



Program Handbook

Junior Olympic Archery Development
Harrisburg Archery Club
2026-2027 Indoor Season

Focused on Recurve and Barebow

Ages 12 to 20

Beginner Session: Thursdays at 5:30 PM | Advanced Session: Thursdays at 6:45 PM

Registration Opens: September 1, 2026

First Session: October 1, 2026

Handbook Purpose

This handbook explains the expectations, safety rules, coaching philosophy, participation requirements, and season structure for Archer's Path JOAD families. It is intended for archers, parents and guardians, coaches, and volunteers.

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1. Welcome to Archer's Path JOAD

Welcome to the Archer's Path Junior Olympic Archery Development program. This program gives youth archers a structured, safe, and encouraging place to learn target archery, build strong shooting habits, and grow as athletes and people. JOAD stands for Junior Olympic Archery Development and is the youth development program of USA Archery.

Archer's Path JOAD is hosted through Harrisburg Archery Club and is focused on recurve and barebow archery. The program is designed for youth archers ages 12 through 20 who want to learn, train, and participate in the sport in a thoughtful and disciplined way. Some archers will come to the program with no prior experience. Others may already be competing. Both groups are welcome when they are ready to practice with patience, respect, and attention.

The purpose of this handbook is to give every family a clear understanding of how the program works. It explains schedules, safety rules, equipment expectations, attendance, coaching philosophy, achievement awards, tournaments, communication, and parent responsibilities. Families should read the handbook before the season begins and refer to it throughout the year.

Program Identity

At Archer's Path, archery is more than learning to hit the center. Every practice is an opportunity to develop awareness, discipline, patience, confidence, and respect. Scores matter, but they are not the only measure of progress.

2. Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

The mission of Archer's Path JOAD is to provide youth archers with a safe, structured, and supportive training environment where they can develop strong technical skills, healthy competitive habits, and a deeper relationship with practice.

Vision

Our vision is to build a community of young archers who approach archery with steadiness, curiosity, and respect. We want archers to leave each season with better form, stronger focus, greater confidence, and a clearer understanding of how consistent practice shapes both performance and character.

Core Values

- Safety first. Every decision on the range begins with the safety of the archers, coaches, families, and guests.
- Respect for self, others, equipment, and the range. Archery requires trust and shared attention.
- Process before outcome. The quality of the shot process is more important than the value of a single arrow.
- Patience and consistency. Improvement comes from repeated effort over time.
- Awareness. Archers learn to notice their body, breath, attention, habits, emotions, and choices during practice.
- Community. Each archer is responsible for helping create a positive team environment.
- Sportsmanship. Winning should never come at the expense of kindness, honesty, or integrity.

3. About JOAD and USA Archery

JOAD is the youth archery development program associated with USA Archery. JOAD clubs provide young archers with instruction, achievement opportunities, and pathways into local, state, regional, and national competition. JOAD is not only for elite athletes. It is also a structured way for new and developing archers to learn the sport correctly and safely.

USA Archery is the national governing body for Olympic archery in the United States. USA Archery establishes rules, supports clubs, sanctions tournaments, provides coach education, and administers youth and adult achievement programs. JOAD clubs operate locally but follow USA Archery guidance and safety expectations.

Archer's Path JOAD follows current USA Archery rules, SafeSport requirements, membership requirements, and tournament procedures when applicable. Because rules and membership policies can change, the current USA Archery rulebook, membership policies, and JOAD resources take precedence over any summary in this handbook.

Program Focus

Archer's Path JOAD is built around the disciplines of recurve and barebow archery. This intentional focus allows us to provide a consistent learning experience while developing sound technique, confidence, and long-term growth. Every archer's journey is unique. While compound archers are always welcome, we may recommend another coach or program when we believe it will provide the best opportunity for that archer to succeed.

4. Program Overview

Item	Program Detail
Program name	Archer's Path JOAD
Host location	Harrisburg Archery Club
Opening date	Thursday, October 1, 2026
Ages	12 to 20
Beginner session	5:30 PM
Advanced session	6:45 PM
Primary disciplines	Recurve and barebow
Season fee	\$150 per season
Required memberships	USA Archery membership and Harrisburg Archery Club membership
Loaner equipment	Limited loaner equipment for beginners during the first two months
Advanced equipment	Advanced archers must provide their own equipment

The program is organized into beginner and advanced sessions so that instruction can be matched to the archer's current level. Placement is based on safety, maturity, equipment control, experience, and readiness for independent practice. Coaches may move an archer between groups when it supports safety and development.

