

Archery

Archery is one of the famous national types of sports with long and ancient history. The main instrument for this type of sport is bow and arrow. The bow is made from tree branches and strings can be from hard silk or animal intestines.

Bow and arrow among Tajiks were primarily used for two purposes: hunting and warfare. Particularly hunting was important as majority of inhabitants of mountainous regions need to learn how to aim with precision and shot animals in a distance.

There are also traditional games and festivals involving archery competitions. Of type of such competition is called *zarbuzi* when the archer in kneeling position would shot to get the arrow to a designated aim. Another form is called *saraspā* when archer has to reach the aim while riding on the horse.

In the military context, there are infantry and cavalry. The infantry soldiers would use larger bow as he could aim by kneeling on ground and they used longer arrows as well; the cavalry bows were smaller and lighter in weight. The infantry bow could reach the distance of up to 200 meters.

In modern condition hunting with bow and arrows is not practiced as this type of weapon has been replaced by mechanic or automatic guns.





Archery competition. Artist S. Imodinova

