JUDGING NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

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1. Editorial

from Indranil Datta, Chairman of WA Judge Committee



Dear Judges,

By the time this newsletter reaches you we will be heading towards the HWC Finals but that does not mean we are nearing the end of the season – there are quite a few important events coming up like the Youth Olympics and the Asian Games which kicks off the race to qualification for LA28 (mixed team quota places). This also means that we have to be laser focused on those events with the expectation that we run them without error. This year, throughout the year across events, while there were no major noticeable mistakes which drew attention, we have been reading the post event reports and have seen a number of small incidents happening at most of the events – for example, issues with tie measurements and yellow cards in individual matches. While all these situations were mitigated at the event itself, this does tell us that as judges there is a need for us to refresh our memories before going to an international event. I am not saying this is a warning, but I would like to highlight this as a small nudge – not just for the judges but also for us committee members as well to help you with anything that you need for refreshing your memory before the events. Additionally, this is a reaccreditation year – so I hope all of you have been able to **finish your test and send it back to Severine** – if not, then please do so **by 10th September along with your signed application form** as I am hoping we can send out the 2027 availability forms within this same deadline.

Like I mentioned, this is a nudge for all of use to re-focus – and hence we have tried to address some of the situations in an elaborate manner across the different sections of this newsletter. If there are some more such scenarios or explanations that you would feel will help you to rejog your mind, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any one in the committee. Our job is to make sure you have the right tools to succeed and all of us in the committee are committed to this fact. I hope to meet some of you soon on the FOP and to have a really successful closure of the year for all of us.

Cheers,
Indranil

2. Yellow and Red Cards

Sometimes, in the heat of the moment, when trying to signal incorrect behaviour by an athlete, a yellow or red card may be shown almost instinctively. Unfortunately, this can trigger an unexpected reaction from the athlete and may even lead to an appeal if the situation is not handled correctly and in accordance with the procedures established by the Rules.

The Rules are very clear about **when and how cards are to be shown**.

-- Yellow cards in target archery --

With regard to target archery, Book 2, Article 13.6 specifies that a **yellow card** is to be raised only for three specific infringements, all of which **apply exclusively to team matches**:

- When a team member crosses the one-metre line too early (before the start signal or while the line is still occupied by a teammate).
- When an arrow is removed from the quiver before reaching the shooting line.
- In compound team matches, when an athlete crosses the one-metre line with the release aid already attached to the bowstring.
- For Para archers: not giving the proper signal (shared with the judge) after shooting while the following athlete starts its shooting process.

In these situations, the judge must signal the infringement by clearly displaying the yellow card to the team concerned and calling the team's name in a clear and decisive manner.
The athlete must then **cancel the warning** by returning behind the one-metre line and restarting the shooting sequence from that position.
Any further infringements must be signalled each time they occur. However, there is no accumulation of yellow cards leading to a red card, as happens in football. A judge may issue as many yellow cards as necessary to the same athlete if they continue to cross and return behind the one-metre line.
If, instead, the athlete shoots the arrow without properly restarting the sequence, Article 13.6.2 requires the loss of the team's highest-scoring arrow value. It is important to note that this is **not necessarily the value of the arrow shot by the athlete**, even if that arrow can be identified.
In this case, a red card **may** be shown, but displaying it is neither mandatory nor a condition for applying the score deduction
In no other situation during target archery competitions is the use of a yellow card prescribed by the Rules.

-- Yellow cards in field archery --

In field archery, the yellow card has a completely different purpose. It is not used to indicate an infringement but as a **time signal**.
During matches and manually controlled shoot-offs (Book 4, Article 21.20, second bullet point), the judge must display the yellow card to indicate that **30 seconds remain** before time expires.

-- The use of the red card --

Although the red card has a strong visual impact and may seem an effective way to indicate incorrect behaviour, it should not be used indiscriminately.

