



National Archery in the Schools Program

Title: Hanging the NASP® Arrow Curtain Indoors and Outdoors

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**Modification
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Introduction: Basic instructions for hanging the arrow curtain are contained in the BAI, BAIT and BAITS Manuals. These instructions **must** be followed whenever hanging the arrow curtain. Frequently, teachers will request assistance from coordinators as they get their own gyms set up for their first NASP® archery lessons. This document is intended to share examples of methods other schools used to hang their arrow curtains.

Audience: Coordinators

Content: Indoors – Frequently NASP® lessons are taught in a school gym but occasionally are taught in other areas of the school. Secure attachment points need to be identified, or possibly created, so the arrow curtain can be properly hung. Most gyms have multiple attachment points already available. The most common being the wall mounted basketball backboard. Often there is enough distance between backboards to run a rope between two backboards to hang the arrow curtain from. A stout rope of 3/8” to ½” diameter is suggested.



First tie one end directly to the support that the backboard is attached to. (Remember that this rope must be at least 30" away from any wall to allow for the proper clearance of the arrow curtain once it is hung.)

Next create a loop in the other end of the rope 2-3 feet away from the other backboard. Use a short ratchet strap to attach the loop to the 2nd backboard's framework. Ratchet the strap tight now and you have a suitable method to hang your arrow curtain. You may need to tighten the strap to eliminate sagging but remember to maintain at least 3-6" of net dragging on the floor.



In some gyms maintenance staff have installed heavy duty eye bolts (or metal plates) in the walls to create the needed attachment points. They are installed at about 9 feet high and 30-36" away from any adjoining wall so that the minimum 30" clearance behind the arrow curtain is maintained. Sagging of the net (in some cases) is eliminated via a support hung from the backboard.



While the above two scenarios are the most common there are many others. Only creativity, access to a maintenance department, and budgetary constraints limit options. Below are some samples of other systems used for hanging the arrow curtain indoors.



Here we see a typical metal framed building being used as a school gym. Notice the metal I-Beam uprights. The school's maintenance department installed eye bolts on the I-beams to suspend the net from.



In these two pictures at left we see a custom crafted bracket system that provides secure mounting of a cable to suspend the arrow curtain from while also maintaining the 30" minimum clearance behind it.



To the left we see permanently installed rail system that allows for the arrow curtain to simply be pulled open and then closed and stored very easily. The source of the hardware is unknown.



Here we see a motorized overhead storage system for arrow nets. It is operated with a key switch. Manufacturer is unknown.

Hanging the NASP Arrow Curtain Outdoors

The arrow curtain is not always required in outdoor applications, it is highly recommended. It helps prevent arrow loss and helps protect property and people down range. There are certain concerns with using the arrow curtain just as there are when using the arrow curtain indoors. The first is finding permanent attachment point to use when setting up the net. Fortunately, Mother Nature helps us out here with trees. They are certainly solid and secure attachment points and are a great option when available. Other options include light poles, baseball back stops, foul ball poles and custom installed, dedicated posts for your arrow curtain. Frequently though the ideal situation does not exist, so you will want to be prepared with some “out of the box” options. A few pictures follow on next page that may help.



In the picture above left we see a device commonly used to hoist heavy items into the bed of a pick-up truck. It is called a hitch hoist as it is designed to fit in a receiver hitch of a vehicle. It comes with a winch and cable that could be used at one end or at both ends to suspend a cable or rope to hang the arrow

curtain from. The picture at far right is the completed range. The rope is anchored on the left to a tree, on the right the hitch hoist is used to anchor the other end of the rope.

In some circumstances you may have to erect a temporary system for hanging your arrow curtain. In those instances, you might consider tethering a pole to guy lines that are solidly anchored. The picture below is a good representation of this.



Note the guy lines attached to the left upright. There are 3 guy lines in use on each pole. One pulls directly away from the pole so that it creates resistance against the other pole. Then there are two guy lines on each upright with each one pulling to the sides creating tension against the other and keeping the upright vertical during use. You will also notice the arrow curtain itself is bowing quite a bit. That is because the curtain catches even the slightest breeze. That presents another concern which is addressed below.

In windy conditions, the arrow curtain will act much like the sail on a sailboat. It catches even the slightest breeze and could present issues you may have to deal with. First you need to keep in mind that the net must be able to move freely so anchoring the bottom of the net is not an option. To deal with the wind we recommend using a rope to sandwich the net between two runs of rope which will limit the impact winds will have on your net. The method, described below, will not prevent all movement and if the wind is too strong you may want to consider moving indoors or shooting into a berm if one is available. Try the below method to help with wind impact on your properly hung arrow curtain.

