



# **FITA Para-Archery**

## **A Handbook for Classifiers**





## Classification Rules

### 1. Archery Sport Classes

Archery will be comprised of the following classes:

- ARW1 (with sport sub-class ARW1-C)
- ARW2
- ARST (with sport sub-class ARST-C)  
*Note: The sport sub-classes are only in place to allow development of archers at a national level and will not be used in international events*
- VI

### 2. Functional Classification System

This classification system uses disability profiles and a numerical calculation of locomotor ability as guidelines.

### 3. Locomotor Disabilities

- 3.1. All locomotor abilities are tested by the
- Assessment of points for muscle strength testing, and/or
  - Assessment of points for dysfunction (co-ordination) testing, and/or
  - Assessment of points for joint mobility
- 3.2. 340 points have been allocated to an able-bodied archer. This total is used to calculate the relevant classification.

Body Segment	
Arms	180
Trunk	60
Legs	100
Total	340

- 3.3. The minimal handicap to be eligible to compete is either
- A loss of 25 points in the arms, or
  - A loss of 20 points in the trunk, or
  - A loss of 15 points in the lower limbs, or
  - A loss of 25 points in total
- 3.4. Observation of the archer shooting follows and updates the points calculation assessments. This will demonstrate the functional abilities applied in the shooting.



#### 4. Classification Procedure

- 4.1. Each international classification team shall consist of at least three authorised classifiers, at least one of them having a medical background (e.g. physiotherapist or doctor).
- 4.2. A national classification may be completed by one person.
- 4.3. Complete personal details must appear on the classification report.
- 4.4. Testing is to be done on a horizontal medical testing bench.
- 4.5. Perform the Bench Test: selecting the appropriate test(s) from the following:
  - Assessment of points for muscle testing and/or
  - Assessment of points for dysfunction (co-ordination) testing and/or
  - Assessment of points for joint mobility
  - Type of amputations to loss of functional ability
- 4.6. For the archer who has multiple disabilities the tester assesses which of the disabilities (muscle strength, coordination, range of movement) is functionally more severe and then test accordingly.
- 4.7. Make a note of the assistive devices, providing they are allowed within the rules.
- 4.8. Perform the shooting test and if necessary update the point assessment
- 4.9. Note: it is **very** important to complete the shooting test when the shoulder function is affected.

#### 5. Assessment of Points

- 5.1. Muscle strength testing
  - 0 - Total lack of voluntary contraction
  - 1 - Trace, faint contraction without any movement
  - 2 - Poor, contraction with very weak movement when gravity is eliminated
  - 3 - Fair, contraction with movement against gravity
  - 4 - Good, contraction against gravity and some resistance
  - 5 - Normal, contraction of normal strength against full resistance
- 5.2. Dysfunction (co-ordination, spasticity, athetosis, ataxias) testing
  - 0 - No functional movement at all
  - 1 - Very minimally co-ordinated movements and/or very severely restricted range of movement due to severe hypertonic muscle stiffness
  - 2 - The sequence of movement is very difficult and can only be carried out very slowly and uncoordinated and/or not more than 25%



range of movement during fast repetition and/or severely restricted range of movement with severe spasticity - hypertonic muscle stiffness present

- 3 - The movements can only be carried out slowly but roughly without faults and/or no more than 50% range of motion by fast repetition and/or moderate range of movement with moderate spasticity with tone restricting movement and/or moderate co-ordination problems
- 4 - The movements are slightly uncoordinated and/or no more than 75% range of motion by fast repetition and/or slight increase in muscle tone
- 5 - Normal

- 5.2.1. Archers with spasticity, ataxia and/or athetosis will be tested with an active tempo-motion test (rapid repetitive movements).
- 5.2.2. Associated reactions of upper and lower limbs have to be watched carefully during a shooting test.
- 5.2.3. Reactions and co-ordinating effect of the antagonistic muscle must be taken into consideration for upper limbs and the upper trunk.
- 5.2.4. Testing should be repeated with the neck turned into the shooting position, in order to note influence of the postural reflexes.
- 5.2.5. Evaluation of the trunk co-ordination must be done mainly in the shooting test, considering that some incorrect positions or movements are caused by the technical level reached by the athlete and/or by incorrect shooting equipment or assistive devices used and not by functional disabilities.
- 5.3. Range of movement testing
  - 0 - No range of movement
  - 1 - Minimal range of movement
  - 2 - 1/4 movement
  - 3 - 1/2 movement
  - 4 - 3/4 movement
  - 5 - Full range of movement

## 6. Sport Class Profiles

### 6.1. ARW1

Defined as a tetraplegic archer in a wheelchair or comparable disability.