The Rules no longer officially define, in any article, when a red card must or must not be displayed. This approach helps avoid appeals based solely on whether a red card was shown. Its use is instead associated with the **deduction of arrow value from the score**.
Therefore, it may be displayed to the athlete or team to whom a score deduction has been applied.
During qualification rounds, a judge may use the red card when an arrow is shot out of time, either before the start signal or after the end signal. In this case, it is advisable to show the red card at the line when the infringement, also confirmed by the Director of Shooting (DOS), is communicated to the athlete.
During individual matches, if blind scoring is being used, the infringement must be communicated by radio to the target judge so that the necessary correction can be made to the score.
During team matches, in addition to out-of-time arrows, the red card may also be shown when an athlete shoots an arrow without first cancelling the previous infringement that had been signaled with a yellow card. In such cases, it is good practice to raise the red card clearly and visibly while calling the team's name, and then communicate the infringement to the target judge.

-- Prevention is always preferable --

It is not always necessary to reach the point of showing either a yellow or a red card. In fact, whenever possible, judges should try to prevent an infringement before it occurs.
When we notice behaviour that is approaching the limits of what is permitted, we can speak to the coach or the athlete during an appropriate break and calmly explain what we have observed. This gives them the opportunity to correct their behaviour before it develops into an official infringement that could negatively affect their competition.
As judges, our role is not only to apply the Rules when an infringement occurs, but also to help ensure that the competition is conducted fairly and smoothly.
Whenever possible, prevention is better than correction.

3. Overruling a Judge's Decision

As we all know (Book 2, Article 3.11.1.10) the Chairperson of the Judges Commission has the authority to **overrule a decision made by another judge**.
This provision is intended to ensure that an obvious mistake can be corrected immediately, thereby avoiding a potential appeal and preventing unnecessary delays to the competition.
But does this also apply to the Deputy?
The shared opinion of the Judge Committee is that, in situations where the Chairperson is unable to intervene promptly, the **overrule provision should also apply to the Deputy**.
Let us take a typical match session with blind scoring as an example. While the Chairperson is positioned near the shooting line, supervising the field and being ready to promptly receive any appeals raised by coaches, the Deputy is normally positioned at the blind, supervising what is happening during the scoring of the arrows.
This puts the Deputy in the best position to intervene if an unusual situation occurs and an immediate correction is required.

-- Intervene with care

However, it is important to pay attention to how you exercise this authority.
Whether you are a Chairperson or a Deputy, it is always advisable to act with tact and consideration, both towards your fellow judge and towards the athletes, agents and coaches involved.

Before directly intervening and effectively overruling the judge who is responsible for the situation, always try to suggest that they reconsider their decision. A simple and calm approach can often be enough: draw their attention to what has happened, give them the opportunity to review their decision, and, perhaps most importantly, to take a deep breath and clear their mind before taking further action. The purpose of an overrule is not to demonstrate authority over another judge. Its purpose is to correct an obvious mistake quickly and fairly, when doing so is necessary to protect the competition.

-- Prevention is better than correction

Once again, prevention is better than correction.
At the beginning of each day, take some time as a judging team to review the procedures together and make sure that everyone is clear about their roles and responsibilities.
If there are any doubts about how a particular situation should be handled, discuss them before the match session begins, rather than trying to resolve them in the middle of a competition.
Clear communication within the judging team is one of the best tools we have to prevent mistakes, avoid unnecessary appeals and, ultimately, ensure a smooth and fair competition.

Work together, communicate clearly, and use the overrule when it is truly needed — not simply because you can.

4. Measuring a shoot-off

Measuring a shoot-off is certainly not something that happens frequently on competition fields. How often do we actually see one during an event? Perhaps once or twice per competition?



This does not mean, however, that we can overlook the need to be properly prepared for it. It could happen to you, during an elimination round or even in the finals.

If you are required to measure a shoot-off, it is essential that you are familiar with the measuring tool you are going to use. Both a **divider and a caliper** can be used to obtain an accurate result, but you must know how your chosen instrument works. It must be possible to lock it securely in the measurement position, giving confidence not only to you, but also to the athletes and agents watching the procedure.

