



JUDGES NEWSLETTER

Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc
INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY FEDERATION

ISSUE #61

OCTOBER 2003

In this issue

1. Editorial from our Chairman
2. Busy Judges around the world this year
3. Fiber optic again...
4. Height of target centers
5. Responses to the re-accreditation test
6. FITA Judge Committee Meeting
7. Changing indoor faces
8. Dennis Mrokwia has passed away
9. Team Work. What does it mean?
10. New Case Studies
11. Judges are not always serious and busy
12. Comments to Case Studies No. 60

1. Editorial from our Chairman

Dear friends,

Congress 2003 – At the FITA Congress held in New York City, the Judge Committee for the 2003-2007 term was elected. As you probably know, all the three members already in office were confirmed for the next term after the first ballot. Later on, President Easton appointed me as chairman. The Judge Committee is pleased that its work during the past term has been appreciated by the FITA Member Associations.

Judge Conference 2004 – Following the majority preference of the FITA Judges, next International Judge Conference will be held in Lilleshall, UK, in February 2004. As soon as further details are available, more information will be distributed. As for the past Conferences, there will be a contribution from FITA to cover part of the accommodation expenses. I hope that this conference will be a success and most of you attend it. It will be a good forum to exchange experiences and the best occasion to improve the consistent enforcement of the rules: as you will see in the comments to the re-accreditation test, we, as Judge Committee, are a bit disappointed by the inconsistency shown in the replies to several questions. This is one of the points we will stress strongly to achieve our main goal: to have a group of judges of high technical quality who enforce the FITA rules consistently.

Judges duties 2004 – When you read this note the decision on the appointment of the judges for the Olympic Games – Athens 2004 will not have been made yet. The Judge Committee presented to the Council its suggestion in June, however a final decision will be made only next December. Obviously this forces us to select the judges for the Paralympics immediately after. I hope that this planning, decided by Council, does not create too many problems in expressing your availability to serve at the world championships of the next year. 2004 will be a very dense year for FITA judging: besides the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will have the 19th World Field Championships at Plitvica Laces (Croatia, July 5-10) and the 8th World Junior Outdoor



Championships at Lilleshall (UK, July 19-24) and many of you will have the chance to be on duty at these important events.

Judge Re-accreditation 2003-2005 – Since April 1, 2002 new rules (reported in the Appendix 4 of the Rule Book 1) concerning judge activity, training and verification have been effective. According to the new rules several requirements must be fulfilled now by FITA International Judges in order to have the confirmation of their accreditation at the end of each period. In particular a re-accreditation test has been introduced and, for the first time, enforced.

Before starting the re-accreditation procedure, we had in our list 134 active judges representing 58 MAs. In April 2003, all accredited judges were invited through the FITA Office to express their intention to be re-accredited and, in case of a positive answer, to reply to the re-accreditation test.

14 judges (10.4%) were not re-accredited because they resigned or did not apply; in particular: one Judge has been recognised inactive in the period 2001-2003 and her accreditation expired at the New York Championships (art. 3.1.6); six Judges resigned from active judge status; six judges did not apply for re-accreditation (art. 3.1.4) or did not answer the test (art. 3.1.5); one Judge was not supported by her MA and retired from active judging. These fourteen judges were given honorific titles: in particular, Don Lovo (CAN) has been awarded Emeritus Judge Status for his exceptional contribution, promotion and improvement of Judging for years, and Claude Olsen (FRA) has been awarded Honorary Judge Status for having served with honour for more than 25 years. All the other judges served for 4 years or more and have been awarded the Judge Committee Award.

The Judge Committee considered the answers to the re-accreditation test returned by the other 117 Judges (art. 3.1.5). Some of the questions are aimed to verify that the knowledge of the rules is updated and the others to verify the attitude of the judges and their ability to perform in unusual situations and to enforce the current rules properly. You will find in this Newsletter a “corrected” and commented test. Not all the questions were considered to have equal importance for the evaluation: some of them were considered more critical and mistakes in replying were considered more severely. The tests with a positive evaluation were 98 (83.8%): 19 Judges (14.2%) did not pass the test and their re-accreditation as FITA Judges has been denied (arts. 3.1.5, 3.2).

