

Jury of Appeal Procedures and Responsibilities

Part 1 – Organisers

Produced by the
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and
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Upholding the rights of the competitors is one of the most important requirements at any World Archery event. It would be very unfortunate if the actions of another competitor, a Judge, or a member of the Organising Committee unfairly affect the performance or score of a competitor. Accordingly, World Archery's Rules provide for a Jury of Appeal to handle disputes at the competition to protect everyone's rights.

This is Part 1 of two articles which discuss Jury of Appeal matters. This Article is directed to tournament organisers and the Chairperson of Judge Commission at the event which often have the responsibility to arrange for the Jury of Appeal. Part 2 is directed to members of the Jury to understand their rights and responsibilities.

Appointment of the Jury of Appeal

A Jury of Appeal of 3 members is to be appointed by the World Archery Executive Committee for every World Championships. At other events, the Organising Committee (or other person in charge of the host organisation if there is not an Organising Committee) should ensure that a Jury is selected. Since it is likely that Jury members may not be available at all times during the competition, alternates and the order in which they may be called to serve should be determined. All members of the Jury should be fluent in the same language. The Chairperson of Judge Commission should be advised as to the identity of the Jury.

It is crucial that competitors, team officials, judges and the sports community have faith in the competency and impartiality of the Jury. Jury members must be generally recognised to be impartial and have the necessary experience and competency to resolve disputes so that competitors and team officials have confidence in the ability of the Jury to resolve protests in a fair, knowledgeable, and impartial manner. Jury members should be familiar with the particular rules of the type of competition where they are serving.

Certain individuals should not serve on the Jury:

1. A candidate should not serve if there is any reasonable possibility that a party to the dispute or the public might think that a juror may favour one party even though the juror might actually be impartial in practice. For example, if because of a perceived relationship between a juror and a party to a dispute there is a reasonable possibility that someone could even question the impartiality of a juror, an alternate juror should be appointed to that Jury. The issue is not whether or not there is an actual conflict of interest, but rather whether or not a reasonable person could even suspect that there could be a conflict of interest.

2. Members of the Judge Commission at the event should not serve on the Jury. Often a dispute may involve the decision of a Judge at the event.
3. Team officials should not serve on the Jury. Often team officials are not present on the field or are dealing with his or her team's matters when an issue arises. It is important that Jury members be able to promptly respond and devote their full attention to a protest since often competition is suspended while the protest is being considered. Moreover, while an athlete from the same country as the team official may not be involved in the protest, it is possible that a decision by an official may be viewed by others as somehow providing an advantage to his or her team.
4. Jury Members should not include members of the host country.
5. In international competition, the Jury should not include anyone from one of the countries involved.
6. Athletes and members of the Organising Committee should not act as Jury members.

Jury and Athlete Preparedness

A private room should be reserved for the Jury. That room should contain paper, pens, and a copy of the Rule Book or an electronic connection to the Rules.

The Organising Committee should prior to competition alert the team captains and, if none, the athletes as to the basic procedures of filing an appeal including who should be given any appeal.

The Chair of the Judge Commission should coordinate with the Jury members as to who needs to be on duty during the competition, which includes official practice, as well as those alternates who are to be on call if needed. The Jury members and alternates for that session must be at present at the competition field at all times while they are on duty and should have radios or other electronic means to permit them to be reached quickly.

Conclusion

Since Jury of Appeal decisions pertaining to competition rules are final and not appealable and can be significant in any competition, serving on a Jury is a great responsibility and service to the archery community. By knowing their responsibilities and preparing for protests, the Organisers, Judges and Jury members can greatly assist the competitors and maintain the high regard of our sport.