PROPOSED/UPDATED - 2008
WEST KINGDOM COMBAT ARCHERY RULES

6.5 Missile Combatant Shield Standards

6.5.1 Missile combatants may carry a light buckler, up to 15 inches (38 cm) in diameter, or equivalent surface area, for warding off missiles.

6.5.2 Missile combatants may carry or place on the field a pavise for warding off missiles. Pavises shall be constructed of material equivalent or superior to ½ inch plywood and must be capable of being freestanding.

6.6 Missile Combatant Weapon Standards

6.6.1 Bows and Crossbows

a. Bows shall have a maximum draw weight of 30 pounds at 28 inches of draw length, as measured from the center of the bow riser. Bows that are rated at a lower pull or shorter draw are permitted if they do not exceed this maximum when tested. All bows, which are to be used in combat, will be inspected before being taken out onto the field.

Note: The Kingdom of the West does not allow bows that shoot golf tube arrows to exceed the maximum of 30 pounds at 28 inches of draw.

b. Crossbows shall have a maximum pull of 50 pounds at 12 inches of draw at the nut. Crossbows with a draw length of other than 12 inches may not have an inch-pound rating exceeding 600 inch-pounds. (Inch-pounds is the number determined by multiplying the length of "draw" in inches by the pounds of pull at the locked position on the string.) All crossbows, which are to be used in combat, should be inspected before being taken out onto the field.

Note: The Kingdom of the West does not allow crossbows that shoot golf tube bolts to exceed the 600 inch-pound rating.

c. Compound bows (bows with pulley mechanisms) are prohibited.

6.6.2 Missile Ammunition Shafts - Fiberglass Arrows/Bolts

a. Metal, hollow fiberglass shafts (fishing arrows) and wooden shafts are prohibited.

b. Solid pultruded fiberglass shafted arrows are permitted. Shafts should have a minimum diameter of 1/4 inch.

c. Before attaching a blunt, the front end of the shaft must be flat, not pointed. Metal points must be removed, leaving a clean, flat end. There shall be no metal anywhere on the arrow. The shaft shall be tipped with an acceptable blunt head (see section 6.6.3).

d. The maximum length of the shaft is 28 inches, measuring from the base of the blunt to the base of the string groove in the nock.

e. Shafts shall be wrapped with opaque electrical tape (linear or spiral wrap) from the fletching to at least ½ inch (12.7 mm) up onto the surface of the blunt. The tape should be strong enough so that if the shaft should break, it will still be held together.

f. All arrows shall be marked to indicate ownership with the owner's name. For inter-kingdom wars the name of the kingdom (West) shall be included as well to make it easier to locate the owner.

g. If an opponent's arrow lands in the quiver, all arrows in the quiver shall be considered broken and may not be used without removing them from the field and re-inspecting them.

6.6.3 Missile Ammunition – Blunts

a. All blunts must be securely taped to the shaft so that they cannot come off on impact or if the shaft is broken. A cable tie alone is not sufficient. All blunts must be secured by at least two strips of good quality electrical or fiber reinforced strapping tape that is a minimum of ½ inch (12.5 mm) wide. This strip shall run over the face of the blunt and down the sides, and onto the shaft for at least 1 inch (25.4 mm). It shall be secured to the shaft by another strip of tape that wraps around it as well as the base of the blunt and the shaft.

b. Blunts which are acceptable for combat are as follows:

(1) The "Thistle Missile", "Fitz-Rauf", "Baldar" and “UHMW” blunts are the only blunts allowed on shafted arrows and bolts.

Note: Fiberglass shafted crossbow bolts are not allowed to use "Thistle Missile" blunts.

(2) Where Thistle Missiles are used with ¼ inch fiberglass shafts for combat arrows, the portion of the shaft inside of the blunt must be built up to at least 1 1/32 inch (9 mm) to prevent punch-through. Electrical shrink tubing or other material bonded to the shaft must be used to increase the diameter of the shaft (i.e. not tape or padding).

(3) UHMW heads must be a minimum of 1 ¼ inch diameter and should be slightly beveled or rounded to remove sharp edges, but this must not significantly reduce the striking surface. The blunt must be a total length of 1 inch and must be drilled to a depth of ½ inch (12.5 mm) to accommodate the shaft, which must be both glued and taped securely to the blunt. The blunt shall have at least ½ inch (12.5 mm) of padding between the striking surface and any rigid material in the head. The padding should have progressive give and should hold up under repeated impact. Closed-cell foam and neoprene are recommended padding materials.