Beginner Session

The beginner session is for archers who are new to target archery or who need a foundation in safety, stance, posture, anchor, aiming, release, follow-through, scoring, and range etiquette. Beginner archers may use program loaner equipment for a limited time when properly fitted equipment is available.

Advanced Session

The advanced session is for archers who can safely manage their own equipment, follow range commands without reminders, shoot independently, score correctly, and work on specific training goals. Advanced archers are expected to have their own equipment and to arrive prepared for structured practice.

Seasons

Indoor Season (October–March)

The indoor season focuses on building strong fundamentals, refining shooting form, and developing consistency in a controlled environment. Practices emphasize technical skill development, equipment tuning, mental training, and preparation for indoor JOAD, USA Archery, and local tournaments.

Outdoor Season (April–August)

The outdoor season builds upon the skills developed indoors while introducing longer shooting distances, outdoor conditions, and competition-specific training. Archers learn to adapt to wind, weather, and varying distances while preparing for USA Archery outdoor events, state championships, and national-level competition.

September serves as a transition month between seasons. During this time, Archer's Path may offer equipment inspections, orientation sessions, introductory classes for new archers, and program registration before the indoor season begins in October.

5. Participation Requirements

Participation in Archer's Path JOAD requires more than registration. Each archer and family must support the safety, structure, and culture of the program.

- The archer must be between the ages of 12 and 20 during the program year.
- The archer must have an active USA Archery membership before participating in JOAD activities that require membership.
- The archer or family must maintain an active Harrisburg Archery Club membership.
- The season fee must be paid according to the registration deadline.
- A parent or guardian must complete all required registration, emergency contact, medical, release, and conduct forms.
- Archers must always follow all safety commands and program rules.
- Archers must bring required equipment or use approved loaner equipment only when assigned by a coach.
- Families must communicate absences, concerns, and equipment needs in a timely manner.

Membership Requirement

USA Archery membership and Harrisburg Archery Club membership are required for participation. Families are responsible for keeping these memberships current unless the program announces a specific administrative process for collecting or verifying membership information.

6. Season Schedule and Class Structure

The Archer's Path JOAD season begins on Thursday, October 1, 2026. Regular practice is scheduled on Thursday evenings unless otherwise announced. Schedule changes may occur because of club events, weather, holidays, tournaments, facility needs, or coach availability.

Session	Time	Typical Focus
Beginner	5:30 PM	Safety, form foundations, equipment use, short-distance shooting, basic scoring, confidence building
Advanced	6:45 PM	Technical refinement, scoring rounds, tournament preparation, mental process, goal-based training

Typical Practice Flow

1. Arrival and equipment setup
2. Announcements and safety review
3. Warm-up and mobility
4. Blank bale, drills, or coach-led instruction
5. Scoring, practice ends, or structured training round
6. Cool-down, equipment check, cleanup, and dismissal

Archers should arrive early enough to be ready at the scheduled start time. Being on time means the archer is present, signed in, equipment is assembled, and the archer is ready to listen when the session begins.

7. Registration, Fees, and Memberships

The season fee for Archer's Path JOAD is \$150 per archer per season. This fee supports program expenses such as targets, scorecards, awards, administrative costs, training materials, and limited shared equipment. Coaches and volunteers may serve in unpaid or volunteer roles unless otherwise disclosed.

What the Fee Does Not Usually Cover

- USA Archery individual membership
- Harrisburg Archery Club membership
- Personal equipment purchases
- Tournament registration fees unless specifically announced
- Travel, meals, lodging, or uniforms
- Replacement of damaged equipment caused by misuse

Refunds

Unless otherwise stated, families should assume that fees become non-refundable once the season begins because program capacity, planning, supplies, and staffing are based on registered archers.

Financial Assistance

If financial assistance becomes available, it will be communicated to families. Families with concerns about cost should contact the Program Director before the season begins so that options can be discussed privately and respectfully.

8. Attendance and Commitment

Archery improves through repetition. Consistent attendance helps archers build safe habits, retain technical instruction, and stay connected with the group. Families should make every reasonable effort to attend regularly and arrive on time.

