

JUDGES NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

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Content

1. Editorial from our Chairman
2. Vigdis Stigen Landskaug – in memoriam
3. Judge Seminar in Phoenix, Arizona USA
4. Mistakes
5. When to announce the results of a shoot-off
6. Marks on the riser ...
7. Judges Conference 2014 in Antalya, Turkey
8. The judges position when making an arrow call
9. Pictures of Judges at events in 2014
10. Case studies 85 – comment
11. New case studies

1. Editorial

By Morten WILMANN, Chairman

Dear Judges,

On 20-24 March all the World Archery committees had a meeting in Lausanne, SUI at the World Archery Office – discussing possible rule changes/additions/updates and improvements in our beloved sport of Archery.

This meeting was especially interesting for our committee, since when you “walk down the street” most things come down to judging and rule understanding. Some issues will naturally be topics on the upcoming Judges Conference in Antalya, TUR in June.

Meanwhile I am sure you will study the latest rules (on the web) as some new rules are now valid (from 1 April), and the books are updated.

Since our last Newsletter some judges have withdrawn from international judges due to personal reasons. From the registrations for the last Conference in this term, we can also conclude that some other judges will not be reaccredited for the new period due to their not meeting the requirement of participation at a Conference.

Our group of Youth Judges also disappears, as some of them have started their way through the ordinary line: Continental, IJc and IJ, some will be out due to age and some have lost interest. This means that the planned Youth Judges Seminar in October in GBR will be important from a recruitment point of view, and all of you guys must be helpful in bringing up new, young candidates in your member associations.

Even if you all are accredited until 2015, the accreditation test will take place this year in October, and the evaluation of the test and other means (reports, answers to case studies etc.) will naturally influence the appointments of judges for 2015.

At the end of this year we will appoint judges for the Olympic Test Event in Rio, BRA next year, and those judges must be available for the Olympics in 2016, although the final appointment for the Olympics will be made after the test event.



I would like to finalize this editorial by saying that the World Archery Athletes Committee gave a positive feedback on international judging and our improvements during the later years (in spite of some individual exceptions).

Morten

2. Vigdis STIGEN LANDSKAUG – in memoriam

On Sunday the 30 March we received the sad news that Vigdis had left us – after having fought a tough match over four years against cancer.

Vigdis became an archer at a very young age, being one of the best archers in the world at the time of the Moscow Olympics, but was unfortunately drabbed by the international boycott to those games. Later on Vigdis continued her interest in archery by engaging in organizational matters – and thereby also becoming an international judge.

She was the President of World Archery Norway from 2010-2012. As a judge she officiated at several top level events, like the World Junior Championships in 2006, the Paralympics in 2008, the World Championships in Ulsan 2009, and World 3D in 2013 – and she was known to be indeed capable, brave and fair.

The judges who had the privilege to meet her will always remember her. We all mourn over her death. She will always be a part of our memory



3. International Candidate and Continental Judge Seminar in Phoenix, Arizona, USA

A judge seminar was held in Phoenix, Arizona, USA on 1-3 April, and was attended by 23 participants from 7 countries. International judges Tom GREEN and Sergio FONT conducted the seminar. The following judges were upgraded to:

International Judge Candidates:

Alexander VECCHIO PASSERINI, BRA
Guillermina GARCIA, MEX
Jesus Anacleto GUEVARA MENJIVAR, ESA
Saruul ENKHBAT, MGL
Carlos Alberto CERVANTES BARRERA, MEX
Sheri RHODES, USA
Michael CULLUMBER, USA
Abdullah Sharaf M. ABUSHAL, KSA

Continental Judges:

John STOVER, USA
Douglas LUDWIG, USA
Megan TIERNEY, USA



A session conducted by Tom Green

4. Mistakes

Even if the general feedback regarding international judges and judging is good, we still see too many mistakes being made and correct procedures not being followed. This is not acceptable and makes it difficult to reach the status we should have.

Remember, we are quite "visible" nowadays; important players in the game.

And as we say in all seminars and conferences, it takes years to build up a good reputation and only a few seconds to ruin it.

What kind of "mistakes" are we talking about?

a) Judge not being focused.

- Not looking at the archer moving forward in the team event.
- Not getting up from the chair and/or not positioning to check possible late shots.
- Not listening to guidelines during meetings.

b) Judge not taking action when necessary.

- Not knowing how to solve a situation.
- "Freezing" when problems occur.

c) Judge not knowing the rules/procedures.

- Making wrong decisions.

You may say that this does not happen often, and that it is human to make mistakes. Yes, but most of what is said above is due to poor preparation – and that should never happen. When you are into judging, and World Archery/Organizers are paying most of your travel expenses, you have the duty to serve at the highest possible standard; you are not on vacation or being a tourist (you may tour around after the event is finished).

You have become a judge because you are interested in judging (if that is not the case, you should “back off”).

Again; when appointed to an event you must update yourself on the rules, and you have to ask yourself what might happen and how you would solve it. How would you deal with shoot-offs in various possibilities; what should you do if the timers go “blank”, what do you do if...

