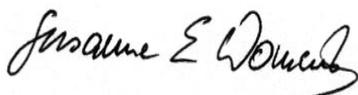


Dear Judges,

Spring has sprung, and we are all gearing up to shoot again, or to judge, or to do both. I have included three very interesting articles from the World Archery News in this issue. They have been written for judges, coaches and competitors. Please spread the knowledge amongst your friends and club members.

Warm regards



Susanne E Womersley
Chair – AA Officials Committee

Contents

New By-laws

Appeals

Illegal Shooting Techniques

Archer's Equipment

FITA Judges Newsletter

Checklists

Errata – FITA Rules 2010

You be the Judge – Answers

New Case Studies

New Bylaws (taken from World Archery News July 2010)

These bylaws have been approved by FITA Council by postal vote and are in effect now.

Bylaw on number of arrows in the Team Elimination Round

Book 1, article 4.5.1.5 - bullet points 3 and 4

Change approved: omit "3 arrows (1 arrow per archer)" and substitute "6 arrows (2 arrows per archer)" in every place they occur.

- The Team Elimination Round, in which the top 16 teams of 3 athletes seeded according to their positions as determined by their total score in the Qualification Round (see match play chart Appendix 10 and Book 2, Appendix 1 to 3), shoot simultaneously a series of matches, each match consisting of 4 sets of 3 arrows (1 per athlete) 6 arrows (2 arrows per archer);
- The Team Finals Round, in which the top 4 teams remaining from the Elimination Round shoot a series of individual matches, each match consisting of 4 sets of 3 arrows (1 per athlete) 6 arrows (2 arrows per archer); culminating in the Medal matches with 6 sets of 6 3 arrows. The teams shoot alternately in 3 arrow segments. The timing is started and stopped when the athlete crosses the 1m line;

Bylaw on Compound Match Round Shoot-off procedure

Book 2, article 7.6.5.2.4 - bullet point 2

Change approved: new bullet point 2. The winner, after three shoot-offs, does no longer depend on the Qualification Ranking, but on the closest-to-the-centre arrow of the third shoot-off.

7.6.5.2.4 For the Compound Match Round

- *A single arrow (for teams 1 per team member) shoot-off for score (maximum of 3 shoot-offs);*
- *If still tied after 3 shoot-offs the highest ranked athlete (team) wins. If the score is still tied in the third shoot-off, the team with the arrow closest-to-the-centre will win; If still tied the arrow second closest-to-the-centre will determine the winner; If necessary there*

will be successive shoot-offs for score, if necessary followed by closest-to-the-centre evaluation until the tie is resolved.

Appeals (taken from World Archery News July 2010)

The possibility of appealing against a decision made by the judges or tournament officials is a basic right an archer has in order to avoid being a victim of an incorrect decision or unfair treatment.

There are only two exceptions from this right: a decision made by a judge re the value of an arrow still in the target (i.e. if the arrow value is a ten or a nine, etc), and the use of a yellow card in the team event. More about this is explained below.

But first of all it is better, if possible, to avoid getting into an "appeal procedure" which will automatically slow down the competition to some extent. One way to avoid getting involved in an appeal is to ask the judges about anything that might be unclear re shooting and scoring procedures, before "a situation occurs". The Team Captains' Meeting is a good forum to air any questions or complaints, but if necessary the judges will be happy to help at any time during the competition.

The procedure for making an appeal is that the archer, or his Team Captain/Coach, immediately launches intent to make an appeal, and then have they some minutes to write up the details thoroughly on specific forms. The appeal will be delivered to the Chairman of judges (or his deputy if so announced) together with the appropriate fee. The fee is established to prevent unnecessary appeals and the fee is returned if the appeal is won. However, the Jury may return the fee even if the appeal is lost, which may happen if the case was well founded.

