



## JUDGING NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

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### 1. Editorial

**from Indranil Datta, Chairman of WA Judge Committee**

Dear Judges,

As we head towards the start of the Outdoor season, I would like to wish all of you luck for a successful issue free event. As some of you might be aware, we recently concluded the Joint Committee meeting at Lausanne in February and a lot of topics were discussed. Quite a few of them will have direct impact on how we perform our duties this year. Hence, I would like to stress on the importance of going through those changes, as highlighted in the below sections, and ensure you are clear on them. We will be covering them in detail during our briefing with the chairs and deputies in the coming week, so if you have doubts, please feel free to reach out to your Chair or the WA JC for further clarification. Also, another point to highlight from the meeting is towards the end of the year we will be having our Congress where a new version of the Rulebook 2 and 3 will be presented. The idea is to clean up our current rulebooks, remove duplicity, and bring corelated information under one section. While C&R is heading this activity with WA office, the WA JC has reviewed and provided their feedback on the draft version of it. We feel this is a good step forward as this will help our judges to easily refer to articles in the rulebook and apply them on the field. Without further ado, I wish you a happy reading and please get in touch for any questions or suggestions you may have.

Regards,  
WA JC

## 2. Honors for our Judges

### Susanne Womersley:

Susanne retired from International Judging at the end of 2024, having had a stellar "career" encompassing some 4 Olympic Games and chairing the commission at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010. Susanne has also been very active, and remains so, in World Archery work, previously as a member of the Executive Board, and latterly as a committee member of the Technical Committee, where she is still active.

To honor her significant contribution, Susanne was awarded a Bronze Plaque by World Archery alongside her Judge outstanding Service Award. The presentations were made by Tom Dielen at the recent meeting of all committees at the World Archery Excellence Centre in Lausanne.



### Irena Rosa



Many of you will know and have worked with Irena, who retired not so long ago from International Judging.

Irena has long been making a significant contribution to the sport, not only through her work as an International Judge, but also working with World Archery Europe and at home in Slovenia.

We were delighted to hear that Irena's work had been acknowledged at home through her being presented with the Bloudek Award for Lifelong Contributions to Sport - the highest award granted

by the Slovenian government through the Ministry of Economy, Tourism, and Sport for achievements in sport. Irena's citation referenced her long service in archery to the local, national and International archery communities, including her work as a Judge at European and World Championships

Irena and Susanne have both given significant service to our sport across many spheres, and we are delighted to see both being acknowledged in these ways.

**Judge of the Year – Andrea Aguilar**

Andrea was awarded Judge of the Year for 2024, following a very successful year for her, with two major appointments – firstly as Deputy Chair for the Olympic Final Qualifying Tournament and World Cup Leg in Antalya – where she had initially to stand in for the Chairman whose arrival was delayed, and then as a Judge at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Andrea is a great role model for Judges, with calm demeanour coupled with a strong work ethic to see a “job well done”. A much deserved award for Andrea this year.



**3. Judge Upgrades and Retirements**

Towards the end of 2024, the following upgrades from IJC to IJ were announced:

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>
ANDREW	Logan	NZL
BALUSEK	Curtis	USA
NEVILLE	Andrew	USA
DE MESQUITA	Ana Luiza	BRA

And the following Judges who retired at the end of the year were awarded the World Archery Judge Outstanding Service Award:

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>
SIMON PETER	Louis	MAS
STRANDBY	Bjarne	DEN
WOMERSLEY	Susanne	AUS

Our congratulations to those who have been upgraded and our thanks and appreciation to those who have given such sterling service over the years to International Judging and who have now retired.

#### **4. Appointments for 2025**

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The 2024/25 Appointments, covering both the IWS series and the outdoor events, is published on the World Archery Website in full, covering those appointed and the alternates.

