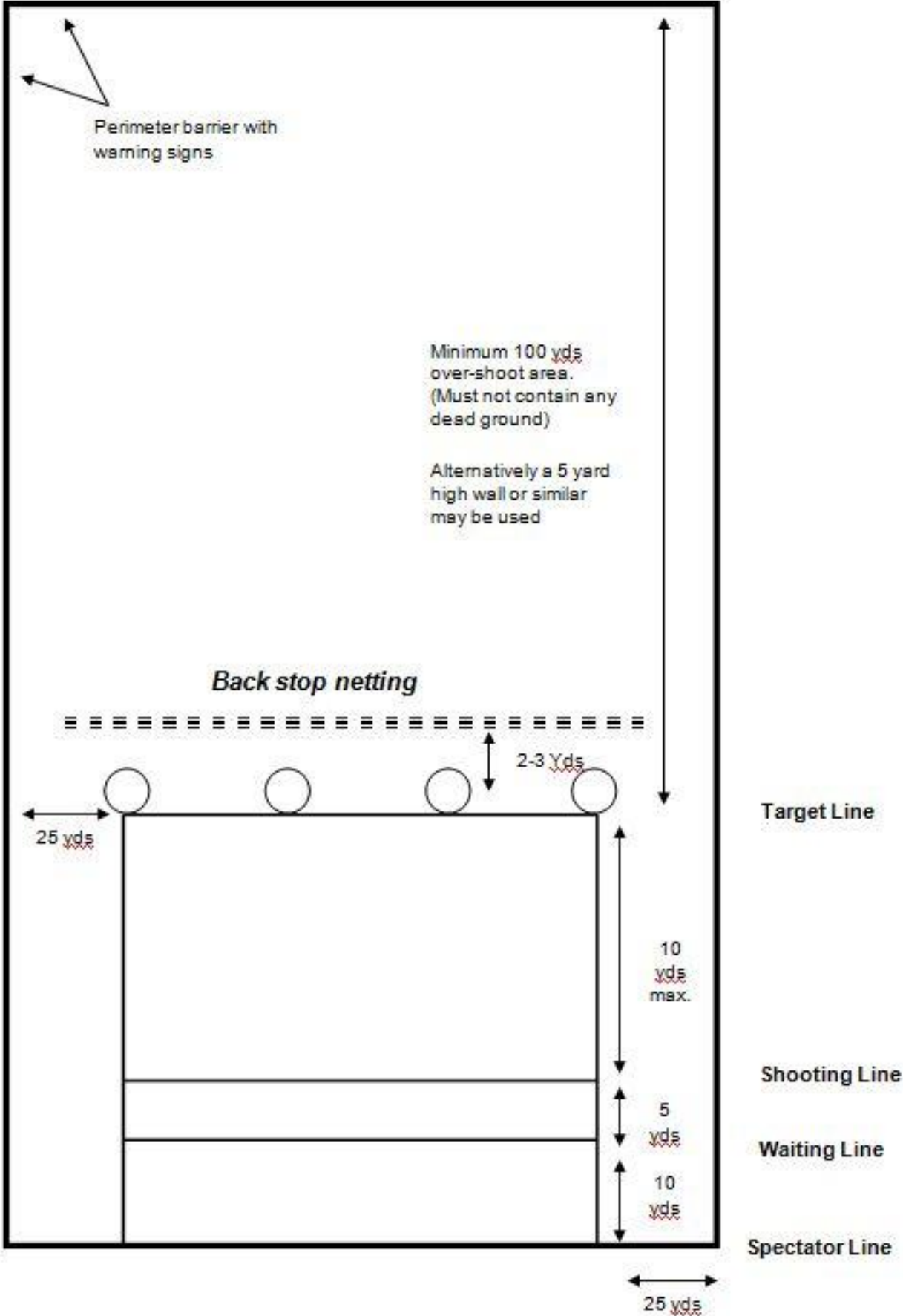
Sports Leader award but must operate the range and the instruction to the standards of that award.) The instructor is responsible for ensuring that the activity happens safely and that the equipment and range are safe for both the shooters and other people.

