



Age Category Criteria

World Archery youth categories define eligibility by birth year, generally including Under 15 (U15), Under 18 (U18), and Under 21 (U21), with specific age cutoffs occurring on December 31st of the relevant birthday year. Athletes can compete in higher age groups as they turn older within the competition year.

Key Age Categories in 2026

Under 14 - anyone born in the year 2013 or younger

Under 16 - anyone born in the years 2011 or 2012

Under 18 - anyone born in the years 2009 or 2010

Under 21 - anyone born in the years 2006, 2007 or 2008

Open anyone born in 1977 to 2005 inclusive

50+ - anyone born in the years 1967 to 1976

60+ - anyone born in 1957 to 1966 inclusive

70+ - anyone born in or before 1956

How it Works

Year-Based Eligibility: An archer's age for a competition is determined by their age on December 31st of that competition year, not their age on the day of the event.

Progression: An archer can compete in their age category and any category above it (e.g, a U18 can compete in U18, U21, or Open).

Example: An archer turning 18 in 2026 can compete in the U18 category for the entire 2026 year, as they are considered 17 (or younger) until year's end for eligibility purposes.