Absences

If an archer will miss practice, the parent or archer should notify the program as soon as practical. Excused absences may include illness, school requirements, family obligations, religious observance, injury, or other significant conflicts. Repeated unexcused absences may result in loss of roster priority if the program has a waiting list.

Readiness to Practice

An archer may be asked to sit out, observe, or leave practice if they are too tired, upset, injured, distracted, or disruptive to participate safely. This is not punishment. It is a safety decision.

9. Safety

Safety is the first responsibility of every archer, parent, coach, and volunteer. Archery is safe when everyone follows commands and remains aware of the range. Safety rules apply during practice, tournaments, setup, cleanup, and any time equipment is handled.

Core Range Safety Rules

- Treat every bow and arrow with respect.
- Never point a bow or arrow at a person.
- Do not nock an arrow until instructed to shoot.
- Always keep arrows pointed downrange.
- Never draw a bow without an arrow unless specifically directed by a coach for a safe training drill.
- Never sky draw or draw in a way that could send an arrow over the target if released.
- Do not cross the shooting line until the range is declared clear.
- Stop immediately when given an emergency command or signal.
- Walk at all times.
- Report damaged equipment, pain, injury, unsafe behavior, or concern immediately.

Arrow Retrieval Safety

- Approach targets only after the clear signal is given.
- Look for arrows on the floor or ground before walking to the target.
- Stand to the side of the target while arrows are pulled.
- Never stand behind someone pulling arrows.
- Pull arrows carefully with one hand near the target and the other on the arrow shaft.
- Inspect arrows and nocks after each end. Do not shoot cracked arrows or damaged nocks.

Equipment Safety

- Use only equipment that fits the archer. Draw weight must be manageable and safe.
- Recurve bows must be strung and unstrung with a bow stringer.
- Do not modify program equipment without coach approval.
- Do not touch another archer's equipment without permission.
- Report loose screws, frayed strings, cracked limbs, damaged arrows, broken nocks, or malfunctioning rests immediately.

10. Range Commands and Shooting Procedures

Archer's Path JOAD may use whistles, verbal commands, lights, or a timer. Archers must learn the command system used at practice and at tournaments.

Signal	Meaning
Two whistle blasts or command to approach	Archers may move to the shooting line.
One whistle blast or start command	Archers may begin shooting.
Three whistle blasts or clear command	Shooting is complete. Archers may go forward to score and pull arrows.
Four or more whistle blasts / emergency stop	Stop immediately. Let down safely if at full draw. Do not shoot. Wait for instructions.

Shooting Procedure

7. Wait behind the waiting line until called.
8. Approach the line calmly with equipment under control.
9. Nock arrows only when shooting is permitted.
10. Shoot within the time allowed.
11. When finished, step back behind the line and wait quietly.
12. Do not distract other archers while they are shooting.
13. Score and pull arrows only after the clear signal.

11. Code of Conduct

Every archer represents Archer's Path, Harrisburg Archery Club, their family, and themselves. Archers are expected to act with maturity and respect.

- I will follow all safety rules and range commands.
- I will respect coaches, volunteers, parents, officials, and other archers.
- I will not bully, tease, threaten, or intentionally distract others.
- I will not touch another archer's equipment without permission.
- I will use respectful language.
- I will accept coaching with an open mind.
- I will take care of my equipment and the range.
- I will be honest in scoring.
- I will learn from mistakes without blaming others.
- I will support my teammates and practice good sportsmanship.

Consequences

Most concerns will be handled through coaching, reminders, and parent communication. Serious or repeated concerns may result in sitting out, parent meetings, removal from a practice, suspension from the program, or removal from the roster. Any unsafe act may result in immediate removal from the shooting line.

12. Parent and Guardian Guide

Parents and guardians are essential partners in youth archery. The most helpful parent is supportive, patient, and respectful of the coaching process. Archers perform best when the adults around them emphasize effort, learning, and enjoyment rather than pressure.

How Parents Can Help

- Make sure the archer arrives on time and prepared.
- Help track schedule changes and tournament deadlines.
- Encourage the archer after both good and difficult practices.
- Ask process-based questions such as, "What did you work on today?" rather than only asking about score.
- Volunteer when possible.
- Respect coach instructions and avoid giving conflicting technical advice.
- Communicate concerns privately and respectfully.

