



## Historical Equipment Division

### **What exactly is an historical bow?**

**In terms of the bow itself**, it means shooting the simplest bow. No sighting mechanisms, no modern materials, other than that specifically provided for. This Division is limited to equipment long rooted in archery history. One first needs to look at the bow form. The bow's structural materials and configuration should conform to a design for which there is early historical precedence.

Self wood bows meeting the design qualifications would have to be included in this class, along with composite bows of period design using non-manmade materials. Certainly the use of sinew, hemp, silk, leather, horn, baleen, varying woods, or other backing and facing materials with long standing historical precedence should be included.

**As for the glues used**, in construction of the composite bows, it is probably the liability concern that outweighs the historical accuracy. Modern adhesives are certainly safer and less likely to fail in shooting than the adhesives historically used to build these bows and offer little, if any, advantage in the actual shooting of the bow.

In keeping with the liability of the Association would occur, bows known to be built with these traditional glues would have to be excluded from use in competition. Shooters using this equipment should be required to certify that the adhesives conform to ABA guidelines. From this point the liability falls on the shooter if he misrepresents the bow's construction and any mishap does occur.

**As for Strings**, the liability factor again comes into play. Strings of flax, hemp, sinew or other such materials would raise more liability issues should any mishap occur. Therefore, it is not severely stringent to require that all strings should be of B-50, with the more modern string materials being excluded.

**As for shafting**, in the class should be limited to wood shafts only, with feather fletching. It is permissible to use modern glues and fletching jigs to attach fletching to the shaft but natural feather must be used.

**As for Accessories**, only accessories used historically shall be permitted. No modern device of recent innovation shall be used.

**The Division is defined as follows:**

1. In this division there shall be no distinction between the different configurations of bow design and material used. There shall be no grades or classes.
2. A Historical Bow is a bow recognised as such by the Association and is of known accepted usage during the period proceeding the year 1900 and shall be either a self wood or a composite bow, which is made to a configuration which has established historical precedence. The inclusion of a form of arrow rest/shelf and a sight window cut-in are permitted provided such meet the historical configuration for that bow design.

A bow constructed of historical materials, but having no historical precedence shall not be permitted.

The maximum draw weight of the bow shall not exceed its historical usage.

3. Materials used to construct the bow must be materials historically used during the period of the bow's historical usage. However, modern glues/adhesives shall be used. Historical glues/adhesives are not permitted.
4. Historical string materials such as flax, hemp, sinew and other such materials are not permitted. Modern bow string material is not permitted, however B-50 material shall be the standard material.
5. Arrow shafts shall be made of wood and fletched with natural feather, attached by historical means. Modern arrow points/piles are permitted as are nocks. Arrow nocks cut into the shaft are not permitted.
6. Accessories such as thumb rings, woven nock positioners etc are permitted provided that such accessory was used in the historical sense. The onus of fact of historical usage shall rest with the shooter.
7. The onus shall rest with the shooter to ensure that equipment used is historically correct, and is that recognised by the Association. Documented evidence of authenticity shall be provided by the shooter on request.