As a result of the above mentioned procedure (10.4% resigned or did not re-apply, 14.2% failed the test), the JC have re-accredited 101 judges (the judges who passed the test and the three members of the Judge Committee). One judge (a CJ on the stand-by list as per art. 2.3: Friedrich Karle – GER) has obtained his first accreditation because a position is now available for his MA (art. 1.1.1).

The total number of International Judges (or candidates) accredited for 2003-2005 is 102 with a reduction of ca. 24% with respect to the previous accreditation term. Now, only AUS has 5 active judges (the maximum allowed) and the average age decreased slightly. Some information (including the variation with respect the 2001-2003 term) is reported in the following table.

Judges accredited for 2003-2005

CA	M+F	Variation	F	Var.	MAs #	Age	Seniority
AF	3	0	0	0	2	59.3	8.0
AM	19	- 5	2	- 1	11	51.6	8.9
AS	19	- 10	6	- 2	11	47.3	7.9
EU	55	- 17	3	- 3	27	52.9	9.0
OC	6	- 1	2	0	2	56.6	12.3
Totals	102	- 32 (-23.9%)	13 (12.7%)	- 6	53	52.1	8.9



It is interesting to note that women represent only 12.7% of IJs. Furthermore the age of the Judges is relatively high (52.1 years) without significant differences among the Continental Areas. This consequence of the fact that people obtain their first accreditation as a FITA Judge when they are already 43.1 years old (in average).

Gian Piero Spada

Chairman FITA Judge Committee

2. Busy Judges around the world this year

2003 has been a very busy year for FITA Judges. Two large world championships were held in the course of this year: The World Indoor Championships, in Nîmes, France, and the World Outdoor Target Championships, in New York, United States of America. Our judges ensured the enforcement of the rules at these major events, working for long hours from morning to evening. Here are some pictures of our fellow judges at these two World Championships.



**These judges are hard at work preparing for the equipment inspection.
World Indoor Championships, Nîmes, France**



**These other judges are just posing for a picture. Look how they smile. And they do carry large accreditation cards, which have become part of our uniforms.
World Outdoor Target Championships, New York City, USA**

3. Fiber optic again...

It looks like the issue of fiber optic has not been totally understood by some of our judges, and certainly by many archers and coaches. We had a couple of cases at the IPC World Championships recently held in Madrid. Let's look at this picture.



What is the problem here? There are more than two centimeters of straight fiber before it starts to curve, and for this reason it is not legal. Consequently, the archer was asked to modify his sight, and here is what he came up with (see the following picture) to comply with the rule.





4. Height of target centers **Is everything in the book?**

Articles 7.1.1.5 and 7.1.1.6 refer to using symmetrical triangular multiple center face set-ups and four center set-ups at 30 meters, and give details on the height of face centers for each case. No article in the present rules covers the possibility of having only two archers with a face for each of them on every target at one tournament. What to do, then? Due to lack of space on the field, it was necessary to have only two wheel-chair archers shoot at one butt at the IPC World Championships recently held in Madrid. Due to limitations on the number of participants imposed by PASO (Pan American Sports Organization), only 24 men and 24 women archers competed at the Pan American Games in Santo Domingo in August this year. The organizers in both of these events assigned only two archers per target (to make the field look larger in Santo Domingo). Two faces were set up on each butt at 30 meters. The center of each face was 1.30 m high as seen in the following picture taken in Santo Domingo.



5. Responses to the re-accreditation test **Comments by the Judge Committee**

As Gian Piero indicated in his editorial, you will now have the possibility to compare your replies with what our committee expected as correct answers to the questions included in the test.

1)

The Judge will take one step forward (to the one meter line), raise (wave) the yellow card facing the team and call the name of the team clearly.

A lot of the Judges answered that the Judge should show the yellow card, but this is not a fully satisfactory answer. The whole procedure is important to secure that the team in question really have a possibility of noticing the card. The procedure is outlined in the Judges Guide Book.

2)

The bouncer will get the value 5 – thus scoring the three lowest values: 9-7-5



We will solve one “problem” at the time – and here we are just following the rules; lowest unmarked hole (5) given for the bouncer, then dealing with the issue of too many arrows.

3)

- a)
Recurve Women: 1/16
Recurve Men: 1/32
Compound Women: 1/8
Compound Men: 1/32

b) Naturally the question is to be related to the figures mentioned, and thus it will not be possible to have more than one category shooting the 1/32 elimination (would need 32+30 targets) at the same time.

