



# NATIONAL JUDGES NEWSLETTER

Issue 52

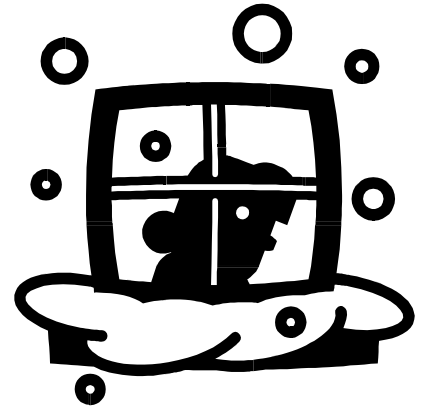
June 2006

**Dear Judges,**

Winter generally means the quiet season – just as well.....  
It is probably a good time to relax (and do some case studies!!!)  
before the spring season starts, and the tournaments begin again  
with a vengeance; and you'll be in the midst of them, either as a  
judge, a competitor or an organiser – or as all three!

Warm regards to you all

Susanne E Womersley



## **Don Lovo passed away**

It is with deep personal regret I inform you of the sudden passing of Don Lovo.  
He has been called the father of International Judging in FITA and was not only my mentor,  
but trained all FITA Judges in the region. Some of you were in a fortunate position to attend  
one of the seminars Don conducted for Archery Australia, either in 1996 or in 1999; and all of  
you would have read some of his articles I reproduced from the FITA Judges newsletter.

His philosophies about judging are reflected in the following article. You probably have read it  
in the AA Judges Manual; but it is one of those things, that should be read and read again...

## **Judge – what does it mean?**

Extracts from an article by Don Lovo, Honorary Chairperson of FITA Judge Committee  
(From FITA Judge Committee Newsletter, #41, September 1994)

"My dictionary and the thesaurus on my computer list a dozen or more interpretations of the  
word JUDGE : i.e. Verify, prove, establish, try, substantiate learn, ascertain, consider, etc. etc.  
The two that I really like are "Justice" and "Arbitrator". Do you know what? I think in a way they  
all apply in some way to what I feel constitutes a "Good FITA Judge".

Nowhere does it say "A Judge just quotes and applies the rules".

I became an International Judge in 1967, and my teachers were strong-willed and dedicated  
men, but maybe a little hard in their application, and I am afraid my early impressions of "My  
Job", "My Duty", were to be tough and penalize whenever an archer, for whatever reason,  
regardless of the circumstances, broke a rule. I thought it really was that simple? If it was we  
could do away with the Judges and just hand the archers a book of rules.

My early articles and seminars reflected this somewhat rigid philosophy and a lot of my  
teaching material came from my predecessors' training information. I am not blaming them,  
indeed not; they established the rules and maintained a strong application of them, important  
considerations that insured equal (but hard) competition throughout the Archery World.

The problem is (was) I did not sleep well with some of my conclusions about the rules, and how we had to apply them.

Am I suggesting that "Modern Judges" must be prepared to "disregard the rules"? No, I certainly am not saying that or even suggesting it. Without the basic rules we would have total confusion. I just want to see "Common Sense Application of the rules"

Let me try and give you simple examples of the difference between blind, and common sense application of the rules.

A) Lets take an example of a real life. I have two good friends who are in the Police force and they tell me of some of the laws and penalties that effect motorists.

We have a law in my city that controls speeding. Our laws drastically reduce the speed limit in school zones, and make the penalty for exceeding these established limits quite harsh. For example we show a maximum speed of 30 km. per hour in school zone. Even slightly exceeding this limit will bring a very stiff (heavy) fine. If you drastically exceed it, say 100 km's per hour, it is considered dangerous driving and the penalty requires the policemen to put you in handcuffs and take you to jail. This is tough but sensibly intended to save the lives of the children coming and going from school.

Lets take a scenario where a policeman stops a man who is driving over 100 km's an hour. The man is found to have been drinking and the policeman does his duty, puts him in handcuffs and takes him to jail. Ten minutes later the same policeman stops another man in the same area also traveling at 100 km. per hour. The second driver explains and shows that he has a seriously injured unconscious child in the back seat who has just been hit by a truck and he is rushing him to the hospital. The same law has been broken, at almost the same time. Should the same penalty be applied? I am sure all of you would say "Of course not!" - yet Judges often do just that.

A good 20% of my "case study" responses from our Judges just quote a punitive point - taking rule without actually looking at the intent of the rule or the circumstances. Sure that is safe, but is it "good Judging" or, is it Judging at all? (Not in my mind).

I repeatedly say now in my seminars and my articles, "Don't just open the book to see if you can find a penalty to take away an archers score, look in the book to find a rule, if possible, to save the archers score".