And if you cannot answer some of the issues you can imagine, then bring them up during the first commission meeting.

Because when you are out there, you must make decisions, you cannot all the time run to the Chairperson! If that were to be the case, then we would not need 13 judges at World Target Championships, we would need only one.

All these things in addition to body language have to do with attitude, which now is a topic at our Conferences, and it is something we have to take into consideration when judges are reaccredited and appointed to events.

When Off-Duty, do not attempt to get onto the FOP if not in uniform, and if in uniform, then remember, to the coaches and archers, you are on duty.

DB re-iterated how we should act in matchplay, and the importance of preparation in advance with the athletes/coaches, and following our own processes in terms of decision making.

In terms of communication, it was stressed that we should look to be FIRM and GENTLE, but that we must also not shy away from communicating something controversial.

When taking action at the targets, particularly in shoot-off situations, don't let the announcer/commentator dictate what you have to do.

We need to avoid losing control and stay calm and focussed at all times.

To help the Chairman, be punctual and on time for meetings, transportation departure etc, showing respect to your fellow commission members. Also follow the relevant dress code, ensuring you look smart on the FOP.

Do participate in meetings - take an active role and share experiences. From a personal point of view, we find it helpful to discuss points etc and hear other Judges perspectives or points of view.

We do have many good judges, but unfortunately we also have others who are not so good. Make sure you are among the good ones.

5. When to announce the result of a shoot-off

When a shoot-off is conducted, everyone on the field is expecting immediate information on the result. There should be no delay between the moment the judge is able to make a decision, either with his bare eye or after using his tools to measure. The following pictures show the judge making his signal as soon as he has determined who the winner was, despite the fact that the archers had not arrived at the target yet. The archers' signing of the scorecard may follow afterwards. It makes our judges look silly when their visual announcement is made after everyone knows the result.



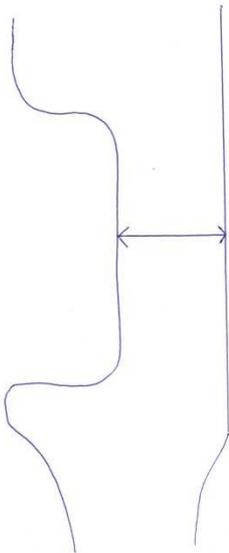
6. Marks on the riser ...

This article is about recurve bow in target archery

The basic recurve rules that state "what is allowed" have been our guidelines for many years when inspecting recurve equipment in order to disclose items and manipulation that might give an illegal advantage – also when we have been checking the riser of the bow for marks, scratches, lines etc. that we believed might give such an advantage.

But interpretations and bylaws have later on given us a multi-colored riser, and even trade marks on the archer's side of the riser, which have made our life more difficult. What do we do now?

This would make it difficult to act upon other things, such as alignment lines or creative advertising; archers would not see the difference – and would we?



We launched the issue at a joint meeting (all World Archery committees gathered in Lausanne, SUI), and the feedback from the Technical Committee, Coaches Committee and Athletes Committee was unanimous; an archer would not be able to use any such things to their benefit.

Based upon that, we should definitively change our procedure in this respect, which in fact would make life easier for judges. There would no longer be a need for asking archers to tape the archer's side of the riser to cover "suspicious" marks etc.

Looking at the drawing here, we should not be concerned about possible issues in the riser area limited by the arrow. But remember strongly, we are talking about target archery.

However, if we have any protrusions outside of the width of the riser that might be used for aiming or framing, we should of course act as before.

7. Judge Conference 2014 in Antalya, TUR

Thanks to the Turkish Archery Federation we are pleased that our conference this year will be held the two days following the World Cup in June. According to the registration we will be a bit more than 30 judges attending, which should prove a good conference.

The preliminary agenda would be:

- Judge Committee work and plans
- Sport Presentation
- Future communication for judges in WA
- Judge Structure
- New concept of the rule book and recent changes
- Various judging procedures
- Para-archery
- 3D-rules and understanding
- Case studies
- Other judging issues/questions etc.
- Test (considered for re-accreditation (ref. Invitation for the conference)
- Commission Chairperson responsibilities (ref. Invitation for the conference)

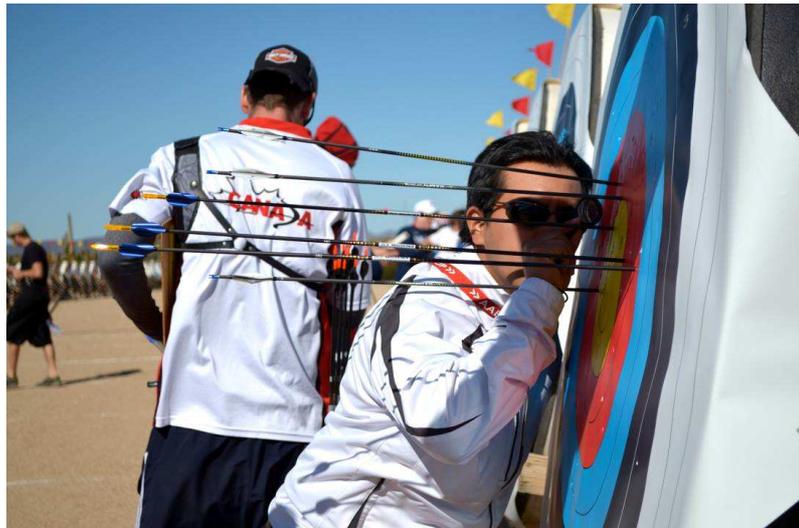
We would very much appreciate input from judges on difficult areas or case studies worthwhile to discuss during the conference.