Parent Coaching

Parents should not coach from behind the line during practice or tournaments unless they are acting in an approved coaching role. Even well-intended advice can confuse an archer when it conflicts with the current coaching plan. Parents should allow coaches to guide technical development during program time.

Supervision

Parents or guardians are responsible for their child before and after practice. For younger or newer archers, parents may be asked to remain at the club. If a coach or program leader identifies a safety, behavior, medical, or emotional concern, a parent or guardian may be required to stay during practices.

13. Coaching Philosophy

The Archer's Path coaching philosophy is built around process, awareness, and steady development. Coaches teach archers to understand what they are doing, why they are doing it, and how to practice without becoming controlled by frustration, fear, or the desire for immediate results.

Process Before Score

Scores are useful information, but they are not the whole story. A high score with poor form may hide a problem. A lower score during a form change may be part of healthy development. Coaches will help archers learn how to evaluate the quality of the shot process instead of reacting only to arrow value.

Individual Development

Archers mature physically, mentally, and emotionally at different rates. Coaching decisions will consider the archer's size, strength, experience, learning style, confidence, and goals. Progress is not always linear. Periods of challenge are expected and can become some of the most valuable parts of training.

Mindfulness and Awareness

Archer's Path includes age-appropriate awareness practices. These may include noticing posture, breath, attention, tension, self-talk, emotion, and the urge to rush or force the shot. The goal is not to make the mind blank. The goal is to notice what is happening and return to the process with steadiness.

Coaching Consistency

Coaches will work to maintain a consistent language and approach. Archers and parents should avoid mixing multiple coaching systems without discussion. If an archer receives outside coaching, the family should communicate with the Program Director so the training plan remains clear and beneficial.

14. Equipment Policy and Recommendations

Equipment should support the archer's development, not get in the way of it. Proper fit is more important than brand, appearance, speed, or draw weight. New archers should not rush into expensive purchases before they understand their needs.

Loaner Equipment

Limited loaner equipment may be available to beginner archers for the first two months of the season. Loaner equipment is intended to help new archers begin safely while families determine whether the archer will continue and what equipment should be purchased. Availability is not guaranteed for every size or handedness.

All beginner archers must have their own properly fitted equipment by mid-season unless the Program Director grants an exception. Advanced archers must provide their own equipment from the start of the season. Program loaner equipment may not be removed from the facility without approval.

Care of Program Equipment

- Use only equipment assigned or approved by a coach.
- Return equipment to the proper storage location after practice.
- Report damage immediately.
- Do not mark, cut, adjust, or modify equipment without permission.
- Families may be responsible for repair or replacement costs if equipment is damaged through misuse or reckless behavior.

Buying Equipment

Families are strongly encouraged to speak with a coach before purchasing a bow, arrows, tab, rest, plunger, sight, stabilizer, quiver, or other equipment. Youth archers grow quickly, and poorly fitted equipment can create form problems or increase injury risk.

Equipment	Beginner Guidance
Bow	Light draw weight, correct handedness, safe length, and room to grow.
Arrows	Correct length and spine. Arrows must not be too short.
Finger tab	Proper size and comfortable fit. Barebow and recurve tabs may differ.
Arm guard	Required or strongly recommended, especially for new archers.
Quiver	Simple hip or field quiver is sufficient.
Bow stringer	Required for recurve archers who string their own bow.
Sight	Used for Olympic recurve, not used for barebow.
Stabilizer	Introduced only when the archer is ready and the bow style allows it.
Bow case or backpack	Equipment must be transported in a protective case or recurve backpack.

15. Achievement Awards and Archer Progress

JOAD achievement awards give archers a way to measure progress through established score levels. These awards can motivate archers and help families see improvement over time. Archer's Path will use the current USA Archery JOAD achievement system when offering official JOAD awards.

How Achievement Rounds Work

- Scores must be shot under tournament-like conditions.
- Scores are based on the required round, distance, target size, bow division, and current USA Archery achievement chart.
- Only approved scorecards and witnessed scores will be accepted.
- The archer must progress according to the current achievement rules.
- Official Olympian-level awards may require submission to USA Archery according to current procedures.