If the archer has broken a rule that could give him an advantage over the other competitors, distance, time, number of arrows, score, then you must take firm and immediate punitive action. You must do so to protect the rights of the other archers who did not break the rule.

More and more I honestly believe our Judges are recognizing the difference and applying the rules fairly. That is your job, "To apply the rules fairly".

I realize that the words "Common sense" is hard to precisely define. Many times my interpreters even have a lot of trouble trying to clearly translate it. But the thing that made the policemen or you the Judge apply a different application of the rule and a different penalty is precisely that, "Common sense".

In a recent case study I mentioned a situation where an announcer, at the beginning of the 40 seconds timing during the finals round, mistakenly announced that the incorrect archer was to shoot the first arrow of that sequence. This action confused both archers, and they both shot, at the same time, well within the 40 seconds. A number of the Judges responded that the archer who had shot out of proper sequence must lose his arrow, and of course the match!-- God I hate that kind of blind application of a rule! That is a plain and simple misuse of the rules. The only reason we even have the archers shoot alternately is to create excitement for the Media people. If this were not the case we obviously would have them shoot at the same time, as it was previously done, to save time. The intent of the "time rule" is to avoid an archer taking more than the allowed time!

In this case did either archer take unfair advantage? Did either archer take extra time?, Should either archer be penalized for a mistake in the tournament control??? Do I have to answer that? I sure hope not.

I am going to continue to repeat, and repeat this philosophy until we stop getting really unthinking punitive responses to case studies. Simply before you apply a point taking rule, see that it in fact fits the case in question.“

## **FITA Interpretations** (taken from FITA Info 05/06)

### **# 1:**

#### **Book 1, Article 3.1.1, bullet 3**

A question was raised by Council Member on whether a Longbow archer can participate in a Field World Championship in the Barebow division.

*Response from the C&R Committee:*

The FITA C&R Committee is unanimous that a Longbow archer may participate in the Barebow division on the condition that only Barebow rules apply and that this is not an attempt to open an extra Longbow division in the Championships. In that case a Longbow may be considered to be a very simple barebow.

C&R Committee, 9 May 2006

### **# 2:**

#### **Book 1, Article 3.11.1.1**

#### **Book 4, Article 9.9.1.1**

A question was been raised by a Council Member on how many Judges are required for Arrowhead Field Tournaments.

*Response from the Judges Committee and the Field Archery Committee, in coordination with the C&R Committee:*

The Field Committee, the Judge Committee and the C&R Committee are unanimous that the World Championship rules 3.11.1.1 and the rules of 9.9.1.1 apply to major international events only. Since many decisions are made by the archers themselves now for normal FITA Arrowhead Tournaments (FITA Award tournament) the required number of judges can be reduced.

To allow proper tournament control and give flexibility to the organizers a minimum of 3 judges per course of 24 targets, or 1 judge per 8 targets is sufficient.

For local tournaments the rules of the Member Association apply.

Judge Committee, 14 May 2006

Field Archery Committee, 16 May 2006

Coordinated and approved by C&R Committee, 22 May 2006

### **# 3:**

#### **Book 2, Article 7.3.3.1**

#### **Book 3, Article 8.3.2.1**

#### **Book 4, Article 9.3.1.3**

A question was raised by a FITA Member Federation on the possibility to get an accurate but simple definition of the Compound bow.

*Response from the Technical Committee:*

A Compound Bow can be of the traditional riser design or of a shoot-through design. Its draw weight and length can mechanically vary through a system of pulleys, cables, wheels and/or cams. The bow is braced by a bowstring which is attached to one or a combination of the components mentioned and/or directly to the limb tips. In operation, it is held in one hand by the handle (grip) and not supported by other means. Occasional bow arm contact by cables or a bows structural brace is acceptable (see 7.3.3.1.3).

Technical Committee, 17 May 2006 (Approved by C&R Committee, 22 May 2006)

## **FAQs to FITA** (taken from FITA Info 05/06)

### Athletes Equipment

#### **Book 2, Article 7.3.1.5**

#### **Book 3, Article 8.3.1.5**

#### **Book 4, Article 9.3.5.1**

Question:

Can a flat clear plastic or glass inside the sight hood (or tunnel) - offering no magnification and/or light change (with or without an aiming mark on it) - be used in the Recurve division?

Answer:

Such a clear disk is perfectly legal in the Recurve division as long as it is simply a "support" to the aiming dot, ring, cross, optic fiber...

#### **Warning!**

*The above item is neither a lens nor a prism; because a lens/prism has one or two curved surfaces and has the ability to alter light and/or view passing through it. A lens/prism is not allowed in the Recurve division (see article 7.3.1.5.1.); it is only allowed in the Compound division (see article 7.3.3.5.1.)*

#### **Book 2, Article 7.3.3.5.2**

#### **Book 3, Article 8.3.2.5.2**

#### **Book 4, Article 9.3.5.3.1, 3rd bullet**

Question:

In Field archery, can a compound archer have 2 scopes mounted on the sight?

