



## SOUTHERN COUNTIES ARCHERY SOCIETY



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### **BECOMING AN ARCHERY JUDGE**

The role of a Judge is a varied job, but our main function it is to ensure that tournaments are carried out fairly and safely and that everyone involved has a good time. This includes checking the tournament field is laid out correctly; liaising with the organiser and Work Party to ensure everything is correct; helping the archers if they make a mistake or have a problem and helping the archers avoid making mistakes; and generally being available to help when needed. The role of a Judge has moved away from the days where we were the 'policeman' of the archery field, our role is now more to work with the archers and organiser to help everyone have a safe, fair and enjoyable day.

I know that sounds a little daunting, but being a Judge is very enjoyable. You get to see a different side to the sport, and it allows you to give something back to the sport. You also get to experience archery on lots of different levels, from seeing a beginner shoot their first tournament, to watching a World Record being set; in fact some of our Judges are qualified World Archery Judges, meaning they have officiated all round the world, including the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics.

You will be given all the support and help you want when you sign up as a Candidate Judge. We operate a mentor system, where a more senior Judge will work with you to help you get your first few shoots under your belt and be available to help and guide you. You will also receive support and training from all Judges in SCAS when at tournaments, and the SCAS Judges Committee is always available to answer questions if needed. We also send out regular communications with news, so you are never on your own, there is always someone there to help you.

Most of the training is done 'on the field', but we also provide lots of literature to try and help you, including a 'Training Presentation' which is hopefully easier to read than the Rule Books. There is also an annual conference (which is free of charge) where we discuss problems and Rule changes. But don't worry, no one will expect you to know it all from the start, there is nothing wrong with writing down notes or referring to the Rule Books. There is also a Candidate Seminar which you will need to attend which will cover everything you need to know as a Candidate.

You can Judge as many or as a few days as you want, there are no upper or lower limits, so you can easily combine Judging with shooting. The only limit is that you must be 18 before you can qualify as a County Judge, but apart from that Judging is open to everyone, being an archer is an advantage, but not a necessity. For younger Judges there is the opportunity to qualify as a World Archery Youth Judge or an Archery GB Youth Judge.

As with shooting, you will get cold, you will get wet, you will get sunburnt; but you will have a great time, get to meet lots of new people and learn a lot about archery. There will also be lots of tea, and if you are lucky, chocolate cake!!

If you are interested in becoming a Candidate Judge or would like to find out some more information, then please contact me and I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

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