#### 6.1.1. Practical Profile

Arms: Limitation in functional range of movement, muscle strength or Co-ordination

plus



Trunk: poor or non-existent muscle control affecting static balance, while the bow is raised in the shooting position

and/or

Lower limbs: usually considered non-functional due to amputation, limitation in range of movement, strength and/or control (this means minimal ability to walk over long distances or no ability to walk)

### 6.1.2. Disability Profile

#### Tetraplegia

Quadriplegia, Triplegia or severe Diplegia with limitation in control of upper extremities or upper extremity spasticity (spasticity grade scale for muscle tone 2-4) / ( this is likely to mean limitation of draw weight due to decreased function in the shoulder and string arm elbow function and/or limitation of function of both hands, not including the wrist).

Double amputation below the knee associated with hip fusion or double above the knee amputation with short stumps (i.e. proximal 1/3). Both of these conditions must also be associated with amputations in **both** arms or limitations in functional range of movement, strength or control of arms.

### 6.1.3. Minimum disability in each arm of

- 5 points associated with minimum disability of 15 points in the trunk or
- 5 points in each arm and 35 points in the legs or
- 5 points in each arm, 8 points in the trunk and 20 points in the legs.

[examples below]

#### Numerical examples of ARW1

Left arm	Right arm	Trunk	Legs
5	5	15	////////////////////////////////////
5	5	////////////////////////////////////	35
5	5	8	20

## 6.2. ARW1-C

Within ARW1, archers with a greater handicap could be allocated to a sport sub-class ARW1-C and be allowed to compete in facilitated rounds at national or development level competitions.

*Note: These archers can compete in a higher class internationally.*

6.2.1. Minimum disability in each arm: 20 points associated with minimum disability of 15 points in the trunk or of 35 points in lower limbs or of 8 points in the trunk and 20 points in lower limbs.



[examples below]

Numerical examples for ARW1-C

Left arm	Right arm	Trunk	Legs
20	20	15	////////////////////
20	20	////////////////////	35
20	20	8	20

### 6.3. ARW2

Defined as paraplegic archer in a wheelchair or comparable disability.

#### 6.3.1. Practical Profile:

- Arms: no limitations in **functional** range of movement, strength or control
- Trunk: control can range from good to non-existent affecting static balance, with the bow raised in the shooting position
- Lower limbs: considered non-functional due to amputation, limitation in range of movement, strength and/or control (minimal ability to walk over long distances)

#### 6.3.2. Disability Profile:

- Paraplegia severe diplegia without limitation in control of upper extremities varying degrees of impairment in trunk balance
- Moderate to severe spasticity in lower extremities (Spasticity grade scale 3 or more),
- Double amputation below knee in exceptional circumstances and when approved by an International classifier.

### 6.4. ARST

Defined as standing archers or those shooting from a chair/stool.

6.4.1. Practical Profile: lower limbs are functional for ambulation over longer distances.

6.4.2. They are required to reach minimum handicap in functional evaluation:

- Minimum disability with a loss of 15 points in two legs (with a minimum loss of 10 points in one leg)
- or loss of 25 points in total
- or 7cms shortening in one leg
- Amputation into the lower 1/3 of the leg (above the ankle joint)

### 6.5. ARST-C

Within ARST archers with severe disabilities of upper extremities may be allocated to a sport sub-class ARST-C and allowed to compete in facilitated rounds at national or developmental level competitions.



6.5.1. Minimum disability in each arm: 20 points or 40 points in the string arm

## 6.6. VI

6.6.1. Visually Impaired archers must be classified by an international classifier, authorised to classify those who have a visual impairment.