Upon receiving the appeal the Chairman of judges may find the case obvious and will solve it without involving the Jury, and then they will advise the archer/team manager to consider withdrawing the appeal. If the Chairman of judges cannot resolve the problem this way they will immediately deliver the appeal to the Jury, and inform the relevant persons (Director of Shooting, field crew, etc.) that there is an appeal and that there will be a delay in the shooting procedure (if necessary).

A bit more on the exceptions re appeals mentioned above: as our rules say that a decision made by the judge re the value of an arrow still in the target is not appealable, anything else re the value of an arrow such as a shoot-through, bouncers, too many arrows, etc, is appealable.

A judge deciding an arrow value has to follow some given procedures as indicated in the Judges Guide Book, but these procedures are not rules. If the judge does not give the value of an arrow to the archers liking the archer is not given any further rights of appeal, but unqualified behaviour by a judge should be reported to the Chairman of judges, any such information will be used to improve the overall quality of judging.

Talking about judging arrow values, as indicated in the rules neither the arrows, nor the target face or buttress should be touched until all arrows have been scored. Occasionally, due to the difficulty in positioning themselves to decide upon an arrow value, a judge may happen to touch something, even if they try to avoid it. This will however, not influence the judge's decision who will give the value according to their opinion after following the proper procedures.

Showing a "Yellow card" in the team event is the other exception, and the reason for having this exception is that the situation cannot be re-installed. This is just like a football (soccer) referee who has to make an immediate decision. They may overlook something or make a wrong decision. This is a part of the game, so there is no need to protest on

being shown a yellow card or the lack of a yellow card being shown to the other team, better to concentrate on your own team and their quick response to a yellow card and/or their performance.

Illegal Shooting Techniques (taken from World Archery News August 2010)

Over the last two years many archers have been told to change their pulling technique due to safety. Mostly it concerns compound archers, for two main reasons. Some of them have bows that are too hard for them to pull over the peak weight, so much so, that they use too much energy to be able to concentrate on the direction of the arrow. This heavy peak weight may cause them some injury. Secondly, if the release "goes off" the shot cannot be stopped and the arrow may travel a great distance and land in an area that is dangerous to other people or animals etcetera.

The coaches have a responsibility to see that the bows are pulled so that, if the release activates, the arrow will not fly any higher than the top of the target. This is a technique that has to be trained from the very beginning not at a championship tournament. This may require the peak weight to be set so that is comfortable and manageable by the archer. The judges will of course look at the direction of the arrow when the full energy is in the bow, and they are not concerned about the direction of the arrow before that point. I.e. many archers lift their bow arm before pulling the bow in order to put their bow arm shoulder correctly into place. Sometimes archers/coaches may refer to other events where they have not been told to adjust their pulling angle, but that might be because the judges are considering the total possibility of danger, and that may vary due to the background of the targets.

Another issue is the bows that have a built in brace on the bow hand side of the riser, some of them very close to the bow hand due to the archer's shooting technique. One should be aware that the bow hand cannot regularly touch this brace, and thus give a kind of "stabilisation against torque". The judges will study this carefully during shooting, and will judge according to their opinion. The same goes for compound bows that are fitted with split cables, i.e. shoot through cables. These cables must not regularly touch the bow arm although fewer archers are using this type of set-up nowadays.

From a coaching point of view it is essential to create a shooting technique that is safe and never needs to be adjusted, especially when it is least convenient, such as at world championship tournaments.

Archer's Equipment (taken from World Archery News August 2010)

When introducing new equipment to an archer, the coach has a certain responsibility regarding the legality of such equipment, as it could be quite disastrous for an archer if they have to correct their equipment at an event.

It could also be a huge disadvantage for the archer if they need to change their technique to abide by the rules of shooting.

First of all, you must be aware that equipment "for sale on the open market" is not necessarily legal in FITA archery events. What is legal is explained in the FITA rules. It is worthwhile to note some of the more common rules that seem to cause most confusion are mentioned below:

- a) Equipment specified as being legal is explained in the rules; **any other equipment is consequently not legal.**
- b) The archer is responsible for ensuring their equipment is legal.

