



World Crossbow Shooting Association Inc.
secretarygeneral@worldcrossbow.com
www.worldcrossbow.com

Competition and Shooting Rules for World Championship. Regional Championship. Registered Star competition.

3D Round.

Book 9 of 11.

for

Target, Standard, Freestyle, and Medieval Crossbow

January 2026

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BOOK 9.

3D ROUND

(Interactive Index)

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44 THE RANGE

The 3D Round will be conducted in an outdoor forest or wooded area. The course will avoid where possible any man-made structures above ground level. Pistol crossbows are not permitted.

44.1 COURSE LAYOUT

- 44.1.1 World Crossbow Shooting Association - 3D courses will be laid out so that the shooting pegs and targets can be reached without undue difficulty, personal hazard, or waste of time. Targets will be laid out in such order as to provide a maximum variety and the best use of the available terrain.
- 44.1.2 WCSA sanctioned 3D Crossbow events will be conducted using 3D Animal Targets.
- 45.1.3 The World Crossbow Shooting Association - 3D Round will consist of twenty-four (24) targets set at UNMARKED distances from a minimum of five (5) metres up to a maximum of fifty (50) metres for Target, Standard and Freestyle Crossbows and five (5) metres up to thirty (30) metres for Medieval Crossbows. Refer BOOK 9 - Clause 44.5.6 for target groups and distances.
- 44.1.4 There will be one peg placed at each shooting distance from the target. Each competitor will shoot one bolt only, one competitor at a time.
- 44.1.5 All pegs must be numbered with the number of the corresponding target.
- 44.1.6 All distances will be measured in the air.
- 44.1.7 All targets will be numbered sequentially. The numbers will be no less than 20 cm tall and will be clearly visible and will be located within the approach to the pegs for the targets. They will also serve as a holding point for those competitors waiting to shoot. A corresponding number will be placed on or beside the target butt.
- 44.1.8 There cannot be any special marks on the buttress or foreground that could be classified as points of aim.
- 44.1.9 Clearly visible direction signs indicating the route from one target to the next target must be located at strategic intervals to ensure safe and easy communication along the course.
- 44.1.10 Suitable barriers and signs will be placed around the course, when and where necessary to keep spectators and non-competitors at a safe distance, without unnecessarily obstructing their view of the shooting.
- 44.1.11 Only those people with the appropriate accreditation will be allowed on the course. Team Managers and other Team Officials are not permitted on the course unless at the request of and escorted by a Judge.
- 44.1.12 Championship courses should be newly laid-out and un-shot.
- 44.1.13 Courses must be ready for inspection by the Judges' Commission no later than two (2) days before the competition shooting is due to commence.
- 44.1.14 Course laying
 - 44.1.14.1 Because WCSA 3D Round courses use natural terrain with trees and shrubs in the course layout, it is usually only the immediate vicinity which is in view. Therefore, maximum safety precautions must be taken, both in the layout and in the shooting.
 - 44.1.14.2 Consider the path to and from the shooting pegs and targets and clearly mark them. Ensure that possible lines of bolt flight will not endanger competitors.
 - 44.1.14.3 Where possible, do not allow any path or another shooting stand to be visible from any other shooting stand, even if it is considered out of range.
 - 44.1.14.4 Consider the spectators when positioning buttresses. Targets must not be placed where a stray bolt could endanger the public.
 - 44.1.14.5 Targets should never be placed on the brow of a hill, where the landing of overshoots cannot be determined.
 - 44.1.14.6 When laying out the course, ensure that safe flight path is available for both left and right-handed shooters, for light and heavy crossbows and for short and tall Arbalists.
 - 44.1.14.7 Course laying is an acquired skill. Organisers are advised to enlist the services of an experienced Field / 3D Archery course layer when setting out a course for the first time.

44.2 MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

The equipment outlined below is mandatory for WCSA Championships and is recommended for other important tournaments.