***Publications Cross Reference:***

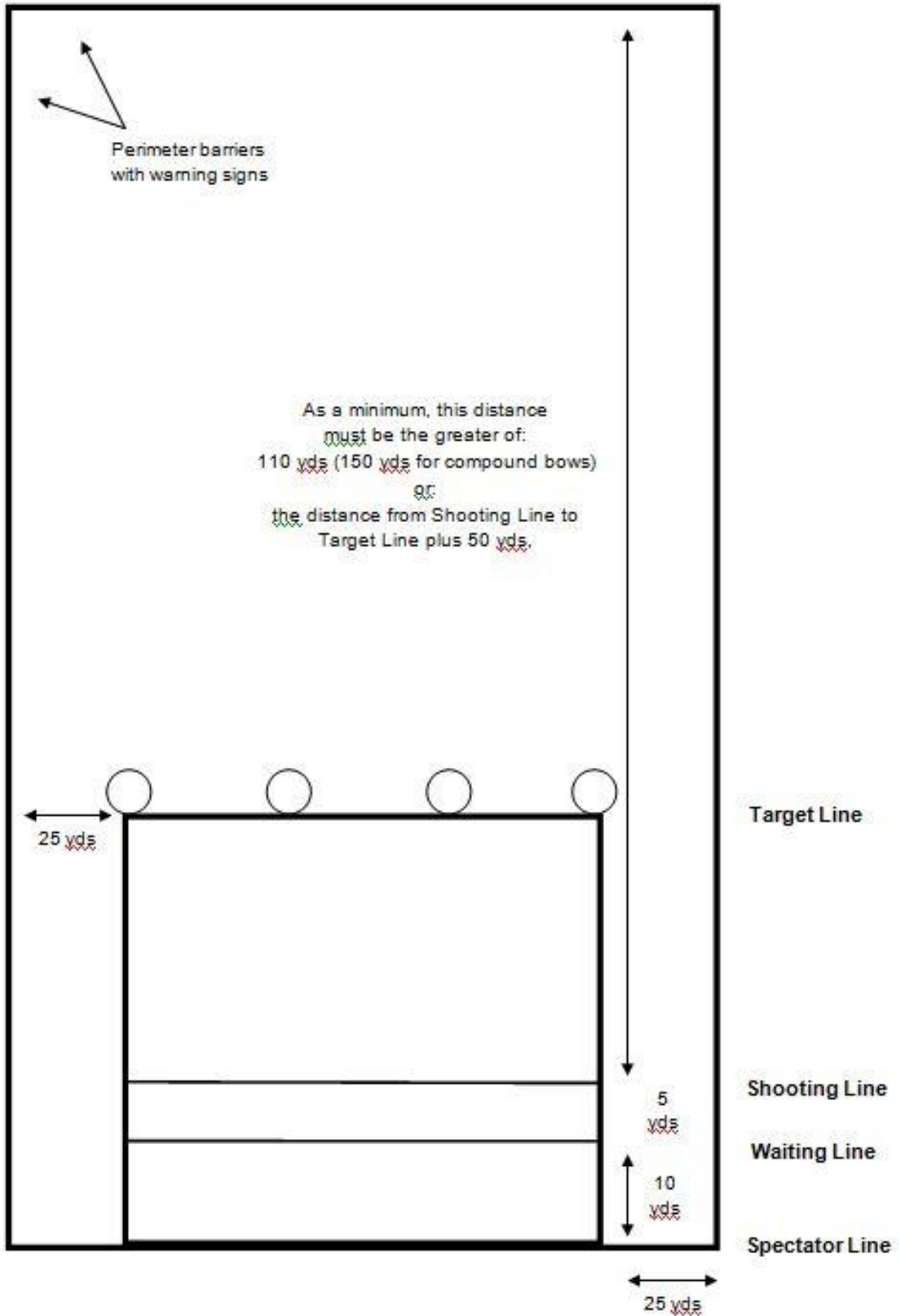
**Current Edition of:**

Archery Specific Community Sports Leader Award -Leaders Manual. (The Grand National Archery Society)