The rules also state that if an archer is in doubt of the legality of their equipment, they should ask a judge for clarification. The judge will certainly help, but the legality question is still the responsibility of the archer (a judge making a mistake does not change the rules, etc). To be quite sure of the legality of the equipment being used, a request for

interpretation, or clarification, should be sent to the FITA office in Lausanne, Switzerland by the national federation.

Legality of the bows in the compound category is actually the easiest to confirm, as most "items" are legal. The limitation is basically the following: the bow can have a maximum peak weight of 60 lbs (be aware of varying tolerances on specific weigh scales, the archers cannot claim a weight more than 60.0 lbs). The "overdraw" cannot exceed 6cm, there shall be no electrics or electronics on the equipment and there cannot be more than one aiming point. It is advisable to set the peak weight of the bow a little less than the maximum permitted to avoid a need for this to be adjusted at a tournament.

For recurve (and barebow, instinctive and longbow) the rules are more specific and have to be studied carefully).

For field or 3D tournaments the equipment must not be modified in any way that would give any aid in estimating distances. This rule also applies to the compound bow category.

If the archer uses illegal equipment, there are basically three courses of action that the officials can take:

- a) The archer will be asked to adjust their equipment to make it legal, but no further action is taken because it is not considered to have given any advantage (so far).
- b) The archer's scores may be disqualified up to the point of the equipment adjustment, but they may continue to shoot and record a score from the point of the equipment correction.
- c) The archer's scores may be disqualified completely (this action may be used if the archer is considered to be knowingly cheating).

FITA Judges Newsletter Issue 75

I draw your attention to the August issue of the FITA Judge Newsletter. There is some very interesting reading. As always, you find it on the FITA Website (www.archery.org) under Publications > Newsletters.

Checklists

The Officials Committee has updated the checklists for Target, Field and Clout events. They are attached to this newsletter. Please save on your own computers and use from now on.

Errata – FITA Rule Book 2010

A 4-page errata sheet for Books 1-5 of the FITA Constitution and Rules has been released and is valid as of 1 September 2010. They are attached at the end of the World Archery Info September 2010.

You be the Judge - Answers from Issue 66

Edited by Karen O'Malley

The table on the next page shows the number of Judges in each RGB and the replies received.

Hey everybody ... we are not even reaching a 50% reply rate here, despite a kindly reminder email!

Please try to get your responses in early next time as we will be running into the holiday season, when everything gets a bit silly. And please actually make a decision in your reply, keeping your response to a few clear paragraphs.

RGB	Judges	Replies	RGB	Judges	Replies
AACT	7	0	ASA	15	8 (group effort)
ASNSW	21	10	AV	12	4
AST	11	2	SQAS	10	2
ASWA	10	3	NQAA	4	4
<i>Oceania</i>	7	2	Total	90	35

Now, how did we go on the last case studies?

66/1: *The following happened at a FITA Star tournament. Targets were being moved from 70M to 50M, but are actually misplaced at 45M. There were lots of different lines on the field - one group was first to move their butt and put the target down in the wrong spot, everyone else just lined theirs up alongside and nobody noticed in their hurry to get to lunch.*

After the break the first scoring arrows were shot and everyone was hitting high red/blue. The DOS stops shooting immediately and calls the Chairman of Judges on the radio.

What should we do? Reshoot? Or too bad for everyone who shot an arrow? What decision would you make being the CoJ?

Remember these case studies are not just to test our knowledge of the Rules, but also to keep us mindful of our responsibilities as Judges.

Clearly, the Judges in charge did not do their job in ensuring the afternoon's range was set up at the correct distance. Had they done so, the problem at the tournament would have been avoided. Similarly, the DoS acted incorrectly in stopping the tournament half way through an end, causing a further problem where archers had shot different numbers of arrows. So, there are two lessons to be learned, here. But how best to deal with a situation caused by the Judges' negligence?

