

Bad Shooting Line Etiquette

The following are the five most often cited failures in proper shooting line etiquette, along with some commentary.

1. Leaving the line when the archer next to you is shooting. (52%)

Be aware of your surroundings. Remember, the next archer still on the line may be several spots away, but still considered adjacent.

2. Encroaching/Bumping on the line. (24%)

The reason most often given: getting hit by a neighbor's quiver.

3. Talking, humming or singing (!) on the line. (12%)

Talk about a distraction! Imagine someone whispering "sweet nothings" in your ear while you try to shoot. Even more, imagine hearing the person next to you curse on nearly every shot. (You know who you are!)

4. Turning when leaving the line. (8%)

This one is an offshoot of both numbers one and two. When archers turn to leave the line, they frequently bump the person next to them. This causes a distraction.

All archers should practice sidestepping from the line, only turning when completely clear.

5. Bending to pick up a dropped arrow. (4%)

This one is the reason we are taught from Day 1 to carry an extra arrow. If we drop one, we are usually taught to leave it and get it at the conclusion of the end. We just grab another arrow out of our quiver. Too many things can happen when you bend down to pick up an arrow while others are shooting, none of which are good.