Beyond Score

Archer's Path also recognizes non-score milestones. Examples include learning range commands, completing the first scoring round, entering the first tournament, demonstrating leadership, helping newer archers, improving practice habits, or showing strong sportsmanship after a difficult day.

Progress Reminder

A good archer is not only someone who shoots high scores. A good archer is safe, honest, patient, coachable, respectful, and willing to keep practicing.

16. Tournaments and Competition

Tournaments are an important part of JOAD, but they are not the only purpose of the program. Some archers will compete often. Others may need more time before entering events. Coaches will encourage competition when it supports the archer's development.

Types of Events

- Club practice scoring rounds
- Local JOAD tournaments
- USA Archery indoor and outdoor events
- State and regional events
- National events for qualified and prepared archers
- Other formats such as NFAA or local indoor rounds when appropriate

Tournament Expectations

- Register by the deadline.
- Know your age class, bow division, and achievement level.
- Arrive early enough to check in and set up.
- Bring all required equipment and backup items.
- Follow the host club's rules.
- Score honestly and carefully.
- Ask a judge or official when there is a scoring question.
- Show sportsmanship regardless of score or placement.

Coach Attendance at Tournaments

A coach may not be present at every tournament or every shooting line. Archers should learn to check in, set up, score, and ask officials for help independently. Tournament readiness includes both shooting ability and personal responsibility.

17. Scoring Basics

Scoring is part of the archer's education. Each archer should learn to call arrows, record scores, total scorecards, mark arrow holes when required, and sign scorecards correctly.

General Scoring Principles

- An arrow touching a scoring line receives the higher value unless the specific event rules state otherwise.
- Arrows are called from highest to lowest value.
- Do not touch arrows or the target face until all arrows have been called.
- If a score is written incorrectly, correct it according to the event rules before arrows are pulled or before the scorecard is submitted.
- The archer is responsible for checking the scorecard before signing.
- A signed scorecard usually means the archer accepts the score as recorded.

Target Faces

Target size and scoring method depend on age class, bow division, distance, and event type. Recurve and barebow archers often use outer ten ring scoring. Compound events may use inner ten ring scoring depending on the division and rules. Because target and scoring rules may change, archers should confirm the rules for each event.

18. Dress Code and Team Appearance

Archers and coaches should present a clean, safe, athletic appearance during practice and tournaments. Tournament dress code requirements are governed by the current USA Archery rules or the rules of the host organization.

- Closed-toe shoes are required. Athletic shoes are recommended.
- Clothing must allow safe movement and must not interfere with the bowstring.
- Loose sleeves, dangling jewelry, and unsecured hair can create safety issues.
- Offensive language or images on clothing are not permitted.
- Team shirts may be required or requested for selected tournaments or team events.
- Families should check current USA Archery dress code before attending sanctioned events.

19. Communication and Weather

Clear communication helps the program run smoothly. Families are responsible for reading announcements and responding when needed.

Communication Methods

- Email announcements
- Text or group messaging system if adopted
- Website or online calendar
- Announcements at practice
- Direct communication with the Program Director or assigned coach

Weather and Cancellations

Practices may be cancelled or adjusted because of weather, facility closures, unsafe road conditions, emergency issues, or coach availability. Families should check the official communication channel before traveling when weather is uncertain. Tournaments are often held unless the host club cancels, so families must use their own judgment about travel safety.

20. Volunteers and Program Support

A strong JOAD program depends on family and volunteer support. Not every volunteer needs to coach. Many important jobs happen before, during, and after practice.

Role	Possible Responsibilities
Program Director	Overall program leadership, registration, communication, coordination with club and USA Archery.
Head Coach / Coaching Lead	Training plan, coach coordination, archer placement, technical direction.
Safety Lead	Range setup checks, emergency plan, incident documentation.
Equipment Lead	Loaner equipment checkout, maintenance, repairs, inventory.
Awards Lead	Score tracking, pin ordering, achievement records.
Tournament Coordinator	Tournament calendar, registrations, deadlines, event communication.
Parent Volunteers	Setup, cleanup, scorecards, target faces, event support, fundraising, hospitality.

Volunteers working directly with youth may be required to complete USA Archery, SafeSport, background check, or club requirements before serving in that role.

21. Health, Wellness, and Athlete Development

Youth archery should support long-term health. Coaches will encourage safe draw weights, proper warm-up, reasonable training volume, and communication about discomfort. Pain is not a normal requirement of archery.