As we look forward to the remaining events of the Indoor 24/25 season, and the 2025 outdoor season, a couple of thoughts if you are appointed to an event:

1. Do let your COJ know early that you have received the appointment letter and ensure they have communication with you
2. If you are appointed as an Alternate for an event, please bear in mind that there is no specific order in which alternates will be called if needed. The Judge Committee will need to consider gender balance in the team, together with specialism (e.g. DOS position) in calling up an alternate if needed.
3. As a reminder for all those appointed, and all Alternates, if the event you are appointed to is in a country for which you may require a Visa, you may need to ensure you ask the COJ to request the relevant invitation document from the organisers (if appointed) and in case you are required (if Alternate), and need to make a Visa application..

We thank all Judges for making themselves available for events and wish all teams well during the coming year.

#### **5. 2025 Conference Dates and Seminar news**

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The 2025 Conference will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, over the weekend of 22/23 November 2025, at the World Archery Excellence Centre. We are aware that there is a large number of you that need to attend this conference – the last in the cycle for reaccreditation – and in the meantime you have received the invitation letter from WA office.

In March 2025 we are holding a WA IJC seminar in Europe, alongside a World Archery Europe Continental Judge seminar. Invitations are closed and your committee are looking forward to working with our colleagues in Europe to accredit new International and Continental Judges at this event.

#### **6. Thoughts from the All Committees Meetings in Lausanne, February 2025**

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As you will all be aware, the Judge Committee joined up with all the other World Archery Committees in Lausanne in early February 2025.

This proved to be an excellent opportunity to discuss various matters and talk through thoughts and ideas for the future of our sport. As a committee we met with all the other committees individually, so that focus could be given to their specialisms, and our impact with them.

There follows a few of the things that were discussed for implementation during 2025, the timing of which, if not shown below, will be advised:

**Para Archery:**

Equipment Inspection: For all our major events, equipment inspection is now to take place while the athletes are on the shooting line during Official Practice. This will have a positive impact for the athletes, and the following information may help.....

- Split Judges into smaller groups (possibly Just 2) to work along the line, with a number of groups all working at the same time
- Measurement of wheelchair and stool should be quicker, as the athlete spacing of 1.25m is now consistent with the length of the chair/stool with the athlete on it along the line.
- It is hope by the time of the major events we will have an APP with the necessary classification card information available for all competing athletes, other than those who may be attending an event for classification.

“Armless Archers”: A new interpretation will be raised covering the issue of the string stoppers not being allowed to touch any part of the body.

Para Classifiers: Where there is no classification scheduled to take place at an event, a Para Classifier will be available online for any clarification on equipment etc required by the Judges.

**Waiting Line:** With the new layout confirmed to be used for 2025 (3m waiting line, then equipment line (further 3m), then media line (1m) with coaches standing at 7m, when we shoot simultaneous Team Matches the coach will be allowed inside the box, but at the back (heels on the back line of the box). This brings the coach into being a part of the team.

In order for their to be more space within the box to accommodate the match judge, the team/coach can only have 1 spotting scope between them. (Binoculars can of course be used by any athlete or coach as well).

**Checking of Athlete Equipment:**

This will continue as normal for each event, but in addition the following will apply:

- Once qualification is complete, the equipment of the top 8 in individual qualification in a division will be checked before leaving the field of play.
- After completion of the individual elimination matchplay up to and including the quarter final stage all quarter-finalists equipment will be checked before leaving the field of play. If an athlete is disqualified at this point for using equipment outside of the rules, then their opponent in the ¼ round will be declared winner (provided thier equipment passed the check).
- It remains advisable to run an equipment check again on finals days when the athletes are on the warm-up field, which also gives the opportunity to ensure there is no colour clash of shirts in individual finals.

**Warnings to athletes for safety matters:**

If it is found necessary for an athlete to be warned regarding an unsafe draw technique, then the warning must also be addressed to their coach on the FOP. If it becomes necessary to then disqualify the athlete, then the coach will also be penalized with a fine. (As teams do not always have one coach per athlete with them, by not removing the coach from the FOP it enables them to work with their other athletes, but they will have to pay a significant fine in respect of the disregard to having a safe technique.

