

## JUDGING NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

ISSUE #113

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### 1. Editorial

from Indranil Datta, Chairman of WA Judge Committee

Dear Judges,

As we kick off the Outdoor session of 2024 cycle, I wanted to wish you all good luck with your activities and assignments. As some of you might know, the committee has been busy over the past few months around updating the guidebook, conducting conferences for the next re-accreditation cycle, and a few other activities. We have till now completed the Asian & the Americas leg of the conferences, and the next one will be in Europe in 2025. We do want to remind all of you that whoever has not participated in the last 2 conferences, but wants to go through the re-accreditation cycle, will need to mandatorily sit through the 2025 conference.



Additionally, as you all are already aware, this is an Olympic year and hence there are quite a few important events that are scheduled and all of us expect them to run in a meticulous way, specially from the judging perspective. There have been a few new changes to the rules as well as new interpretations that have been brought in, so please do take your time to go through them and keep yourselves updated. In the last couple of years, we have been conducting an online meeting for the appointed chairs / deputies / DoS – which was done this year as well – and we have provided the guidance from the committee to them around what new rules they should be aware of, what situations have occurred in the last few year which they should know about, etc. I expect the Chairs will communicate the same down to the commissions and that will help to prepare you better for the events.

Finally, in case you need any clarification or have any doubts about any part of the rule / processes, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. It is always better to ask questions and get things clarified before making any decision, rather than letting something get out of hand.

Remember – “no question is a stupid question”.

Wish you all a good 2024 season and I look forward to meeting some of you soon on the field.

Indranil

## **2. Outdoor Archery - Key Scoring Procedure Reminders for Alternate Shooting**

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Our outdoor season kicks off this month with the Archery World Cup. We think it's the perfect opportunity to remind you of some key points about the scoring process in alternate shooting matches, previously shown in [newsletter 99](#).

The process of scoring when matches are shot with an alternate sequence involves a Target Judge, a Scorer and two Agents. These four people need to work together as a team, specially target judge and scorer, to prevent any mistake during the scoring procedure. At World Archery Events, the only language to use in the blinds and at the targets is English. The following individual responsibilities and scoring procedure shall be the standard to follow at each World Archery event.

### **Target Judge:**

The target judge is responsible for everything that happens in the blinds and at the targets. The target judge scoring duties are:

- Briefing archer's agents on their responsibilities before the start of the match
- Making arrow calls
- Verifying that the scorer has entered the correct values in the scorecard
- Initialing any corrections to arrow values on the scorecard at the time the correction is made and before the arrows are drawn
- Signaling shoot-offs and match winners
- Ensuring that the agents sign the scorecards once the total scores are confirmed.
- Signing the scorecard and note the end time of the match.

### **Scorer:**

- Entering the arrow values on the scorecard and make corrections if necessary
- Obtaining the initials of the target judge for corrections made
- Calculating the end and match totals (compound) and set total and set points (recurve)
- Detecting possible errors either of arrow values or on the scorecards and bring them to the attention of the target judge.
- Reading individual values to the results team and giving confirmation that the total reported by the results team is the same as the one on the scorecard.
- Obtaining the signature of the agents and target judge at the end of the match.

### **Agents:**

The agents are the representatives of the archers at the targets. Their duties include:

- Checking what the scorer writes on the scorecard
- Marking the arrow holes on the target face
- Withdrawing arrows only after they have agreed the arrow values with the target judge
- Checking the recording of the values on the scorecard

- Signing the scorecard after the match, which means that they agree with the arrow values, the sum total and the winner/loser of a match.

### **Scoring Procedure:**

During shooting at World Archery Events, the scorer is sitting at a table in front of one or two monitors which show where the arrows lie on the targets. He or she is sitting between the two agents, who watch what the scorer is writing and compare these unofficial scores to what they see on the monitors/targets. The target judge is behind or beside the scorer and watches the whole process. The target judge pays special attention to any arrows whose value cannot be easily defined from the images on the monitor and prepares to make a call on their value when they arrive at the targets. The scorer will put an asterisk on the questionable values on the scorecard, writing the lowest arrow value.



While the shooting of the last arrow of a given end is in progress, the target judge, the two agents and the scorer should stand up, position themselves in the order to walk to the targets and wait for the three beeps to get out of the blind. After the last arrow is shot, they walk to the targets with the target judge in the first position, followed by agent 1, agent 2 and scorer.

The position of the agents might change depending on which side the blind is on and from where you are approaching the targets. Always put the further agent first followed by the closer agent.



