

Survey Results

Archery NZ Novice and Development Survey

17 June 2023



A survey was issued 5 June 2023 to Archery NZ members regarding the novice and development classes which have been trialled. The original trial lasted until the end of the 2021/22 season. This trial was extended for a year due to COVID impacts.

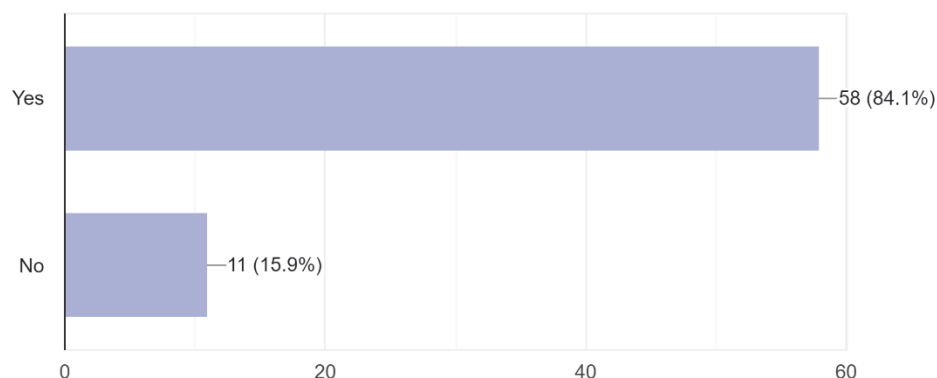
69 responses were received. The survey outcomes are as follows.

Summary

69 responses were received to this survey - ~5% of the membership. Statistically, this gives some insights, but care should be taken with interpreting the data, as respondents may not have been a representative sample of the organisation (compared with the Outdoor Nationals survey, which was responded to by a high percentage of those who attended this years' event).

1. Were you aware that the Novice and Development classes were offered?

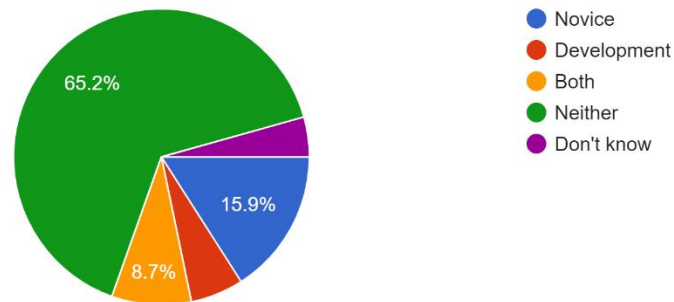
69 responses



Of the respondents, most (84%) were aware of the novice and development classes.

2. Have you participated in any of these classes during the trial period?

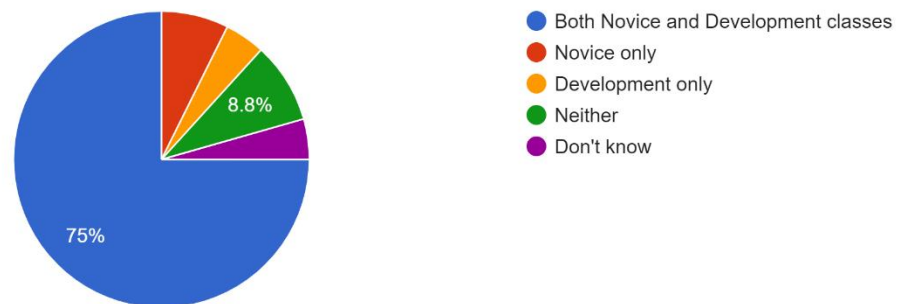
69 responses



65% of respondents had not participated in either of these classes, and 3% did not know. 16% (11 people) had participated in the Novice class, 6% (4 people) had participated in Development class, and 9% (6 people) had participated in both classes.

3a. Should Archery NZ offer:

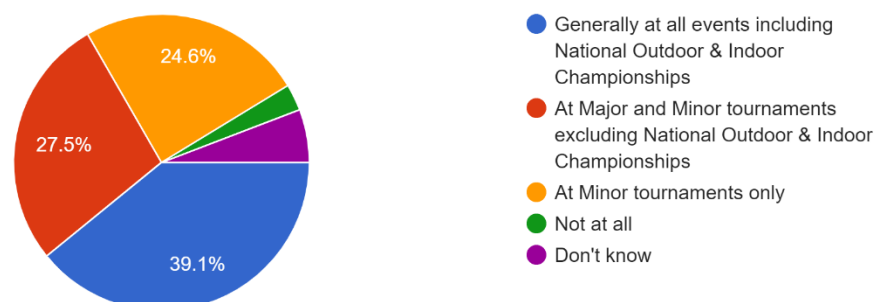
68 responses



A significant majority (75%) supported both classes being retained. 11% thought there should only be one class offered (7% Novice class only, 4% Development class only). 9% did not believe either should be offered, and 4% did not know.

4a. At what type of competition should these classes be offered?

69 responses



39% supported these classes being offered at all events, including National Championships events. 28% believed they should be offered at all tournaments except for National Championships events, and 25% suggested at Minor tournaments only. 6% did not know, and 3% suggested they should not be offered at all (interesting less than the previous question).