- 44.2.1 Registration numbers to be worn by each competitor.
- 44.2.2 Equipment such as Field Telephones, two-way radios and the like which are necessary for communication between officials.
- 44.2.3 A score board or some other such device with the competitor's name and/ or target number (e.g., 1A, 1B) to be used for displaying progressive total scores after each day.

44.3 SHOOTING CONTROL AND SAFETY

- 44.3.1 A competitor may not span or load a crossbow with a bolt, except when standing at the shooting peg.
- 44.3.2 While shooting is in progress only the competitor whose turn it is to shoot may be at the shooting peg. All other competitors will remain at the holding position (Target number) with their equipment.
- 44.3.3 After a competitor has shot his/her bolts, he/she will retire to the holding position (Target number) with his/her equipment.
- 44.3.4 No competitor or other person may touch the tackle of another without the owner/user's consent.
- 44.3.5 A competitor will not be disturbed or approached during shooting except in an emergency.
- 44.3.6 No competitor will approach a target or go forward of the shooting peg unless all the competitors in the group have finished shooting the required number of bolts for that target except in the case of an equipment failure. Refer clause 44.6.6.
- 44.3.7 To ensure the proper conduct of a tournament and in the interests of safety, the Judges may request a competitor to change his/her shooting position or join another target group. If the competitor considers the Judges' request to be unreasonable his/her appeal to the Jury of Appeal will be heard prior to any change in position.
- 44.3.8 Any remark or action made that may cause annoyance or confusion to a competitor or may detract from his/her concentration is un-sportsmanlike and is not allowed. The Judge(s) will first caution the offender, and if the offence is repeated, may direct him/her to withdraw from the event.
- 44.3.9 In the event of a competitor not being satisfied with a ruling given by the Judges, he or she may, except as provided for in BOOK 9 - Clause 44.3.10 below, appeal to the Jury of Appeal according to BOOK 2 - Clause 27. Trophies or prizes which may be affected by a dispute will not be awarded until the Jury ruling has been given.
- 44.3.10 Should a target become unreasonably worn or otherwise disfigured or should there be any other complaint about range equipment, a competitor or his/her Team Manager may appeal to the Judges to have the defective item replaced or remedied.

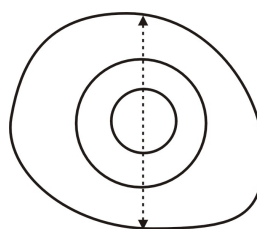
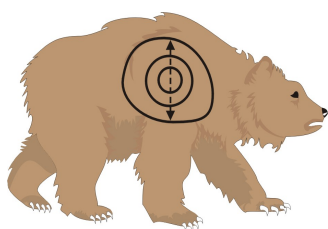
44.4 ORDER OF SHOOTING AND TIMING CONTROL

- 44.4.1 Competitors will shoot in groups of no more than four (4), but never less than three (3). Should the number of competitors exceed the course capacity, additional groups will be formed and placed on the course as convenient. Groups will be assigned by drawing competitor names from a container, provided that there are no more than two competitors from one country in the same group. The group and target assignment will be made by the Organising Committee.
- 44.4.2 Competitors will be allocated targets and shooting positions indicating the order of shooting in each group. Competitors will be designated 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, etc.
- 44.4.3 To give each competitor a chance to shoot at a clear target, each group will shoot in the order rotating as follows:
 - 44.4.3.1 For a four (4) competitor group 1st target A, B, C, D – 2nd target B, C, D, A – 3rd target C, D, A, B, - 4th target D, A, B, C and continue rotating for the remainder of the targets.
 - 44.4.3.2 For a three (3) competitor group A, B, C, - B, C, A – C, A, B and continue rotating for the remainder of the targets.

