

# THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION

## SAFETY RULES

The atlatl and dart is a weapon system designed initially for hunting and should be considered dangerous. Because there is a potential for injury through atlatl use, The World Atlatl Association has found it necessary to adopt certain safety guidelines for all atlatl events. These guidelines are designed so as not to interfere with the prime purpose of these events, which is fun, demonstration, and education.

Because atlatl events are held in different locations with special restrictions due to terrain features or other reasons, an all-encompassing set of rules may not be possible. Safety officials, event sponsors, event organizers, or others may supplement the following with special guidelines that apply to their local situation.

### GENERAL SAFETY RULES:

- **Safety officers** should be designated for every atlatl event and authorized to enforce the guidelines.
- Safety rules should be followed not only during competition, but also in instructional and non-competitive situations as well.
- **Safety decisions** by safety officers take precedence over those of scorekeepers, instructors, and participants.
- Safety officers may, at any time, remove from the field anyone who does not adhere to these guidelines
- Prior to the start of the atlatl event, the safety officers should **explain the safety guidelines** to all participants and determine that spectators are behind the safety line established for each contest.
- When more than one group is in the field, the **scorekeeper for each group** is authorized to act as safety officer for his/her group and has the authority to enforce these guidelines.
- Only participants (throwers, scorekeepers, and safety officers) should be allowed on the field during contests, demonstrations, or practice. Exceptions may be made for news media or others, but each exception should be approved by the safety officer.
- **Pets are not allowed** on the field during contests, practice, or demonstration.
- There should never be rowdy or unruly play with atlatls and darts at any time during or after the contest while on the throwing field. To prevent injury to the thrower or others on the field, darts should be carried vertically (points down). No person should ever be running with darts in hand.
- The prime guidelines for atlatl safety are: **do not throw when others are down range and do not throw or retrieve darts until the scorekeeper gives permission to do so.** These guidelines should be universal in atlatl events.