The Judge Committee and Severine Deriaz at their meeting in Lausanne

8. The judges position when making an arrow call

The judge in the picture below is trying to make an arrow call. See how close he gets to the target face looking for the best angle, but he DOES NOT touch the face.



9. Pictures of judges



The Judges at the Indoor World Championships in Nîmes, France



The Judges, the Directors of Shooting and the Technical Delegate at the Arizona Cup

10. Replies to case studies 85

85.1

At an indoor tournament a shoot-off needs to be carried out in compound match. The judge assigned to take control of this match set up a new target face for each of the contenders. After the archers have shot, the judge and the two archers walk to the target to find out that both arrows are in the compound ten-ring and have hit the cross in the center not making it possible to see it. The judge claims that it is not possible to measure because both crosses have disappeared and tells the archers to go back to the line to shoot another arrow.

Was the judge's action correct? Would you have acted otherwise?

Reply:

A lot of you are talking about measuring – and some of you have some advanced, and practically less useful technique to measure (too slow).

First of all, measuring closest to the center we only do if we cannot decide without doing so.

Even if two arrows take out the middle of the cross, one may very easily see which arrow is more centered in the face than the other.

Only if both arrows are so visibly close to being in the centre that you cannot tell – and you are not able to measure, then you allow another shoot-off.



Further to some of you: it is very difficult to measure from an outside line. First of all you must be absolutely sure that you measure perpendicular from the line to both the arrows, and you have to measure to the part of the arrow closest to centre. We would say; never try to do this – too easy to make mistakes.

85.2

At a major international event in which finals were shot using an alternation sequence, the clocks for the team matches were not prepared to give a sound signal at the end of the 2 minutes. The judges, team officials and archers were not made aware of this. In a team match, Team A's last archer on the line shoots his arrow 2 seconds after the clock had come to zero. The judge shows his red card to the coach and advises the target judge to deduct the highest scoring arrow for that team. Team A's team captain appeals to Jury claiming that his team did not receive a sound signal.

Was the judge's action correct?

What would you have done if you had been made aware before the start of the match that the equipment was not able produce the sound signal?

Reply:

This question has two parts.

a) We are a bit surprised that too many of you actually would take away scores even if there is no sound. That is not so!!

An archer relates to the sound as he is aiming at the target; that is why a sound signal takes precedence if there is a discrepancy. Some of you say that the coach has control and often counts down, but it is not mandatory for him to do so.

And even the judge should watch the archer and wait for the signal to be able to tell correctly if it is a late shot.

The situation here (no sound signal) is unknown to everybody – therefore everybody is waiting for a sound when the countdown clock reaches zero. This is an organizers mistake, and the benefit goes to the archer.

b) What if you were made aware of the problem of the timing equipment? In that case the problem must be solved somehow.

It should be an easy task for a deputy DoS to use a whistle or other sound if the timer goes down to zero. This is the DoS' responsibility. The judge is there to control the timing, not to be a timer.

And of course, the information should be given to team captains, so everybody knows the procedure used.

11. New case studies

Case study 86.1

At a World Ranking Event shot on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 1/48 elimination round for recurve men was shot on Saturday. The 1/24 round was shot on Sunday morning in very windy conditions, and was followed by the rest of the elimination and finals matches on the same day. The organizing committee assigned targets for the pre-seeded top 8 archers to practice while the rest of the archers were shooting their 1/24 round. A couple of coaches complained to the judges claiming that these 8 archers did not have a bye, and were pre-seeded, and for this reason they should not be allowed to practice on the competition field while the other competitors were shooting their matches. The judges decided that these two coaches were right and agreed not to allow the top 8 archers to practice. Do you believe that the judges' decision was right?

Case study 86.2

At an international event there were some disabled archers participating. One of these archers – a recurve archer - had only one arm and thus pulled the bow by biting on a piece of leather fixed to the string and then stretched out the bowarm. His performance was astonishing good and half way in the tournament a coach (from another country) approached you as a judge asking if it is allowed to shoot that way in a non-disabled event, referring to the description of a recurve bow to be hold in one hand and the string pulled by the other hand. Furthermore he claimed that shooting this way, there will be no side movement of the string and thus a cleaner release, a huge advantage. What would you say?

Your reply must be sent to WA at latest on the 31 May 2014