If you are using a digital caliper, remember to **remove the battery**.

-- Measuring the arrows

When approaching the first arrow, remember to minimize contact with the target as much as possible. Never lean on the target face, and be extremely gentle when using the tip of the instrument to locate the centre spot. The target face and the arrow must not be moved.

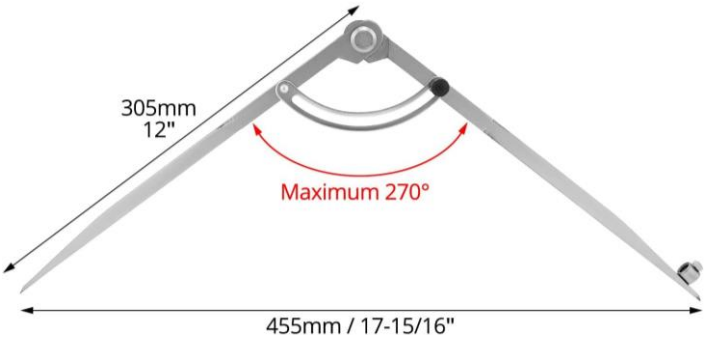
Once you have taken the first measurement, securely lock your instrument in position, and then check it is locked firmly in the right place by gently placing the instrument back in position on the target, ensure it is correct and then move towards the second arrow without changing the measurement.
Once the centre spot has been located on the second target face, check the position of the second tip:

- If the second tip has enough space and does not touch the shaft of the other arrow, the first arrow is closer to the centre.
- If the second tip touches the shaft of the other arrow, the second arrow is closer.

There is also the rare possibility that the two arrows are exactly the same distance from the centre. In that case, we declare the tie again and proceed to a new shoot-off.

-- What if the arrows are far from the centre?

But what happens if the athletes shoot their arrows well away from the centre?
How can we accurately measure, for example, two arrows in the 6-ring?
A standard caliper, as well as an average-sized divider, has a maximum opening of approximately 18 cm, allowing us to measure correctly down to approximately the outer edge of the 8-ring.
A caliper also has a depth rod at the rear, which can be used, for example, as an extension to reach a point further away. This can give us approximately another 10–15 cm of useful measuring range.



Unfortunately, the same technique cannot normally be used with a divider unless you have arm extensions available or are using a larger divider.
There is, however, another solution.



You can use, for example, your 3-metre measuring tape to establish the correct radius from the centre.
Use the head of the tape measure as the contact point with the arrow shaft, and take the measurement from the centre spot. Once you have established the distance, lock the tape measure in that position and move it to the second arrow.
It is certainly an unusual method, but that is not the important point.
What matters is that the method you use is reliable, repeatable and applied in exactly the same way to both arrows.

-- Accuracy and confidence

When measuring a shoot-off, the athletes and agents are watching every movement you make. A correct result is essential, but so is the confidence that the procedure itself inspires.

Take your time, avoid unnecessary contact with the target, use a tool you are familiar with, and make sure that your measurement can be clearly and consistently reproduced.

A shoot-off may be rare, but when it happens, you need to be ready for it.

5. New interpretations

The judge committee remarks the importance of the following interpretations that will impact our duty in the next Field and 3D championship. The weight configuration and stability optimization interpretations clarify the vision about what is allowed and what is not, simplifying our duty during equipment inspections.

- Barebow weight configuration and Barebow stability optimization system:

https://documents.worldarchery.sport/Rules/Interpretations/English/2025-2027/2026_-_04_Aug_-_Barebow_Weight_Configuration.pdf

https://documents.worldarchery.sport/Rules/Interpretations/English/2025-2027/2026_-_04_Aug_-_Stability_Optimisation_System_by_AcuArchery_-_Barebow.pdf

- Sear tab for longbow and tradition divisions:

https://documents.worldarchery.sport/Rules/Interpretations/English/2025-2027/2026_-_04_Aug_-_Sear_Tab_-_Longbow_and_Tradition_Divisions.pdf

