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1. Editorial

Welcome to issue #11 of the World Archery Classifiers Newsletters published in September 2025,

I am pleased to share some important news from the recent World Archery Congress, held on 2–3 September 2025 in Gwangju, Korea.

During the meeting, three new members were appointed to the para archery committee.

- **Almudena Gallardo**, Spain
- **Juan Felipe Mesa**, Colombia
- **An Hyungseung**, Korea

We are excited to welcome them on board and look forward to their contributions and perspectives as we continue to develop and strengthen para archery around the world.

We are also pleased to announce that **Pippa Britton** been appointed as the new chair of the para committee, taking over from Dominique Olhmann.

At the same time, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Dominique Olhmann, Zahra Nemati and Sue Gliddon, who have now concluded their terms on the committee. Their dedication, insight and hard work have been instrumental in advancing our shared goals, and we are truly grateful for their service.

Please join me in welcoming our new members and in thanking those who are stepping down.

Chiara Barbi

Head of classification

2. Updated appointments for 2025

We would like to inform you of some recent changes to the international classification schedule.

Unfortunately, two upcoming events have been **cancelled**:

- **Para Youth Challenge** – Dubai – November 2025
- **Fazza International Tournament** – Dubai – November 2025

As a result, classifiers assignments have been reallocated to the following events:



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- **American Para Youth Games** – Santiago del Chile, Chile – 28 October to 2 November 2025

Chief classifier: Petra Sanchez Ruocco

Classifier: Nancy Littke

- **Asian Para Youth Games** – Dubai, United Arab Emirates – 7-11 December 2025

Chief classifier: Ida Hasni Shaari

Classifiers: Aynur Demirel, Reza Rashidi and Chiara Barbi

We appreciate the flexibility and commitment of all classifiers involved. Your continued dedication ensures that athletes receive accurate and fair classification, even as the calendar evolves.

3. New date for national classifiers courses 2025

Following the cancellation of the November events in Dubai, the dates for the previously planned classifiers course in that location have been rescheduled.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that an additional training opportunity has been added to the calendar:

- 28-30 Nov 2025 – Pilsen, Czechia (supported by the Czech Paralympic Committee)
- 11-13 Dec 2025 – Dubai, United Arab Emirates (supported by World Archery's knowledge sharing programme)

4. Ongoing education

As part of our ongoing education process, I would share with you this [article wrote by Ian Gowans](#) (member of classification compliance and oversight committee of the International Paralympic Committee) on preventing cheating during classification.

5. Case studies – best practice recommendations from the classification committee

Case study 1 – (refer to [World Archery Classifiers Newsletter #10](#))

In addressing this situation, it is important to follow the procedures and ethical guidelines set forth in both the [World Archery Classifier Handbook](#) and the IPC International Standard for Classification (2017).

1. Observation outside of competition context

According to the IPC International Standard for Classification, particularly Article 4.3 (Use of Non-Competition Observation), classifiers may consider information observed outside of the competition setting only if it raises a genuine concern regarding intentional misrepresentation or classification accuracy. However, such observation must be interpreted with caution, recognising that:

“An Athlete’s presentation may vary between competition and daily life; a single observation is not sufficient for changing classification status.”

Therefore, while the observed behaviour may appear inconsistent with W1 classification criteria, it does not automatically constitute evidence of misrepresentation or misclassification.



2. Classification review and protest protocols

Per the World Archery Classifier Handbook, athletes with a Confirmed (C) status can only be reviewed under specific conditions:

- If new evidence becomes available that suggests the previous classification is no longer accurate (e.g. change in impairment or classifiers errors).
- If there is a suspicion or evidence of intentional misrepresentation, as defined in the IPC Code – Article 11.

In this case, since the classification status is Confirmed and the observation occurred outside the field of play, the correct course of action is:

3. Recommended action

- 3.a. Document the observation: Write a confidential report describing the observation factually (time, place, behaviour, athlete involved), without assumptions or judgments.
- 3.b. Do not confront the athlete or their team: Classifiers must not engage directly with the athlete or their team outside of the designated classification environment.
- 3.c. Inform the head of classification: Submit the documented observation to the head of classification or the relevant classification committee within World Archery, who will determine whether further investigation is warranted.

Follow due process: If deemed necessary, an international federation protest or misrepresentation procedure may be initiated according to World Archery and IPC protocols.

If, upon reflection, the classification panel recognises that they may have *misapplied criteria, misinterpreted functional tests, or overlook evidence*, the situation must be addressed *transparently and through the correct procedures*:

- Do not act independently.
- Notify the head of classification immediately with a clear explanation of:
 - The nature of the error (e.g., technical mistake, procedural issue).
 - The impact on the athlete's assigned class/status.
- The head of classification may then:
 - Convene an international federation protest.
 - Notify athlete's member association.

As per the IPC Code – Article 5.4 (Correction of Classification Errors):

“An error identified after classification has been completed may be corrected, but only through the sport's designated procedures.”

Transparency and accountability are key. Recognising a mistake does not undermine classifier credibility – when managed correctly, it demonstrates professionalism, ethical responsibility and commitment to athlete fairness.

Case study 2 – (refer to [World Archery Classifiers Newsletter #10](#))

This case sparked considerable discussion within the classifier community. It received almost 15 different answers, clearly highlighting that the case falls outside the scope of the current classification rules.

This wide variance in interpretation indicates a need for clearer guidance. As a result, the classification committee would like to propose a revision to the minimum impairment criteria in the next edition of the classification rules.

The proposed addition (pending review and approval by the para archery committee) is to include the following for the eligible impairment “limb deficiency”:



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"Amputation through the ankle (Symes amputation); amputation of the forearm above the wrist (no wrist joint present); or Dysmelia resulting in the absence of one of the following joint (elbow, wrist, hip, knee, ankle)."

This proposed clarification aims to reduce ambiguity and ensure more consistent and fair decision-making in future classifications.

We will provide you with updates regarding the changes.

Chiara, Chan, Ida, Lars