



QUEENSLAND  
LIVING  
HISTORY  
FEDERATION

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

This document details the By Laws of the Association that apply to the use of crossbows within the Queensland Living History Federation Incorporated, hereafter QLHF.

These By Laws are issued by the Management Committee of QLHF under the provisions detailed in Rules and Regulations Article 28 and remain in force until amended or cancelled by the Management Committee or under the terms of Article 28.

### 1.2 Relevant Legislation

The Law governing the use of crossbows can be found in:

- Weapons Act 1990 (Qld)
- Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 (Qld)
- Weapons Regulation 1996 (Qld)

Note that these documents are amended from time to time and the online versions published by the Queensland Government should be referred to.

### 1.3 Precedence

With respect to the management, conduct and exercise of its duties as an Approved Weapons Club these by-laws supercede the provisions of 'Guidelines for the General & Range Use of Archery in Re-enactment involving predominately members of the Queensland Living History Federation Inc.(26th March 2004)' for crossbows.

#### 1.3.1 Exemption

These by laws do not apply to Archery within the QLHF.

### 1.4 Approved Weapons Club

The QLHF is an Approved Weapons Club as defined in the Weapons Regulations 1996 Part 11A.

Approval was granted on 19 December 2005.

## 1.5 Applicability of these By Laws

These By Laws apply to:

- every member group and member of the QLHF.
- every visitor, guest or attendee participating in QLHF approved events.

## 1.6 Consequences of Breach

Where an individual or group fails to comply with the provisions of this document or the legislation the Management Committee may deem that they have conducted himself or herself in a manner considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the Association.

## 1.7 Definitions

Where the Act or Regulations provide a definition then that definition applies to these by laws.

Defined Terms for this document are:

*Operator* means a person conducting a QLHF Approved Event under the approval of the QLHF as given under these by-laws and, if the approval is issued to an unincorporated body or an incorporated association who are members of the QLHF this includes each member of the body's or associations' governing body.

*Event Safety Officer* means a person who is appointed by the Operator to supervise persons using crossbows at a QLHF Approved Event.

*QLHF approved event* means an activity where crossbows are used by a QLHF member and that member has requested and received approval by the Representative to conduct that activity.

*QLHF Marshall* is a person appointed by the committee and is responsible for safety and combat conducted throughout the QLHF. This includes policy development

*QLHF Safety Officer* a Safety Officer appointed by the *QLHF Marshall* or QLHF Committee for a defined task or purpose.

## 1.8 Interpretation

In these By Laws, unless the context requires otherwise

- the singular includes the plural and vice versa
- a gender includes the other genders
- reference to a person or individual includes a natural person and any body or entity whether incorporated or not
- a reference to a thing includes a part of that thing
- a reference to all or any part of a statute, rule, regulation or ordinance (statute) includes that statute as amended, consolidated, re-enacted, or replaced from time to time.
- A reference to any agency or body, if that agency or body ceases to exist or is renamed, reconstituted, renamed or replaced or has its powers or functions removed (defunct body), means the agency or body which performs most closely the functions of the defunct body.

## 2. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sources of current information may be found as follows:

- Information on Licensing, approvals and guidelines from Weapons Licensing Branch, Queensland Police Service <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/>
- Copies of legislation as provided by the Queensland Government [http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Acts\\_SLs/Acts\\_SL\\_W.htm](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Acts_SLs/Acts_SL_W.htm)

Members are advised to regular check the legislation and regulations as they are amended from time to time.

## 3. APPROVED WEAPONS CLUB

### 3.1 Approved Weapons Club Representative

QLHF has a nominated Representative. This is a requirement of the *Weapons Act 1990*.

### 3.2 Approved Weapons Club Representative within QLHF

Under the *Weapons Regulation 1996* '...The representative must exercise all reasonable diligence to ensure the weapons club comply with this part. ...

The Representative is authorised by the QLHF Committee to take any action deemed necessary to ensure that this duty is fulfilled.

### 3.3 Conditions on QLHF being an Approved Weapons Club

QLHF was approved as a *crossbow club* under s70A of the *Weapons Act 1990* on the basis that it is a '...historical or military re-enactment organisation that demonstrates the use of category M crossbows...' and it is a '...historical or military re-enactment organisation that gives training in the use of category M crossbows...' and thus the Authorised Officer deemed QLHF met the requirements of s70D(1)(a)(i)(B) of the Act.