- Para Archery cushion stool:

https://documents.worldarchery.sport/Rules/Interpretations/English/2025-2027/2026_-_04_Aug_-_Para_Archery_Cushion_Stool.pdf

6. Mongolian Archery Association Hosts Two-Day Judging Seminar



The Mongolian Archery Association successfully organized a two-day judging seminar on April 11–12, bringing together athletes, coaches, and judges for focused learning and discussion.
The first day was dedicated to athletes and coaches, while the second day focused specifically on judges. To ensure wider accessibility, the seminar was also held online, allowing participants from the countryside to join remotely. In total, over 30 coaches, athletes, and judges took part in the sessions.

Presentations were delivered by Saruul Enkhbat, International Judge, and Zoljargal Gantumur, Continental Judge. The program covered important updates on the latest rule changes and provided detailed information on the newly released rule books.



7. Pictures from the world



- European Championship - Antalya -



- African Championship - Oran -



- Para South American Games - Valledupar -



- World cup - Puebla -



- Pan American Championship - Tlaxcala -



- Pan American Youth and Masters Championships - Medellin -



- World Cup - Madrid -



- World Cup - Shanghai -



- World Cup - Antalya -



- Central American And Caribbean Games - Santo Domingo -



- Grand Prix of the Americas - San Salvador -



- South American Youth Games - Panama -



- Gran Prix of the Americas - Santiago -



- Mediterranean Games - Taranto -

8. Reply to 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?



Answer:
As most of you have noticed this is a Ultraview UV3XL model in the electronic setup: it has the light regulation buttons and battery pack attached. The judge must check if the batteries are inserted in to let it work, if so it will go against book 5 rule 34.5.2

34.5.2. Accessories not permitted for all Divisions are:

- *Any electronic or electrical device that can be attached to the athlete's equipment.*

and for this reason rule 39.5 must be applied and the athlete must be disqualified leading to the losing of the match.
If no batteries are included we may allow the use of the sight as it's not working and it has no possibility to function as an electric or electronic device. There are no other limitations for a Para Compound Men as he is not in the W1 division.

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

What would you do as a Chair?

Answer:
As Chairperson of the Judges Commission, we can — and must — intervene when necessary to clarify a situation and correct an error.
When doing so, it is essential to make sure that everyone involved understands what is happening and how the situation is being corrected. Bring the agents into the process. Explain the procedure, make sure they understand each step, and allow them to follow what you are doing. This helps avoid confusion and reduces the possibility of a subsequent appeal.
Once the athletes have completed their final end, the competition should be stopped while the situation is clarified.
Whenever possible, avoid going to the targets until the issue has been fully understood and the correct procedure has been identified. The line judge and the scoring team should then be informed by radio that the scores are being checked before proceeding with the scoring of the final end. Clear and timely communication is essential. Everyone involved needs to understand that the competition has been temporarily paused in order to verify and correct the scoring situation.

The most important element in this situation is the **value of the arrow**.

The arrow value has been upgraded by the target judge and, as a result, the total score must be updated accordingly, in accordance with Book 3, Article 12.1.1. Once the correction has been made on the paper scorecard, the scoring team should be contacted by radio and informed that an arrow value

has been changed. At this point, it is good practice to read again **all the arrow values from the relevant end**, allowing the scoring team to update the software and the digital score accordingly. Always wait for confirmation that the correction has been properly recorded.

This will establish the new and correct scoring situation and may, as in this case, change the outcome of the match — with the athletes on Target 2 becoming the winners once the final end has been correctly scored.
Clear communication prevents confusion.
When a scoring error is discovered, the correction itself is only part of the job.
The way in which the correction is managed is equally important.
Take the time to make the procedure clear, involve the relevant judges, scoring personnel and agents, and ensure that everyone is following the same sequence of events.
A transparent and well-communicated correction not only ensures that the right result is reached, but also helps maintain confidence in the judging process and significantly reduces the risk of misunderstandings or appeals.