Example for a right handed archer: one scope to the left on the sight, and another one, mounted on the same rod, mounted to right.

*Comments:*

*Usually the scope on the right side of the sight is more powerful and is used for evaluating the shooting distance on the unmarked course, which contravenes the following rules:*

- 2nd bullet of # 9.3.5.3.1
- # 9.3.11.2
- # 9.3.11.3.

*Nevertheless the answer below does not take this illegal use in consideration.*

Answer:

In the Compound division (as in the Recurve division by the way) only one sight point is allowed.

See articles:

- # 7.3.3.5.2. for Outdoor Target
- # 8.3.2.5.2 for Indoor
- 3rd bullet of # 9.3.5.3.1 for Field

Hence 2 scopes are definitively not allowed on a Compound Bow in Field Archery.

## **Judges Courses in New South Wales, South Australia and North Queensland**

New South Wales held a judges course last weekend, and South Australia and North Queensland are planning courses for the next few weeks. These courses should result in the accreditation of several new National Judge Candidates in each of these RGBs and inject some new blood into the Australian judges family.

## **Judges shirts**

Attached with this newsletter is an order form for judges shirts – please complete and return by the due date. WA judges – if you have ordered shirts at the judges course in January, please reorder on the proper form!

Some judges have expressed an interest in identifying themselves by name during tournaments. The Officials Committee does not back the idea of name badges, but supports the idea of individual judges having their name embroidered on the judges shirt, as long as it follows the following guidelines:

The name needs to be embroidered on the right side, at the same height as the AA logo. The font is to be “Script”, embroidery done in white and show the first and surname of the judge in a single line, approx 1.5cm high.

### You be the Judge - Answers from Issue 51

From this issue onwards, Officials Committee member **Ed Crowther** has kindly agreed to compile the responses. Thank you again, Ed, I really appreciate the help.

The table below gives an indication of the number of Judges in each RGB and the number of replies received:

RGB	Judges	Replies	RGB	Judges	Replies
AACT	8	5	ASA	12	nil
ASNSW	13	6	AV	10	5
AST	7	5	SQAS	7	nil
ASWA	13	2	NQAA	5	2
<i>Oceania</i>	7	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>25</b>

### 33%: Not a great effort!!! Were you all focussing on the Nationals or something?

**51/1:** Some minutes before the start of the competition, in the break following the practice period, an archer was on the shooting line pulling his bow loaded with an arrow. By accident he shoots and the arrow hits his target – a good shot in the 10 ring.

A nearby Judge immediately approached him, telling him that the arrow would count as part of the first shooting end of the competition, and that he will lose the highest scoring arrow of that end. The Judge referred to Art. 7.4.2.4

When scoring the first end, the Judge approached the archer’s target in order to take care of the previous mistake and found that the archer had shot only two arrows – a 9 and a 7. The Judge then said that the scoring would be 7-M-M.

The archer protested, however, as his pre-shot arrow scored a 10 and as it counts as a part of the end, this is the highest scoring arrow – and that was also his reason for only shooting two arrows. He claimed to score both of his arrows and thus get 9-7-M. He further claims that if he had shot three arrows, then he would have had four arrows in that end – also referring to Art. 7.4.2.4. The Judge, however, said that he should have shot three arrows in the first end.

*Who is right?*

**11 judges believed that the archer was right and 13 sided with the judge’s decision with all but one quoting appropriate rules.**

***There is evidence here of understandable confusion since some judges were in possession of the new 2006 FITA Rulebook whereas others had to rely on their outdated 2004 one.***

**I suspect that this is why the responses differed. The “old” Rule (7.8.2.4) does state that in this case the arrow “is considered as part of the next scoring end” but under the newly-worded 7.4.2.3 it is clear that it is not and that the highest value arrow is forfeited.**

Those with the luxury of the 2006 *FITA Judge Guidebook* (one judge only!), could also draw our attention to Article 5.5.5, p.39, which informs the judge to “advise the archer to shoot the complete end of 3 or 6 arrows.”

The end result is that a 7 M M should have been the correct outcome. However, as everyone noted, the judge misquoted the Rule and did not give a clear indication to the archer of how many arrows to shoot. The archer would be well within his rights to lodge an appeal.