Injury Prevention

- Use manageable draw weight.
- Warm up before shooting.
- Build arrow volume gradually.
- Tell a coach about pain, numbness, tingling, dizziness, or unusual fatigue.
- Take breaks when needed.
- Do not shoot damaged equipment.
- Do not continue shooting through pain to finish a score.

Mental and Emotional Development

Archery can bring frustration, comparison, excitement, disappointment, pride, and pressure. Coaches will help archers learn how to work with these experiences. The goal is not to eliminate emotion, but to learn how to return to the shot process with clarity and steadiness.

22. Discipline, Concerns, and Conflict Resolution

Concerns should be addressed early and respectfully. Most issues can be resolved through clear communication between the archer, parent, coach, and Program Director.

Raising a Concern

- Speak privately with the coach or Program Director rather than addressing the issue publicly during practice.
- Use specific examples and focus on the concern rather than personal criticism.
- Allow time for the program to investigate and respond.
- For safety concerns, notify a coach or leader immediately.

Behavior and Safety Response

Unsafe behavior may result in immediate removal from the shooting line. Repeated behavior concerns may require a parent meeting and written expectations for continued participation. The program reserves the right to remove an archer or volunteer whose behavior threatens safety, disrupts instruction, or undermines the program culture.

23. Roster Priority

Archer's Path JOAD strives to provide a positive, high-quality coaching experience for every participant. To maintain appropriate coach-to-archer ratios and ensure each athlete receives meaningful instruction, enrollment may be limited.

When the number of applicants exceeds available space, roster priority will be determined using the following guidelines:

1. **Returning Archer's Path JOAD athletes** who remain in good standing and register during the priority registration period.
2. **Current Harrisburg Archery Club members** who are new to the program.
3. **New applicants** in the order that completed registrations are received, provided all membership requirements have been met.

In addition to registration order, coaches may consider factors such as consistent attendance, positive sportsmanship, commitment to the program, and adherence to the Archer's Path Code of Conduct when determining continued participation from season to season.

Families who are not immediately offered a roster position will be placed on a waiting list and notified as openings become available.

Our goal is not simply to fill the roster, but to create an environment where every archer can learn, grow, and receive individual attention. Manageable class sizes allow our coaches to provide the instruction and mentorship that define the Archer's Path experience.

24. Frequently Asked Questions

What is JOAD?

JOAD stands for Junior Olympic Archery Development. It is USA Archery's youth development program and provides young archers with instruction, achievement awards, and competition opportunities.

Who can participate?

Archer's Path JOAD is for youth archers ages 12 to 20 who meet membership, safety, registration, and conduct requirements.

What bow styles are included?

The program is designed for recurve and barebow archers. Compound archers may be accepted when the program can support their needs. In some cases, we may recommend another program or coach that is better suited to the archer's equipment, goals, and long-term development.

When does the program meet?

The season begins Thursday, October 1, 2026. Beginner session begins at 5:30 PM and advanced session begins at 6:45 PM unless otherwise announced.

Do beginners need their own equipment?

Limited loaner equipment is available for beginners during the first two months when properly fitted equipment is available. Beginners must have their own equipment by mid-season unless an exception is approved.

Do advanced archers need their own equipment?

Yes. Advanced archers must provide their own equipment.

Should we buy equipment before the first practice?

New families should speak with a coach before purchasing equipment. Fit and draw weight are more important than brand or price.

Can parents watch practice?

Parents may observe from designated areas but should not distract archers or coach from behind the line.

Are tournaments required?

Tournaments are encouraged when the archer is ready, but the program will help families choose appropriate events.

What should an archer bring to practice?

Bow equipment if owned, arrows, tab, arm guard, quiver, water, notebook if used, and a respectful attitude ready for practice.

What happens if my child misses practice?

Please notify the program. Repeated unexcused absences may affect roster priority.

25. Being Good Stewards

Harrisburg Archery Club has provided archers with a place to learn, practice, compete, and build friendships for generations. Our JOAD program exists because the club has chosen to invest in young archers and their future. Every member of Archer's Path JOAD, archers, parents, coaches, and volunteers, shares the responsibility of caring for the club and ensuring it remains a welcoming place for those who come after us.