Correct the error, communicate the procedure, and make sure everyone understands the new situation.

9. Case Studies #118

118.1
Compound Mixed Team: Alternating Shooting, Time Expiration, and Judge Intervention
During a Compound Mixed Team event, Team A has used the same shooting order for its four arrows in every end throughout the elimination rounds:
man archer – woman archer – woman archer – man archer.
The team reaches the gold medal match, which is conducted using alternating shooting.
In the first end, Team A maintains the same order. During its first shooting rotation, the team shoots:
man archer – woman archer.
The turn then passes to Team B, which shoots its first two arrows. When the clock returns to Team A, the team completes the end with:
woman archer – man archer.
Therefore, Team A's complete shooting order for the four arrows is once again:
man archer – woman archer / woman archer – man archer.
The first end is completed without incident.
In the second end, Team B shoots first. Due to several technical problems and the pressure of the situation, the team uses almost all of its available time during its first shooting rotation. After shooting its first two arrows, only two seconds remain on its clock. In addition, the last archer remains on the shooting line and does not return behind the 1-metre line, so the remaining time continues to run until Team B's clock reaches zero.
As a result, Team B has no time left to shoot its remaining two arrows later.
The DOS then gives Team A the signal to shoot.
Team A begins by following the same shooting order it has used up to that point: first the man archer shoots, followed by the woman archer. However, since Team B no longer has any time available for its second shooting rotation, Team A's woman archer remains on the shooting line and also shoots her

second arrow without first returning behind the 1-metre line. Finally, Team A's man archer shoots the fourth arrow of the end.
At the end of the end, Team B's coach claims that Team A has breached the alternating-shooting rules and requests that Team A's highest-scoring arrow be forfeited.
Team A's coach, on the other hand, maintains that no violation has occurred. The coach argues that the alternation requirement primarily concerns the change of shooting turn between the two teams, that at no time were more than one Team A archer simultaneously in front of the 1-metre line, and that the team simply maintained the same shooting order it had used throughout the competition.

1. You are the Line Judge. How should you have acted when you observed that Team A's woman archer remained on the shooting line after shooting the second arrow of the first shooting rotation?

2. If the woman archer shoots her second arrow without first returning behind the 1-metre line, has an infringement occurred? If so, what is the consequence for the team's score?

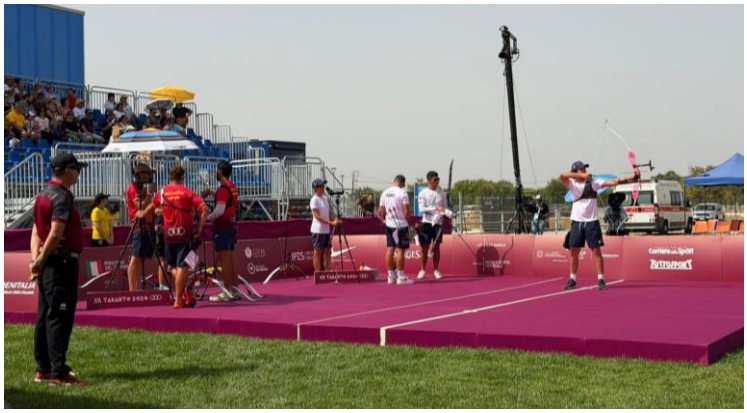
3. You are the Chairperson of the Tournament Judge Commission. How would you resolve the situation?

118.2
At an international competition, with very hot weather, during televised team matches with alternate shooting umbrellas are allowed only during the scoring break. You, as line judge, notice that the coach of team B opens the umbrella to cover its athletes as soon as the last archer shoots its arrow but team A still has to shoot its last 3 arrows.

1. What will you do as a line judge?

Right after the match is over the coach of team A goes to the chairperson complaining that the umbrella was opened too soon and it was an unfair advantage to team B having more time to rest in the shadow.

2. Would you take action, if any, as chairperson of the event?



Replies to case studies should be sent to
sderiaz@archery.sport
by 15 October 2026