

COMMITTEE REPORT

Constitution & Rules Committee

Committee members:

Mark Miller (Chair), Alexandre Vecchio (Deputy Chair), LI Xinping, Derrick Lovell, Edith Stalter

Report by: Mark Miller

The Constitution & Rules Committee (“C&R”) of World Archery works closely with the World Archery office and other World Archery Committees in fulfilling its constitutional duties. These duties include answering and clarifying questions dealing with the World Archery Constitution and Rules, eligibility, championships, records and awards, reviewing and approving Committee interpretations, drafting motions for bylaws and laws as well as reviewing motions submitted by others, and advising and counseling World Archery’s Executive Board, General Secretary and the World Archery office.

C&R and the World Archery office focuses on improving the rules, addressing ambiguities, making the Rule book more accessible, aiding other Committees, assisting Member Associations as to best practices regarding their governance matters, resolving problems faced by Member Associations under the World Archery rules and assisting World Archery to continue to improve our sport.

C&R is involved with every interpretation request that is submitted to World Archery. In some cases, the question asked is within C&R’s term of reference, and C&R issues the interpretation. More commonly, however, the interpretation is within the term of reference of another Committee with several Committees having an interest in the request. C&R assists the Committees in discussing the issues and, where possible, finding a mutually agreeable solution. Similarly, C&R reviews and comments on each law being submitted to Congress and each bylaw being submitted to the Executive Board.

C&R also works closely with the World Archery Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General in formulating World Archery policies and procedures. In recent years these have included, assisting as to COVID-19 protocols at events, developing procedures if an athlete, coach, judge, or tournament official becomes ill, protecting athletes and the World Archery Family members from harassment, defining the responsibilities and roles for World Archery officials, and establishing a system to review the qualifications of those who are candidates for office.

COVID-19 has required C&R to deal with novel issues under our Rules. For example, our Rules provide that term of office for many individuals is fixed based on when the Olympic Games are held and that certain matters can only be considered in the year following the Olympic Games. C&R, working with the World Archery General Secretary and Swiss legal counsel, issued an interpretation which treats the Tokyo Olympic Games as having been held in 2020 where the Rule Book made reference to the year of the Olympic Games.

Various audiences are interested in World Archery’s Rules and C&R’s work including athletes, Members Associations, judges, tournament organizers, sponsors, manufactures, coaches, sport governing associations such as the International Olympic Committee, anti-drug commissions such as World Anti-

Doping Agency, and sport broadcasting and media. C&R believes that it can best serve our sport by considering the interests of all of these stakeholders and making others involved aware of other parties' points of view when considering interpretation requests, bylaws and laws.

C&R assists World Archery in protecting archery against doping and other challenges facing sports which affect the integrity of sport and fair play, including issues which may adversely affect our sport's reputation. Accordingly, it is important that World Archery and C&R strive to adopt best practices regarding good governance. In short, we have to be the best that we can be to insure that our sport continues with the excellent reputation that it enjoys.

A goal of World Archery is to assist Member Associations to improve their governance and adopt best practices. C&R stands ready to assist and work with the World Archery office and Member Associations to improve the governance of Member Associations.

C&R and the World Archery office are working to improve how we can make interpretations more accessible and better communicate with Member Associations, other Committees and other interested parties. Not all interpretations are included in the Rule Book. Whether or not the Rule Book is revised depends on whether the interpretation is a material clarification in the rule with broad application as opposed to the application of the rule in a particular situation. For example, interpretations which relate to whether or not a particular item of equipment is legal are not appropriate for the Rule Book.

However, C&R recognizes that interpretations can cause confusion. For example, a change in the Rules can cause an interpretation to no longer be valid. An interpretation is issued based on the laws and by-laws then in effect. Rules may be revised by a new law or bylaw, which may make the earlier interpretation no longer valid. An example is a change in a bylaw or law as what type of equipment is permitted. This may mean that an earlier interpretation as to whether or not a bow is allowed may no longer be accurate. In order to lessen the confusion, we have asked the relevant Committees to periodically review its prior interpretations to determine which may no longer be applicable. However, those who are relying on an interpretation should follow subsequent rule changes.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to my colleagues, in alphabetical order, Mr. Tom Dielen, Mr. Li Xinping, Mr. Derrick Lovell MBE, Ms. Siret Luik, Ms. Edith Stalter and Mr. Alexandre Vecchio for their hard work on C&R matters. I am very fortunate to have these colleagues to assist with the sometimes difficult issues with which C&R deals. Of course, I would also like to commend the World Archery office, and in particular Ms. Siret Luik, for their expert and professional involvement with C&R matters. Finally, on behalf of C&R, I would like to thank the President, the Executive Board, and the Permanent Committees for their confidence and professional cooperation.

As in the past, the primary aim of our work is the promotion of World Archery and our sport.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark F. Miller

Chair of the World Archery Constitution & Rules Committee

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