- 44.4.4 Any shooting position (e.g., Standing, Kneeling or Prone) is acceptable but a majority of the body must be behind the Shooting peg and some part of the body must be touching the Shooting peg during the act of shooting.
- 44.4.5 Competitors will shoot one (1) bolt at each target from the shooting peg.
- 44.4.6 Groups will be assigned to start simultaneously from various targets and will complete the round at the target before the one at which they started. Additional groups assigned to a target will wait until the primary group on that target has shot and scored their bolts before proceeding. Groups will be spaced to avoid “bunching”. Where there are more groups than target starting positions, the extra groups will be queued on the last target and started by a Judge.
- 44.4.7 In the case of equipment failure, the order of shooting may be changed temporarily. In any event no more than one period of twenty (20) minutes in a day's shooting will be allowed to repair any equipment failure problem. The other competitors in the group will shoot and score all their bolts in the Target before allowing any following groups to shoot through. If the repair is completed within the time limit, the competitor affected may make up any bolts remaining to be shot at that target.
- 44.4.8 Competitors in a group may allow other groups to “shoot through”, provided that the Organisers or the Judges are notified.
- 44.4.9 A maximum time limit of two (2) minutes for one (1) bolt per target per competitor will be allowed from the time the competitor takes his or her position at the peg, which he or she will do as soon as it becomes available. Judges are required to time a competitor or a group who are causing undue delay in the competition. A Judge, having observed a competitor exceeding the time limit, will caution him or her by a signed note on the scoresheet, indicating the time of the warning. For a second or subsequent warning during that stage of the competition, the competitor's highest scoring bolt at the target will be forfeited.
In exceptional circumstances the time limit may be extended by the Judges and/or Organising Committee.
- 44.4.10 Time warnings will not be carried over from one stage of the competition to the next.

44.5 TARGETS AND DISTANCES

- 44.5.1 For the WCSA 3D Round animal figures with three (3) critical/vital area scoring zones (inner critical/spot, critical and vital) will be used at unmarked distances. The very inner critical zone (also named spot) counts eleven (11) points, the critical zone ten (10) points, the vital zone eight (8) points and the body of the animal five (5) points (see BOOK 9 - Scoring 44.8.12)
- 44.5.2 Targets should be positioned so they are distinguishable and the critical/vital area scoring zone unobstructed.
- 44.5.3 The animal figure scoring zones will be that people with normal eyesight can see them clearly under normal daylight conditions at the relevant distances in the various target settings.
- 44.5.4 The target will have an inner ring Critical scoring zone and a Vital scoring zone; the other scoring zone will be the Body of the animal.
- 44.5.5 Targets not supplied grouped by the Manufacturer will be grouped into numbered groups using the measurements listed in 44.5.6 and the method of measuring described below.



Take the measurement vertically through the centre of the scoring zones as indicated with the dotted line. Compare this measurement with the measurements listed in 44.5.6 and group the target accordingly.

- 44.5.6 This table indicates the number of targets at each group size and the distance variations allowed for the course per twelve (12) target unit. Double this for the WCSA 3D Round twenty-four (24) Targets). The spacing between targets is not specified but must be such as to maintain safety.

TARGET CROSSBOW, STANDARD CROSSBOW AND FREESTYLE CROSSBOW			
Number of Targets	Group Number	Scoring Zone Size	Distance variation in metres
3 - 5	4	0 - 150mm (0 - 5 ⁷ / ₈ inches)	5 - 25
3 - 5	3	151 – 200mm (5 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ – 7 ⁷ / ₈ inches)	10 - 30
2 - 4	2	201 - 250mm (7 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ - 9 ⁷ / ₈ inches)	20 - 40
2 - 4	1	251 + mm (9 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ inches)	30 - 50
MEDIEVAL CROSSBOW			
3 - 5	4	0 - 150mm (0 - 5 ⁷ / ₈ inches)	5 - 15
3 - 5	3	151 – 200mm (5 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ – 7 ⁷ / ₈ inches)	10 - 20
2 - 4	2	201 - 250mm (7 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ - 9 ⁷ / ₈ inches)	15 - 25
2 - 4	1	251 + mm (9 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ inches)	20 – 30

