

On July 3, 2017 we did an event to feature the new sport of Archery Tag®. **We used knockoff equipment** because of time constraints and potential overall cost. We bought arrows from a local archery supplier and used tips that screwed into them that we found online. We used off-the-shelf bows.

Here is what happened:

**THE TIPS: The arrow tips began to break down after only a few shots and it quickly became apparent that someone was going to get hurt.** We knew this because the shaft in the tip of an arrow had recessed quickly into the foam of the tip. We pulled the soft foam off the front of that tip and saw a circle of metal starting to peek through the harder second layer of foam. We cut this arrow open to see what we were working with; basically a field point arrowhead inside this thing!!! We couldn't believe it. We were at this event and someone was going to get hurt. We couldn't stop, and we couldn't keep playing, so we added washers in places we could and reduced our arrow count to only those that we had modified and continued to modify the leftovers and hopefully make it through the event. Well, we made it but **I was scared to death** that this could be the end of our business. We never would have bought tips knowing that **people were essentially firing a blunt field tip wrapped in foam**, foam that wouldn't last 10 shots when impacting a human being.

**THE NOCKS:** A nock is what connects an arrow to the string and because we used store bought arrows, they had standard hard plastic nocks. Now, we were lucky and only used the arrows one time, but the **nocks could easily puncture the skin of a player in a variety of ways.** These things couldn't be put on a bow string quickly because the players had to look down to get it on the string and they **could easily cut or injure someone.**

**THE BOWS:** A bow is a bow, right? Wrong. These things failed again and again. **Strings fell off** while players were running or from overdrawing the bows. We even had some break near the end of our event.

Don't buy crap equipment to save \$500. Buy something that has never caused an injury and had thought and an engineer behind it. You will be much happier knowing the people playing your game are safe while using equipment that doesn't fail after one day of use. The first time some kid gets a puncture wound from a garbage arrow tip, your business will no longer be a destination for any parent. Don't be the person that ends the fun for the rest of us. I know that Archery Tag® does research, they have engineers design their stuff, and it is safe for use because I have played using their equipment. **I won't buy anything but official Archery Tag® equipment now.**

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