

JUDGING NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

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1. Editorial

from Indranil Datta, Chairman of WA Judge Committee



Dear Judges,

As we all get ready for the new season to start, I wish all of you best of luck for the events which you will be judging this year. There are quite a few changes which will take place this year and the most important of it being the entire updated / reoriented rule book. As some of you might have already seen, after all the changes and multiple iterations, an updated version is now available on the WA web dates 13 March 2026. While this version of the book has been greatly appreciated by many, but my suggestion to you all is please read the books carefully – there are some change of word and change of concepts which has been brought in and it is of utmost importance that those remain in top of our mind when we are at an event. In the below sections you will find an article which was provided by Katy and Archery GB that will outline some of those changes at a high level and will serve as a guide for you all. There is also the change of Para Classification which has come in and while we do not have any Para event where we did the appointments, but the new WA Para Series, which will be done by rebranding continental events, there the judges will have to be careful while doing the equipment inspection. We have detailed out the same in the Para Classification section below. And last but not the least, reaccreditation – as we all know this is the last year of the current accreditation period and we will soon have the process of reaccreditation started for 2027-2030 cycle, in order to give some idea about the timeline, we have also covered some information in the below articles. Hope you will find all these information helpful. Happy Reading



Indranil

2. New rulebooks

New editions of the rulebooks, including the changes approved at the last Congress, have been published and have been in effect since 15 January 2026.

One of the main changes is the introduction of a brand-new rulebook dedicated entirely to para archery: Book 5.

The Handbook for Classifiers will be replaced by Book 5.1, which is still being finalized.

All rulebooks can be found on the World Archery website at the following link:

<https://www.worldarchery.sport/rulebook>

3. Main changes on Books

By Katy Lipscomb and Archery GB

Change in terminology across all Books: instead of Outdoor and Indoor, it is now Long Distances (30m, 40m, 50m, 60m, 70m and 90m) and Short Distances (25m and 18m).

Book 2 - Events

- World records must now be claimed within 48 hours
- The maximum altitude of a Target event has been added. It is 1800m above sea level normally.
- The minimum space for an athlete at the Short Distances (18m and 25m) has been reduced to 70cm, it was previously 80cm. This is the minimum; the Organiser can make it bigger if they wish.
- Specific rules for Mixed Team rounds at the Short Distances (Indoors) have been introduced, for example, the target face layout.
- A new face has been introduced for Field. Instead of it being black with a yellow centre, it can now also be teal with a yellow centre. The black and yellow face is still legal at every event except World and Continental Championships, so it can still be used here. However, you cannot mix black and teal faces at a competition.

Book 3 – Target

- It now says, "Any athlete found to be using equipment contravening World Archery Rules at any point during the tournament will be disqualified and will lose any position gained." Previously, the practice was to remove the score up until that point and then allow them to continue.
- Barebow – it clarifies that any markings within the aiming area that could be used for aiming must be taped over.
- Barebow – the rule on attachments now says, "The bow (braced or unbraced and regardless of the bow's orientation or angle), including any combination of weights, vibration dampeners, and other attachments, must pass through a ring with a diameter of 12.2 cm (+/- 0.5 mm) without moving, flexing, or turning the attachments. The attachments must not aid the athlete in aiming or ranging in any way". Therefore, basically anything is allowed anywhere on the bow as long as it goes through the 12.2cm ring without being moved and does not help with aiming or ranging.
- It clarifies that if an archer is covering their non-sighting eye/glasses, then "The type of coverage must not create a clear reference line".