## 7. Sports Equipment and Assistive Devices

7.1. Personal equipment must comply with FITA Rules except that detailed in 7.2.

7.2. Some assistive devices are allowed, if authorised by an official FITA Para-Archery Classification panel. Classifiers **must** complete the assistive device section on the classification form noting the approved equipment.

All equipment **in addition to that compliant with FITA rules** must be declared to and approved by the Classification panel and be included on the classification form:

- Wheelchair
- Chair
- Compound bow
- Release aid
- Bow bandage
- Elbow splint
- Wrist splint
- Body support or strapping
- Wooden block for foot
- Stool/chair
- Prosthesis
- Leg strap

### 7.2.1. Wheelchair

- A wheelchair can be used with a minimum disability with the loss of 50 points in lower limbs and/or trunk.
- A wheelchair of any type may be used, provided it subscribes to the accepted principle and meaning of the word wheelchair.
- No part of the wheelchair may support the bow arm whilst shooting.
- For ARW2 archers, no part of the chair back or its vertical support may protrude in front of the half of the trunk.
- The highest point of the chair must be at least 110mm below the armpit while shooting at any distance.
- Feet and footplates must not touch the ground.
- The wheelchair must not exceed the shooting space on the line, allowed by FITA (1.25m).



### 7.2.2. Chair/Stool

- A chair/stool may be used with a minimum disability of 38 points in the lower limbs and/or trunk.
- A chair/stool of any type may be used, provided it subscribes to the accepted principal and to the meaning of the word.
- No part of the chair may support the bow arm whilst shooting. No part of the chair may be in contact with the trunk of the archer (this means you cannot lean against the back).
- The area of contact with the ground framed by the legs of the chair and the feet of the archer (i.e. the maximum area that is taken up) must not exceed 60cm wide x 80cm along the shooting line (from the back leg of the stool to the front of the foot).

### 7.2.3. Body Support or Strapping

- It can be used when the sitting balance (static and dynamic) is poor.
- A body support **or** single chest strap may be used by individuals with a disability of T1-5 (no functional abdominals).
- The protrusion, forward from the front of the main vertical support of the chair back may be no longer than 100mm, and shall be no less than 110mm below the armpit.
- Only ARW1 archers are allowed to use simultaneous protrusion and strapping. They may use any wheelchair and amount of body support/strapping to maintain body stability as long as no support is given to the bow arm whilst shooting.
- The maximum distance forward of any protrusion from the front of the main vertical support of the chair can be 100mm long. The support must be at least 110mm below the armpit.

### 7.2.4. Release Aid

Archers with disabilities in the fingers of **both** hands are allowed, to use a mechanical release aid.

### 7.2.5. Compound Bow

- Archers belonging to sport class ARW1 with upper limbs disabilities may choose to use a compound bow but only with equipment authorised by FITA for the Recurve Bow Division. This means no peep sights and no optic lenses. In addition, there will be a draw weight limit on the bows of 45 pounds for men and 35 pounds for women.
- ARW1 archers may compete in the Open Compound Division with full Compound equipment as described in the FITA Handbook

### 7.2.6. Bow Bandage

Archers with bow arm disability may use the bow either tied or bandaged to the hand.



### **7.2.7. Bow Arm Splint**

Archers with bow arm disability may use an elbow or wrist splint release aids that include wrist support should be declared to the classifiers to be noted on their card.

### **7.2.8. String Arm Wrist Splint**

Archers with string arm disability may use a wrist splint.

### **7.2.9. Assistant**

ARW1 and ARST-C archers unable to nock arrows may have a person to load their arrows into the bow. Such a person must not adjust the bow sight until the end of the shooting signal. Such a person must not be a disturbance to other archers and must wear the same uniform and number as the archer.

## **8. Use of Classification Cards**

- 8.1. At the end of the archer's examination, he/she will be provided with a copy of the classification card.
- 8.2. The archer must take the classification card with him/her to all competitions and produce it at equipment inspection to enable any records set to be ratified or to use the score for ranking.
- 8.3. Athletes must only compete with authorised equipment at all times to allow for records claimed to be ratified.

