



# NATIONAL JUDGES NEWSLETTER

Issue 54

April 2007

**Dear Judges,**

Happy Easter to all of you!

We are in the midst of a busy time: The three World Championship Selection shoots in January, February and March, the Combined Junior and Open National Championships in Perth next week, as well as many State and Club tournaments – I hope you have some time for shooting as well – and to eat all your chocolate eggs!

Warm regards to you all

Susanne E Womersley



## Oceania Continental Judge Seminar

The first Oceania Continental Judge seminar took place in the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre in Auckland, New Zealand from 27 to 29 December 2006.

The purpose of this seminar was twofold. Firstly, it was held to train Continental Judges from Oceania, Asia and Europe to receive FITA Accredited Continental Judge status. There were 16 Continental Judges registered in the seminar, and eight of them passed successfully the exam and became FITA Accredited Continental Judges.



The new FITA-accredited Judges from Oceania are **Colin Mitchell, Les Jones** (both NZL) and **Jim Beatty, Ed Crowther, John Chaplin and Jim Larven** (all AUS).

At the same time National Judges from the Oceania region had the opportunity to sit the Oceania exam and become Oceania Continental Judges.

**Jacques Chonfont, Didier Gras** (both TAH) and, as reported in the last newsletter, **Karen O'Malley** (AUS) are the newly accredited Oceania Continental Judges.

Congratulations to all of them!

The lecturers for the seminar were **Mr Morten Wilmann** (member of the FITA Judge Committee) and **Ms Carole Hicks** (FITA International Judge and OAC President), whilst the exam papers were marked by Mr Wilmann and myself as FITA Judge Committee Liaison for Oceania.

## **Australasian Masters Games**

South Australia is holding the inaugural Australasian Masters Games from 5th to 14th October 2007. The archery component runs from 7th to 12th October. Events include Target, Clout, Field, 3D and ABA paper round.

There are a number of South Australian judges who have volunteered to judge at this event but anyone else interested should contact **Carole Ashlee** (c\_ash@optusnet.com.au). Please be aware that you will need to pay for your own travel, accommodation and all other expenses, although lunches will be provided on competition days.

## **Vale Terry Williams**

It is with regret I inform those of you who have not heard, that our colleague Terry Williams from Victoria passed away unexpectedly on 2 February.

Terry became a National Judge in 2001 and has over the past six years judged at numerous events in Victoria, where he was known for his good knowledge of the rules and his attention to detail.

Flowers have been sent to Terry's family on your behalf.

## **Oops – arrows drawn before scoring is completed**

At times a Judge is asked to deal with a situation where the arrows have been withdrawn before the scores are recorded.

There is nothing in the rules to guide us in that scenario. Rule 7.10.1.2 specifically states, "A mistake on the score card discovered **before the arrows are drawn**, may be corrected....." Not recording the arrow values is certainly a "mistake on the score card", but the arrows have been drawn – so where does that leave us? Score all three or six arrows as Misses and have the archer loose a possible thirty or sixty points?

Just hand it over to the Jury of Appeal and let them sort it out?

We all know that consistency in application of the Rules is essential, not least in the context of the credibility of the Judges.

Therefore the question was put to **Morten Wilmann**, member of the FITA Judge Committee, who was kind enough to give a detailed answer:

The position of the FITA Judge Committee with regard to this situation, and supported by some Jury decisions, is as follows:

Rule 7.10.1.2, as it is (and even more so important now when archers themselves may change scores) is a basic good rule and should prevent archers (or judges) to change scores “during a cup of coffee” in a later state according to agreement based on memory or hearsay.

However, the main importance in judging is to make fair judgments, or as fair as possible. In these cases you may say that the rules don't say that if you have pulled your arrows you will lose all scores in that end unless their values have been recorded. In other words; we must find the correct scores (and/or use our rules in a protective way).

Various scenarios:

a) The arrows are pulled before scoring. All holes are marked. In this case you have only two options:

1) There are few holes in the target, may be only the three holes from this end, and you may count back scores on the card to find the scores of this end.