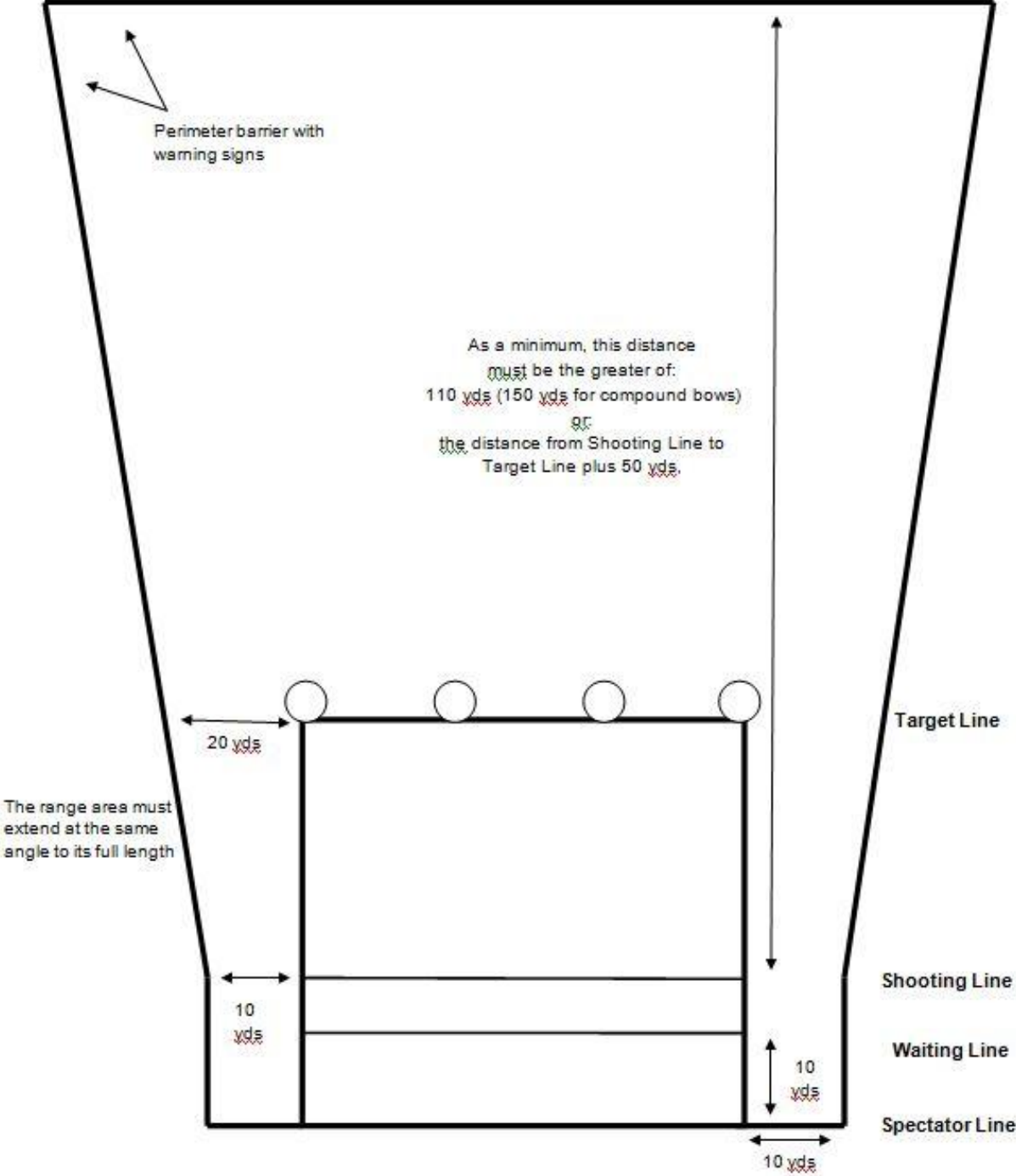
Figure 1 - Have-A-Go ranges (outside)  
(Not to Scale)