It is noted that for this purpose training DOES NOT mean training required to be completed to obtain a Category M licence. QLHF does not provide this training.

QLHF approval is subject to the following conditions being met:

- CW2 - This approval is granted on the condition that the primary purpose of the crossbow club is the study, preservation or collection of Category M crossbows. The crossbow club is to furnish the Authorised Officer, Weapons Licensing Branch with a list identifying the financial status of members of the club upon written request or by other arrangement with the Authorised Officer, Weapons Licensing Branch.
- CW3 – This approval is granted on the condition that the primary purpose of the crossbow club is to give training in the use of Category M crossbows. The crossbow club is to furnish the Authorised Officer, Weapons Licensing Branch with a list identifying the financial status of members of the club upon written request or by other arrangement with the Authorised Officer, Weapons Licensing Branch.

## 4. TYPES OF CROSSBOWS PERMITTED WITHIN QLHF

The definition of crossbow as contained in Section 7A(g) of the *Weapons Categories Regulation 1997* is '...Any crossbow designed to be discharged by the use of two hands that, when discharged, is capable of causing damage or injury to property or capable of causing bodily harm. ...'

QLHF only permits at a QLHF approved event **the use of historically accurate crossbows** that are consistent with the impression being portrayed by the military re-enactor.

## 5. LICENCING

All persons at a QLHF approved event using a crossbow must be a licensee who holds a valid Category M licence for crossbow, unless the *Weapons Act 1990* provides for specific exemption eg s52 Physical possession and use of a weapon sometimes allowed for the purpose of training a minor or s53 An unlicensed person may use a weapon at an approved range.

QLHF recognises that nearly all occasions where training and / or demonstration of historical crossbows occurs, is on land other than an approved range as defined in the Act and Regulations. QLHF requires the following:

- Any person in physical possession of a crossbow must hold a valid Category M licence for crossbow.
- The licensee must have the license on their person when in physical possession or storing a crossbow at a QLHF approved event.
- The person must produce, on request, the licence to the Representative, QLHF Marshall, QLHF committee member or any person authorised by the QLHF committee.
- The crossbow must be registered and be marked with a Queensland Police Service registered identification number. Where the crossbow is owned by an interstate or international visitor the crossbow must conform with the provisions of the *Weapons Act 1990* that allow for its use in Queensland
- Minors 11 years old or over may be in physical possession of the crossbow as long as the provisions of s52 of the *Weapons Act 1990* are complied with.

It appears the *Weapons Act 1990* does not make provision for physical possession of a crossbow by an unlicensed adult on land other than an approved range therefore ONLY licensed adults may be in physical possession of a crossbow at a QLHF Approved Event.

## 6. STORAGE

Members are reminded of the provisions of the *Weapons Act 1990* S60A which requires Licensees ‘...who have control of a weapon at a place must keep the weapon in secure storage facilities at the place when a person is not in physical possession of the weapon...’. This is amplified in the *Weapons Regulations 1990 Section 60* and most importantly in Section 60A which deals with storage when away from normal secure storage facilities. These provisions are reproduced below.

The *Weapons Regulations* may be amended from time to time by the Minister. The obligation is on the licensee to inform themselves and check the Regulations in case they have been updated from those extracted and reproduced below.

### 6.1 QLHF Storage Requirements for Crossbows

Members must comply with the Regulations.

Where a member is not able to demonstrate to the Representative, QLHF Marshall or the QLHF committee member or any person authorised by the QLHF committee that adequate provision has been made for compliant storage at an QLHF approved event then the licensee will be asked to remove the weapon from the event.

## **6.2 Extract of *Weapons Regulation 1990* Storage Provisions**

### **s60A Storage of weapon not in licensee's physical possession—when away from secure storage facilities**

(1) This section applies to a weapon in the possession of a person who is—

- (a) the holder of a visitor's licence; or
- (b) a visitor to Queensland to whom section 32(1) of the

Act applies; or

- (c) to another person if—
  - (i) the person is away from the person's secure storage facilities; and
  - (ii) it is unreasonable for the person to have to go to those facilities to store the weapon.

(2) A person who possesses a weapon to which this section applies must, when the weapon is not in the person's physical possession, store it unloaded in—

- (a) a securely closed container with the bolt removed or with a trigger lock fitted; or
- (b) a locked container.