2) There are lots of holes in the target, may be even from the practice, and the holes cannot be identified within reason. There will be no score (even if someone “remembers” the score). The Judge must stick to the presented evidence.

b) The arrows are pulled before scoring. The holes from these arrows are not marked yet. Easy situation, the archer will get the scores according to the unmarked holes. They are identified.

c) The arrows are pulled before scoring. There are few unmarked holes, but more than the arrows in question. Presumably, like with bouncers and more unmarked holes are found, three of these belong to the arrows in question. We don't know which of them, but the “same thinking” will give the three lowest unmarked scores. This is hardly the ultimate solution for the archer, but better than getting no scores.

To sum up: We have a good rule for specific situations. There are other situations that are not exactly similar to what the rule intended to take care of which must be handled accordingly.

As for the Jury of appeal: The judge committee want to avoid judges just passing cases over to the Jury without trying to find a valid solution to the issue. A valid solution is not to look blindly at the text of the rules, but look upon the actual case and consider the possibility to safeguard the scores of an archer – if possible. A good and sensible solution by the judges would often avoid further delays due to protests.

Consistent application of the rules is paramount however, experience tells us that the “modern” way of meeting problems seem to have given the judges more credibility than before, when we saw “square” (= black and white) decisions from judges being reversed by Jury decisions.

It may be difficult to walk straight on this line, as we should not let anyone be able to take advantage over others. We must therefore be aware of possibilities of manipulation and this requires “a clear mind” in the heat of the moment of an actual case. A challenge to all of us ....

## Misconceptions.....

Lately there was mention of some misconceptions about the rules coming from archers, judges and/or organising committees of tournaments.

### 1. Arrow calls

In Indoor and Outdoor Archery, if an archer on a target does not agree with the called value of an arrow they have the right to call a Judge. The Judge will view the arrow and declare the value of the arrow, the Judge's decision is final. The archers cannot call for a second or third opinion.

In Field Archery - **and in Field Archery only** – the procedure is different. The majority opinion of the group will decide on the value. If there is a split decision the arrow will be given the higher value. The decision of the archers is final.

### 2. 15-minute break after practice

This is not mandatory for anything other than Continental Championships, World Championships and similar events. "At other FITA events practice will be for a maximum of 45 minutes but may be less, and the competition will start as soon as possible." (FITA Rules 3.19.1.1)

## Handling complaints and appeals

by Ed Crowther

Potentially, this can be one of the most difficult times for all of us. Most often the person(s) involved are emotionally affected and this can manifest itself in anger, tears, claims of unfairness or a whole range of emotions. The target of such hostility may be you, the judge, another competitor, an Organising Committee member or, on occasions, anyone else in the vicinity!

Perhaps the first and most important tactic is to indicate, both by your voice and your calming, non-threatening body language that, "*I am going to listen to what you have to say.*" Research shows that communication is 80% body language. Move the person(s) and yourself away from any others so that the ensuing conversation is only being heard and handled privately by those involved. Frequently there will be others around who want to buy in to the dispute. Calmly but firmly ask them to go away!

You have now established a forum where the antagonist can be heard.

Let the archer(s) have their say without interruption. Usually there is more than one person involved so you need to give a clear message that each one will have their go.

"I will listen to you first and then it will be your turn."

Ensure that you convey to the archers right from the start an approach which says: 'I am sure we can work this out.'

Allow the complainant to state his/her case without interference.

Then ask the other to respond. When both have finished you may wish to ask for any points of clarification since **you need to clearly establish the facts.**

By now the situation will usually have begun to diffuse itself and you can start to move on towards possible ways of working out a solution.

Even though you are not the problem there will be an expectation that it is your job to solve it. Certainly you have a role to play but always try to ensure that those involved contribute significantly to the answer.

You may want to ask, "OK, do you have any ideas as to how we can work this out?" Generally the archers will come up with ideas and as each one is explored/rejected/accepted an agreed solution will emerge to which the archers can be committed. You may then move back and indicate that you will stay and observe to ensure the problem has been rectified to their and your satisfaction and that it is working.

There is a strong likelihood that this technique will produce a longer-lasting and less blameworthy solution than simply giving orders or directions (*which can be immediately appealed!*) Also, by issuing a firm order the archer usually continues to be dissatisfied throughout the day and also blames the judge. Consequently, the state of mind needed to perform and score to one's best has not been achieved and the archer may well continue to hold you responsible in both the short and long term.