44.6 SHOOTING

- 44.6.1 Practice facilities will be made available to all competitors at the ground before commencement of the event and conducted under safety control. The targets for practice may be butts with printed animal faces attached, set between the minimum five (5) metres and the maximum fifty (50) metres distances.
- 44.6.2 When a round is shot over several days there will be practice facilities available at the commencement of each day.
- 44.6.3 A bolt will not be deemed to have been shot if:
- the competitor can touch it or would be able to touch it if the ground was reasonably level, with their crossbow without moving his/her feet from their position in relation to the shooting peg, in which case another bolt may be shot in its place. If another bolt is not available the competitor may retrieve his/her bolt with the Judges' permission, provided the bolt has not rebounded.
 - the target falls over. In this case, the Judges will take whatever measures they deem necessary and compensate adequate time for shooting the relevant number of bolts.
- 44.6.4 Under no other circumstances will a bolt be re-shot.
- 44.6.5 Shooters will not discuss with one another the distances on the courses over the days of competition.
- 44.6.6 In the event of equipment failure the competitor will step back off the shooting line (approx. 0.5m) and call a Judge. The competitor will be allowed a maximum of twenty (20) minutes from the time that they stepped back from the shooting line to make repairs and or replace broken equipment. Provided the repairs are completed within the twenty (20) minutes they are then permitted to shoot any make up bolts on that target before moving to the next. Should the repair not be completed within the twenty (20) minutes, the other competitors in the group may then continue shooting the next targets. When the repairs are completed, the competitor may re-join the group but cannot make up any targets missed.
- Only one (1) equipment failure is permitted for a competitor in a day's shooting.*

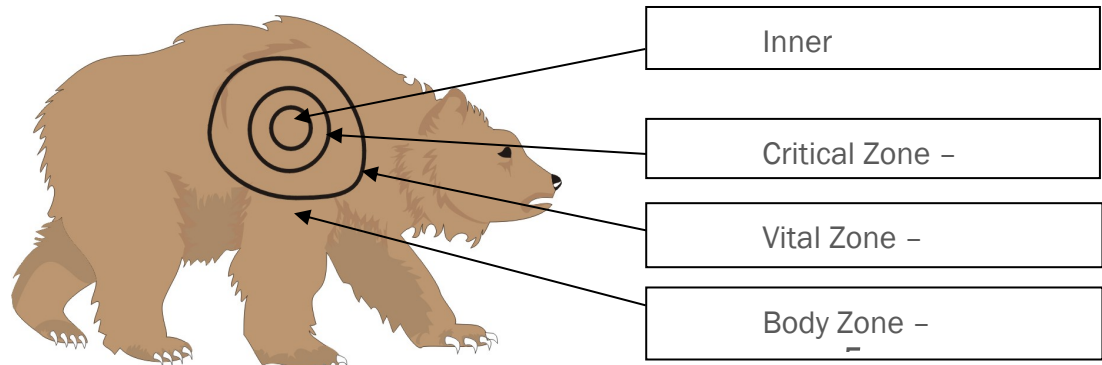
- 44.6.7 A broken crossbow may be replaced with a spare, provided that it has been passed for equipment inspection. In such cases a Judge will supervise the replacement or escort the shooter off the course, whichever is quicker.
- 44.6.8 Except as provided in clause 44.6.6, no shooter will leave the course until they have finished the round. Shooters will take all necessary food, drinks, and spare equipment with them.
- 44.6.9 In the event of a competitor being unable to continue shooting because of an unexpected medical problem which occurs after the beginning of the shoot, no more than thirty (30) minutes will be allowed for medical personnel to determine the problem and decide whether or not the competitor is fit to continue competing unassisted.
- 44.6.10 Should a group be held up due to an equipment failure or medical problem they will complete that target, move to one side, and allow other groups to pass until the problem has been rectified or the twenty (20) minute time allowed has passed.
- 44.6.11 During the act of shooting, a competitor will have some part of the body touching the shooting peg with the majority of the competitor's body behind the peg.