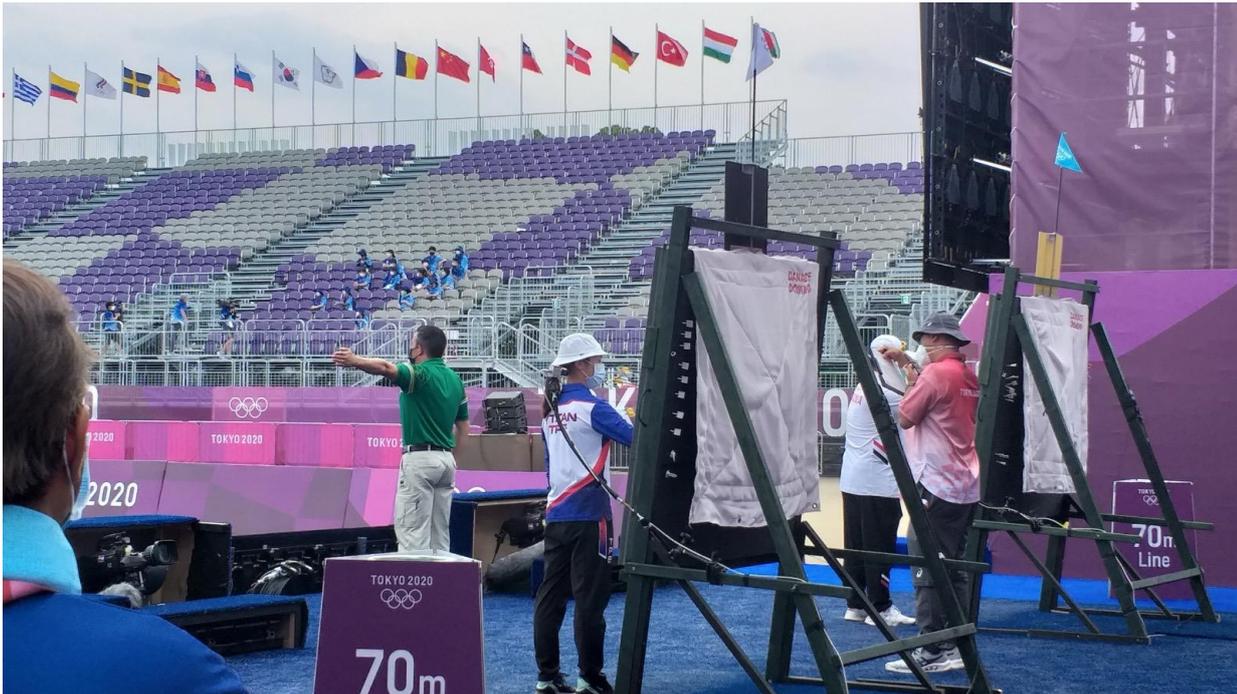
At the targets, the scorer stands between the two targets facing the target judge and the agents. The target judge starts calling the arrow values from the furthest target. The target judge points at the arrow for which he/she is about to pronounce a value. When the target judge is calling the value, the scorer verifies the value on the scorecard (by ticking off the values on the scorecard), holding the scorecard in a way that the target judge and the agents can see it. It is also advisable for the scorer to repeat the arrow values the target judge said while he/she ticks off the values on the scorecard.

If the scorer detects an error either in scoring or on the scorecard, the scorer has to bring this to the attention of the target judge. The target judge and the agents check that the values called by the judge are the ones written on the scorecard. This should be done until all arrows have been scored.

The scorer calculates the total (and sum total or set points) and reports the single arrow values to the results team by radio. The results team will then call the total of the end and the sum total (Compound) or the set points (Recurve). The scorer will then repeat the totals and "confirm" to the results team when the scores communicated by the results team are **identical** to the scores on the scorecard. If not, the scorer will say "no" and then they will figure out why they have different scores. If there is a misunderstanding or a problem to be solved, this must be sorted out at the target. Any possible discrepancy regarding the scores or the result must be sorted out before the agents, the scorer and the target judge leave the podium.

If confirmed, the scorer will go back to the blind immediately, not waiting for the others.

If there is a doubtful arrow, the target judge will use the magnifying glass to determine that arrow value. After looking at both sides of the tangent between the arrow and the scoring zone, the target judge will point to the arrow and then point up if the arrow is "in" (has the higher value) or down if the arrow is "out" (has the lower value). When the target judge is pointing the arrow, it is useful to say something like "This arrow is in, it's a nine" or any other given value.