Certainly – due to schedule – some other combinations are possible to conduct, but that was not the question to deal with.

c) The rest of the archers may shoot at the “left-over” targets to one side, then defined as a “practice” field.

Some Judges need to look carefully at this answer which “signals” our efforts to contribute to a smoothly running event in combination with an arrangement to the best for the archers.

4)

In our opinion – although having made a certain error – the archers in question did not have any advantage and should keep their score. The archers will certainly be advised to keep alert re the rotation, but we must also be aware that archers in fact may decide to change such rotation due to certain reasons.

Some Judges are quoting Art. 7.8.2.3 which refers to “out of sequence”. However, a “sequence” basically refers to a given time interval (and as such the article is referring to match play alternate shooting).

5)

- a) 9-8-M (Three lowest out of 9-9-8-M)
- b) 8-6-M (In the lower face it will be 6-M)
- c) 9-8-M (Out of time, losing the highest value out of 9-8-9). Or the actual arrow if there are judges assigned to spot arrows (a rule now changed).

We are surprised that some experienced Judges are still confused by the triple face “syndrome”. Be aware that two arrows in one center means that you have two arrow scores, one Miss (the highest value) and then the score of the other arrow. Both of them are still part of that end – see a) above to deal with the “double error”.

6)

Based on the information given, the scores will be 9-8-7-1-M-M.
The arrow out of the three meter line scores an M. Having shot out of time means that you lose the score of the highest scoring arrow (that arrow becomes a Miss - it does not disappear). You have seven values, but only the 6 lowest scores are entered in the score sheet.

No further comments!



7)

In our opinion the Judge was right. The arrow in the 10 has a value clearly to be identified and should certainly score accordingly. The arrow in the corner, where the target face has fallen loose, may be deemed not having been shot, and so did the Judge.

Some Judges seem to think that it is “unfair” to treat these archers differently, but if a score can be identified, the “fairest” decision is to go by that score. In this respect it is also acceptable to use methods of finding the score of the arrow in the corner; i.e. measuring from the center of the face (giving the archer the benefit of the doubt).

8)

We do not agree with this judge. The make-up arrows should be shot in the proper rhythm in order to have the same shooting conduct for all archers – ref. Judges Guide Book.

In spite of that we do not consider the action of the Judge to be a severe mistake, after all he/she just tried to help the archer out of a difficult situation.

9)

The archer is given 40 sec. to shoot the arrow – as he is entitled to have a 30 sec. warning signal.

This solution follows from an official FITA Interpretation, and every Judge should definitely know this!

10)

The proper procedure from the Judge would be to delay the start (informing the DOS) until the archer has got his arrows and has had the time to briefly check them. The Judge is responsible for controlling that the archers are technically ready to start each end before shooting proceeds.

No further comments!

11)

We have to differ between a World Championships and other events (like this one – World Ranking Event) as for ties.

Archer A and B will be ranked according to the procedures in Art. 7.6.5.1.

Archer C and D will have a shoot-off.

Archer E and F should according to the rules be checked for hits, 10s and Xs according to Art. 7.6.5.1.

Again it is important to know what kind of event you are judging, as the rules sometimes vary depending on the status of the event. It is also important to read the rules carefully.

12)

We are primarily looking for the score. The closest-to-the-center arrow is valid only when the score is tied. Team B wins with 27-26 points.

No Judge is allowed to make mistakes here - certainly the highest score will always win!

13)

a) False. 80 cm center face is mandatory at World Championships.

b) False. 80 cm center face is mandatory at World Championships.

c) True.

d) False. Arrow shafts may not exceed 9.3 mm. The point however, may be max. 9.4 mm

e) True

No further comments!



14)

The penetration mentioned must be checked by the Judge before any action is taken. If it seems suspicious the weight of the compound bow in question must be checked.

No further comments!

15)

The scores will be accepted. The Judge would also remind the archer of the proper procedure.

As the scores can easily be identified there is no problem in safeguarding the scores of the archer. A punitive action here (no scores) is not acceptable.

16)

We would organize the shooting of the arrows not yet shot, and since here we are talking about several archers, the best solution may be to organize the shoot separately for the various number of arrows: 120 sec. for the archer with three arrows, then 80 sec. for the archers with two arrows left and then 40 sec. for the archers with one arrow left.

