

COMMITTEE REPORT

Para Archery Committee

Committee members:

Dominique Ohlmann (FRA) chair, Pippa BRITTON (GBR) deputy, Nancy Littke (CAN), Sheri Rhodes (USA), Park Youngsook (KOR), Roman Suda (CZE) head of classification, Eric Bennett (USA) athlete representative

Report by: Dominique Ohlmann

Meetings 2019 to 2021

During this period, all meetings were conducted online, by videoconference.

A lot of questions and subjects were discussed by email conversation as this enables the committee to overcome challenges of time zone and location.

The Para committee wishes to thank the other committees for their helpful advice and contribution when it was necessary:

- Judges Committee
- Medical Committee
- Gender Equity Committee
- Constitution and rules Committee
- Classifiers Committee (in permanent contact and collaborative work)

Global participation in Para-Archery

Participation at the 2019 World Championship was the biggest ever. We have seen a growth in the number of countries and number of participants. Around 300 Para-Archers were registered for the 2019 World Championship and 200 of these were wheelchair archers.

The committee is happy to see the numbers increasing, but it means that for the future we need to consider how to guarantee the archers a good level of facilities, accessible accommodation, and transport.

Facing the pandemic

Of course, the Para-Archery calendar was totally affected by Covid restrictions. The Committee were consulted about every change, the ways proposed to minimize the impact of restrictions, and of course the qualification process for the Paralympic Games. The Committee was represented in call meetings proposed by IPC.

Women participation

IPC wish is to achieve 50% of women at the Paralympic Games' participation.

The current rate at World Archery International events is 36%.

The Committee fully agrees about the social role of sport and will encourage women participation.

The proposed rate for the games is: Rio 2016: 43%; Tokyo 2020: 43%; Paris 2024: 46%; goal for Los Angeles 2028: 50%.

One of the possible ways for para-archery to achieve gender equity is to focus on mixed team events and to ensure that teams must register a gender balance of participants. At the same time, the committee is considering whether the 3 archers team event is relevant for Para Events as there are only a limited number of countries able to register them. We started to study a possible replacement of 3 archers teams by a new event based on gender parity.

Education tools

The growing interest for Para-Archery over the world has, as a consequence, seen questions and requests of clarification from newly involved people. Some Judges are unsure around some of the classification elements as the rules or handbook were not as clear as we expected. As a result, the Committee has been asked for several interpretations.

We are very aware that accuracy of classification and good knowledge of the assistive devices is important to make sure that all archers can compete fairly.

At the moment, the information needed is written in several books (rulebook, classifiers handbook)

As a joint venture with the Judges Committee, the Classifiers Ad' hoc Committee is working towards making all reference texts clearer for judges, classifiers and coaches. It will be completed by online courses supported by a specific IPC grant. Some texts are ready, but to avoid any confusion, all new elements even if it is just lexical changes, will not be proposed before the Paralympic Games.

The Committee also proposes to work on new guidebooks to explain by an easy way to a large audience what classification is, what the Para categories are and how to start para-archery...

The Classifiers Committee also propose to start online courses to teach people to become National Classifiers.

Visually Impairment

The Committee continues the work to develop VI archery since the presentation we made in to the Mexico 2017 Congress.

Since the 2019 World Championships where the number of VI archers and represented countries were bigger than ever, a new way to simplify VI classification has been implemented.

The new classification system means that all VI archers need a simple national assessment to participate in international events. A final assessment will be done at the International Championship to validate the classification.

This new process is more accessible for a lot of the VI archers, and is easier for organizers of International Championships.

Youth participation

The Committee started to think about how to improve youth participation. At the 2019 World Championships, only 12 archers were in the age range of Junior Categories.

Perspective of new categories

The Committee was requested to think about the inclusion in World Archery events of short stature people. A working group has started to work on it, based on what is existing already. In this kind of study we have first to envisage if these people can compete fairly condition in one of our existing categories. If not, then there needs to be consideration that World Archery create a new category.

Continental contribution

Continental associations have included Para-Archery in their strategic plan. The World Archery Committee is happy with this progress and think it will result in improvements in efficiency, projects and action. We already have been approached to deliver some help for the contents of a specific webinar on Para-Archery.

In a near future, the Committee will be in touch with the continental association's Para Archery Committees or referees to be a link with Mas in local development.

Thanks

The two last years were clearly not what we expected at the 2019 Congress.

We would like to thank all people who contributed so much to preserve the spirit of the sport and the practice of archery for all our archers and para-archers, especially:

- The events department of World Archery for all their contribution in helping organizers to maintain events in good and healthy conditions.
- All the World Archery Staff for their contribution and help.
- All organizers, local authorities who permit us to restart competitions as soon as possible.
- Our Secretary General Tom DIELEN who is in constant contact with IPC and who is constantly a good ambassador to preserve the interest of our para-archers.
- IPC for their good understanding of the situation we must face and their open-minded treatment of the case of Archery for the Games.