6.6.4 Missile Ammunition – Anti-Penetration Devices

a. All fiberglass shafted arrows are required to have an approved APD securely attached to the nock-end in such a manner as to prevent more than ½ inch of penetration into any SCA-legal helm.

b. Approved APD's (Anti-Penetration Devices):

(1) Foam Wedge APD (1 ½ inch diameter)
(2) Round rod UHMW APD (1 ¼ inch diameter)
(3) Octagonal UHMW APD (1 ¼ inch diameter)
(4) Fellwalker APD

c. Siloflex APDs -100, 160 and 200 psi APDs:

1. It must be made from either 100, 160 or 200 psi Siloflex tubing or equivalent as permitted by Society combat archery rules.
2. The minimum inner diameter of the APD must be 1".
3. You must then use one of the following designs: external or internal tab and/or routed channel.

a. External tab: This design has a 2" tab sticking out from the front, bottom of the APD. This APD and tab shall be made using one solid piece of Siloflex tubing. The minimum width of the tab is 3/8". The tab must be taped in a spiral wrap going

around it and the shaft. This spiral of tape shall cover the entire tab and extend at least a 1" in front of the tape to prevent slippage of the APD.

b. Internal tab: This is a tab cut at least .5" into the bottom edge of the APD. This tab should be a minimum of 3/8" and a maximum of .5" in width. This APD shall be taped in place, by overlapping the tab and the shaft several times.

c. Routed Channel: A channel is routed down the center bottom of the APD. The minimum depth of the channel is 1/16". The minimum width of the channel is a .25". These shall be glued securely prior to taping.

6.6.5 Missile Ammunition – Golf Tubes

a. Shafts shall be constructed using a commercial golf tube.

b. The nock end of the golf tube arrow shall be taped over with strapping, electrical, or duct tape to minimize damage to bowstrings and to keep dirt out of the shaft. Plastic tape on contact paper may be used as an outer covering for the shaft, if so desired.

c. The maximum length of the golf tube shaft is 28 inches, measuring from the base of the tip to the base of the string grove in the nock.

d. The overall weight of the arrow shall not exceed 10 ounces.

e. All golf tube arrows shall be marked to indicate ownership with the owner's name. For inter-kingdom wars the name of the kingdom (West) shall be included as well to make it easier to locate the owner.

Golf Tube Blunts:

Classic Baldar – Firmly seat a Baldar Blunt (not egg style, use either black, white or bone bases). The blunt must be securely attached using electrical or strapping tape.

Tennis Ball - Using a strong cord of 1/8" or less diameter, tie the tennis ball to the golf tube by crossing two pieces of cord through the golf tube underneath the reinforcing ring, and over the tennis ball. Be sure that the knots are located on the side of the tennis ball and not at the tip. Securely tape the tennis ball to the tube using strapping tape. Be sure that the cords are securely taped to the tennis ball to prevent slippage. These cords will prevent the tennis ball from being torn loose when the arrow strikes a hard surface. Tennis balls may be slit but such is not required.

6.6.7 Missile Ammunition – Siloflex arrows and bolts

a) SHAFTS: Shafts must be constructed of at least 1¼ inches in diameter 100 psi siloflex with an internal diameter of at least 1 inch. No yellow tape or markings shall be used on tubular ammunition. Maximum length is 28 measured from the base of the blunt to the nocking point.

b) NOCKS: All nocks must be cut such that no more the slot is no more than ½ inch deep and no part of the nock area may protrude more than ½ inch into a helm. Pinch nocks are no longer allowed. Siloflex needs no reinforcement (although you can do so with 100psi or 160 psi siloflex or wooden plugs if you choose) and ½ inch grooves can be cut directly into the tube.

c) FLETCHING: Fletching protruding no more than ½ inch and of soft material such as foam, leather, plastic vanes or duct tape is allowed and must be securely attached to the shaft and conform to any Society level requirements for the same.

d) APDs: APDs are not required on tubular arrows and bolts.