There is also an acceptable procedure to set the clock for 120 sec. for all and then give archers a "go" at 80 sec. left (for those with two arrows) and at 40 sec. left (for those with one arrow). Archers who shot at the very moment as the light went out will score their arrows as they lie in the target. No re-shooting!

We do not cancel the end! This would be highly unfair for archers who have already shot arrows.

17)

The Judge would check the glasses for possible markings or micro-lenses. If no such thing is found, the glasses will be accepted as it is allowed to use a fully covered glass or eye-patch. It is not sufficient just to accept without checking.

18)

The Judge made a mistake. The archer incorrectly raised his bowarm before the signal, but did not shoot before time. There is no deduction of points, only a warning for not obeying the rule in question.

Taking away points without any backing in the rules constitutes a severe mistake, and should not happen.

19)

The benefit of the doubt will give the archer the higher score.

A couple of Judges indicated that they would press the face towards the buttress to see the score, but this is absolutely not acceptable. The Judge should at any time avoid touching the target face (although it may incidentally happen).

20)

We would normally score the three lowest unmarked scores in the face. In case only few shots were previously shot at the face, we might compare the scorecard in order to identify the actual scores. However, the archers cannot claim such an action from the Judge, as they are themselves to blame for the incident, and we have a responsibility to other archers to avoid unnecessary delays.

No further comments!



FIELD QUESTIONS

F1)

According to field rules there is a possibility for the archers, witnessing the hit, to score the value according to its witnessed impact.

F2)

As this target already had been shot by some archers, in our mind the only solution is to cancel this target for that division. We would of course correct the distance, so the target could be shot correctly for other divisions.

F3)

We would have acted slightly differently. We would have let the following groups pass the group in question in order to avoid severe delays throughout the whole competition.

F4)

The Judge would check if the group in question actually is using too much time. If so, the group would be advised that they will be timed (and pass that information on to the next Judge in the area) and we would time them and use the proper procedure if they were still found to excess the time limit. A note on the scorecard that the group had got a verbal warning would be made.

F5)

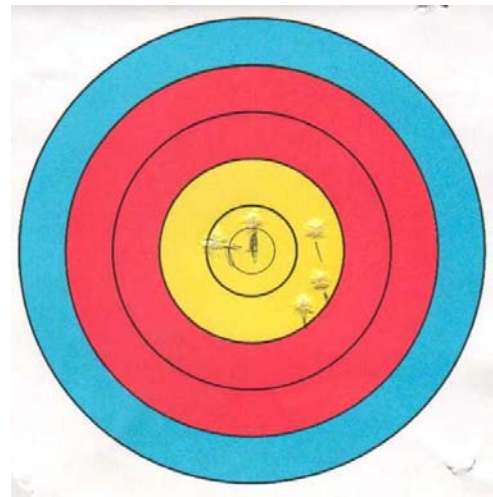
Although it is correct that the archers may correct the scorecard themselves (signed by everyone in the group), the Judge should have approached the archers and made the correction as he was in the area.

6. FITA Judge Committee Meeting

The FITA Judge Committee will meet in Lausanne, Switzerland, on December 1-2, 2003. FITA President, Mr. James Easton, will join us on the second day of our meeting. We plan to work hard on the preparation of the Judge Conference to be held in Lilleshall, U.K., in February next year.

7. Changing indoor faces

These are some cases in which faces should be changed, even if the archers disagree. The problem here is not that the judge may find it difficult to call the value of an arrow because the line is distorted or missing. Here the archers have marked the arrow holes with lines that are way too long, in an evident attempt to create a large aiming point on the target, which is unfair to the other archers on the line.





8. Dennis Mrokwia has passed away

We are sorry to announce that International Judge Dennis Mrokwia from Canada has passed away. Dennis was an experienced judge who officiated at several FITA major tournaments, including the World Field Championships in Cortina, 2000, and the Olympic Test Tournament in Atlanta, 1996. Those who had the chance to work with him will always remember Dennis. On behalf of all the FITA Judges, our Committee wishes to express our condolences to his family and friends.

