



Handicaps and Handicap Competitions

The Archery GB Handicap Scheme “exists to measure an archer’s ability regardless of who they are and what they shoot..... Handicaps form the basis of the classification system and tables, but have a wide variety of uses beyond this such as comparing performance on different rounds”.

We all have a handicap once we have shot 3 recognised rounds and that handicap stays with us for the rest of the season or reduces if our scores improve during the season.

The handicap scale is from 1 to 150, the lower the number, the better you have been shooting.

There are just two handicap tables – one for all the indoor rounds and one for all the outdoor rounds. There are no separate tables for bow type, age group etc. Your handicap for a round shot is simply based on your score, so a recurve archer will typically have a better handicap (lower number) than a barebow archer who, in turn would have a better handicap than a longbow archer. Similarly, an average adult archer will have a better handicap than an average junior archer.

Example

New National	Long National	National	National 50	National 40	National 30	New Warwick	Long Warwick	Warwick	Warwick 50	Warwick 40	Warwick 30	Handicap
473	539	589	615	636	647	323	366	396	413	426	432	35
465	533	584	612	634	646	318	362	393	411	425	431	36
456	526	579	608	632	646	312	358	390	408	423	431	37
446	519	574	604	629	645	306	354	386	406	422	431	38
437	512	569	600	627	644	300	349	383	403	421	430	39
427	505	564	596	624	643	294	345	380	401	419	430	40
417	497	558	591	621	642	288	340	376	398	417	429	41
407	489	552	587	618	640	281	335	372	395	415	428	42
397	481	546	582	615	639	274	330	369	392	413	428	43
386	473	540	577	611	637	268	324	365	389	411	427	44
376	464	534	572	608	635	261	319	360	386	409	426	45
365	455	527	567	604	633	254	313	356	382	407	425	46
354	446	520	562	600	631	246	308	352	379	404	424	47
343	436	513	556	596	629	239	302	347	375	401	422	48
332	427	506	550	591	626	232	295	343	372	399	421	49
320	417	498	544	587	624	224	289	338	368	396	419	50
309	407	491	538	582	621	217	283	333	364	393	418	51
298	397	483	531	577	618	209	276	327	360	390	416	52
287	386	474	525	572	615	202	269	322	355	387	414	53
276	375	466	518	567	611	195	263	316	351	383	412	54
265	365	457	511	561	608	187	256	311	346	380	410	55
254	354	447	503	556	604	180	249	305	342	376	408	56
243	343	438	495	550	600	173	241	299	337	373	406	57
233	332	428	487	544	596	165	234	292	332	369	403	58
222	321	418	479	538	592	158	227	286	326	365	400	59
212	310	408	471	531	587	151	219	279	321	361	398	60
202	299	398	462	524	583	145	212	273	315	356	395	61
193	287	387	453	517	578	138	205	266	310	352	392	62
183	276	376	444	510	573	131	197	259	304	348	389	63
174	266	366	434	503	568	125	190	251	297	343	386	64

Above is a small sample of the Handicap table.

If, in the first 3 rounds of the season, you scored 400 on a National it would be a handicap of 61, 300 on a Warwick, it would be a handicap of 57 and 560 on a National 40, it would be 56. The average of those 3 is 58, so that would be your handicap after those 3 rounds.

If your next round was shot to a handicap of 54, your new running handicap would be the average of your current handicap and this latest round, so $(58+54)/2 = 56$. If instead you had a poor day and shot to a 60 handicap, your handicap would stay at 58 – it doesn't get worse in the season, only better.

Handicap Allowances

Alongside the handicap tables is another set of tables of **handicap allowances** – which are only used when making score adjustments in a handicap competition.

New National	Long National	National	National 50	National 40	National 30	New Warwick	Long Warwick	Warwick	Warwick 50	Warwick 40	Warwick 30	Handicap
1120	1023	942	896	853	816	1216	1151	1102	1072	1044	1021	50
1131	1033	949	902	858	819	1223	1157	1107	1076	1047	1022	51
1142	1043	957	909	863	822	1231	1164	1113	1080	1050	1024	52
1153	1054	966	915	868	825	1238	1171	1118	1085	1053	1026	53
1164	1065	974	922	873	829	1245	1177	1124	1089	1057	1028	54
1175	1075	983	929	879	832	1253	1184	1129	1094	1060	1030	55
1186	1086	993	937	884	836	1260	1191	1135	1098	1064	1032	56
1197	1097	1002	945	890	840	1267	1199	1141	1103	1067	1034	57
1207	1108	1012	953	896	844	1275	1206	1148	1108	1071	1037	58
1218	1119	1022	961	902	848	1282	1213	1154	1114	1075	1040	59
1228	1130	1032	969	909	853	1289	1221	1161	1119	1079	1042	60
1238	1141	1042	978	916	857	1295	1228	1167	1125	1084	1045	61
1247	1153	1053	987	923	862	1302	1235	1174	1130	1088	1048	62
1257	1164	1064	996	930	867	1309	1243	1181	1136	1092	1051	63
1266	1174	1074	1006	937	872	1315	1250	1189	1143	1097	1054	64

If the archer above who has a handicap of 56 was shooting say a National 50 round in a handicap competition, then they would get an allowance of 937 added to their score.

If they then shot to their handicap i.e. shot a score of 503, then their adjusted score would be 1440 – and so would everyone else in that competition if they all shot exactly to their own handicap.

Thus, the handicap system allows archers of different bow styles and experience to shoot against one another in a single competition – it's all about who shoots better than normal (or least worst than normal) on the day. It becomes a level playing field for all archers in the tournament.

Any questions please contact Paul – tournaments@wellscityarchers.com

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