

March 21, 2016

The Marshal in Charge shall establish a buffer zone around the fighting field **based on the field layout, scenario, equipment being used, and geography of the field area**. The following suggestions may help determine the size of a buffer zone when combat archery is present. If siege weapons are also present, there may be additional distance requirements in some directions.

Determine the straight-line flight distance and glancing ricochet distance of the combat archery ammunition. Consider these distances in deciding the width of the buffer zone.

- Use a crossbow or bow firing fiberglass shafted ammunition as the worst case scenario of flight distance.
- Fire a piece of shafted ammunition in a level shot. This measurement becomes the straight-line flight distance.
- A glancing ricochet shot can go about one third to one half the straight-line distance.

Keep in mind that the fighting scenario also plays an important part in determining buffer zone distances.

- A field battle will need the straight-line flight distance for the buffer zone around all edges.
- A fixed/stationary position battle may only need a straight line flight distance in one direction (or at both ends) and the glancing ricochet flight distance on the sides.
- If the archers are only firing in one direction, then the buffer zone behind them may be smaller than the ones to the front and sides.

Coordinate with the appropriate site personnel to keep spectators from certain areas.

- Day camps, shade, parking, and walkway areas should be considered.
- Areas may need to be taped/roped off. Staff to monitor open areas and direct people where to set up may be helpful.

Prior to the start of any fighting including combat archery, the marshals shall remind combat participants and spectators about the use of such missile weapons.

- Combatants leaving the field shall not remove their helmets or other armor until they are outside of the buffer zone.
- Marshals are required to wear appropriate safety glasses, etc.
- Despite this buffer zone, archers are responsible for their missiles and must avoid shooting towards unarmored people such as marshals and spectators.