DCAA Junior Selection

The criteria determining selection for County shoots

4 March 2024



Selection Criteria Rationale







The Junior Inter-Counties Shoot is the primary focus of Derbyshire County Archery Association's junior tournament selection policy. This shoot is generally held late in the year and Bristol rounds are generally shot - 12 dozen arrows over three separate distances, with the majority of arrows shot at the longest distance for the age group.

Selection for the County Team is not wholly to be based upon the objective of winning the Inter-Counties Trophy for the bow style in question. It is well understood that the younger age groups score best in Bristols, so a policy based wholly on that criterion would predominantly select U12 archers at the expense of older juniors who may be extremely talented archers within their age group cohort. The County Selection Officer prefers a policy that rewards archers of any age or gender who have achieved the most impressive mastery of their discipline in the outdoor season in which the tournament takes place.

Accordingly, this policy seeks to identify those Junior archers in the County who (in order of precedence):

- Have achieved the most impressive mastery of bowstyle among their peers;
- Have demonstrated a desire to achieve selection for County honours.
- ◆ Have demonstrated an ability to shoot 12 dozen rounds; and
- Might perform best under competition pressure

Selection Criteria

County selection will be awarded to those Junior archers who:

- Have the lowest handicap for their bowstyle among their peers;
- Have demonstrated a desire to achieve selection for County honours.
- Have demonstrated an ability to shoot 12 dozen rounds; and
- Might perform best under competition pressure

A form is attached for Juniors or their parents to report their scores to the Junior Selection Officer, allowing the selection criteria to be monitored.

Guidance Notes

Handicap criterion. This criterion references both AGB's Handicaps and the Classifications. For example, U.12 boys shooting barebow achieve 1st Class classification at 81 handicap and move to Junior Bowman at 75 handicap. On the face of it, an archer in an age group with a handicap of 76 will be preferred to one with a handicap of 80; but that archer may have entered the year with that handicap calculated on the prior year's performance, yet never have scored higher than a 85 handicap in the current year. His rival may by contrast have started the year with a handicap of 85 and reduced it to 80 in the season with a series of improving scores. Accordingly, the archer with the best handicap scores in the season will be preferred, even if his/her nominal handicap is higher than a rival's.

This criterion can be applied between archers of different age groups using classifications. For U.16 boys, the 1st class range is between handicaps 65 and 61. An U.16 archer regularly shooting to 63 handicap (half way up the range) is to be preferred to a U.12 archer regularly shooting to 83 handicap (1/3 up the range).

It follows that archers need to report their best handicap scores to the County Selection Officer regularly throughout the season - ideally monthly. The County

Selection Officer will reach out to club Records Officers quarterly to ask for the handicaps of the juniors on their books.

Demonstrated desire criterion. Selection for the County team is an honour conferred on the archer - one that can be noted on a curriculum vitae and which can positively affect the individual in other less obvious ways. An archer who works hard to achieve County selection is to be preferred to one who isn't sufficiently interested in the honour to engage with the selection process. Such an archer will make efforts to attend 12 dozen shoots where possible, and to report handicap scores to the County Selection Officer in a timely fashion. This will enable all junior archers within the County to see where they stand in selection rankings throughout the season, and to assess the work they need to achieve to obtain selection for the County team at the end of the season. A reporting form is given below.

12-dozen criterion. The Bristol round presents challenges due both to its distance requirements and its duration. Successful archers need to be able not only to sustain performance at the longest distance for the age group, but also to develop the endurance to score well with their final two dozen arrows at the shortest distance for the round. These last 24 arrows are often where the round is won or lost. Ideally, candidates for selection will work to attend 12 dozen shoots and demonstrate their abilities in these demanding rounds.

It is noted however that such rounds are infrequently shot at club target days and so archers may have limited opportunity to demonstrate their skill. Hence the placement of this criterion in 3rd place rather than first. However, there are several 12 dozen shoots staged during the season in Derbyshire and neighbouring counties - particularly the Junior National Outdoor Championship at Lilleshall - and so a willingness to go out of one's way test oneself in 12 dozen competitions will be a factor in demonstrating desire to achieve selection - the second place criterion.

It follows that archers need to report their best 12-dozen scores to the County Selection Officer regularly throughout the season - ideally monthly.

Competition pressure criterion. It is one thing to perform well at a Club target day, and quite another to achieve the same level of performance at a tournament. All other things being equal, the archer who can best demonstrate tournament performance will be preferred to one who under-performs in tournaments, or who cannot demonstrate tournament performance.

It follows that archers need to report their best tournament scores (of whatever round) to the County Selection Officer regularly throughout the season - ideally monthly.

Junior County Selection

Monthly Score Report Form

Junior Archer's Club:		
Archer's current handicap:		

Round Date	Round Shot	T or C *	Score	Round Handicap

^{*} Tournament (T) or Club (C)

Junior Archer Name:

Archer's handicap improvement this month:

Complete this form and send it to: DCAAjuniors@gmail.com