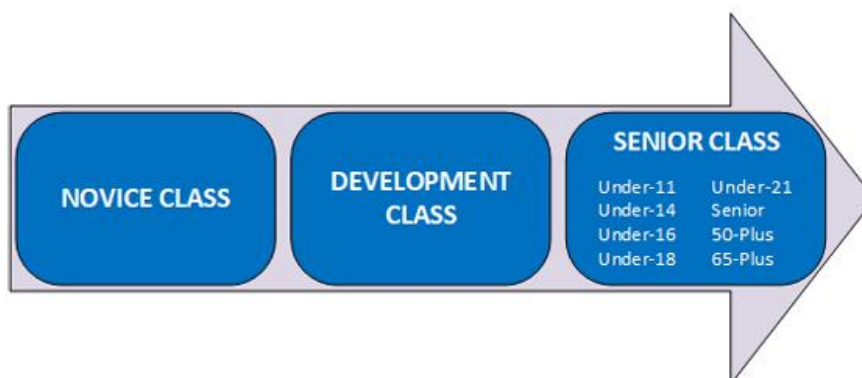
Various alternatives were proposed by members in comments – some of these listed here:

- Consider a novice and development tournament
- If there is room at a tournament, a member should be able to shoot at any distance in a 'non-competitive' category, with results not being collected
- If archery grows, it may no longer be appropriate for novice and development classes to be offered at National Championships

Current Eligibility Criteria

The current [Shooting Rules for Novice and Development Class Trial](#) can be found on the ANZ Shooting Rules webpage. The rules are as follows:

1. Archers are eligible to compete in the Novice class if they have started archery within 18 months of the end of the current membership year (30 September), with automatic progression to Development Class in the following membership year.
2. Progression from Development to Senior/other age classes will occur at the beginning of the next season (1st October) after the attainment of a single score equal to or higher than the identified Merit Score for the division (see below for scores).
3. Archers may choose to compete in 'higher' classes but not lower, e.g., Novice archers may choose to compete in the Development Class, or Senior/other age classes directly, but must upgrade to full membership to compete in the Senior/other age classes
4. Merit scores (see Shooting Rules for Novice and Development Class Trial) may be attained at registered minor or major tournaments.
5. Scores from previous seasons will be acknowledged. Therefore, if an archer has previously achieved a merit score in a certain discipline, they will not be eligible for that class.
6. Existing full members may shoot in Novice or Development classes if they meet eligibility criteria.
7. An archer can be eligible for different classes for different divisions (Compound, Recurve, Barebow, Longbow).
8. The required scores will be the same for all ages and genders within each discipline.



Archery Progression Pathway: Archers may elect to skip steps and compete in 'higher' classes

Member Feedback on Novice Class eligibility criteria

41 responses were received. Some responses are summarised below:

- Much of the feedback surrounded duration for eligibility, with members suggesting options between 6 months and 2 years, though more responses tended towards 1 year
- Some felt the criteria was about right
- "It can be difficult for event organisers to validate eligibility for these classes"
- "Is an archer's starting date considered to be when they are issued ANZ number, join a club, or join a beginner's course? I presume it should be the earliest of any of these three" (*survey owner's note: the intent was from when they start shooting*)
- "It might make sense to exclude youth from eligibility from novice and development classes as it might be more appropriate for them to shoot in the relevant youth age division"
- "If a recurver who has shot for years tries barebow or longbow, is he a novice? Or a barebower who puts on a sight?" (*survey owner's note: the rules technically permits this, though I expect experienced archers would be unlikely to enter these classes. This comes back to whether these classes are intended to support primarily competition or participation, or a blend of both*)

Member Feedback on Development Class eligibility criteria

30 responses were received. Some responses are summarised below (excluding some items from above that common to both, e.g. validating eligibility):

- A number of people have suggested that, although I'm in my first year of the sport, that because my bow could reach the 70m distance I should be shooting senior. I've contested that I'm not confident with that distance (shot it once and lost an arrow in the process), and that these classes are to help people slowly engage in these more challenging distances, especially as I'm within the timeframes for these classes. Some clarification could be beneficial
- Some felt the merit scores should be made harder, some felt they should be easier, others felt they were about right
- Some felt there should be a time limit on eligibility for the class (ideas offered were between 6 months and 4 years)
- "Shooting indoors is not included as part of the qualifying criteria to promote to Open class"

Other Feedback on changes/improvements/comments

Some of the general feedback received is noted below:

- "If they are allowed to shoot at National events, pins and medals criteria should be looked at (maybe not issued). This should be used as an introduction/learning what competing at a major tournament is all about."
- "with the advent of Covid and the impact that it has had on archery at club and competition over the last three years, I believe the Novice and Development divisions should be left unchanged for a further 2 years"
- "I strongly believe these classes should NOT be offered at National competitions, these are elite competitions that people can aspire to competing in."

- “The Development Class got me into Archery at a National Level in my first Year, I thoroughly support both Novice & Development Classes as a 'feeder class' with National Events in mind. It would be nice if the Novice and Development Records from both Indoor & Outdoor Nationals were actually recognised as such”
- “Should explain the rounds more easily. New people not always understand what each round means (and specifically what it means for novice or development shooters). This would help create greater visibility.”
- “Having these two classes is fantastic. I just started archery 6 months ago, and I was able to enter competitions using club gear at my club. I am looking forward to progressing to development. Without it I would likely have become disheartening, but now I have bought my own bow.”
- “Only worry and wonder is having the younger archers competing against older novice/development archers in matchplay.”
- “a number of events still don't include these classes which I wish they did as they are valuable in attracting new archers to competition.”
- “More input and encouragement for clubs to participate”

Andrew Russell

ANZ Premier Events Coordinator