## **9. Protests against Classification**

- 9.1. Any protests against classification must be made in writing and must be submitted within 30 minutes of the end of the qualification round.
- 9.2. NO protest by team or archer about a classification issue can be made after this period.
- 9.3. The Chief Classifier may make a protest "under exceptional circumstances" at any time.
- 9.4. There is no legal liability to classify everybody. To say that someone is "not eligible or not classifiable" is not saying they are not disabled. We are not questioning their disability. It is just that some disabilities do not fit into the para-archery system.

## **10. Special Note**

Archers who do not have a classification are not excluded from shooting but are not able to claim any Para-archery records or to be placed on the ranking list



## Appendix 1

### Protests and Appeals

#### 1. Protests

- 1.1. The term "Protest" is used in these rules as it is in the IPC Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals. It refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 1.2. A successful Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a "Protest Panel".
- 1.3. An Athlete's Class may only be protested ONCE in any competition. This restriction does not apply to protests submitted in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.4. Protests should be resolved in a manner that will minimise the impact on competition participation, and competition schedules and results.
- 1.5. Protests may only be submitted during a competition and up to 30 minutes after the end of the ranking round. Once this period has passed NO further protests may be made (save for Protests made in exceptional circumstances).

#### 2. Athletes who may be Protested

- 2.1. Athletes with a Review Status [R] may be protested by the official representative of a national federation or the Chief Classifier.
- 2.2. Athletes with a Permanent Status [C] can only be protested in "exceptional circumstance".

#### 3. Protest Procedures during Competitions

- 3.1. Protests may be submitted by the official representative of national federation who is authorised to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission, Team Manager) and/or the Chief Classifier.
- 3.2. The Chief Classifier for the event shall be the person authorised to receive Protests.
- 3.3. An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested, either by the athlete's national federation or a different national federation within one (1) hour of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Class being published. If the Classification Panel makes its decision following "First" appearance, a Protest can only be made up to 30 minutes after the end of the ranking round. No further protests may be made except in "exceptional circumstances".



- 3.4. Protests must be submitted in ENGLISH on a designated Protest form obtained from the Chief Classifier for the event.

Information required with the protest:

- Name and nation of the athlete whose class is being protested
- Details of the decision being protested
- The reason for the Protest
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the protest
- Signature of the national federation representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable
- A fee of one hundred (100) Euros
- There is no fee for a Protest in "exceptional circumstances"

#### **4. Procedure**

- 4.1. Upon receipt of the Protest form, the Chief Classifier will review the documentation to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included.  
If the Chief Classifier thinks that there is no valid reason for a Protest, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier will decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. Protest fee will be retained.
- 4.2. If the Protest is declined the Chief Classifier will explain why to the national federation as soon as is possible.
- 4.3. If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier will if possible (availability of classifiers cannot be guaranteed and further classification may need to be completed at a later date) appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Athlete Evaluation.  
The Protest Panel shall consist of, at least three (3) classifiers and shall comprise classifiers of equal or greater level of certification as those involved in the most recent classification.
- 4.4. The members of the Protest Panel must not have been involved in the evaluation that led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than eighteen (18) months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 4.5. The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 4.6. All documentation submitted with the Protest form will be provided to the panel.
- 4.7. If the protest is upheld then the Protest fee will be returned.

#### **5. Protests in Exceptional Circumstances**

- 5.1. A Chief Classifier may make a Protest in "exceptional circumstances" in respect of any athlete at any time during or prior to a competition.



Exceptional circumstances may result from:

- A change in the degree of impairment of an athlete
- An athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition which does not reflect the athlete's current Class
- An error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the athlete being allocated a Class which is not in keeping with the athlete's ability.

5.2. The procedure for the making of a Protest in "exceptional circumstances" shall be as follows:

The Chief Classifier shall advise the athlete and relevant national federation and/or National Paralympic Committee that a Protest is being made in "exceptional circumstances".

5.3. Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as any classification. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision on completion of the latest classification.