At the end of the match, once the agents and the target judge have verified that the scores entered in the last end/set are correct, the target judge will signal the winner or if a shoot-off is necessary. It's always useful to say out loud for the agents and scorer what the final result is before you give the signal with your hand.

In the meantime the scorer will radio the values of the arrows to the results team and the agents will pull the arrows to allow the field crew to get the targets ready for the next match or shoot-off if it's the case.

The completed scorecard must be signed by the agents, agreeing to the totals and match results, in the presence of the target judge, who must also sign the scorecard.

The target judge is the first to walk to the targets and the last one to walk back to the blind. The whole process must be conducted smoothly but without a rush. It is very important to ensure that there is no room for a mistake in the scores entered before the scorer walks away from the targets. Whenever possible a judge should be used as the scorer, but when acting as a scorer he/she fulfills only the functions pertaining to this role and not those of a judge. The reason why a judge is the best choice is because he is familiar with the procedures.

Scorers, either judges or LOC appointed ones, must be able to calculate additions of three, four and six numbers quickly and accurately. Previous training must be provided under the supervision of the Chairman of Judges, the Deputy or a designated judge.

### 3. New Bylaws and Interpretations

There have been a few interpretations that have been published after the Berlin Congress.

Book	Rule Reference	Explanation	Link to document
Book 3	11.1.10	Ratification regarding the permitted use of kinesiology tapes and compression t-shirts.	<a href="#">Kinesio tape.pdf</a>
Book 3 & Book 4	20.1.1 31.1	Clarification has been provided on the permitted use of "leggings" under the dress regulations	<a href="#">Sport Leggings.pdf</a>
Book 3 Book 4	11.2.1.3 22.2.1.3	Clarification has been provided regarding the meaning and procedure judge must follow if a riser brace or split cables "consistently touch the athlete's hand, wrist or bow arm"	<a href="#">Touching Bow.pdf</a>
Book 2	3.20.1.2	It has been clarified that the use of scopes in the coaches' area during finals when the athlete does not have a coach is permitted under certain circumstances.	<a href="#">Spotting no coach.pdf</a>
Book 3	Appendix 2, 1.1.3	Clarification has been made that athletes may not use the shoulder blades over any part of the wheelchair to gain additional stability.	<a href="#">Interpretation wheelchair shoulder blade.pdf</a>
Book 3 Book 4	11.1.4 22.1.4	Clarification has been provided on the permitted use of a visual draw check indicator	<a href="#">Draw Check Indicator.pdf</a>
Book 3 Book 4	13.8 24.1	Clarification has been provided on the meaning of "being present" at the start of the match, which includes being with their shooting equipment if in simultaneous competition.  <b>*Please note this also supersedes the answer that was provided in the case study in 111.2</b>	<a href="#">Forfeit in matches.pdf</a>
Book 3	11.3.3	Further clarification have been provided regarding the meaning of camouflage	<a href="#">Camouflage.pdf</a>

In addition, some editorials have been approved that do not change the current process, but aligns the rule to the actual practice on the field.

Book	Rule Reference	Explanation
Book 3	21.12.8	Specifying the set system for the VI Rounds
Book 3	21.12.4	Change in VI rules re: position of bow hand against tactile sight
		Removal of name plates in elimination matches
Book 3	21.8.2	Introduce the Para U21 age group with a short-distance indoor competition format.
Book 3	14.5.2.2	Target face set up for shoot-offs indoors
Book 3	21.11.4	Change in shooting line space required for Para Teams / Doubles

#### 4. New Judges' Guidebook

As all of you have seen, after many years the [Judges' Guidebook](#) has been updated. We want to thank the judges that have helped us in the process and the ones that have pointed out some more things that need to be fixed. We know that it's not perfect but, since the previous version was released in 2018, our focus was mostly on updating all the references to the new rule book schema and major edits and adjusting all the terminology to be as much gender neutral as possible.

Many have asked for a differences' file that, unfortunately, we can not provide due to the layout of the document and the updates that have been made but we can anticipate that there is already a new version scheduled for next year, this time it's going to be a big rewrite that we hope will make it easier to keep updated year by year as much as to read and keep as a side-book during the different events.

#### 5. Team officials on the Field of Play

For the last few years, WA has been strongly enforcing the rule around the number of officials on the FoP, and we have been able to achieve a cleaner field of play as every year has passed by. Thanks to the great work done by Thomas (from WA) and our chairs at different events, they have been able to collaborate with each other and come up with controls on the field of play, which finally have yielded this result.