### **Tests due to be undertaken in Antalya World Cup, July 2025:**

- Practice 1 hour before each qualification round, no other “Official Practice” to take place
- 60 arrow qualification round (10 x ends of 6 – no break)
- X ring to be scored as 11
- Recurve elimination matches to take place on day of Compound Finals

(Note: Average arrow score will be used to calculate whether athletes have achieved the minimum qualification score for 2026.)

The changes in Turkiye are a marked move away from previous events – we wish the Chairman and the team of Judges well in coping with this different approach.

### **7. Narratives from the Pressure Zone – Graham Potts**

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Continuing the theme started in Newsletter 113, a few examples of “pressure” situations and how they were handled at the time.....

#### **Adverse conditions.....**

This goes back some time (2013!) when I was appointed as Chairman of Judges for the World Target Championships. As a side note there was some pressure on me, as present in my team were 2 of the Judge Committee members!

Unfortunately, we were faced with some severe strong winds when we got to Team Elimination Matches on the Friday – and knowing we needed to complete these matches ahead of the finals weekend.

Having arrived at the ground as early as possible, I was very concerned at the level of the wind, and immediately sought to contact the Local Organisers, Event Director and the Secretary General to voice concerns.

We discussed as a small group, together with the Director of Shooting, what may be possible, and initiated a Team Managers Meeting before shooting was due to commence. At this meeting the situation was explained clearly to the Team Managers, and we sought a way forward.....

The outcome of the discussions were that we would do 2 things –

1. Double the time allowed to shoot 6 arrows (from 2 minutes to 4 minutes)
2. Put only 1 face on the Compound Matches, and if we had the full 10 Zone 80cm faces we would have used those!

This was accepted by those present, and the practice and matches duly commenced. We had teams asking if they could kneel to shoot (rule book does not allow this) and we had teams wearing laden backpacks to give them stability (could see no reason not to allow, although this would not be allowed on the finals field of play).

During the shooting we had an unfortunate situation with a medical emergency and we had to halt the shooting for a while. When we came to determining if we were ready to re-start, I was firm in my decisions to make sure that everyone was ready to re-start, and that I would give the agreement to make announcements in this respect. We also had situations where the shelters were collapsing, so I also allowed the athletes and officials to be outside of the shelter area, but remaining of course behind the waiting line, if they were no longer involved or shooting as it was safer.



We got through the day, not without difficulty/hardship.

The key to this for me, was that I managed, somehow(!) to remain calm under the pressure of others to make decisions and made sure I was not rushed to make decisions without sufficient thought and information. This also shows us that we can take decisions that are “outside of the box” – i.e. not necessarily within the rules, but enables us to complete an event successfully. Suffice to say I was very concerned as to the effect of the weather conditions on the athletes at the time, and kept constant watch on what was happening.

So my learning point from this is to say that, when things happen that appear difficult to control /decide, you are not alone, you have others to support and work with and can find a way through. At all times a Chair needs to keep their Judge team informed as best as possible, and in extenuating circumstances like this you need to also listen to your team and support them.

## **8. Pictures from recent events**



World Cup Final, Tlaxcala, Mexico, October 2024





Pictures from Vegas Indoor World Series Finals 2025 – these show the additional support we received from other Judges available at this event, and our grateful thanks to them for assisting!



Here are our IJ, CJ and retiring IJ at the 2025 Joint Committee Meeting that took place in Lausanne at WAEC on 7-9 February 2025



## 9. Update on response to case study 113.1

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In the response in the November 24 newsletter to case study 113.1, the answer given would be to give the arrow value of 7, considering the intent of the rule would be to take the part of the shaft with the point attached.

In reviewing this, the Committee have agreed that this "interpretation" is not appropriate, and that in a situation such as this, where the arrow has split into two or more pieces, all of which have penetrated the target face, the highest scoring part of the arrow should be counted.