- Rules on smoking have been adjusted to including vaping, as well as smoking and electronic cigarettes not being allowed.
- For people who have a bye in a head-to-head match, it has now been clarified that Recurve and Barebow (who use the set system) can only shoot three arrows in the first three sets.
- For marking arrow holes, it now says the length of the marks will not exceed 5mm. We'd recommend not going around measuring the marks, but if someone is making excessively long marks, we now have this rule to back us up.
- It is now the archer's responsibility to make sure that following scoring they remove their arrows from the target, previously it was the judges' responsibility.
- The system for ties at the Long Distances has changed from 10s + Xs then 10s to be:
 - o The greatest number of Xs (inner 10s).
 - o If still tied, the greatest number of 10s
- The rules for ranking for results purposes have changed in a head-to-head, it is now done with an average arrow score.
- There are some small changes to the "Consequence of Breaking Rules" chapter which should be re-read carefully by all.

Book 4 -Field and 3D

- Recurve bows – the serving is now no longer allowed to end within the archer's vision when at full draw, and they are limited to one or two nocking points.
- Barebow – the rule on attachments now says, "The bow (braced or unbraced and regardless of the bow's orientation or angle), including any combination of weights, vibration dampeners, and other attachments, must pass through a ring with a diameter of 12.2 cm (+/- 0.5 mm) without moving, flexing, or turning the attachments. The attachments must not aid the athlete in aiming or ranging in any way". Therefore, basically anything is allowed anywhere on the bow as long as it goes through the 12.2cm ring without moving and does not help with aiming or ranging.
- For Traditional bows, it is clarified that a single anchor or face walking is permitted, but string walking is not permitted.
- Several clarifications on head-to-head events in Field and 3D.
- There are some small changes to the "Consequence of Breaking Rules" chapter which should be re-read carefully by all.

Para – all para rules have been moved into Book 5

- Change in terminology will be coming in:
 - W1 will be known as PI1
 - W2 and Standing will be known as PI2
 - VI1 remains as is
 - VI2/3 will be known as VI2
- W1/PI1 now shoot in sets in match play rather than cumulative score.

Book 6 is what was Book 5, and includes Run Archery and Clout.

World Archery's [rules app](#) has not been fully updated. Please always refer to the [rulebooks](#).

4. New Bylaws and Interpretations

There have been two interpretations published since the last newsletter.

1. Use of an artificial aid or prosthesis by archers with quadruple amputations to hold a bow.
2. Use of Image Stabilised Binoculars in all bow divisions for target, field and 3D.


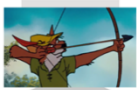

All three Interpretations can be found on the World Archery website using the following link:

<https://www.worldarchery.sport/rulebook/interpretations>

5. Para Archery Classification – Specific changes and updates

While we are having WA Para series this year, and the judges for these events are being appointed by continental associations, hence we felt it was important to convey this message to all our judges on how the changed classification cards are going to look like and how this can ease our life on field.

As mentioned earlier, there has been a recategorisation of the classification in Para Archery. Now we are having P1 and P2 classes only under which the previous ST, W2 and W1 are being mapped. As you see on your right, you will find how the new classification cards will look. While previously there was a back side to the cards which had their classification scoring, now that is not present any more. This card can be stored in paper format or an electronic copy is also fine, as long as that can be presented by the archer when requested by a judge. For the classification card, there will also be a QR code which will be available for the judges to scan (using their phones QR reader) and that will fetch the data from the central database. What we as judges will need to look for then is that the information on the database matches what we have in the card. We do feel that by doing this, it will be much easier for our judges to cross check any adaptative equipment that has been approved for usage by a classifier.

International Classification Card		
WA ID: 27969		
Family Name:	Hood	
Given Name:	Robin	
Date of Birth:	2010-07-07	
Gender:	M	
Member Association:	World Archery	
Nationality:	WA	
Para Archery Classification		
Sport Class:	P1 1	
Status:	Confirmed status	
Date of Evaluation:	2026-01-01	Place of Evaluation: Lausanne SUI
Adaptive Equipment(s):		
Wheelchair, Strapping, Release Aid system, Shooting Assistant		
		

While we are yet to try out this system in a tournament, but the workflow still remains the same – we approach an athlete on the shooting line, cross check the target assignment, ask for the accreditation and classification card, scan the QR, check the classification and adaptive equipment and in case of any discrepancy, get that corrected. Following this simple process, we expect life of our judges to be much smoother with the availability of digital means to validate equipment inspection

6. A reflection on the World Target Championships 2025 - Gwangju, South Korea

By Graham Potts – Chairman of Judges

As I think you all know by now, the World Championships (“WTC”) marked my last International Event as a Judge prior to having to retire at the end of 2025 (But I was re-elected to the Committee at Congress in 2025 for 4 more years – so you still have to put up with me!!)