(3) The container must be—

- (a) out of sight in a locked room of a permanent building; or
- (b) locked in the boot of a vehicle; or
- (c) out of sight, locked in a vehicle that does not have a boot.

### **61 Safety precautions for weapons in or on vehicles**

(1) A person in control of a weapon (whether or not the person has custody of it) must ensure the weapon is not placed in or on a vehicle unless—

- (a) if the vehicle has a lockable boot—the weapon is locked in the boot; or
- (b) otherwise—
  - (i) the weapon is locked in a metal container fixed to the vehicle; or
  - (ii) the weapon is in a securely closed container that is out of sight in a vehicle.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

(2) The metal container, and anything on or attached to it, must not suggest a weapon is inside.<sup>11</sup>

(3) A person in control of a weapon (whether or not the person has custody of it) must ensure the weapon is not left in an unlocked vehicle if the vehicle is not being attended by someone licensed to possess the weapon.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

(4) This section does not apply to a weapon to which section 60A applies.

## **7. PERSONS WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN QLHF APPROVED WEAPONS CLUB EVENTS**

### **7.1 Members of the Public**

No member of the public is to be in physical possession of a crossbow or discharge a weapon at a QLHF approved event regardless of whether they are licensed.

Allowing a member of the public to participate will void QLHF public liability insurance provisions.

### **7.2 QLHF Members**

Any QLHF member who complies with the provisions of the *Weapons Act 1990* and clause 5 above is able to participate in a QLHF Approved Event.

### **7.3 Members of ALHF**

Any financial member of the Australian Living History Federation who complies with the provisions of the *Weapons Act 1990* and clause 5 above is able to participate in a QLHF Approved Event.

## **8. RANGES**

### **8.1 Provisions of Act**

*Weapons Act 1990* Part 4, Division 5 details the requirements for ranges.

### **8.2 Permanent Ranges**

The QLHF does not have a permanent range.

There is no requirement for the QLHF to have an approved range for the purposes of conducting a historical or military re-enactment.

### **8.3 Temporary Ranges**

There is no provision within the Legislation and the Regulations for the establishment of temporary ranges.

### **8.4 Range Templates**

In 2005 the Queensland Police Service (QPS) performed ballistic testing on both modern and historical crossbows. Testing on historical crossbows was performed in conjunction with members of QLHF.

The QPS do not have published guidelines on range templates. QPS verbal advice is that on a flat area with no butts or stops a range for a modern bow is likely to be 350 m long, with left and right of arcs to 45° of the firing line. QPS advises that for historical cross bow a shorter center line may be acceptable.

### **8.5 Requirements for training or display areas at a QLHF Approved Event**

The nominated Operator must ensure that the location, construction and equipment of the range is appropriate having regard to the need to protect persons from death or injury and property from unlawful destruction or damage.

The Operator accepts all responsibility and liability for the design and layout of the training and/or display areas where a crossbow is to be used at a historical or military re-enactment.

Details are to be included on the application.

## **9. MILITARY AND HISTORICAL EVENTS**

### **9.1 Definition**

There is no definition of military and historical events in either the Act or the Regulations.

For the purposes of QLHF a military or historical event may include:

- Group / club training activities which includes study and /or training in the use of crossbows.
- Living history events.
- Living history performance.

### **9.2 Application for Approval of a QLHF Approved Event**

The QLHF member that is seeking to conduct the event must submit a complete application form (Schedule 1) to the QLHF Representative not less than 28 days prior to the event.

Where the event is club training then this must be submitted annually in November requesting approval for the following year.

The application must contain the following information as a minimum:

- Details of the QLHF Member making the application
- Event details
- Detailed address of the event location
- Nominate an Operator
- Nominate Event Safety Officer(s)
- Provide details of crossbow licences
- Provide a safety template and map of the location
- Details of any site specific safety requirements
- Written permission from the land owner, and if a performance event, the event organiser/promoter.

### **9.3 Responsibilities**

#### **9.3.1 Club / QLHF Member**

The QLHF member conducting a QLHF Approved Event is responsible for:

- Ensuring that these by laws are complied with at all times
- Compliance with the relevant legislation
- Safety of the event.