This does nothing for your credibility or respect since s/he will invariably talk to others about it and your name can become mud!

Obviously, strategies such as this can only be handled in breaks. Complaints requiring an immediate response must be dealt with quickly so that the shooting is not delayed. In such instances we have little alternative but to issue a firm, yet polite (even with a smile – it works!) instruction – "This is not on! You will stop doing this! I don't want to have to give you a warning!" It's amazing the co-operation you will get when you do it nicely! Archers often go away sheepishly grinning and not minding a bit. **Why?** *Because they know full well that they were in the wrong and that they've been caught out!*

**Appeals** can also be handled in the same way by conveying to the person that it may well be possible for a solution to be worked out by the Judge Commission meeting to discuss and resolve. Ask the archer, (Team Captain/Manager) if they will allow this before proceeding to the Jury of Appeal. If this strategy is successful it can save a heap of time (*once there was an Appeal which necessitated the Jury meeting the next morning and delayed that day's shooting by over an hour – no one could even start to practise!*) and allow the shooting to progress.

Please note that this short article is not intended as a "teach your grandmother to suck eggs" scenario, nor may it be of immense value to more experienced judges. It is also not going to be a panacea for all evils. However, if it is helpful for you in any way then it has achieved its modest aim.

## **You know who you are.....and so do others.....**

Who is the National Judge acting as DoS who made the following announcement, "Shooting will commence in five minutes, which is in approximately three minutes time."

Who is the National Judge who actually believed it, when he was told there would be marching practice for the Tournament Judge Commission to march on with the state teams during the Opening ceremony of the 2007 national Championships?

## You be the Judge - Answers from Issue 53

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	7	3	ASA	11	11
ASNSW	22	12	AV	10	6
AST	7	6	SQAS	7	2
ASWA	13	7	NQAA	5	1
<i>Oceania</i>	7	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>48</b>

**58% - Nearly two thirds - well done everyone – especially ASA with 100%!**

**53/1: At a state tournament the following happens: Three archers go down to the target and score. The caller (an older person and not highly experienced) calls six arrow values for each archer, and then the arrows are pulled from the butt. However when the arrows are returned to each archer the caller is missing one arrow. Subsequent searching finds the missing arrow behind the target. A judge is in the vicinity when the archers look for the missing arrow.**

***What action should the judge take, if any?***

Most agreed that they would allow only the 5 lowest valued arrows to be scored, i.e., deduct the value of the highest scoring arrow and mark it as a miss.

The rule quoted was 7.6.2.2 (although this rule states that “*if more than the required number of arrows...*”). If the caller is missing one arrow then one has to assume that he has only 5 in his hand. Hence, can we apply Rule 7.6.2.2 since we do not have a “*more than*” scenario? Others attempted to help out the inexperienced archer and preserve his score by letting it stand, arguing that he was unlikely to win anyway! Some also tried to assist by looking for unmarked holes, possible pass-throughs and so on – what a generous lot we are! The South Australia contingent (and a few others) drew on 7.10.1.2 which does not permit the scores to be changed once the arrows have been withdrawn and would allow the scores to stand. The problem is, of course, that we can’t have two sets of rules, one for the beginners and another batch for the more experienced.

Consequently, it was generally agreed by the majority that there was no way of determining the value of the newly-discovered arrow and so only the lowest 5 would be scored.

7.6.2.7 does not come into contention here since neither a pass-through nor a bouncer has been claimed.

Many also quoted 7.6.1.4 and would have had a quiet word with all the archers on that target and reminded them of their obligations.

I think the newbie just learned a hard lesson – will he let this happen again? Some years ago at a State Indoor an Under 12 lad let one go before the signal to shoot. On going up to score I explained the rules and consequences to him and then wiped away his tears. He lost the highest scoring arrow and his mum told me later that it was the only 10 he had shot for the day! Some senior archers called me a @#%\*\*\* but we also have an educational role to play as judges! He hasn’t ever done it again!