It was a superb event to round off my actual judging, and I must firstly acknowledge and thank my team of International Judges, Continental Judges and National Judges for their work, camaraderie, and brilliant teamwork – without that this event would not have been so easy to manage!

I want to give you all a “flavour” of how this event worked.....

The WTC was spread over an 8 day period and involved the use of both a qualification/eliminations field and a Finals Field, about 4-5km apart, which were in simultaneous use on 4 of the 7 days.

The qualification / elimination venue was at the Archery Centre in Gwangju, which gave us good facilities to work with – plenty of room and space and a number of trade stands in attendance – we had crowds in attendance on most days. The finals venue worked very well as a finals venue, although the DOS had to be a bit inventive about seating arrangements and still being able to see the shooting and 1m line on the main platform. There was limited visibility for the DOS to the targets and It required excellent co-operation between the Line Judge and DOS to ensure safety in the shooting.

Weather conditions varied throughout the week, and included some heavy rain, which had waterlogged the qualification/elimination field – the ground crew worked hard and found some ways to dissipate the water that was lying across the shooting line in particular. Additionally we had thunderstorms around the area and monitored these carefully.

The schedule was as follows:

	Qualification / Elimination Field	Finals Range
Day 1	PM – Compound Official Practice and Equipment Inspection and Team Managers Meeting	
Day 2	AM – Compound Qualification and shoot-offs PM – Compound Team and Mixed Team Eliminations to include semi-finals	
Day 3	AM – Compound Men Individual Eliminations to include 1/16 th Round	PM – Compound Team and Mixed Team Finals
Day 4	AM – Compound Women Individual Eliminations to include 1/16 th Round PM – Recurve Official Practice, Equipment Inspection and Team Managers Meeting	AM – Individual Compound Men 1/8 Eliminations PM – Individual Compound Men ¼, ½ and Medal matches
Day 5	AM – Recurve Qualification and shoot-offs PM – Recurve Team and Mixed Team Eliminations to include semi-finals	AM – Individual Compound Women 1/8 Eliminations PM – Individual Compound Women ¼, ½ and Medal matches
Day 6	AM – Recurve Men Individual Eliminations to include 1/16 th round	PM – Recurve Team and Mixed Team Finals
Day 7	AM – Recurve Women individual Eliminations to include 1/16 th round	AM – Individual Recurve Men 1/8 Eliminations PM – Individual Recurve Men ¼, ½ and Medal matches
Day 8		AM – Individual Recurve Women 1/8 Eliminations PM – Individual Recurve Women ¼, ½ and Medal matches

So what issues does this type of schedule pose for a Judge Team, and how were the issues managed?

- The need to have sufficient Judges to manage two ranges in operation at the same time. Apart from the IJ Team, we had an additional number of Continental Judges appointed by World Archery Asia, and a number of National Judges from Korea who were always available.