9. Team Work. What does it mean?

The concept of team work is quite well defined and exemplified in the Judges Guidebook. An issue that should still be paid close attention to is how the team works around the chairman in their coordination with the organizing committee. We have had several cases in the last few months on judges who deal with the organizers on their own, and tell them to change this and that without a previous discussion with the judge commission and their chairman. This does not show a good image of the commission and the coordinating role of the chairman. ALWAYS discuss every item within the commission, and let the chairman handle communication with the O/C, unless a specific judge is named by the commission to take care of a given problem with the organizers. It would be crazy for the O/C to receive instructions from 13 different individuals at the same time, and it would be even worse if some of these individuals have opposite points of view on the same topic.

10. New Case Studies

Please send your reply (by e-mail, fax or mail) regarding the following case studies by **December 31st, 2003** to the FITA Office, attention: Caroline Murat, e-mail's address: cmurat@archery.org, fax number: +41 21 614 30 55

61.1 At a team match with alternate shooting, team A has already shot two sets of three arrows and their clock has stopped with 67 seconds left. Team B is now shooting their second set of three arrows. In their first set of three arrows, each member of the team shot one arrow. Now on the second set, archer 1 steps on the line and shoots an arrow, archer 2 steps on the line next but has a hard time going through her clicker and steps out of the shooting line to allow archer 3 to come onto the line to shoot one arrow. So now archers 1 and 3 have shot one arrow each on this second set. Archer 2 steps on the line and shoots one arrow (the third arrow for the team in that set), and immediately after that shoots the fourth arrow for her team in that set. Once this has happened the count-down clock comes to zero, indicating that the time for the team has expired. The judge for this match did not do anything.

- a) What violation did team B make?
- b) What should be the penalty?
- c) How should the judge have indicated that?



61.2 There are three archers shooting at target 33. The archers had agreed that one of them (A) would mark the holes and remove all the arrows on that target in every end. Another archer (B) would enter the scores in the official score-card, and the third archer (C) would enter the arrow values in the electronic pad for the computers. For some reason the score of archer (A) in the fourth end was not entered in the official score card. She did not realize that in that very end, but in the following end when scoring was to take place. She calls a judge. The judge says that nothing can be done and she should get M-M-M because the arrows are not in the target. Archer A claims that the scores were entered in the electronic pad (unofficial scoring – as had been informed in the Team Captains Meeting), and she appeals to Jury. What would you do if you were in Jury?

11. Judges are not always serious and busy

Look at this picture of some of our International Judges who live in the Caribbean. It was taken during the Pan American Games recently held in Santo Domingo. After a long day on the archery field, our colleagues decided to go to the Baseball Stadium to watch the Gold Medal Game between Cuba and the United States (just like Korea vs. Italy in Men's Recurve Teams in Archery).



From left to right Guillermo Font (CUB – who was much happier at the end of the Game), Guillermo Jimenez (COL – Chairman of Judges there), Cristobal Merlos (ESA), and Israel Vega (PUR). Johnny Hernandez (VEN) & Alma Chong (MEX) were the other two judges. They preferred to go to bed early. Who took the picture? Sergio Font (Technical Delegate).



12. Comments to Case studies No. 60

60.1

Correctly enough a huge majority of Judges stated the principle that the Judge have an overall responsibility of the conduct of scoring – ref. art. 7.9.1.6.

Therefore – in principle – it is not only a right for the Judge to correct errors he observes, it is his duty to do so. There may even be situations where it is necessary to follow up some targets closely, if there is a suspicion of cheating or frequent mistakes. This is not contravening our basic procedures.

The rules describing how archers shall act at scoring are there to take care of how the archers shall perform their duties, realizing that it is impossible to have judges verifying all the scoring which would have required a judge almost for every target – for time reasons.

In this specific case one Judge made an interesting point re the Judge's action. Based on the fact that he arrived after the scoring basically had been done, he must certainly be careful in changing questionable values on his own initiative, as both arrows and/or target face may have been touched after the archers have decided the values.

60.2

Here we found lots of possible scenarios from the team event – and these cases also showed that a lot of our Judges are not so familiar with team events and their rules.

a)

Our rules are quite clear here, the team will only lose the highest scoring arrow as the Judge in question decided.

Be aware of the intention of the rules; a team shall not have any time advantage over the other team, and this is related to the crossing of the one meter line when going forward to shoot - not to the number of arrows shot (after the yellow card is given).