44.7 SHOOTING STANCE AND POSITION

- 44.7.1 During the act of shooting The 3D Round:
- 1) For a PARA competitor, they must shoot from a chair or stool in such a position that part of the chair or body is touching the shooting line / peg.
May only use a WCSA approved stand to support the weight of the crossbow. While being shot the crossbow cannot touch anything else, except the competitor to act as a steadier. (Refer BOOK 11 - Appendix 14).
 - 2) All other competitors will, by standing in an upright position, kneeling or prone having some part of the body touching the Shooting Line / Peg.
 - 3) All crossbows must be supported wholly by the competitor. It cannot be supported on a stand (excluding PARA 1 competitors and PARA 2 competitors using the approved support stand), nor can any part of the crossbow touch something to act as a support or steadier.

44.8 SCORING

- 44.8.1 Two competitors from each group will be designated as scorers. These will normally be those shooters designated as A and B, and the scoresheets will be marked accordingly. Double scoring will be used.
- 44.8.2 Scoring will take place at the target after all competitors in the group have shot their one (1) bolt.
- 44.8.3 Scorers will enter on the scoresheet alongside the correct number of the target the value of each bolt as called out by the competitor to whom the bolt belongs. Other competitors in the group will check the value of each bolt called.
- 44.8.4 Scorers will compare their scores before the bolts are drawn. A mistake on the scoresheet discovered before the bolts are drawn, may be corrected. (refer BOOK 8 - Clause 43.9.2).
- 44.8.5 Neither the bolts nor the target will be touched until all bolts on that target have been recorded and scores checked.
- 44.8.6 A bolt will be scored according to the position of the shaft in the target.
- 44.8.7 A bolt cutting or touching the line marking the edge of a higher scoring zone will be awarded the score of the higher zone
- 44.8.8 The very inner ring known as the inner Critical / Spot Scoring Zone will score eleven (11) points.
- 44.8.9 The inner ring known as the Critical Scoring Zone will score ten (10) points.
- 44.8.10 The outer ring known as the Vital Scoring Zone will score eight (8) points.
- 44.8.11 The rest of the Body of the Animal (not including horns, antlers, hooves) will score five (5) points, providing the bolt is held in the target.



- 44.8.13 Should a fragment of the target scoring zone line be missing then an imaginary continuation of the line will be used for judging the value any bolt which may hit that part.
- 44.8.14 Bolts completely imbedded in the buttress and not showing on the scoring side can only be scored either by a Judge or the total agreement of all the competitors in the group. In the scoring by all the competitors they must all initial the score sheet stating their agreement to the score given.
- 44.8.15 Bolts rebounding from or passing completely through the buttress will only be scored as follows:
- 44.8.15.1 If the majority of competitors in the group agree on the value of the bolt that has rebounded from or passed through, that bolt will be scored as the agreed value.
 - 44.8.15.2 If the majority of the competitors in the group cannot agree that a bolt has rebounded or passed through or cannot agree on its value, then that bolt will be scored as a miss, or a judge may be called for an independent decision.
- 44.8.16 A bolt hitting:
- 44.8.16.1 Another bolt and remaining imbedded there-in, will score according to the value of the struck bolt.
 - 44.8.16.2 Another bolt, and then hitting the target after deflection, will score as it lies in the target.
 - 44.8.16.3 Another bolt, and then rebounding, will score the value of the struck bolt, provided that the damaged bolt can be identified.
 - 44.8.16.4 A target other than the competitor's own target, will not score and marked as a miss (M)
- 44.8.17 Score Validation: At the completion of the course, scoresheets will be signed by the scorers and the competitor, denoting that the competitor agrees with the values of each bolt. If the scorer is participating in the shooting, his/her score sheet will be signed by another competitor in the same group. Competitors are responsible for the verification of their own scoresheets. Scoresheets will be legible and complete. Duplicates will not be issued for any lost, damaged, or stolen scoresheets. Once the scoresheets have been handed in, they will not subsequently be changed. Any disagreement in scoring values between the scoresheets will be recorded at the lower value.
- 44.8.18 Any shooter who alters or knowingly falsifies a scoresheet without authorisation will be disqualified.