



Beginner's Safety Course information regarding Beginner Junior Archers

- 17 years of age and under

- “Junior” refers to participants who are 17 years of age or younger. This is the term used by Archery GB – our governing body - and therefore Newhaven Archery Club.
- Newhaven Archery Club will take juniors from the age of 8 on the Beginner's Course. Younger archers will not be considered due to concerns about physical development and potential injury.
- The fee for junior archers is £60 each – juniors receive the same (if not, more) help during the course so normally do not receive a concession.
- If you wish to discuss a concession, these will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the club secretary who will raise the issue with the Newhaven Archery Club committee.
- Parents/guardians must be in attendance at all times with their juniors at the target site. Newhaven Archery Club cannot take any responsibility for junior archers.
- We strongly advise parents/guardians who choose not to take the course themselves to be actively involved in assisting your junior during the course. If your junior decides to pursue their interest in archery, you will be helping them set-up, maintain their own equipment and ensure their safety at the archery site.
- Newhaven Archery Club need to be careful not to “overbow” any archers, particularly with Junior archers who are still developing physically. “Overbow” is when an archer is unable to easily draw back the string to the correct position because the draw weight/poundage of the limbs is too much for them. However, a certain amount of draw weight/poundage is required on the bows so that the arrows can reach the targets. Therefore, there is a minimum draw weight of 12lbs (approx. six bags of sugar) on the junior bows. If you are unsure whether your junior is able to pull this weight, please contact us in advance – we may invite your junior to try a bow out before committing to a Beginner's course.
- Due to the availability of our coaches and volunteers, we run the sessions over 2 days which are approx. 6 hours long. A lot of this time is spent shooting and **all** the archers can start to tire towards the end of the day. Please ensure you bring plenty of drinks/snacks and a various assortment of suitable clothing. The whole course is completed outdoors, and we will go ahead rain or shine. Newhaven Archery Club understand that some juniors will tire quicker than seniors and short extra breaks can be included if needed. Please speak to the organiser, coaches, or target helper on the day.

Information for junior archers looking to join Newhaven Archery Club:

The information given below refers to Newhaven Archery Club only. Other archery clubs will have their own set-up, rules, and guidance. As the majority of archery clubs are run by volunteers, there are many differences between them in regard to expertise, shooting times, coaching sessions, resources and facilities etc.

- Regretfully, since October 2023, Newhaven Archery Club no longer supports a Junior Club. Due to dwindling numbers and lack of attendance it was felt that running a Junior Club was no longer sustainable. Newhaven Archery Club still run a coaching session once a month for any archers (adult and junior) who require assistance, and juniors are always welcome to attend all the calendared events.
- Once the Beginner's course has been completed, most new archers are left to their own devices (see Archery Etiquette). However, archery clubs at Worthing, Eastbourne, and Cuckfield all have successful junior clubs where young archers are coached, and it is worth asking other clubs if they provide coaching. By doing the Beginner's Safety Course at Newhaven Archery Club does not mean you are obligated to join the same club afterwards. The certificate gained from the course can be used at any archery club in the UK.
- Within the Archery GB "Rules of Shooting" document, junior members must be attended by TWO adults when shooting. At least one of these adults should be a parent/guardian and at least one needs to be an Archery GB member - this can be the same person. Juniors are not eligible to apply for a target equipment cupboard key at Newhaven Archery Club.
- When joining an archery club, all archers are expected to have their own archery equipment. Sometimes you can borrow/loan club equipment for a short period of time until you get more used to shooting and/or decide on a bow style, but the expectation is that you purchase and maintain your own equipment towards the end of the summer season. Newhaven Archery Club will be able to advise you on what equipment would be needed.
- It is up to the junior how much they would like to get involved in archery. If the junior archer wishes to participate in target archery competitions, then extra coaching can be arranged with Sussex County Archery Association and Martlets Guild of Archery through Newhaven Archery Club. There is no extra cost for this as payment is via the normal monthly fees.
- If you have any further questions regarding junior archery at Newhaven Archery Club, please get in touch with the Club Secretary at Newhaven_archery@yahoo.co.uk