

COMMITTEE REPORT

Athlete Committee

Committee members:

Crystal Gauvin, Bryony Pitman, Abhishek Verma, Natalia Avdeeva, and Sjef Van Den Berg (resigned)

Report by:

Crystal Gauvin, Chair

Proposals

Bylaw Proposal: Heat

We were approached by several athletes (formally and informally) about competing under severe heat.

Numerous archers have developed lifetime health issues because of heat stroke and other consequences of competing in excessive heat conditions. Based on what has been explained to us by archers who have spoken with experts such as sports doctors, neurologists, and an army general, the census is that extreme heat can be very dangerous, regardless of how much fluids are taken in. If the body is not given enough time to sufficiently cool down, there can be serious long-term consequences. A temperature of 38 degrees plus has been used in other applications as the cutoff for when no physical training is allowed, as it's deemed not to be safe. For this reason, we think the best solution based on current research be to use 38 degrees as a level once reached that proper cooling time must be allowed for all archers (and staff) out of the direct sun.

- One of more simple options would be to edit article 13.4.3:
When the temperature reaches 38 (Celsius) or higher, athletes shall be given a 5-minute break to cool off under proper shade, out of any direct sun (or indoors), after every 2 ends of shooting.
- The second option would be to put in more work and come up with a heat counter measures policy and procedures document that would describe different measures that could or must be implemented in certain situations.

We have not yet had an opportunity to meet with other committees, such as the medical and sport science committee to discuss this further and come up with a final proposal to bring to Congress or Executive Board.

Motion for Law: Tiebreakers

We submitted a motion for a change to Article 14.5.1 regarding tiebreakers in ranking rounds. However, due to this being an Olympic year, this has been tabled for the next Congress.

We felt the current order of ranking first on 10s and then Xs, does not accurately reflect the best archer of the round. In order to shoot the same score, but higher 10 count, this means this individual shot more 8s (or lower) than the archer they are tied in score with. By breaking the tie first by X count, this should reward the archer who was more precise with the better seed. In addition, this would cause no extra

“work” in scoring, as Xs are already recorded in outdoor target rounds AND used as the tiebreaker for world records (ex: 150 12x beat 150 9x as a new world record).

Committee composition

This committee has had a hard time retaining members and getting active participation. With less than five committed members, it makes it quite tough on those that do get involved.

For example, Sjef retired from competing in the sport and in turn resigned from the committee. Previously, there have been non-English speakers who are elected and cannot engage through writing or calls with the committee. In addition, there have been individuals who do not share their personal contact info, etc. And finally, as a Russian athlete, Natalia’s participation over the past year has been severely limited.

We are strongly recommending a change to the number of athletes on the committee and/or who is eligible (for example retired athletes). We also recommend to consider enabling **adding members through appointment** in addition to the elected ones.

Communication

Our primary form of communication is WhatsApp, but we have also utilized email and Zoom.

The committee would also like to create better avenues/channels for collecting feedback from active high-level athletes. Some suggestions are opt-in email system as part of international event registration, published contact info for chair (and possibly entire committee), using social media, etc.

Cross-committee cooperation

We tried to schedule virtual meetings in the Fall with other committees, but it proved to be a struggle with scheduling conflicts. We have, however, responded to all emailed requests from other committees. In addition, as Chair, Crystal has attended meetings of the Global Network of Athletes’ Commissions and reported back to the committee with any relevant information.

Future plans

It is imperative that we find a way to get greater participation from athletes moving forward. Whether that is running for positions on committees such as this one, actively engaging in discussions, providing feedback, or raising concerns, the only true way to have athlete’s voices heard is through participation.

Follow up and follow through is another important topic that needs to be addressed moving forward. As committee members change, things fall through the cracks. Even work that is done by joint committees can easily stall with new members. We need to find a way to better document what is being worked on and encourage more engagement, so membership changes, do not affect progress.