Siloflex Blunts:

a) Classic Baldar – Firmly seat a Baldar Blunt (not egg style, use either black, white or bone bases). The blunt must be securely attached using electrical or strapping tape.
b) Tennis Ball - Using a strong cord of 1/8" or less diameter, tie the tennis ball to the golf tube by crossing two pieces of cord through the golf tube underneath the reinforcing ring, and over the tennis ball. Be sure that the knots are located on the side of the tennis ball and not at the tip. Securely tape the tennis ball to the tube using strapping tape. Be sure that the cords are securely taped to the tennis ball to prevent slippage. These cords will prevent the tennis ball from being torn loose when the arrow strikes a hard surface. Tennis balls may be slit but such is not required.
    i. Rubber Stopper (Omarad) - White/off white Rubber stopper (size 6.5) with a minimum of a ¾ inch of closed cell foam that can compress at least ½ its length on top. Stopper must be secured with cord in the same manner as the tennis ball blunt. Foam must be securely taped with electrical or strapping tape.

6.6.8 Javelins and Darts and Throwing Axes

a. Shafts

(1) Shafts shall be constructed of 3/4 inch or 1 inch ID schedule 40 PVC pipe. Bamboo, wood, and metal shafts are prohibited.

(2) The shaft shall be wrapped with strapping or electrical tape (linear or spiral wrap). The shaft shall not be taped in such a way that it could be mistaken for a Marshal's staff (black and yellow spiral tape) or a melee weapon. Plastic tape or contact paper may be used as an outer covering for the shaft, if so desired.

(3) A window in the tape shall be made so that the SCH 40 stamp is clearly visible for inspection purposes.

(4) The tail end of the shaft must be covered to keep dirt out of the shaft.

(5) The shaft shall have a tail affixed to it that clearly distinguishes it from the head. Tails shall be either:

• Streamers - At least two cloth streamers of between 1 and 2 feet in length shall be used.
• Vanes - Vanes shall be made of soft flexible material, such as closed-cell foam or equivalent, with no points or corners. Semi-circular shapes are recommended. Vanes may not protrude more than 4 inches (10 cm) from the shaft.

(6) All javelins and darts shall be marked to indicate ownership with the owner's name. For inter-kingdom wars the name of the kingdom (West) shall be included as well to make it easier to locate the owner.

b. Striking Surfaces

(1) Tips shall be not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in cross-section, and shall provide at least 1½ inches (38 mm) of progressively resistant give under pressure without allowing contact with the shaft of the weapon by bottoming out or folding over. It shall not be possible to force the thrusting tip more than ½ inch (12.5 mm) into a legal melee combat face guard/visor.

(2) The striking surface must be flat and free of any sharp points or corners. Javelin and dart tips that meet the requirements above may be topped with a commercially available tennis ball cut in half (or equivalent) and securely attached. No other "Streamlining" is allowed.

c. Length

(1) The overall length of javelins (excluding streamers) shall be between 42 inches (107 cm) and 66 inches (168 cm).

(2) The overall length of darts (excluding streamers) shall be between 24 inches (61 cm) and 42 inches (107 cm).

d. Weight may be added in the shaft near the head, up to the weight limits below. The weight shall be of one piece, firmly attached by glue or tape to the inside of the shaft. No missile shall contain any material, such as beans, sand, etc., which could enter the eyes if the missile head came loose or shaft broke.

(1) The overall weight of a javelin shall not exceed 2 pounds.

(2) The overall weight of a dart shall not exceed 11/2 pounds.

Thrust and Throw

SEE NEW RULES FOR THRUST AND THROW WEAPONS

Throwing Axes

SEE NEW THROWING AXE RULES

6.6.9 Other Missile Weapons

a. New Missile Weapons

(1) Missile weapons of a new type or design not specifically permitted by these guidelines may be used for a specified event if approved by the Marshal in Charge, and the War Marshal and/or Earl Marshal. Such weapons may not be considered permanently accepted until they have been incorporated into the combat standards and published. All missile weapons being tested under this guideline shall be marked to indicate ownership.

(2) Missile weapons must not use the combustion of flammable materials, nor pressurized gases or liquids as a means of propulsion.

6.7 Gleaning and Inspection of Arrows and Bolts

a. Fiberglass shafted arrows and bolts MAY NOT BE GLEANED. Fiberglass shafted arrows and bolts, must be inspected before they are brought onto the battlefield. Once an arrow or bolt leaves an inspected quiver, shot or dropped, they must be taken off the battlefield and re-inspected before they can be shot again.

b. Golf tube and siloflex arrows and bolts Must be initially inspected before being taken on to the battlefield. However, they may be field inspected and gleaned from the battlefield and re-shot. Once the battle is over, they are to be taken off the battlefield and inspected.