*It sometimes pays to check your Rulebook before issuing a potentially controversial decision – who knows, an archer may one day ask you to show the rule you are applying.*

**51/2:** At the end of the final range for one of the distances, one of the scorers finds that somehow he had missed writing down the arrow values for all of his own arrows for one complete end. He only discovers this because the range is complete and he still has one set not recorded. The scorers had not been checking the progressive totals as they had completed each end. The scorers call a judge, who advises the archers that the arrows may have to be recorded as misses as the arrows have been pulled. The other score sheet has been correctly completed. The archer writes misses on his score sheet for the missing end. The judge calls the Chairman of Judges to advise of the situation and to decide on what action to take.

*As CoJ, what would you do?*

**There was almost 100% response that the scores as recorded on the one scoresheet should be transcribed on to the second scoresheet. Everyone except two concluded that there was no change to the value of any arrows as such; that this was not in dispute since they had already been recorded. 15 respondents did not quote a Rule but 5 eager beavers did allude to Rule 7.6.1.1 which states that “one scorer will be appointed for each target butt.” They correctly argued that they could find nothing in the FITA Rulebook where two scorers were required.**

**51/3:** In a bronze medal match archer A is 10 points ahead after 9 arrows. Archer B is aiming at the target to shoot her 10th arrow when one of her bow limbs breaks and hits archer A in her chin, causing her to bleed. There is lots of blood running down from her chin. Archer A asks the judge to stop the match for a couple of minutes so that her coach can help her stop her bleeding. She says she needs a band-aid in her chin, mainly because that is her anchoring position. The judge says that the rules are clear: no additional time can be given to an archer for any reason whatsoever.

*What would you have done if you had been the judge?*

**11 judges would allow more time and 13 would tell Archer A to get on with it and shoot, or fix up the injury and shoot with no extra time, or simply retire! 16 quoted Rule 7.4.2.7, 2 quoted rules not applying to match play, 1 did not quote any rule at all and 5 (I was one of these) cited Rule 7.5.4.6. Only 1 judge quoted 7.9.1.9 (“interrupt the shooting ...because of ....a serious accident” and 7.9.1(“the Judges’ duties are to ensure the tournament is conducted....in fairness to all athletes.”)**

**7.5.4.6 Rule states that an extension of time is allowed “in exceptional circumstances.” I would ask you to consider how many times you have witnessed such an incident in match play? You will probably answer “never.” I would then go on to argue that if this is the case then is this not “exceptional?” Remember that we are dealing with a sport and should apply the accepted values of sportsmanship.**

**Can we really allow one person to gain a distinct (unfair?) advantage? One judge also drew attention to the duty of care. Remember, also, that Archer A has only 30 seconds to shoot her arrow since this match requires alternating shooting. Can she really remedy the situation and also be able to shoot in this time frame?**

However, having said all that, the *2006 FITA Judge Guidelines state, under Article 5.5.2, p.36, that “these medical rules are not valid for match play phases of the competition.”* It appears, therefore, that the show must go on and she will gain no extra time. On p.105 of the *2006 FITA C & R Book* we read of “the spirit of sport” and “how we play true” – does this rule truly reflect this? *We’ll throw this one over to the FITA Judge Committee and see what they come back with!*

Thankyou for your responses but please remember – **always quote a Rule** in your answer and **ensure it is a FITA Rule** (some cited AA Rules) on the understanding that cases refer to FITA scenarios unless otherwise stated.

**Also remember that I take full responsibility for comments made and not Susanne!**

I can be contacted on [jilled@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jilled@bigpond.net.au)

**LET’S MAKE THE NEXT CASE STUDIES ATTRACT THE BEST EVER NUMBER OF RESPONSES!**

### **You be the Judge (Case studies)**

Please have your answers with RGB administrators by the end of August, who in turn are asked to collate and forward replies by mid September. Alternatively, judges can e-mail their answers directly to Ed (but inform your RGB administrator, you have done so).

**Please remember to give reasons and quote appropriate rules for all your answers.**

**52/1:** Archer A is calling you to the target as he has an arrow that obviously has hit his own arrow in the 10 zone (this arrow – the 10 – has been severely damaged) and then deflected into the 8 zone. The angle of the arrow in the 8 zone clearly indicates that it has hit the other arrow before and then drifted to the 8 zone. His third arrow in the target is a 9. *What is the score for the three arrows?*

**52/2:** During shooting at an event the judge suddenly realizes an archer is using an anchor plate on his tab that continues into a thin plastic rod which forms a huge half loop. The half loop is hooked around the archer’s neck and thus kept his drawing hand steady at the cheekbone upon release.

The Judge approaches the archer (and his coach) claiming that this anchor plate is not allowed due to its construction, giving an additional aid in releasing.

*Do you agree with the Judge? Explain why you agree or disagree.*

**52/3:** You observe an archer pulling his bow repeatedly in the waiting area – although without an arrow on the bow. *What would you do – if anything?*