While the above is true, we still have seen few countries who are still having more officials on the FoP, or where athletes who have lost their match, are still trying to stay on the field and coach other archers who are still in the game. In order to control such issues, WA has come up with a stronger sanction this year. The way it is going to work is:

- First Warning: Verbal without any fine
- Second Warning: Suspension for a day and 300 CHF fine
- Third Warning: Suspension for the remainder of the week and 1000 CHF fine

The process we expect to follow here is while most of you are busy running the matches, the Chair/Deputy will coordinate and work with WA Event Director / TD to patrol the field and control the number of officials (following Book 3, Art 18), and in case if the chair/deputy sees some deviation anywhere, they should issue a warning and then synchronize with WA for the daily warning list.

As a Judge, at any point, if you see or feel there are excess officials on the FoP, or some athlete who has lost the match is still present on the FoP or coaching another archer, bring it to the notice of your Chair immediately... The above penalties will only be applicable when a verbal warning has already been issued, and that is possible only when you respond at the moment, as later the archer can say they were not there. A suggestion here will be to work with your chair – before the event starts, align on a process that works best for you and your chair is also aware of.

Remember, while the suspension of accreditation cards was there last year, the addition of financial implication is new for this year.

## **6. Mental health survey results**

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As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, an important activity, not only as judges but in our day-to-day lives, is to be aware of our mental health.

“Mental health is an integral part of our general health and well-being and a basic human right. Having good mental health means we are better able to connect, function, cope and thrive.” ([World mental health report: transforming mental health for all](#))

To have a better understanding of the mental health demands of our community, we asked you in the previous newsletter to fill in a form.

We received the answer of 21 judges, which is not a high number of replies but gave us some interesting insights about the topic.

From this group of judges, we were happy to see that the majority of judges reported feeling emotionally supported by their colleagues and the competition environment. (Strong emotional support can serve as a protective factor against mental health challenges.)

Something important to consider is that some judges reported feeling too tired or having little energy several days or nearly every day. (Persistent fatigue may be a sign of burnout or physical health issues.)

And something that needs attention is that the majority of judges rated their stress and responsibility levels as moderate or high (90%). (High stress and responsibility levels may indicate potential mental health challenges among judges, such as anxiety or burnout.)

Some judges expressed a need to improve their mental health, but almost half of the responses didn't know if they needed to improve their mental health.

Recognizing the need for improvement is the first step towards seeking help and making a difference in mental health.

Some of the next steps we would like to make as a committee regarding this topic are to give you tools to thrive during competitions and high stress level situations.

This could include:

- Workshops on active listening, stress management techniques, and recognizing signs of burnout or distress in colleagues.

- Tailor support initiatives and resources to address the unique challenges faced by each role (CoJ, DOS, Deputy, Judge), such as providing opportunities for downtime, managing workload expectations, and fostering a supportive team environment.
- Include sessions on motivation and teamwork building in conferences or seminars aimed at judges and committee members. Offer strategies for maintaining morale and cohesion within judging teams, especially during challenging or adverse circumstances.
- Compile and share real-life examples or case studies of high-pressure situations faced by judges during finals events. Highlight strategies used by experienced judges to cope with stress and perform effectively under pressure. This can serve as valuable guidance for less experienced judges preparing for major events.

Although some of these initiatives will require extra planning and approval from the executive board, we can start sharing with you real-life examples where judges needed to perform effectively under pressure.

This will appear as a new section in our newsletter called "Narratives from the pressure zone", where you can read an extract of stories narrated by different judges of our community. The full story will be displayed and saved in the blog [Judge's Life](#).

## **7. Narratives from the pressure zone**

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This is the first entry of this new section designed to share stories of judges during high-pressure situations as part of the judges' mental health initiative.

### ***Agent's creativity***

by Martino Miani

A few years ago I was the target judge at the Recurve Team Gold medal match at a National Indoor Championship where a "funny" situation happened.

After 2 days of matches the team of judges was going very well and the whole match was going smooth and fast, with some good laughs behind the blind, when suddenly the magic moment arrived: at the fourth end the two teams reached a tie situation: 4 – 4 set points.

Tie signal was given, targets were changed with one triple-spot face placed horizontally for each team and everyone was ready for the most intense moment of the day.

