

COMMITTEE REPORT

PARA-ARCHERY COMMITTEE

Committee members:

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Report by:

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Meetings

The main work of the para-archery committee has been conducted through email discussion and online meetings and has focused on updating of rules and to building a new strategy to develop the sport.

Cross-committee meetings have been organized with the Judges Committee and the Constitution and Rules Committee. Their constant interest, contribution, and assistance in clarifying the rules has been really appreciated by the Para-archery Committee's members.

Meeting with Continental Associations

In 2022 the Committee invited the chairs of Para-archery Committee or Para-archery liaison of each Continental Association to share their experience and start cooperative work on worldwide projects. The first steps taken have been to explain the Para-archery Committee goals and to hear about the situation and projects in each regional area. Another meeting is planned of this type for 2023. Continental Associations have included Para-Archery in their own strategic plans and their contribution is a key-point to support all World Archery projects.

Outcomes of the strategy

Visually Impaired Categories

An important point to note in the development of this part of archery is that almost all visually impaired archers participate in competitions without the financial support of member associations.

In addition, the costs generated by the category for the organizers (classification) did not allow them to be considered as an option for many tournaments.

To limit these barriers, the choices were twofold:

- Lighten the classification process to the visual acuity test alone and done by a local ophthalmologist.
- Reduce the number of days that archers and assistants had to attend by different arrangement of the competition program.

After 3 years of this new process, the strategy seems to be showing real results as we now have new countries and more archers in the categories present at the last World Championship than ever before.

Going from Teams of 3 to Doubles

This change of format was initially requested to encourage women's participation and we have found that it benefits everyone since more countries can now claim double teams when they could not participate in teams of three.

We cannot yet judge the improvement in women's participation numbers, but we project that long term it will have an impact as the decision has already made it easier to have matches in all categories present at the World Championships. These categories are now represented in Doubles matches and broadcast with live streaming and this gives more opportunity to show that it is possible to compete in these team events. This helps to raise the profile of women's sport.

Current files and projects

Request from short stature archers

World Archery has received a demand from the dwarf's community to study their inclusion in world Archery categories to compete with the other para-athletes.

There are two options in including a new impairment group:

- include in an existing category (but only if this can be fair for all competitors)
- to compete in a separate new category

To consider these options, the Committee wish to conduct a study to:

- consider classification criteria and procedures
- consider of how many people of short stature are already practicing and competing in archery around the world

After a first meeting, we are still waiting for answers on statistics and desire of related people to compete at international level (probably without the financial support of the National Archery Federation).

Youth participation

50 % of the participants at the world championships is more than 40 years old

25 % of the participants at the world championships is more than 50 years old

A new challenge is to find a way to improve the youth participation.

In the first instance, the committee proposes to keep the same limit of age than for able bodied archers (U21).

People who have recently become disabled are more likely to be impacted regardless of age and may be limited in shooting long distances. To encompass both youth and these groups, the committee would like to propose a defined Indoor format (18m) with clear size of target face for each class.

We expect and hope that some continental associations will be willing to put on some test events.

Editorial changes of rules

Following the IPC recommendation, there has been a change of terminology and the expression "assistive devices" has been replaced by "adaptative equipment".

After discussion with the classifiers committee, judges committee, constitution and rules committee, all information/definition of adaptative equipment has been moved in the Rule Book as an appendix to Book 3. This should make the judges' job on the field easier.