Archery Range Safety Rules
Morrisville State College

- DO NOT shoot arrows with broadheads at standard targets. NO broadheads allowed on range.

- NEVER point a bow and arrow at another person.

- NEVER shoot an arrow straight up into the air. You can end up hitting another person or yourself.

- NEVER shoot an arrow off into the distance where you cannot see where it will land. Again, you could end up hitting another person.

- At practice ranges, the only safe place is behind the shooting line. NEVER shoot an arrow until you are positive that no one is in front of you or behind the targets. Conversely, don't stand in front of a bow while it is being shot, even if you are to one side of the shooter.

- Wait for a verbal approval from the Range Captain or his designee before starting to shoot.

- Arrows should only be nocked on the shooting line and pointed in the direction of the targets.

- After you are done shooting, wait for the word: CLEAR from the Range Captain or his designee before going toward the targets to retrieve your arrows.

- WALK, don't run toward the targets. Remember that the arrows are sticking out and can injure you.

- When pulling arrows out of a target, stand to one side and insure that no one is directly behind you.

- If you are looking for a lost arrow behind a target, always leave your bow leaning against the target face so that it will be seen by other archers coming up. If possible, have one archer from your group stand in front of the target to prevent anyone from shooting.

- On Field Archery or 3-D courses, be sure to stay on the marked path and travel only in the direction in which the targets are laid out while shooting is in progress. Going backwards on the trail or across an unmarked area could place you in the path of a flying arrow, resulting in serious injury.

- If archers will be shooting concurrently at varying distances, stagger the targets, not the people. This goes back to the previous rule about having one shooting line and staying behind it.

- If any person or animal (i.e. dog) enters the safety zone while shooting is in progress, the emergency signal must be given (3 or more blasts of a whistle) and all shooting must stop immediately. Even if the bow is held at full draw and the signal is given, the arrow must not be released. The bow should be pointed at the ground and the bowstring let slowly forward. The arrow should be removed from the bow until the range is clear.

- Archers should always be aware of the danger associated with their bow. No archer should shoot while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.