



Item 14.7 Para Archery Committee Congress Report

By Carole A. Hicks, Chairwoman

Committee Members: Carole Hicks (Chairwoman), Sheri Rhodes, Helen George , Pippa Britton, Dominique Ohlmann, Roman Suda

The Para-Archery Committee has developed a close working relationship with the Medical and Sport Sciences Committee with Nancy Littke as the liaison person from that committee attending parts of the Para-Archery Committee meetings in 2016 and 2017.

The Classifiers Ad Hoc Committee underwent a complete change of membership with Roman Suda the new Head of Classification, and Chiara Barbi, Nancy Littke and Lars Meiworm the new committee members. World Archery thanks the previous committee members for their contributions.

1. Continental activities

Members of the committee have portfolios through which they seek to promote and develop Para-Archery. The Continental Associations form one set of portfolios

Africa

There were 21 African countries competing in the Paralympic Games in Rio 2016. Out of these countries there was only one competitor in archery, Shaun Anderson from South Africa. A great deal of work is being done to promote Para Archery in South Africa.

Algeria sought presenters for a coaches training course but unfortunately the funding was not available. Clearly training courses for coaches and classifiers are necessary to develop Para Archery at a national and continental level. With 28 Member Associations of World Archery in Africa there is a great deal of potential but efforts must be made to obtain funding for equipment, coaches and organizational structures.

Americas

The Americas continue to offer Para training for coaches on a regional basis. Last year 27 coaches of various levels attended a seminar.

The Pan Am Championships continue to host Para divisions as part of the programme. At least once a year, a Member Association will host Para divisions in conjunction with a World Ranking Event.

The Disabled Sports Organization in the U.S. has compiled an instructional manual and has made this available to all members of the region at no cost.

VI participation in the Americas is limited to a small number from the U.S.

Asia

There is an increase in the quantity and quality of Para archers in Asia. At least part of this progress is aided by increasing numbers of Para archers participating in World Ranking Events such as those in Dubai and Bangkok and the Continental Championships, the second one of

which will be staged by Iran in November this year. Iran is also proposing to host training seminars in conjunction with the Continental Championships.

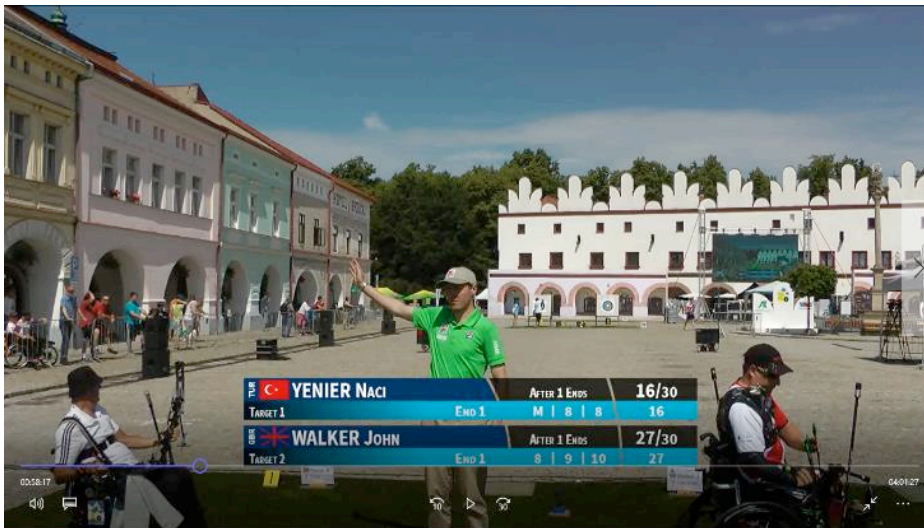
Para Archery is a core sport for the various regional multi-sport games. It is included in the South East Asian Para Championships in 2017 and of course the Asian Para Games in 2018. An increased number of coaches are working with Para archers in more and more countries new to Para archery within the region which can only strengthen the sport. Asian Para archers were strongly represented in every division of the Paralympic Games 2016 collecting medals in every Mixed Team event and in each individual event except the W1 divisions and the men's compound open.

Europe 2016/2017

- The Para-Archery European Cup Circuit with 2 legs (Olbia ITA and Nove Mesto Nad Metuji CZE) was created in 2016. The ranking for the European Cup is based on the allocation of points depending on the rankings from each leg. The objective is to encourage participation of the 2 World Ranking Events. Results counted are for Individuals and for Mixed Teams. We include the Mixed Team Events to try to develop an increase in women's participation in some categories.
- The level of organization is increasing with live streaming on each World Ranking Event and the European Para Championships. When it is possible, final venues are built in iconic places



European Championship 2016 – St Jean de Monts (FRA)



WRE 2016 – Nove Mesto Nad Metuji (CZE)

- To improve the number and quality of Para archers the Council of World Archery Europe is providing a coaching seminar for the Eastern European countries
- World Archery Europe also supported Visually Impaired participation by funding a part of VI classification in 2016 and 2017 for one event per year.
- **Oceania**
- Regretfully there is very little depth in archery, let alone Para archery in this region of vast distances across water and a small number of countries with very tiny populations. Australia's Para Archery Committee has provided support for its few Para and VI athletes who participated in the World Para Championships in 2015 and whose Compound Open archer Jonathan Milne won bronze in Rio 2016.

