

# TARGET SPORTS

## RELEVANT REGULATIONS AND RESOURCES

Ontario Regulations for purchase of ammunition.  
Municipal By-laws for discharge of firearms.

## GENERAL NOTES

### SAFETY FIRST:

Air guns and bows and arrows are projectile weapons and are inherently dangerous. The safety of everybody on or near the shooting range is the first priority. Strong discipline with standardized commands must be maintained on the shooting range to ensure that projectiles are aimed only at the targets, and that no one moves into the active line of fire.

### SHOOTING RANGE:

The shooting range is designed or intended for the safe discharge, on a regular and structured basis, of firearms or bows and arrows for target practice or competition. The range should be located with safety as the first consideration. It should face away from buildings, paths or other activity areas. There should be a well established safety zone behind the targets. A hillside backdrop is ideal. Preferably, the range should face north to prevent the sun's glare from interfering with seeing the targets and anyone straying behind them. Bushy areas behind targets should be cleared as much as possible for ease in finding arrows.

Camps should post signs or warnings and install physical barriers to restrict access to the shooting range. Clearly defined lines should mark the shooting area.

### EQUIPMENT:

Air guns are a type of firearm that uses compressed air or carbon dioxide to propel a projectile.  
BB guns are a type of air gun that propels spherical BB pellets.  
Air guns with a projectile velocity below 152 m/s (500 f/s) are not regulated under federal gun control laws or the Hazardous Products Act.  
Ontario requires the purchaser of air gun and BB gun ammunition to be 18 years of age or older.  
Municipalities regulate the discharge of firearms, including air guns.

All the equipment should be checked every day prior to use. Instructors should have the training, equipment and supplies to clean the air guns or do minor repairs on the bows and arrows.

## QUESTIONS

**TS1 Are the instructors experienced in these activities and the safety precautions required for them?**

**SAFETY RULES FOR AIR GUNS AND ARCHERY:**

All participants must understand clearly defined shooting commands.

All participants and spectators must stay behind the shooting line.

At any one time all shooters must use the same shooting line.

Keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction, specifically away from people.

Be sure of your target and of what is beyond it.

Wait for the command before starting to shoot.

Wait for the command "CLEAR" before walking, not running toward the targets.

**ADDITIONAL RULES FOR AIR GUNS:**

Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to aim and shoot.

Always keep your finger away from the trigger until ready to shoot.

**ADDITIONAL RULES FOR ARCHERY:**

Never shoot an arrow straight up into the air.

Never draw the bowstring back farther than the length of the arrow.

Never draw the bowstring back until ready to shoot.

To remove an arrow from the target, always stand to one side and ensure that no one is directly behind you.

**TS2 Are the safety rules posted, taught and enforced?**

**TS3 Is the shooting range located away from other camp activities?**

**TS4** Are precautions in place to prevent unwanted access to the shooting range?

**TS5** Are shooting lines clearly marked?

**TS6 Is all the equipment inspected for defects prior to use?**

**TS7 Is all equipment maintained in a safe condition?**

CAMPS WITH AN AIR GUN PROGRAM ANSWER QUESTIONS TS8 AND TS9.

**TS8 Are the guns and ammunition stored separately from each other in secure, locked locations?**

**TS9 Are safety glasses worn by all participants at all times?**

All participants and staff must wear eye protection.

Ear protection is not required but is beneficial.

CAMPS WITH AN ARCHERY PROGRAM ANSWER QUESTION TS10.

**TS10 Is the archery equipment stored in a locked location?**