- One of the Continental Judges was appointed as the Deputy DOS and took control of the timing when the DOS Was at the finals field.
- The number of Judges available were sufficient that we were able to shoot 16 Team matches at a time, alongside having a complete team managing the finals field.
- We were able to avoid any conflicts of nationality on both fields of play when working at the same time, because of the number of Judges available.
- On the days where we operated both FOP's at the same time, the Deputy COJ (Guille) took control of the Finals, and I stayed at the Qualification / Elimination Field to manage there. This was based on a thought that we may get more issues needing attention at the field with the greater number of athletes/teams shooting at the same time, and thus where the COJ may be better placed to deal with them. Guille had my full authority to act on the Finals Range without reference to myself.
- Scheduling of Judges for appointments during the week – This was managed between both Guille and myself, and in order to ensure full team unity, we mixed up the appointments to enable all the International Judges to have time on the finals range as well as working at the Qualification/Elimination field.
- Full Team Meetings were held every morning, apart from when we were at separate venues, and also at lunchtime to prepare for the afternoon sessions, and at the end of day to reflect on the actions of the day. In addition, on the days we were on split venues, the whole team joined together again in the evening at the hotel to run through any issues and give details of scheduling for the following day.
- Weather issues – one thing I found helpful was to use in particular a "Lightning Alarm" APP (thanks to Louis Simon Peter) to track and monitor the Lightning that was around us. This was monitored in conjunction with the event manager for WA so that we could plan if necessary for any interruptions.

Was this new schedule approach a success??

That question may be for others to comment, but from my view there were some positives:

1. The athletes got more alternate shooting matches on the finals range (individually).
2. While not easy to manage a bigger team for a longer period, it was effective, and the approach taken seemed to work.

How did I measure success?

As ever, one measure is were there any appeals? No, there were not, so that was good. Yes, we had some issues and discussions that took place with coaches, organisers and athletes during the event, but these were manageable.



For me, the underlying measure of success as a team was that on the final day of competition, before starting the days event on the finals range, we had a team photograph of all the Judges involved, followed by about 30 minutes of free time, during which the judges were mixing with each other, taking photographs as groups of friends do, and enjoying the time together – this made me very happy that the event was a success from a

Judging point of view, and the camaraderie and team work of the Judges should not be underestimated – a happy team works together really well.

So, to finish, I was firstly told I was Judging the last match whether I liked it or not, and this was a great pleasure and honour for me. It was then followed, after the medal ceremonies, with a presentation to me of past and present Judge Shirts signed by the Judges, WA and Event team, Coaches and athletes as mementoes of my career as an active IJ. These I will treasure forever.

7. Reaccreditation process

As we approach the end of the 4-year accreditation cycle in 2026, the Judge Committee is now working on the reaccreditation process for the next 4 year cycle. While the attendance of the conferences, response to case studies and feedbacks from the events (except for this year) are collated and reviewed, we are now preparing the open book test that will be the last element of the reaccreditation process. Given the last seminar was in March 2025, all of our judges (except the ones who are retiring or resigning), will have to take the exam. There will be a few who will not go through the reaccreditation process – either due to lack of attending a conference or due to lack of inactivity – and we will inform them separately and they will not need to take the exam. In case if they want to get reaccredited, they will then have to come to a seminar and follow the regular first IJc accreditation process.

From a timeline perspective, we expect to be able to share the exam with all of you in the month of July. Tentatively there will be 30-40 days to respond back with your answers. Once we have it, given the number being 110+, we will distribute it amongst the committee members and we expect to wrap the reviews by mid to end of September. In case if any case becomes too close to the “finish line”, then his or her paper will be reviewed by another member of the committee and then a final conclusion will be reached after discussion amongst the committee members. By this way, we expect to have a fair transparent process for all while making sure that we are ready for the IWS which will take place from end of October.

In July, you will also receive from WA office the Application A to be filled and signed by your national federation to approve their support for your reaccreditation for the next cycle. Once the Application A has been received, WA office will contact the Continental Associations to approve their judges by signing the Application B.

8. Conference in Lausanne (SUIS), 22-23 November 2025

The last conference in the cycle before re-accreditation was held at the World Archery Excellence Centre, and attended by 49 IJ, IJC and YJ level judges, including two European Judges sitting in for experience.

Much of the agenda was similar to the earlier conferences in the cycle, with the same starting survey that all Judges that have attended the conferences have now completed. We will, during the next few months, provide the combined information from the survey, and how we envisage using that information to review operations and training / education needs.

The Conference was opened with a recorded message from WA President Greg Easton, and with an online open discussion with WA Executive Director Juan Carlos Holgado – these were very welcome additions.

