

Teaching a Target Archery M.I.T

This is a short guide to help you teach MITs (Marshals in Training) to become Target Archery Marshals. The amount of training needed will differ from MIT to MIT depending on their previous experience. I would suggest at least 3 to 5 training sessions for an experienced archer and as many as required for someone starting out.

All Target Archery Marshals are officers of the SCA and shall maintain membership as required and must own a complete set of archery equipment but that is not a requirement for MITs. They can start their training and sort out equipment and SCA membership before they become a full marshal.

Remember, the Target Archery Marshal **MUST** be present for all activities. An MIT can only assist with the running of the line and inspections until they are made a marshal themselves.

The basic areas to cover are:

- Knowledge of the rules
- Range layout
- Equipment inspections
- Running the line
- Collecting and scoring
- Teaching beginners
- Reporting
- Submitting score sheets
- Testing

Knowledge of the rules

They should know the Society and Kingdom rules, both for target archery and thrown weapons. Remember Target Archery Marshals in Drachenwald are also Thrown Weapons Marshals; we don't have separate authorisations for them (some other kingdoms do).

As well as to the target archery and thrown weapons rules they should also know the rules for entry into the Drachenwald Company of Archers and the rules for the main shoots (Royal round, IKAC, Drachenwald round, and Portsmouth round).

The latest copy of the rules can always be found linked to from the kingdom website.

<http://www.drachenwald.sca.org/content/target-archery>

Make sure they are also aware of the current mundane legal requirements for archery for the country that they are in. For example, you need a gun licence to keep a crossbow in Ireland.

Range Layout

They should be able to set up an archery range by themselves but start with getting them to help you with the setup. Explain why it's laid out the way it is, about the safety zone and how it is affected by having a large wall or hill behind the target or even a dead space which you can't see into from the shooting line.

Equipment inspections

Again within the SCA we use a lot of different types of bows and arrows and they should be able to know if they are safe to use or not. Talk them through what you are looking for when you inspect equipment. Get them to repeat the inspection with you watching and ask them what they are looking for, as well as asking them about what they would do if they find problems such as a crack in bow or arrows, missing fletching, different length arrows, twisting of the bow limbs, string serving damaged/signs of wear, etc.

Running the Line

To start with, teach them the commands they need to know and have them assist on the far side of the line from you after you explain what you are looking out for. Once you are happy, have them give the commands and you assist them (remember that you are still the one in charge but let them do as much of the work as you feel safe for them to do).

Collecting and scoring

Remind them about the importance of watching out for arrows in the ground and having everyone stand well clear when pulling arrows. This is where a lot of MITs make mistakes because they get wrapped up on what is happening with the scores and start paying less attention to that archers around them so keep a close eye.

Get them to record scores for you as you call out the scores and then have them do both. Make sure they always record scores in order of highest scoring arrow to lowest and record each arrow's score and not just the end totals.

Teaching Beginner

Start by teaching them as if they were a beginner themselves so they can see what they need to do and then swap places. Ask them lots of questions, for example which side does the arrow go onto the bow for a left handed archer as well as for a right handed one, what about arrows with 4 fletching, what to do if my bow string is hitting my arm, etc.

The areas you should cover should include but are not limited to:

- The 'Hold' command
- Eye dominance
- Archery stance
- How to grip a bow
- Nocking an arrow
- How to grip the string
- Drawing the bow & anchor point
- Aiming
- Release & follow through
- Scoring your arrows
- Collecting your arrows

Reporting

All Marshals must report at least once a quarter. Talk them through how to do a report and who to report to (local captain of archers if you have one, if not to your regional archery marshal and send a copy to local seneschal (forms on kingdom website)).

Submitting Score sheets

Show them where to get the score sheets on the kingdom website and make sure they can fill them in OK. Also get them to send in some completed score sheets (marking them if they are just test ones or duplicates of ones already sent in). They should submit all score sheets in excel format and send to their regional target archery marshal.

Testing

At the end of their period of training when you think that they are ready to become a full marshal, an Authorizing Target Archery Marshal will test them. This test will involve detailed questions on the rules, practical demonstration of setting up and running a shoot and how to teach a beginner. Contact your regional or kingdom Archery Marshal to arrange the test.

When the Authorizing Target Archery Marshal warrants a Target Archery Marshal, a report must be submitted to the Captain General of Archers. The form for this is available from the Kingdom website under the Target Archery section. Please follow the instructions on the form.