

Archery Terminology for Target Archers #1

In archery once basic training is completed, archers will engage in what are colloquially referred to as “shoots”. These involve set numbers of arrows on any one occasion. A **shoot** is the name given to the full event shot on any occasion (the total arrows x the distances) at a club level. These occasions are scored and rated according to an internationally established system. The total number of arrows which make up a complete “shoot” can consist of different numbers, such as 60, 72, 90 or 144 arrows. Different **distances** are included in this total number of arrows, to test the archers skill. Different sized target faces are also incorporated into the mix to provide a further variation. The smaller a target face, the more difficult it is to hit any particular colour to score.

The arrows are shot in sets of six. This is known as an **end** of arrows. The individual distances are sometimes known as **rounds**.

These combinations of distances and numbers of arrows have been pre set by the International body of archery (World Archery) and are accepted across the world for competition standards. The details of these combinations are all written in the rulebook. This conformity enables direct comparison of archers’ skills both within and between countries. When an archer attends an event they know from the type of shoot nominated what distances and number of arrows they will be shooting.

Shoots are often given names to distinguish between them. They are usually named after towns or numbers of arrows. For example a **Sydney** is 120 arrows shot over four **distances**. – 30 arrows (5 ends) at 70 metres, 30 arrows (5 ends) at 60 metres, 30 arrows (5 ends) at 50 metres and 30 arrows (5 ends) at 40 metres. In this instance shot on a 122cm diameter face.

Some shoots have 3 **distances**. A small number of shoots have 2 distances. Distances can consist of 30 or 36 arrows, ie. 5 x ends per distance = 30 arrows or 6 x ends per distance = 36 arrows, whatever is required to make up the total number of arrows. For example, a shoot of 144 arrows is made up of 4 distances, of 36 arrows per distance (ie 6 ends per distance).

An interclub, inter state or inter country event is usually referred to as a **tournament**.

The different age groups of archers, eg cub, cadet, open etc is known as their **classification**. The gender and type of bow used also go to make up this classification. Each different classification shoots at different distances. Obviously a junior or cub archer is not expected to shoot at the same distance as an adult.

Each different shoot is rated by World Archery in a series of tables. So an archer’s total score can be looked up in those tables and given a **rating**. This enables comparison between different classifications.

Once a new archer attains a certain minimum rating, then they achieve **gradings**, similar to sports like martial arts. White, black, blue, red and yellow, followed by more elite levels.

Three ratings at or above the minimum level required for each specific grading, will progress an archer into that grading. Some higher level gradings require at least one score to be shot at a tournament.