#### **9.3.2 Operator**

The Operator is responsible for:

- ensuring that the location, construction and equipment of the range is appropriate having regard to the need to protect persons from death or injury and property from unlawful destruction or damage.
- ensuring that during use of the training and/or display area that the layout, design and operation of the area protect persons from death or injury and property from unlawful destruction or damage.
- Ensuring that appropriate permissions, licences, permits and exemptions are acquired prior to the events commencement.
- Implementing all necessary safety precautions and actions as required.
- ensuring that every person who physically possesses or uses a weapon at the training and/or display area is properly supervised by a Event Safety Officer who holds a Crossbow licence.
- ensuring that the name of each Safety Officer supervising persons using the training and/or display area is record on the range register.
- Report all incidents to the QLHF committee.
- If incidents consist of a breach of the legislation these are to be reported:
  - In the first incidence to the Queensland Police Service.
  - Advise the Representative that an incident has been reported to the Queensland Police Service and detail date, time and location of the incident and name of the QPS member who logged the incident and any reference number provided by QPS within 24 hours of reporting to the Police.

### **9.3.3 Event Safety Officer**

The duties of the Event Safety Officer are to:

- The Event Safety Officer supervising the training and/or display area must take all reasonable steps to ensure a person attending the area complies with the requirements of these by laws and all relevant law.
- Ensure all persons using the training and/or display area complete the training and/or display area register (Schedule 2)
- Physically sight the licence prior to a person using the training and/or display area.

### **9.3.4 Persons using a training and/or display area**

All persons using a training and / or display area are to:

- Have their licence in their physical possession whilst using the training and / or display area.
- Have their licence in their physical possession whilst in possession of a crossbow.
- Comply with all directions of the Representative, QLHF Marshall, Event Safety Officer and persons appointed by the QLHF Committee as it relates to cross bow use and the event training/display area.

## **9.4 Records Management**

For each QLHF Approved Event the Operator is to:

- Retain copies of the application and approval
- retain a copy of the training and/or display area register (Schedule 2).
- Provide a copy of the training and/or display area register (Schedule 2) within 7 days of the events completion to the Representative.

## **9.5 Training / Demonstration Area Safety**

### **9.5.1 Verbal Commands**

There are a number of standard commands and directions given by the Event Safety Officer which all persons are expected to understand and comply with. These are:

- “*RANGE OPEN*” Archers may commence shooting into the range.
- “*LAST ARROW*” Archers who have already nocked or drawn their bow may release their bolt, but no new bolts may be nocked.
- “*RANGE CLOSED*” Archers are prohibited from shooting into the range. Archers may not draw crossbows at this time
- “*HOLD!*” All archers must immediately cease shooting, remove bolts and release the tension on their bow. This is generally a safety related command – eg a person on the range or approaching too close.

## **9.6 Safety Rules**

There are a number of safety rules which all persons must comply with at all times. Failure to do so will result in the person being asked to cease their activities and leave the training/display area, and in the case of repeat offences, may be banned from future events:

1. Directions related to the conduct of training / demonstration area from either the Operator or an Event Safety Officer must be complied with at all times
2. All equipment and bolts/ arrows must be of serviceable condition
3. New archers will be required to shoot under supervision until they can demonstrate a reasonable level of competency.
4. All bolts/ arrows must be directed downrange at all times
5. No shooting outside the boundaries of the training / demonstration area
6. Unless under the specific control of the Event Safety Officer, eg for ‘clout’ practice, no arrows are to be lofted
8. No person is permitted to enter the range whilst it is open
9. All shooting is to take place from the firing line
10. Unless conducting combat archery training under the strict control of the Event Safety Officer (see below), no bow is to be pointed at another person, regardless of whether or not it is loaded
11. Where combat archery training is being conducted by the Event Safety Officer, the target must be suitably armoured, including a visor with an opening of less than ½ inch. No archer is to have any form of sharp arrow on their person during combat archery training.
12. Archers under the age of 16 will be required to have a suitable adult present whilst training.

13. Although it is not an actual rule, it is considered polite to assist other archers to retrieve their arrows while collecting your own.
14. All archers are expected to behave in a reasonable manner towards one another, and offensive behaviour will not be tolerated
15. If at any time a person attending a training sessions believes that either a person, animal life or property may be damaged from shooters on the range they must yell 'hold' immediately. The Event Safety Officer will then re-commence firing only after the situation has been verified or cleared.
16. Children are the responsibility of either parents or guardians and are not be left unattended near the range at any time.