Being a good steward means treating the club as more than just a place to shoot. It means recognizing that every target, building, trail, and piece of equipment has been purchased, maintained, or built through the time, effort, and generosity of volunteers. Respecting that investment means leaving the range better than we found it whenever possible.

Every practice begins and ends with teamwork. Archers are expected to help set up targets, move equipment safely, and assist with cleanup when practice concludes. Parents are encouraged to volunteer whenever possible, whether helping organize equipment, assisting with events, or supporting club workdays. Many small contributions from many people create a strong community.

Respect for the facility is equally important. Trash should always be placed in the proper containers. Food and drinks should remain in designated areas. Equipment should be handled carefully and returned to its proper place after use. If something is damaged or appears unsafe, notify a coach or club official immediately rather than attempting a repair yourself.

The outdoor ranges, indoor range, clubhouse, and surrounding property should always be treated with care. Stay on designated paths when appropriate, respect posted rules, and never misuse targets, target butts, or range equipment. Remember that other members may be using the facilities before or after JOAD practice, and everyone deserves a clean, organized, and safe environment.

Harrisburg Archery Club is operated entirely by volunteers. Throughout the year the club hosts tournaments, workdays, maintenance projects, and community events. These activities help fund improvements, maintain the facilities, and support the club's mission. Archer's Path families are encouraged to volunteer at club events whenever they are able. Serving the club is one of the best ways to give back to the community that supports our program.

Finally, stewardship extends beyond the physical property. Every JOAD archer represents both Archer's Path and Harrisburg Archery Club. Showing courtesy, demonstrating good sportsmanship, welcoming new members, and treating others with kindness strengthens the reputation of both organizations. Our actions reflect not only on ourselves but on everyone who calls Harrisburg Archery Club home.

By caring for the facilities, supporting club activities, respecting fellow members, and giving back through service, we help ensure that Harrisburg Archery Club continues to thrive for future generations of archers. Stewardship is not simply a responsibility; it is one of the ways we honor the community that makes our journey possible.

Appendix A: Equipment Checklist

- Bow with correct setup
- Arrows of correct length and spine
- Finger tab
- Arm guard
- Quiver
- Bow stringer for recurve
- Nocking points or tied nocks inspected
- Arrow rest and plunger if used
- Sight if shooting Olympic recurve
- Stabilizer if used and appropriate
- Allen keys or basic tools if applicable
- Spare nocks
- Water bottle
- Notebook or training log

Appendix B: Tournament Checklist

- Confirm registration, time, location, division, age class, and target type.
- Pack bow, arrows, tab, arm guard, quiver, sight, stabilizer, stringer, tools, and spare parts.
- Mark arrows with initials if required.
- Bring USA Archery membership information if required.
- Wear appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes.
- Arrive early for check-in and equipment inspection.
- Listen to the Director of Shooting and judges.
- Check scorecards carefully before signing.
- Thank the host club, officials, volunteers, and target mates.

Appendix C: Archer Goal Sheet

Goal Area	My Goal	Target Date	Notes
Safety and range habits			
Form or technique			
Practice consistency			
Scoring milestone			
Tournament experience			
Mental process			
Equipment responsibility			
Sportsmanship or leadership			

Appendix D: Glossary

Term	Meaning
Anchor	The consistent place where the drawing hand contacts the face at full draw.
Barebow	A recurve bow style shot without a sight and with equipment limits defined by rules.
End	A set number of arrows shot before scoring, commonly three arrows indoors.
Follow-through	The continuation of the shot after release.
JOAD	Junior Olympic Archery Development.
Nock	The part of the arrow that clips onto the bowstring.
Plunger	A cushion button used on many recurve setups to tune arrow reaction.
Quiver	A holder for arrows.
Recurve	A bow style with limbs that curve away from the archer at the tips.
Scorecard	The official record of arrow values and totals.
Shooting line	The line from which archers shoot.
Waiting line	The line behind the shooting line where archers wait when not shooting.
USA Archery	The national governing body for Olympic archery in the United States.

Appendix E: Sources and References

This handbook was developed using the official USA Archery JOAD Handbook and other JOAD handbooks as structural examples. Families should refer to the current USA Archery website, USA Archery rulebook, SafeSport requirements, and Harrisburg Archery Club policies for current governing requirements.