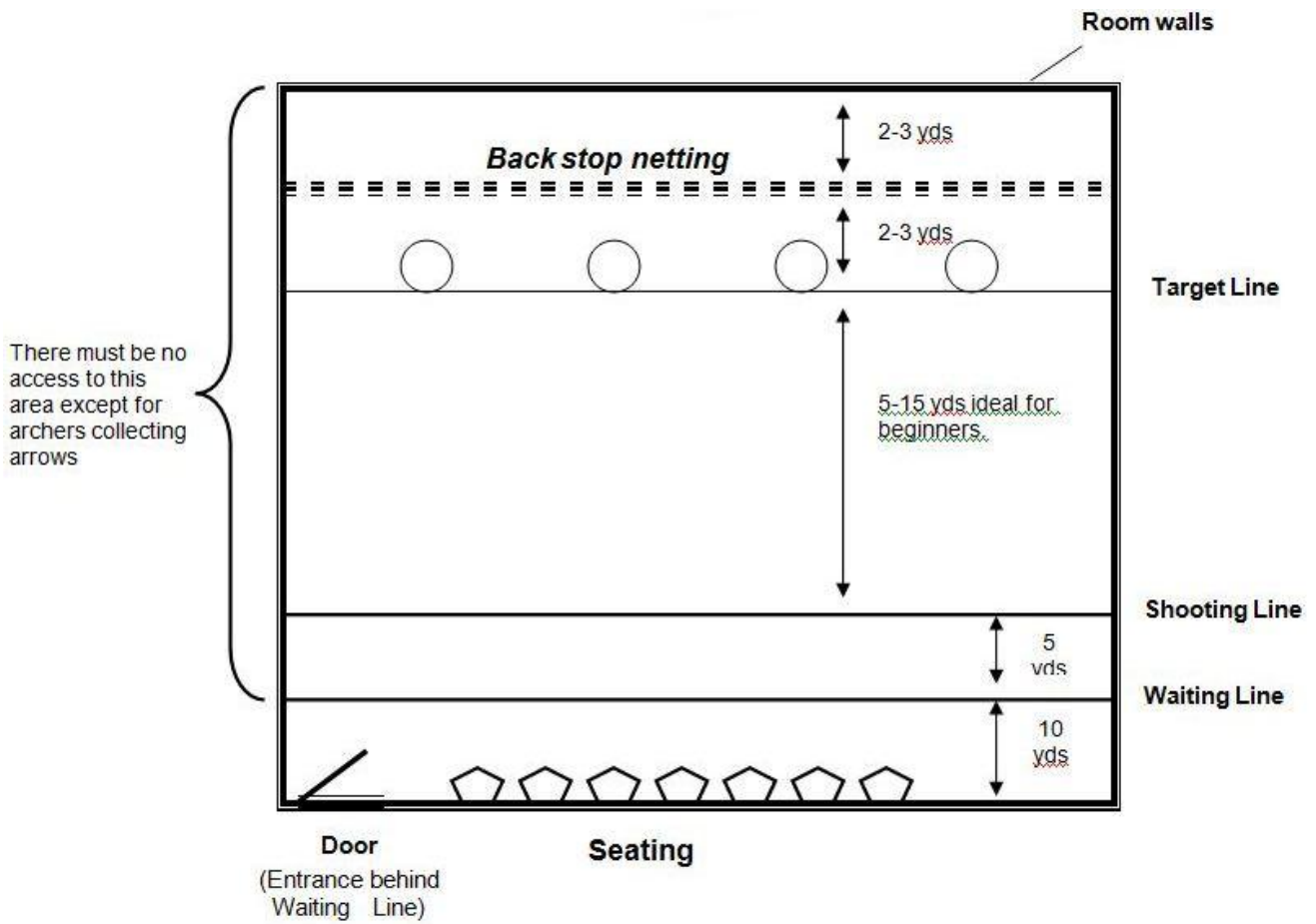
**Figure 2 - Rectangular Layout  
(Not to Scale)**



**Figure 3 - Trapezoidal (Funnel) Layout  
(Not to Scale)**



**Figure 4 – Indoor Layout  
(Not to Scale)**



Consideration should be given to the need for side and roof netting.

Warning signs must be placed outside all doors and Fire Exits