From the answers we would like to underline the following:

- 1) You must not "invent" any punishment. A possible punishment must follow from the rules.
- 2) If a team obeys by the yellow card and return behind the one meter line, no further action is taken - even if this is repeated several times during a match.

The punishment is carried out by the loss of time on each occasion the team's archer has to return behind the one meter line.

b)

In this situation the team seems to realize a mistake and tries to make up for it by returning after the shot is made. Approximately half of the Judges would accept the shot and half of the Judges would not accept it – in spite of a possible "good will" from the team in question.

In many cases we train our Judges not to be punitive but protective. However, we must be aware not to "jump to a conclusion" too easily. Even here we must stick to the basic rule and take away the highest scoring arrow based on the following reasoning:

- It gives a significant advantage to be able to continue the shot (mental preparation and performance of the shot) compared with having to interrupt the shooting.
- It opens up for "tactics" from the team if the team itself can choose when to take the punishment.

As the rhythm of the team can vary, the archers may shoot one, two or three arrows, returning behind the one meter line after a shot may not necessarily give a time punishment at all.



- Probably the Judge would already have given the red card (for not obeying the yellow one) and thus indicated both to spectators and the other team the loss of the highest scoring arrow - which may influence the match.

c)

Here we face a situation which as such is not covered by the rules. Certainly the rules describe that only one archer at the time shall be on the shooting line, but indicates no consequence if not.

Again be aware of the following;

1) Do not invent any punishment, you do not have the right to do that.

2) Even if the rules are referring to the Organizers Manual (a bit unfortunate in this respect), the introduction of a time penalty in the team event, made all previous references to take away 2 points per yellow card invalid (some Judges indicated this as a possibility in this case....).

Then, is it no possibility to meet such an unfair shooting behaviour as shown by the team in this case? Yes, in fact it is. According to our rules the team may be disqualified if they are considered to break the rules knowingly.

In this situation we consider it proper to take this article into consideration.

d)

A majority of Judges caught the important point of view in this case, where a Judge overlooked a mistake re crossing the one meter line too early. The important point is that the team, possibly not knowing about their mistake, did not get a chance to make up for the time advantage.

In most of the cases a time penalty is handled by the team within time (they speed up if necessary), and therefore it would be totally unfair to take away any points at the end of this match.

In this respect, line judging is very much like a soccer game – the situations cannot be restored. The situation is certainly unfortunate, and our line Judges must really be awake all the time.

e)

A huge majority of the Judges clearly see no problems in this situation where the team made two crossing the one meter line mistakes, got a yellow card and returned behind the line (once) according to the rules.

Don't forget that the team only had "one time advantage" since they made the mistakes simultaneously, and rightfully got only one yellow card and consequently returned only once.

To the minority of the Judges; do not apply rules blindly; look at the intention of the rules.

Ask yourself: why is this rule there?

60.3

The text, the interpretation and the explanations have obviously not made the whole issue re fiber optic sight pins totally clear. Neither is the English language always easy to understand for us "foreigners" (like the FITA Judge Committee and the many Judges around the world).

Some main points have to be clarified:

a) When the rules are talking about "a fiber optic pin in line of vision towards the target", "towards the target" is referring to line of vision – the area between the eye and the target.

b) The maximum of 2 cm is to avoid using the item to check a possible torque or level of the bow. This has nothing to do with a possibility of more than one aiming point, which is another limitation.



In our case, none of the fiber optic pins are legal – as they are giving more than 2 cm “in line of vision towards the target”.

The first one is 5 cm and the second one is 5 cm before bending (and then ending outside the vision). In other words, both these pins are giving the possibilities of checking a possible torque or level of the bow, exactly what the limitation of 2 cm tries to limit.

(See pictures and explanation to a certain example in this Newsletter).

60.4

The marking of shooting positions. This mistake should certainly have been discovered by the Judges far before the Practice Session.

However, the attitude of the Chairman of Judges in this case is certainly not acceptable.

It is our primary work to prevent problems, instead of cure the problems (which often at that point have increased considerably, creating inconvenience at a large scale).

Therefore it is also a kind of “Golden Rule” re field layout that everything that can be corrected shall be corrected.

This time we are talking about marking of shooting positions, a problem that can be easily taken care of without creating much delay – as indicated by the majority of the Judges.

If there for some reason should delay the start of the tournament with some minutes, a cooperation (information) with the Team Captains is a good advice.