



SOUTHERN COUNTIES ARCHERY SOCIETY



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BECOMING AN ARCHERY JUDGE

Firstly thank you for your enquiry about becoming an Archery Judge, this document is designed to answer some of your questions and to give you some more information about becoming an Archery Judge.

Enclosed are some documents which may be helpful and answer some of your questions

- GNAS Form J00 – Application Form to become a Candidate Judge
- GNAS Form J10 – Outline of the GNAS Judging Scheme
- Mentor Guidelines
- Candidate Pack Information

The role of a Judge is a varied job, but mainly it is to ensure that tournaments are carried out fairly and safely and that everyone involved has a good time. This involves checking the tournament field is laid out correctly; liaising with the organiser and Work Party to ensure everything is correct; helping the archer if they make a mistake and helping the archer avoid making mistakes; and generally being available to help where needed. The role of a Judge has moved away from the days where we were the 'policeman' of the archery field, our role is now more to work with the archers and organiser to help facilitate a safe, fair and enjoyable day for all.

It can sound a little daunting, but being a Judge can be very enjoyable. You get to see a different side to the sport, and to give something back to the sport. It also allows you to experience archery on lots of different levels, from seeing a beginner shoot their first tournament, to watching a World Record being set; in fact some of our Judges are qualified FITA Judges, meaning they have officiated all round the world, including the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics.

Training

Most of the training is done 'on the field' in the company of an experienced Judge who can teach you the ropes; this is particularly the case with your first few shoots.

We operate a Mentor system within SCAS, which means you select a senior Judge you know and like as your mentor; don't worry if you are not sure who to choose, I can help find someone that will suit you. Your mentor will be able to help you find your first few shoots and teach you the basics as well as being on hand in the future to answer any questions.

As well as your mentor the SCAS Judges Committee is always available to answer any questions or deal with any problems you might encounter. We also send out regular bulletins to keep you up to date with Rule Changes and what is happening in SCAS Judging and judging round the country.

There is also a Training Presentation which you will be sent, this contains most of the basic information and is hopefully in a format that is easier to read than the Rule Books.

To help with the training there are also a couple of forms – the J5 and the Additional J5, these help keep track of your progress through Judging and highlight where you are doing well or areas where you need a bit more experience. The completed documents from previous shoots should be presented to the senior Judge at the start of a tournament and will then be handed back completed at the end of the tournament. It is usual for a discussion of the contents to take place to assess your performance and development.

There is also an annual SCAS Judges Conference which is run in January each year. This is free of charge, apart from your lunch, and in the morning there is a training session on changes in rules and an open forum for questions. In the afternoon it is the Judges AGM. This is a great opportunity to meet other SCAS Judges and catch up with others you may not have seen for a while. Occasionally (depending on level of interest) we run day courses to take you through the basics of Judging, but we will let you know when these are happening.

Attending Shoots

As well as your mentor helping you find shoots, you will also need to find some shoots of your own. A good idea is to ask to attend your club shoots, or other local shoots. When you find a shoot that you would like to attend as a Judge, ask the Organiser and senior Judge if they are happy for you to come along. Most Judges are happy to encourage anyone who is prepared to give the time and effort to learn; and tournament organisers will be prepared to offer assistance in obtaining experience at tournaments. It is important to work with as many different Judges as possible to obtain an idea of how other Judges work; this will help you develop your own style of Judging whilst giving you plenty of experience.

Judges are expected to arrive at a shoot one hour before assembly / start of practice, but if you are unsure when to arrive, check with the senior Judge. It is important to make sure you are prepared for the tournament, read the rule book the night before and if you have any questions, ask someone. Don't worry you won't be expected to know everything straight away, in fact a lot of experienced judges carry notes on them when attending 'unusual shoots', such as the distances of all the Windsor rounds.

When you arrive, introduce yourself to the Organiser and the other Judges, and ask the senior Judge what they would like you to do and when they would like your J5s. Think of it like your first day in a new job, be ready to listen and learn, but don't be afraid to help out and ask questions.

Over time, as your experience and knowledge grows you will start to gain more responsibility, such as giving the instructions at assembly and during the shoot blowing the whistle if required, judging line-cutters if asked, and generally being helpful to anyone with a problem.

It is important Judges do not let themselves become distracted, for example by engaging in too deep a conversation with archers, and always be readily visible lest an archer requires help.

Judges should be offered travel expenses and are usually given lunch or free access to the refreshment facilities. Many settle for petrol costs and some donate their expenses back to the club but this depends on your personal circumstances. Unfortunately as a Candidate you will normally be

expected to pay your own way, it depends on the Organiser, many of whom will treat Candidates the same as a qualified Judge.

Uniform

The Judge's uniform has recently changed to a polo shirt and trousers, rather than the blazer and tie. Don't worry, you won't be expected to buy all the uniform to start with, at the beginning green or white smart trousers/skirt with a shirt/top will be fine. If you are not sure ask your mentor or another Judge what will be acceptable. You are expected to have purchased the uniform by the time you qualify as a County Judge.

Moving through the grades

There are many different Grades of Judging. The first one being a Candidate Judge, then County, Regional and finally the highest in the UK is National. There are also Continental Judge which is run by EMAU (the European Organisation), FITA Youth Judge, International Judge Candidate, International Judge and International Emeritus Judge which are run by FITA.

The details of all the different Grades and how to progress from one to another are all detailed in the J10 Document, however to become a County Judge you need to

- a) Have a good knowledge of GNAS Rules of Shooting and a basic knowledge of the FITA Rules.
- b) Have had experience in assisting higher qualified Judges for a minimum period of one year and a minimum of 12 Judging days at tournaments.
- c) Shoots attended must include 1 Indoor tournament and 1 Clout tournament (Indoor & Clout for Target Judge Only).
- d) Have attended at least one (1) County, Regional or National Judging Seminar/Conference.

The assessments within SCAS are conducted at a tournament and involve an on the field assessment as well as a written test, which is then talked through – so no need to worry if you are anxious about written tests.

Getting started

So if you would like to become a Candidate Judge the next steps are

- a) Complete the J00 form and get it signed by your County Association. This then needs to be sent to the Judge Liaison Officer. You will then be sent lots of information and a Candidate Judge bade and will then be an official Candidate Judge
- b) Decide who you would like to be your mentor, and ask them if they are willing to be your mentor. If you are not sure who should be your mentor, please ask me and I will help you.
- c) Decide if you would like to take advantage of the 'Candidate Pack', this pack contains everything you need equipment wise to get started, as well as the Rule Books and Guidebooks

I hope that all this will help to explain the role of a judge. Judging is an excellent way to fill a needful role, to remain in contact with and make numerous further friends in archery, as well as give something back. And I, the SCAS Judge's Committee and all the SCAS Judges will be here to help you along the way.

So if you have any questions or would like any further information, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me, or ask any Judge, they will be happy to speak to you.

Kind regards

Katy Lipscomb