

What is a 3D Archery Tournament?

Introduction

3D archery is the most popular form of recreational and tournament archery in SC. At a 3D archery event, archers shoot at 3 dimensional foam animal targets that are set to mimic real life hunting experiences. Target manufacturers, like Rinehart and Mckenzie, have a range of animal targets such as deer, hogs, bears, and much more.

Whether you want to shoot for practice or plan on competing, 3D is a great way to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family while honing your archery skills.

Remember, as you start shooting 3D events, HAVE FUN! If you just want to practice – Great! If you want to be serious and compete – Great! No need to even keep score if you don't want to. You will likely be charged a fee for shooting regardless of whether you want to compete just to cover the ongoing maintenance of the targets you will be shooting at. If you have never been to an event like 3D before, be sure to ask about range safety and etiquette.

Equipment Needed

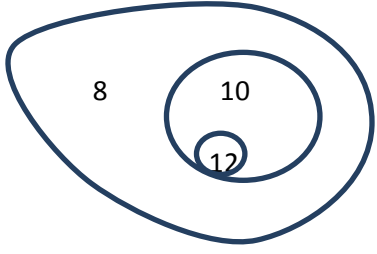
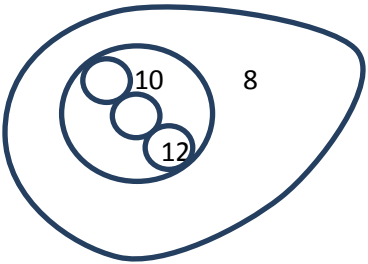
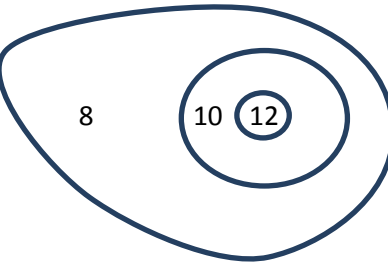
Shoot what you have! Any bow and arrows with field points are allowed. There are many classes offered in SC to meet your equipment style. We have traditional class for archers shooting recurves or longbows, bowhunter class for archers shooting their bowhunting rigs, and open classes for archers with long stabilizers and moveable sights with magnification. A set of binoculars is recommended to locate scoring rings.

Organization of 3D events

A 3D event includes 25 to 30 targets which will be arranged at the discretion of the host club. Targets are placed in varying situations and at varying angles but in all cases, the scoring area is visible to the shooter. You may end up shooting from elevated platforms or hillsides to simulate a downward shot or you may shoot uphill. Surroundings can vary from heavily wooded to open fields. The distance to the target must be judged by the shooter without any aids.

Scoring

Similar to what you would expect in a hunting situation, a "high score" shot would be in the vitals section of the animal you are shooting at. In SC, targets have 12-10-8-5-0 scoring. One arrow is shot at each target with a score being read where the arrow enters the foam target. The 12 ring may be in the center of the 10-ring or offset in the lower half of the 10-ring. See diagram below for clarification. When a target has a lower 12 it is often referred to as an ASA 12. ASA is one of the national competitive archery organizations.

Lower ASA 12	All scoring rings-score lower 12 unless otherwise noted	Center or IBO 12
		

Each target has its own set of scoring rings so it may be helpful to pick up a set of reference cards from Rinehart or Mackenzie. It is important to note that if the arrow even touches the next higher scoring ring it counts as the higher score. In most situations you will not be able to see the scoring rings from the shooting stakes so having a good set of binoculars or a reference card can be handy.

Occasionally a target may have an additional ring that scores a 14. This can be found within the 8 ring. Check with the hosting club prior to shooting to find out if the 14's are being used.

General Rules and Etiquette

Each organization has its own set of rules and equipment restrictions so be sure to know what you are in for when shooting a sanctioned event as a competitive shooter. There are far too many rules to list but in a general sense, here are some basic things to consider.

1. Safety is of primary concern so know what you are shooting at and what is behind it. Be sure any children with you stay behind the current shooter at all times.
2. Be courteous to other shooters by not talking while other members of your group are at the shooting stake.
3. Don't spend too much time at the stake glassing the target or guessing yardage. Most 3D organizations set time limits on how long you can be at the stake to ensure the event moves along well. You should not need more than 1 -2 minutes once in position to shoot.
4. Since these events are meant to involve all genders and ages, be cordial and do not use foul language.
5. Typically 2 separate people keep score and one calls the arrows. Cards are compared frequently to confirm that no mistakes were made in adding up the score.
6. For outdoor events, bring something to drink and snack on – the walk through courses can exceed 1 mile in length and take several hours.

7. If your group is moving slower than others, allow the groups behind you to “shoot through” to keep the event on track. If you are consistently being passed by groups of similar size, you are likely going too slow and should consider picking up the pace.

8. Group sizes are typically from 3 (min) to 5 or 6 (max) depending on the event. At large competitive events, you will not be permitted to shoot in a group which just includes your friends/family.

9. If you miss a target, don't spend too much time looking for the arrow as it will back up the entire event. Just like hunting, misses do occur and arrows will be lost.

10. Have Fun.....Don't think you need to shoot perfect....just enjoy yourself.

11. If the event is large, a shotgun start may be utilized where groups are assigned to a specific target then the group walks out to that target. At a set time, the event organizer will utilize some kind of signal to let shooters know they can begin. This would only be used to start the event – after the group shoots the target assigned to start at, the group would proceed to the next numbered shooting lane