

# Safety code for crossbow users

**Remember** – Crossbows are potentially lethal weapons. They can kill or maim animals or people. Their misuse reflects adversely on the crossbow sport.

- NEVER** use a crossbow for hunting
- NEVER** point or shoot a crossbow at anybody, even if it is unloaded
- NEVER** leave a loaded crossbow unattended
- NEVER** place a loaded or cocked crossbow on the ground – always lower the string first for safety
- NEVER** let anyone else use your crossbow unless they are familiar with these safety rules
- NEVER** walk about with a drawn or loaded crossbow
- NEVER** shoot with broadhead tipped bolts
- NEVER** use a crossbow on private land without the owner's permission
- ALWAYS** check that it is safe to shoot before you load the crossbow
- ALWAYS** check your bolts before loading your crossbow – it is dangerous to fire a bent or damaged bolt
- ALWAYS** make sure there is an adequate back-stop behind your target, so that stray bolts do not endanger others
- ALWAYS** keep your crossbow in a cover, if possible with the string or prod removed, when in a public place
- ALWAYS** store your crossbow unloaded and in a safe place
- ALWAYS** report the theft or loss of your crossbow to the Police
- ALWAYS** have your crossbow checked at least once a year by a suitably qualified person

The maximum enjoyment from crossbow sport can be obtained by joining a crossbow club. Information on your nearest club may be obtained from any of the addresses below:

## For Field Crossbow shooting:

The National Crossbow Federation GB  
24 Ivy Road  
Poynton  
Cheshire  
SK12 1PE

The British Crossbow Society  
2 Vicarage Road  
Chellaston  
Derby  
DE72 1SD

## For Match Crossbow Shooting:

The National Small-bore Rifle Association  
Lord Roberts Center  
Bisley Camp, Brookwood  
Woking  
Surrey  
GU24 0NP

## NOTICE!

## VIOLENT CRIMES REDUCTION ACT 2006

**Section 44 amends the Crossbows Act 1987 to raise from 17 to 18 the age at which a person can lawfully buy, hire, be sold or hired a crossbow, or possess a crossbow without the supervision of a person aged 21 or over.**



# What to aim at with your CROSSBOW

## A crossbow isn't a toy. Don't treat it like one.

# If you own or want a crossbow, this leaflet is aimed at you.

A crossbow is a precise piece of sporting equipment. But in the wrong hands it can be a dangerous weapon – it can injure or kill both animals and people.

The safest way to enjoy using your crossbow is to join one of the national organizations specially formed for crossbow users. Their addresses are shown over the page.

And there's now a law – The Crossbows Act 1987 – governing the use and sale of crossbows. It's easy enough to stay on the right side of it. Read this leaflet and find out how.

## NOTICE!

### VIOLENT CRIMES REDUCTION ACT 2006

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## Remember:

# A crossbow isn't a toy. Don't treat it like one.

# What the law says, and what the maximum penalties for breaking it are:

## It is illegal:

for a person under 17 to purchase or hire a crossbow



**SENTENCE**  
£400 fine

for a person under 17 to have a crossbow in their possession unless supervised by someone aged 21 or over



**SENTENCE**  
£400 fine

to sell or hire a crossbow to a person under 17



**SENTENCE**  
6 months imprisonment and/or a £2,000 fine

## A crossbow can also be considered an offensive weapon. And it is also illegal:

to carry an offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse




**SENTENCE**  
2 years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine

to trespass while in possession of a weapon of offence



**SENTENCE**  
3 months imprisonment and/or a £2,000 fine


to injure a person deliberately with a crossbow



**SENTENCE**  
Life imprisonment

## There are also heavy penalties for injuring or killing animals with a crossbow:

offences include causing unnecessary suffering to a domestic or captive animal, and killing or injuring any wild animal or bird with a crossbow



**SENTENCE**  
6 months imprisonment and/or a £2,000 fine