Did the archers gain any advantage in shooting at 45m instead of 50m? No, especially as this is not their FITA distance. In fact, the archers may well be 'disadvantaged' by the disruption to the afternoon's shoot. As Judges, we are meant to protect the archers' scores and opportunities to claim records and FITA awards. The best way to deal with the situation given in this case study, therefore, is to suspend shooting until the range is re-set at the 50m distance, then recommence the shoot from the beginning of the distance. This is what the vast majority of responses from our Judges suggested.

The Rules do not make allowance for occasions when Judges have been in error and remember, the occasions when archers lose their scores are very specific in the Rules. The occasions when an arrow can be considered as 'not shot' (7.4.5) do not apply here. However, the intention of this rule is to ensure that archers should have full control from a safety aspect.

66/2: *This is a question that has come up previously, but still causes confusion.*

If there is an equipment failure during a field tournament, when do the "30 minutes" begin and when do they end?

This depends on the level of the tournament and the ruling by the CoJ should be made clear at muster (for local tournaments) or team captains' meetings (at National events). Accepted practice has been to start the 30 minutes from the time the archer reaches the assembly area at local events or the Team Captain has been notified at national events or

higher. If the archer can repair and rejoin his group within the 30 minutes he would not miss out on any scoring arrows. (9.5.1.7)

About half our Judges got this one right. I hope there is no confusion at future events.

66/3: *Twenty seconds before time runs out, you are called by an archer who has an equipment failure (some problems with sight screws), with one arrow left of that end. It is obvious that the archer needs some time to make repairs, and scoring takes place.*

After the next end has been shot, you approach the archer, who is quite new to archery, to see whether he is ready to shoot his non-shot arrow in order to catch up on the competition.

The archer looks surprised and informs you he has repaired his sight and shot the remaining arrow, along with the other three arrows of the last end.

As a judge, how do you take care of the situation?

This is a case where we as Judges need to remember our role is also an educative one. The Judge should have been very clear and specific in giving instructions to the archer when the equipment failure was notified. It is customary for a Judge to remain with an archer who has equipment failure and let the DoS know when the archer is ready to shoot the remainder of the end. Because of the archer's inexperience, he has shot too many arrows in one end and would be allowed to score only the lowest 3 for the 'offending' end (7.6.2.2/7.8.2.6) and the judge needs to alter the score sheet for that end. However, the competitor is still allowed to make up the one arrow remaining from the equipment failure. This should be shot under the DoS' direction or under the Judge's supervision.

Almost everybody got this one right. Well done!

You be the Judge (Case studies)

Please have your replies with RGB administrators by the end of November, who in turn are asked to collate and forward replies by mid December. Alternatively, judges can e-mail their answers directly to Karen on dragonladyofthelake@gmail.com (but inform your RGB administrator, you have done so).

Remember to give reasons and quote appropriate rules for all your answers.

67/1: At a high level Field event, the competitors are finished for the day and coming back to the muster area. You as a judge wait at the furthest distance out, to call in on your radio that your allocated targets are clear. A straggling group comes past and tells you that they started on Target 14 and have somehow missed 2 targets. They have only recorded scores for 22 targets on the scoresheet.

They tell you they have photographed each target that they shot and want to cross-reference with your field layout so they can work out which targets they have missed, so they can correctly complete their scoresheets, and shoot the missing targets. From what you hear on the radio, the rest of the field is clear.

What do you do as a judge in this case?

67/2: There is a power failure when the archers are shooting an end at 70m (Qualification Round). The lights disappear and the countdown clocks stop working. At the end of the 4 minutes the DOS stops the shooting by giving two beeps (as two archers are still on the line, aiming with their last arrow). The archers claim to get another 40 seconds to shoot their last arrow. *What is your decision?*

67/3: At the end of the competition the organising committee collects all the score cards and enters the scores into the computer. Where the double scored cards for a target do not agree the committee enters the lower score. After the results have been announced and the archers have received their copy of the score cards several archers find adding errors that have penalised them places and come to you as chief judge for advice. *What will your advice to them be?*