Two major differences were included this time – the first was to introduce information regarding the new rule books that are now in place, and where we are still raising some issues regarding wording and intent, but acknowledging that the books should now be a bit clearer, and with more information on Para Archery.

The second major difference was the opportunity to have with us Alexander Etter, a Sports Psychologist, to deliver a session on Mental Training – Techniques and Strategies for International Judges. This was the first time in recent memory we have been able to do this, and it was well received. The slides have been released to all so that those of you who did not attend can pick up some of the information delivered.

The stress test was conducted as usual on the second morning of the conference.



Opportunities were given to delegates to raise questions, not only during the presentations, but also using post-it notes (As we did in the other conferences) to ensure we captured anything a judge was needing to ask.

The weather played its part too – we had some significant snow, which gave a nice atmosphere outside, and meant we stayed in to keep warm!!

Our thanks to the staff at the Excellence Centre for their support and help, and as ever, our grateful thanks to Severine who helped ensure this conference was a success.



9. Update on Judges uniforms

As you have been informed by email recently, WA management has requested the Judge committee to keep on using the polos and jacket from the previous set of the judges uniforms in order to be more sustainable. These items (number 1 & 2 on the picture below) will only be used during qualifications and eliminations, where they are happening not on the finals field. During such events, it is preferred that the polo and jacket from the new set be used for the finals. Should you need more items from the previous set, please let Séverine (sderiaz@archery.sport) know as soon as possible so she can send spare polos and jacket at each events.

We are expected to have a new set of uniform again in 2029, hence please be judicious about the quantity you ask for, since we do understand managing retired uniforms is also a challenge at personal level.

Just to clarify which items are part of the new set or the previous set, please see below the pictures:

Previous set



New Set

As a reminder, the current Judges uniform includes :

- Polo (from old set & new set)
- Jacket (from old set and new set)
- Black pants
- Iceland winter jacket *
- black cap
- long sleeve top
- grey rain jacket (or black for the new judges)
- grey rain pant
- trolley bag
- backpack
- shoulder bag

*The Iceland winter jacket is no more produced by Errea. We will look for a new jacket from 2029. We will keep on distributing the Iceland Jacket until the end of the stock which are at the moment very low.



10. News from Our Continental Committees

Americas' judge of the year

World Archery Americas recognized International Judges Carlos Alberto Cervantes and Liz del Carmen Perez as judges of the year 2025.

Cervantes had an outstanding performance as a judge at the World Cup in Shanghai, the First Stage of the Americas' Para Cup in Morelia (Chairman), the World Archery Youth Championships in Winnipeg, the Caribbean Development Championships in Trinidad, and the Pan American Indoor Championships in San Luis Potosi.

Perez had an excellent performance as a judge at the World Indoor Series in Vegas, the Second Qualifier for the Pan American Junior Games in Buenos Aires (Chairman), the World Games in China, the Pan American Field Championships, and the World Indoor Series in Rio de Janeiro (Chairman).

New Webinar for 2026 by World Archery Americas

The World Archery Americas webinar series for 2026 began in early March.

Some of the topics to be covered in the first sessions include emotion regulation in sports, new rules, and injury prevention in archery.

The sessions are free and do not require prior registration; all you need is a device with an internet connection to enter the desired online talk using the following link:

<https://eastonmg.zoom.us/j/8703119594?pwd=cjVUMnZ4aks3QUx5bUtDVG1CVzJ1QT09&omn=87012681792>

Full information can be found [here](#).

11. Pictures of Recent Judges Commissions



Gwangju 2025 World Archery Championships



Gwangju 2025 World Archery Para Championships



San Cristobal 2025 Pan American Field Championships

| Nanjing 2025 Hyundai Archery World Cup



Dhaka 2025 Asian Outdoor Championships



Abidjan 2025 African Outdoor Championships



Santiago 2025 Youth Para Pan American Games



Swiss Open Lausanne Indoor World Series



San Luis Potosi Pan American Indoor Championships



Rio Indoor 250 Indoor World Series



Nimes Tournament Indoor World Series



Merida 500 Indoor World Series

12. Replies to Case studies 116

116.1 At a 1440 with World Record Status, you are faced with the situation at the target as shown in the photograph alongside – how would you deal with this situation and what value would you score the arrow? For reference, the side of the pile of the arrow is touching the target face.