Athletes' Representative

As the athlete representative on the Para archery committee, I have been fully involved with the committee over the last 2 years.

Most archers' concerns in 2015 and 2016 revolved around selection issues for Rio and I was able to signpost athletes to the answer or refer them on to the right place.

I attended Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and in addition to WA duties, including Jury of Appeal and working on the new classification handbook, I was able to connect with many of the International archers further improving lines of communication and addressing any concerns. Face to face contact has proved to be the most successful way to connect with archers, especially those who do not have much confidence in English.

I have set up a Facebook page for archers to post concerns but my experience so far is that it has given archers a method to contact me but they do not wish to post concerns publicly. Although it does not look busy and has restricted reach I think it remains a useful tool to some archers.



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Feedback since Rio has been around changes to categories and some comment and suggestion regarding the WA website that I have passed on to the relevant departments.

I have recently been supported to attend the inaugural IPC Proud Paralympian Forum in Duisburg. The event was very well attended by representatives from the IFs and the NPCs, including some from nations not regularly seen at similar functions (African nations etc.). Seminars and workshops were held on subjects ranging from anti-doping and classification to athlete careers and I was asked to present on athlete communication outlining the ways in which WA seeks to communicate with the archers. The session was well received and several people stated that they felt they could learn from the archery model which was good.

The event is planned to be a biennial event and I would recommend that in the future the para archery athlete representative be supported to attend if at all possible. The opportunity to explore and discuss best practice in engaging within the athlete community cannot be underestimated.

Title 2

Other portfolios

Classification provides the foundation of Para competition so it is essential that each sport has a strong classification code that is compatible with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletes' Classification Code which became effective 1 January 2017.

The new classification ad hoc committee, with assistance from the Para athletes' representative and the chairwoman of the Para Committee, has overhauled the World Archery Handbook for Classifiers, making more explicit the detail of the various aspects of physical impairment, the organization of classification for tournaments. There are new criteria for the W1 division which will come into effect on 1 October 2017 after the Para Championships in Beijing. Perhaps most importantly, the Committee is undertaking the assessment of current International Classifiers and Candidates in Beijing 2017 and developing the regular and on-going education of Classifiers. Over the next two years priority will also be given to training International Classifiers particularly in areas where there are presently few. One such priority will be providing additional International Classifiers in the Americas.

Visually Impaired archery has been promoted by World Archery and some individual Member Associations but regrettably the numbers do not seem to be increasing. A major issue is funding because virtually every VI archer has to pay her/his own expenses for tournaments, even for the World Para Championships. When considering each VI athlete requires a support assistant to set up the foot markers and, particularly, the tactile sights, competing is a very expensive business. Regrettably the very small numbers entered in the VI divisions in Beijing meant that it is not possible to hold their Championships this year. It may be possible to stage a special tournament just for VI archers during 2017. In order to promote VI archery we could establish a National Classification level. This should encourage potential archers with vision disabilities an easier route to participation.

We suggest that the exam for a National VI classification be based solely on the IBSA charts. In the same way that 'national' Para classifications opened doors for others, this could have an impact on encouraging VI archers.

Para Committee member Helen George has worked with the World Archery Centre of Excellence to create a programme to train some 20 coaches to work with archers with impairments. The Centre has sought funding from IPC to deliver the training course this year or early in 2018.

Dr Lars Meiworm of the Classifiers Committee, in conjunction with Freiburg University, has made application to IPC for funding to research the various aspects and importance of balance - standing and sitting - in Para archery but the results will also be of interest to all archers and coaches.



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Networking with other sports and with IPC staff and elected persons is important and so World Archery representatives have attended IPC organized seminars for Heads of Classification and, for the first time, a Para athletes' gathering.

Later in 2017 World Archery will continue to actively participate in the establishment of an organization of International Federations participating in the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games which will then negotiate directly with IPC on aspects relating to the Paralympic Games as happens with the IOC for the Olympic Games.

Following that meeting World Archery will be strongly represented at the General Assembly of IPC at which a new President and Governing Body will be elected.

Conclusion

The Para Committee is grateful to the work of our many Member Associations working hard to promote Para archery, to increase the number and quality of Para archers, their coaches, classifiers and support persons. Thanks are also extended to Secretary General Tom Dielen, main support staff member JK Lee, all the other staff of World Archery and the members of the Executive Council for their unfailing support of Para archery.

It has been a privilege for us to have served Para archery over the last four years.

I move that this report be received.

Carole A Hicks
For Para Archery Committee