5.4. The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest.

## **6. Responsibility for Ensuring Compliance with Protest Rules**

6.1. A national federation making a Protest is solely responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.

6.2. If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest because

- no valid reason for a Protest has been identified by the national federation, or
- the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, or
- the national federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest within the time allocated (this time will be stated when the forms are returned)

6.3. If a national federation resubmits a Protest, all protest procedure requirements will apply.

## **7. Appeals**

The term "appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and how it may be subsequently resolved.

Para-archery has designated the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the appeal body for para-archery. The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals to the BAC are provided by the IPC.



The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws, which are part of the IPC Handbook.

The BAC shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate class allocation procedures have been followed, and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed



## Appendix 2

### Classifiers

It is usual for archery classifiers to either be a medical doctor or a physiotherapist, in certain circumstances other persons will be trained.

A good knowledge of archery is helpful It is required that you become a member of your national archery federation (this remains under discussion).

#### 1. National Classifier

- Is required to attend a classification seminar (both theory and practical elements) and is observed during assessment
- A National Classifier may classify athletes from their own country and send evidence of classification to the Head of Classification for ongoing monitoring

#### 2. International Classifier

- Is required to attend the seminar again, be able to participate in the discussions and demonstrate a deeper understanding of what is required
- Is required to have submitted 10 x classification cards for assessments by the Head of Classification
- Is required to be a member of an International Classification panel to be observed by the Head of Classification
- Is required to make himself/herself available to be part of classification panels where an international panel is required

#### 3. Head of Classification

- Organises and runs classification seminars at all international competitions and by invitation in other countries
- Monitors national and international classifiers
- Maintains the international database
- Attends Para-Archery Committee meetings
- Liaises with competition organisers to:
  1. Arrange their classifiers and to see arrangements are in place for their flights, accommodation and local transport
  2. Obtain a start list from them and provide a list of the athletes who will need to be classified
  3. Make sure there are suitable rooms and equipment available for classification
  4. Organise facilities for photocopying
  5. Organise internet access

### Assistant Classifiers

If it is not possible to recruit a classifier for a region then should a person who is either a coach or an archer can attend the seminar to obtain the necessary information to enable them to work with a doctor or physiotherapist who can do



the physical assessment and therefore enable them to allocate a temporary class to their athlete.

### **Invitation to Classifiers for International Events**

- Classifiers will be asked for their availability and then from the list be invited to competitions by the Head of Classification
- The request for availability should state venue, times and dates of classification and should include arrival and departure dates
- It is expected that the classifiers will be present for the whole competition (in exceptional circumstances a shorter period may be agreed)
- Details of how travel including flights will be arranged
- When a classifier is offered an invitation to be part of a classification panel they should reply promptly either to accept or reject the invitation

### **Classifier Expenses**

- Classifiers can expect travel including flights and local travel to be provided
- Accommodation and meals for the period of the invitation
- Classifiers are International Technical Officials, the same status as the International Judges

### **Competition Organisers Responsibilities**

- An invitation to the Head of Classification must be issued as soon as possible to allow for the invitation to be issued to the panel of classifiers
- As soon as the final entries are received the list of all those entered with class, DOB, event entered, should be sent to the Head of Classification. This will allow the Head of Classification to identify those who need to be classified and to provide the organisers with a classification schedule to forward to the countries affected
- They should make available a suitable private room with an area nearby for waiting. The room must have in it a treatment couch with pillow and sheets or paper rolling towel to cover, cleaning fluid for the couch, five (5) chairs, a table, hand washing/cleansing facilities, drinking water, copies of classification papers
- Facilities for photocopying to allow the athletes classified to be provided with a copy of their form
- Internet access
- Classifiers must have access to the field of play and chairs should be provided

### **Classifier Responsibility at an Event**

- To work to their professional codes of conduct
- To follow the classification rules
- To complete all relevant paperwork
- If in doubt class must not be given until archer is observed shooting
- A copy of the classification cards must be provided as soon as possible to the athlete
- At least one classifier must be on the field during competition



- Must be available during practise and competition unless the Chief Classifier has made other arrangements
- Protests must be dealt with as outlined in Appendix 1
- The completed assessment card and consent forms must be sent to the head of classification if he/she is not at the competition

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