Answer:

The Judges Committee agrees that this arrow should be treated similarly to a bounce. In that case, it is important to first gather physical evidence from where the arrow may have hit before assigning a value.

The fact that the arrow is laying on top of the arrows suggests that it hit the top of the target. Since the arrow is not embedded, we should not use the part of the arrow shaft that is touching the target face as a means to determine the arrow value.

If no evidence is found that this arrow first hit the target face, the value may be recorded as a miss.

We are aware that the picture shown in this case study was not as clear as some of you would have liked, but the purpose here was to see your mental process for determining an arrow value. Half of you jump immediately to give nine without even looking first for the evidence. Is the point just resting against the target or is there a physical mark that can be used to award points?

To reach such a position the arrow must have fallen from higher. What did it hit? Did it hit the target, another arrow, or something else like the number or the frame of the butt?

These are some questions that we think are important to ask before giving an arrow value in this situation.

116.2 At the 30m distance of a 1440, the arrows of one archer are tightly grouped in the middle of the target face. You are called over as one of the arrows in the middle of the group has not actually reached the target face – how would you deal with this situation?

Answer:

The Judges Committee agrees that this arrow could be treated similarly to an arrow embedded in another arrow. We think, as the majority of you did, that it shall be scored as the group of arrows surrounding it. If there is more than one arrow value on the group, we believe that the best thing to do is to give the value that the arrow is pointing towards.

Some of you mentioned that it was important to first verify that the arrow had actually been shot and not placed there by hand, and we believe that is a very accurate observation.

116.3 In a mixed team, Bronze medal match, with alternate shooting, the first archer in team A shot two arrows in the first rotation, and after the second arrow, the Judge raised a red card to indicate an arrow had been shot out of sequence and the DOS changed the clocks to team B. After team B had shot two arrows, the second archer of team A shot their two arrows in the second rotation. One team official and the results manager suggested that the Judge should have raised the red card again, because one of the two arrows shot by the second archer in team A was shot out of sequence. If you were Chairman of Judges, what action would you take in respect of this situation?

Answer:

In this situation, the DOS made a mistake, as he or she should not have changed the clock after the first archer shot the second arrow. We don't know if the DOS stand was in a position with a poor view of the field of play, but that is why we have a line judge.

The line judge did not act, as he or she should not have allowed the clocks to be changed. Due to these mistakes, the Judges' Committee considers that, as chair, we should not penalise the second arrow shot by the second archer on Team A.

More than half of you would apply a second penalty for shooting out of time, even when you pointed out the mistakes made by the DOS and line judge. We believe it would be unfair to penalize archers for something that was caused by an error on our part.

13. Case Studies #117

117.1

At a World Para Series Event, you are assigned as a judge for the quarterfinal matches of the para compound men. In the second end, you realize that one archer is using the sight shown in the picture below. What would you do, if any?



117.2

You are the Chair at an Indoor World Archery Series event.

During the third end of the compound women bronze medal match you see that the coach of target 2 approaches the line judge to tell that there is something wrong with the arrow values. The line judge radios to the blinds to verify the information. Scorer replies back saying that the sum is correct.

The coach is uneasy and approaches you telling you that there is something wrong with the arrow values.

As the match continues you go to the blinds to see the scorecard.

When you arrive there at the end of the fourth end you see that one arrow from target 2 was upgraded from a 9 to a 10, but the sum was not updated.

At this moment the running score shows that both archers are tied.

Archers are shooting their last three arrows, both of them shoot the same score.

What would you do as a Chair?

***Replies to case studies should be sent to
sderiaz@archery.sport by 30 April 2026***