



Grange Bowmen Inc

INFORMATION FOR PROBATIONARY MEMBERS



- Grange Bowmen Inc is run and staffed by a highly dedicated group of volunteers who give their time freely.
- The Clubhouse is staffed on Saturdays and Sundays between the hours of 10am to 4pm, therefore, the till and card reader are only available during these hours.
- A volunteer range officer will look after your bow hire, the till and card reader.
- Participate in working bees to get a membership discount next year if you decide to become a full member. Check the club calendar on the website for dates.
- Upcoming events - Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for upcoming events, notifications, closures and club achievements. Our website, www.grangebowmen.com.au contains valuable information such as a calendar of events.
- Probationary members **MUST** sign in via the QR code located next to the nominations window and at the Range Officer counter. (*Green Form*) This is for insurance. Where it asks for your ABA number, please put PM. (*for probationary member*) or your expiry date.
- The practice and field ranges are open every day during daylight hours for probationary members with their own equipment, unless otherwise closed by the Range Captain (*for safety reasons*).
- Bow and arrow hire is \$8 all day, capped at \$20 for Families.
- All equipment (new or second hand) is required to be presented for a safety check by an instructor or coach prior to using it on the ranges. (*Just ask*)
- All archers are required to wear covered shoes. (e.g. boots, joggers, laces.) This is a workplace health and safety requirement. Our bushland environment is not suitable for open shoes. Archers wearing inappropriate footwear will be excluded from all ranges for their own safety. (i.e. Ballet flats, thongs, water shoes, crocs, sandals etc. do not provide adequate safety in a bush environment and cannot be worn). In any event, Grange Bowmen and all its Instructors and Coaches will not be liable for accident or injury resulting from inappropriate footwear.
- **Safety is important** - Please take the time to observe and understand all the rules of the club and of the ABA.
- Aggressive or bullying behaviour will **not be tolerated**. Violators may face suspension, removal from the club, and possible reporting to authorities.
- The shooting of animals or wildlife on club premises is **strictly forbidden**. Violations will lead to suspension, removal from the club, and notification to the relevant authorities.
- Children under 18 must be supervised by a parent or guardian. This includes walking the field ranges with them. (Cubs 12 years and under; Juniors 13–17 years)
- We use field tips for all club activities and events. Broadheads are **not allowed** at the club, except during special events approved by the Range Captain or Committee.
- Only one piece of camouflage clothing is permitted at any given time, either a shirt or a pair of pants. This practice is discouraged on the ranges for safety reasons.

What are the 3 boxes on my probationary membership card?

- These are to be signed off by an instructor or coach when competence is demonstrated. The first box corresponds to the 30 yard and 50 yard practice ranges. The second box refers to Range 1. The third box refers to Range 2.

It is not required to be cleared on the practice ranges and 2 field ranges to become a club member.

Buying equipment

- The choice of equipment is highly personal. The most economical option would be to purchase either a Longbow or Recurve bow. An entry-level Longbow/Recurve setup typically starts at approximately \$300, which includes the bow, arrows, and glove/finger tab.
- Entry-level compound bows generally start from \$500-600 due to the additional items that may need to be purchased, such as sights, release aids, stabilisers, and their overall complexity. Consider RTS (ready to shoot) or RTH (ready to hunt) packages. These are advantageous for beginners as they often include 3 arrows, sight, quiver, and release aid. It is imperative that the bow feels comfortable, and the poundage is manageable. Consult other members or coaches/instructors regarding their equipment.

How much should I spend?

- Spend only what is within your budget. Remember, quality correlates with price. Prices will vary depending on the components from which the equipment is made. For instance, wooden/fibreglass limbs are less expensive than full carbon fibre ones. Wooden recurves are typically more affordable than carbon ones.

If I have my own equipment, what next?

- Please bring your equipment for a safety check, including any new equipment. Ensure that your arrows (*excluding wooden arrows*) have a clear and appropriate spine rating marked on them corresponding to your bow. Arrows without spine rating are prohibited from use at the club.

Where can I buy archery equipment?

- There are many local and online stores. While we don't recommend specific ones, coaches, instructors, and club members can share their personal experience.

What happens after my probationary period?

- After your 3 months probationary membership, and you wish to become a full member, you must join the Australian Bowhunters Association (ABA). This is your insurance. To become a member of Grange Bowmen or any other club, insurance is compulsory. We suggest joining ABA 3-4 weeks before your probation ends, which you can do online at www.bowhunters.org.au. Probationary members are eligible for pro-rata membership to Grange Bowmen Inc, as our fees are based on the calendar year (January to December).

What does ABA stand for?

- ABA stands for Australian Bowhunters Association. Do I have to join ABA? **Yes!** Membership with ABA is a requirement. This is your Public Liability Insurance.

Why Grange Bowmen Fees?

- General day to day running of the club's maintenance and upkeep.

Benefits of becoming a full member

- Full members enjoy free access to all field and practice ranges, and a well-equipped bow room. Members are encouraged to join away shoots at Branch, State, and National events to connect with other archers.

Participate and vote on club issues at the AGM each year. Members can also hold committee positions or become instructors/coaches.

Can I attend a Club shoot?

- We welcome all new members to join our club shoots. Experienced archers will guide you. Check our website calendar or follow us on Facebook/Instagram for upcoming events.

Remember, if in doubt about anything, please feel free to ask.