

USAA Junior Olympic Archery Development (USA JOAD)

A JOAD's program goals and competitive season

USAA Junior Olympic Archery Development (USA JOAD) program goals and competitive season. A primer for new USA Archery JOADs who want to compete and for clubs, coaches and families who want to support a JOAD's effort.

USA Archery is sanctioned by the USOC and FITA (The Federation that sanctions International Target Archery) to conduct Olympic and International/World Championship style target archery in the USA.

- **Membership:**

When a youth archer and their family decide to take part, they should join the USAA (USA Archery aka National Archery Association). Membership and other information is available on www.usarchery.org. A tip is to join with a family membership to include family involvement. Parents and family members often volunteer. Some become certified instructors and judges. It is best to take care of all the paperwork as soon as possible as some eligibility is time sensitive (i.e. judges must be USAA members for at least a year)

- **JOAD program information:**

Specific JOAD program information can be found on the USA Archery JOAD program webpages; <http://usarchery.org/pages/5076>. The JOAD handbook is available online on the website. The handbook describes four "competitive" JOAD age categories "Bowman, Cub, Cadet and Junior". There are also recurve (aka Olympic) and compound bow and girl and boy divisions.

Note that age classifications for Cadet and Junior increased beginning in 2010. Also note that age classification are for an entire calendar year.

- **Practice, Training, Coaching and Equipment:**

Practice and train, ideally under the supervision of a certified instructor or coach. Equipment preparation is as important as physical training. JOAD clubs are the primary source of JOAD involvement.

- **Tournaments:**

JOADs should take part in USAA Tournaments at a local, state and national level to become familiar with tournament process and competition. Seek out and take part in Olympic rounds and team rounds type events whenever possible.

- **JOAD achievement programs and goals:**

1. The JOAD Stars achievement pins program consists of a series bow type specific indoor and outdoor score JOAD club achievement levels. Information and score chart can be found on in the JOAD handbook.
2. JOAD Olympian program is the natural progression after the Stars Pins. JOAD Olympians (Bronze, Silver and Gold) are recognized nationally and receive achievement awards directly from USAA. Information and score chart can be found on in the JOAD handbook.

- **National Championships:**

Bowmen, Cubs, Cadets, and Juniors have multiple "National Championships" in which to compete:

1. **JOAD National Indoor Championship:** This is a 600 round, 60 arrow competition shot at 18 meters. Bowman and Cub JOAD score in a JOAD style that is distinctly different than Cadet and Junior scoring. This tourney usually takes place in conjunction with the USAA National Indoor Championship which allows a JOAD and JOAD family to make one trip and compete in two separate National Championships. The tournament takes place in multiple dates and locations across the country.
2. **USAA National Indoor Championship:** This is a 1200 round, 120 arrows at 18 meters. Bowman, Cub, Cadet and Junior all shoot and score with the same USAA style scoring. See also JOAD National Indoor Championship.
3. **JOAD National Outdoor Championship:** Selects the JOAD National Champion. The competition typically includes a FITA ranking round and an Olympic Round (12 arrow match

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elimination rounds) and team rounds. The location of the tournament rotates from around the four regions of the USA every year (South, East, North, West, South, ...)

4. **USAA National Target Championship:** The competition typically includes a FITA ranking round. JOAD that shoots the adult (aka senior) distances maybe eligible to compete in the US Open Olympic Rounds. The National Target Championship is sometimes used as the qualifying round for US Jr World Team Trials.
5. **USAA National Field Championship:** There is great potential for field archers of all ages. JOAD category offerings vary, but one can always shoot up to a higher division. Field Archery includes world team opportunities as well.

- **JOAD Mail-in**

The JOAD Mail-in is the most accessible national event there is. Archers compete from their home club or nearby range. Clubs submit archer scores and results of the "at home" shooting are compared via national results.

- **Junior and Cadet US Archery Team:**

Jr USAT requires that the JOAD and club/coach or family travel nationally and take part in a series of placement ranking tournaments. Jr USAT ranking tournaments include: USAA National Indoor Championship, JOAD National Outdoor Championship, USAA National Target Championship and may include USA Jr, World Team Trials. Senior, Jr and Cadet USAT placement events are shared. There are at least two USAT placement events in each of the four regions. Specific program information and requirements are published on a yearly basis on www.usarchery.org with the overall "USAT" information. USAT team members receive many manufacturer and other benefits.

- **USA Jr World Team Trials:**

The USA selects an indoor or outdoor Youth World Team yearly. (Note that scheduling is subject to change). At the Youth Outdoor World Archery Championships, Cadet and Juniors take part, while for the Youth Indoor World Archery Championships only Juniors take part. National Championship top ten to twenty finishers who continue training should consider themselves as contenders to make the team. There are many factors to making the team besides shooting well. (Passport, funding, time, desire, family support) The team is usually selected via a team trials tournament process that includes a qualifying round and round robins matches.

- **International Events:**

The USAA is a part of the COPARCO Continental Association. As a result there are several internationals events that USAA JOAD may take part in within the continent. This is an often overlook way for a JOAD to take part as a world team member. Visit the COPARCO website <http://www.coparco.org/> to see if any of the World Ranking Tournaments are of interest. Contact the USAA to determine what the team selection process is, if any.

- **Youth Olympics:**

The game take place two years before the Summer games. Determination of eligibility, ranking and the trials process is ongoing.

- **Olympics/Pan American:**

Recurve (Olympic bow) archers including JOAD age archers are invited to take part in the Olympic trials process every four years and the Pan Am Team Trials the year before to compete for the up to three male and three female USA Olympic and Pan American teams.

- **Do it again:**

USA JOAD archers have only a few years of eligibility. As a result, one cannot afford to "wait until next year". It's best to jump in as soon as you can to gain experience for the next year.

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- **More:**

Family members are encouraged to get involved and pitch in. Helping to "set up and take down", lending a hand with lunch and snack sales, assisting a JOAD club and host a tourney are great ways to support JOAD. The ultimate volunteer is the JOAD club leader.

- **After JOAD:**

JOADs are encouraged to continue with target archery after high school by taking part in the USA College Archery Program (USA CAP) www.uscollegiatearchery.org.

- **Resources:**

USA Archery www.usarchery.org

FITA www.archery.org

USA College Archery Program (USA CAP) www.uscollegiatearchery.org

Archery Talk (open discussion forum) www.archerytalk.com

End

By Bob Pian, based on January 2010 USA Archery JOAD information.