## 10. Replies to Case studies 114

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### 114.1

*We were pleased to see that everyone commented that the athletes should not be shooting on a RED Light, as when the red light is showing, it means stop shooting. Rule 16.2.2 states that "No athlete may shoot after the stop shooting signal is given." Athletes and their coaches must be warned that if they continue to do so, they will be removed from the Official Practice.*

*Where athletes were staying on the shooting line between the details, there were mixed views, although almost all of you acknowledged that it was wrong to do so if others were waiting to practice, and could be considered unsportsmanlike behaviour.*

*Your committee's view is that the situation needs to be monitored – there are times during the practice period where there are less athletes shooting, and it is not necessary to take action, but when the FOP is full of athletes waiting to shoot the athletes need to be reminded to vacate the line after the first detail and let others shoot. As judges we need to watch this, and remind the athletes as necessary, reporting to the COJ if there is any adverse reaction to this.*

### 114.2

*This particular question drew a mixed reaction, with some of you saying that it was okay to use, others saying that it was not allowed, and others saying they needed to check it more before making a decision. Broadly speaking, we need to consider two things here – Is the surround large enough to affect the athletes field of vision when at full draw, and is it positioned such that it gives an athlete additional reference points to line up for aiming?*

*If we take both these issues into account, we can then decide if the surround is allowed or not, and in some instances it will be ok, in others it may not, particularly given the size, so yes, we should check before agreeing to allow or not.*

### 114.3

*The vast majority of you have commented that you are happy with allowing this attachment to the stabiliser. In some cases reference is made to ensuring it does not create a distraction to other athletes nearby (e.g. sun reflecting into their eyes) or that whether it is able to line the string up better using this.*

*Your committees view is that, while it is unusual, and may be considered to be "not appropriate" it nevertheless does not contravene the rules, and can be used. One word of caution – if it does create "Fireballs" then we may consider that to be a significant hazard!*

Thank you for your responses to these case studies, and the consideration you have applied to them.

## 11. New Case studies

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### 115.1

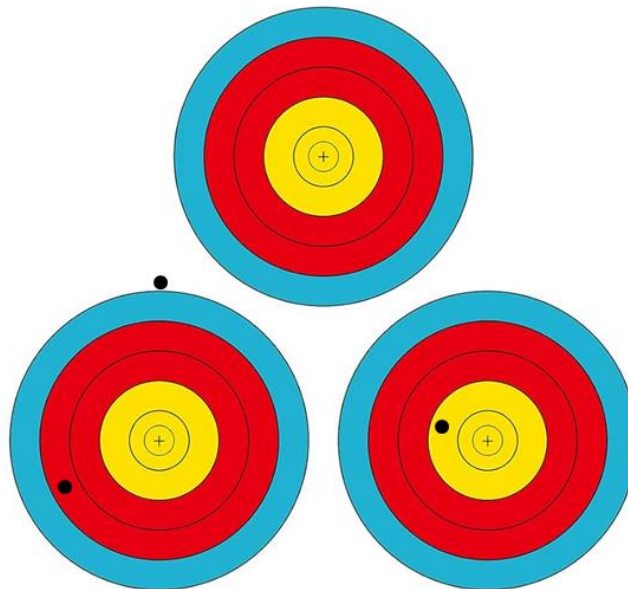
At the start of the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Recurve Mens Elimination round (which immediately followed the 1/16<sup>th</sup>), one athlete was not present as the first set was shot but arrived while scoring the first set took place. The Judge in the area determined that the athlete who had not yet shot would record three misses for the first set and would shoot the second set onwards until the match was over.

- Would you agree or disagree with the action taken and why?
- If you were the chair, is there any action you would want to take and why?

### 115.2

At an Indoor Championship, an archer calls you to the target to check for the value of an arrow. The position of the arrows are given below in the picture. The doubtful arrow is the one which the archer missed on the top centre, and it landed very close to the outer ring of the lower left-centre. As a judge you follow all the process of making a line call but are still in doubt about the value of the arrow – if it is 6 on the lower left face or a M. You remember the fundamental philosophy of judging – if in doubt, always give the higher arrow score to the athlete.

How will you score the end?



**Replies to case studies should be sent to [sderiaz@archery.sport](mailto:sderiaz@archery.sport) by 31 May 2025.**