**53/2: At a FITA Indoor Tournament, whilst checking the conduct of scoring after two ends, you as the judge notice that one archer has shaded in the inner 10 with black biro. You inform him that in your opinion he is trying to gain an unfair advantage which is assisting him with aiming. You then tell him that he is warned not to do this and that you are putting on a new face. He claims that there is nothing in the rules to prevent this and that he and his Team Manager will lodge an immediate appeal which they insist is heard by the Jury of Appeal before any shooting continues.**

***As a member of the Jury how would you respond? Give reasons for your decision.***

Everyone agreed with the judge's action here citing Rules 8.2.1.2/8.2.2.2 (relating to the Pantone Scale and faces being "uniform in colour"). Reference was also made to the final paragraph of 7.5.3 in the Judges Manual, p.37. 8.6.2.5 also requires that arrow holes be "suitably marked." In addition, many said that the appeal would have to be heard at a later stage, quoting Rules 3.13.2 and 3.13.6 and arguing that the archer has no right to insist on an immediate appeal which would unnecessarily delay the competition.

**53/3: An archer at an Outdoor FITA tournament signals an equipment failure after shooting three arrows of the first end. His plunger button is jamming and he requires almost nine minutes to rectify this. He misses the entire second end and the DoS resolves that he will be allowed to make up the nine arrows at the end of the distance. During the fourth end he again calls an equipment failure after two arrows – this time his sight pin thread has snapped. He takes ten minutes to fix this and misses all the fifth end.**

**He shoots the sixth end and then states that he is now entitled to make up his 19 arrows under normal shooting and scoring conditions.**

**He claims that since the equipment failures were two separate and distinct instances, they are to be treated as such and that he is allowed two "sets" of 15 minutes.**

***As Chairman of Judges what decision would you make, and why?***

Once again the vast majority would allow the archer to make up the whole 19 arrows in ends of 6 (3 ends of 6 and 1 of 40 seconds).

Most alluded to the Judges Manual, 7.5.2, paras 6 & 7 – *have a careful read of these.* 7.4.2.5 refers to "**any** equipment failure."

Some argued that it does not say "each" or "every." But 7.8.2.2. states "**an** equipment failure". It appears that the archer is correct and that these should be treated as separate incidents. Bruce Dillon and Helen Austin raised a very good point by arguing that if the equipment failures had been at *two different distances*, there would have been no problem about allowing 15 minutes for each incident, now would there? In other words, why should this be treated any differently simply because it has occurred at the one distance? Some also quoted 7.7.2.5 but this only applies to an archer who has arrived after the shooting has started (i.e., the very first end of the day.) Clearly if this were to continue, however, the judge may be well within his/her rights to suggest to the Organising Committee that the archer withdraw. Common sense tells us that we cannot allow this to happen end after end!

**53/4 *Is the tab shown in the picture legal? Why/why not?***

It was somewhat difficult to make a ruling based on the picture given. Having said that, a huge majority did believe that no help was being given under Rule 4.3.1.8 and deemed it legal. Some had actually seen this in use and the odd one or two had researched the Internet and found the SOMA website for a better look.

One intrepid judge (was that you again, Helen?) went on to comment about its legality for just about every type of bow, e.g., legal for recurve and compound but not for the standard bow or longbow, etc!!!

**Well done**, everyone and, once again, it was really pleasing to note that many of you quoted a FITA Rule, too.  
Ed Crowther

## You be the Judge (Case studies)

Here are the new case studies – let's keep the answers coming!

Please have your replies with RGB administrators by the end of May, who in turn are asked to collate and forward replies by mid June. Alternatively, judges can e-mail their answers directly to Ed on [jilled@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jilled@bigpond.net.au) (but inform your RGB administrator, you have done so).

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

**54/1:** *How would you handle the following situation in which an archer claims to have had a pass-through?* The archer in question calls you from his target and lets you know he has had a pass-through. He says he is sure he shot 6 arrows but he can only find 5 on his target. There is an unmarked hole in the 9 ring. You and the archer look for the arrow but you cannot find it anywhere.

**54/2:** At a tournament the bulb of the yellow light in one of the light devices went out immediately when switched on, so that no indication was given during the remaining 30 second at one end of the field. There was no countdown clock at this event.

When the time was out (2 min.) and the DOS gave the stop shooting signal, one archer in this area was taken by surprise and shot her last arrow on the signal, a poor shot. Claiming that she got no indication of short time left (no yellow light) she therefore wanted to re-shoot her poor arrow.

*Your comments, please.....*

**54/3:** 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 this end?*