Team A on target 1 shot a 9 then Team B on target 2 shot a 10;

Team A shot a 10 and Team B shot a 9\* liner;

Team A shot a 9 and Team B shot another 9;

Unofficially 28 to 28, a tie score, it's all on me.

I went to the targets with my magnifying glass and my caliper in my hands, knowing that if the liner was not confirmed it would have been a tie score and I should have checked the closest arrow to the center and probably measured it (eventually the second and the third ones).

Fast looking at target 1, no liner, I called the values to the scorer: 10, 9, 9; verified by the two agents.

Went to target 2, the second arrow was not clear, needed a check with the magnifying glass. I approached the arrow, looked at it from the two sides and confirmed the value, it was a 9, and called the three final values: 10, 9, 9.

The scorer confirmed back that it was a tie score.

I watched at target 1, ready to evaluate the distance of the 10s, and saw that Team A agent had just taken out the last of the three arrows from the buttress...

INNER

PANIC

MOMENT

[Continue reading.](#)

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## **8. Conference in Medellin**

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The second conference in the series of 3 for the current re-accreditation period was held in Medellin, Colombia, on 5th and 6th April 2024. Our grateful thanks to the Colombian Federation for hosting this event.

The conference was led by Graham Potts and Guillermina Garcia and 19 Judges from The Americas and Europe were in attendance, which included 2 Continental Judges from the America's sitting in – one of these was retired WA Judge Bob Pian, and it was great to see Bob and have his valuable input to the conference.

The conference followed the same format as that used in Singapore in December 2023, to keep a degree of consistency across the events. It opened with the survey as used in Singapore, and while later in the conference we ran through the views and comments from this one, the "results" will be added to those of Singapore to give a more global view.

The usual agenda items of updates on committee work, Bylaws and Interpretations followed, with a presentation on Director of Shooting Role. It was commented that we have few women Directors of Shooting, and this is something we will look to explore as to why this is and try to encourage women to apply for the role.

The first day finished with the case studies. These provided some very good debate, including some "extensions" to the original questions, making it a very lively finish to the day!

Day 2 opened with the Stress Test, which is online and requires the attendees to have with them a laptop or Phone or tablet with means of accessing the internet. After a short break we followed with a presentation on Para Archery, using information delivered at a recent Americas Conference.

Other topics covered included the role of the COJ/Deputy, Field and 3D updates, completion of Event Evaluation and Judge Assessment forms, and finally an open forum of discussion. During the conference the attendees had the opportunity to raise questions on Post-it notes, which were put up on a board – these formed the main basis of the open forum, as we were able to cover all the questions they wanted to raise. Discussion points included items such as how we deal with athletes

who have autism, is 60lb bow weight important or should a limit be based on speed (Feet per second), VI athletes, using a mirror to help deal with an arrow value call, the aspect of removal of nameplates from the FOP and the need for information on team name alterations if necessary.

The participation of all attendees was very welcome, and all of the issues will be discussed within the committee and guidance given as required.



- Judges during case studies -



- From left to right: Vladimir Dominguez, Roy Cortes, Andrea Aguilar, Bob Pian, Megan Tierney, Fatima Abullarade, Natalia Londono, Graham Potts, Eric Fok, Ana de Mesquita, Michael Oneschuk, Mariya Larkina, Benjamin Ajeti, Katerina Koncalova, Alexandre Vecchio, Jesus Guevara, Bettina Kratzmüller, Guillermina Garcia Avila, Lais Machado Nunes -

## 9. News from Our Continental Committees

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World Archery Americas has launched a series of judge's webinars in English and Spanish covering topics such as: new rules, procedures during finals and para archery judging, all available in their [extranet](#).

[Future webinars will include](#) the role of the chair of judges, director of shooting, field archery and special events.

## 10. Pictures of Recent Judges Commissions

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- Baghdad 2024 Asia Cup Leg 1-



- Varazdin 2024 European Indoor Archery Championships -



- Fazza 2024 Para Archery World Ranking Tournament-



- Medellin 2024 Pan American Championships-

## 11. Case Studies #112

**112.1** At a continental competition during alternate team matches there was an issue with the timing system and the match was stopped by the judge to allow the DoS to fix it properly. Only team B was missing to shoot its last 3 arrows so, when the issue was solved, the time got fixed at 60 seconds and the judge made the team start from behind the 1m line. At the end of the set the coach of team B wanted to raise an appeal because the team should have started from the shooting line and not from the 1m line as the judge said.

As a member of the jury of appeal what do you think about this situation? Which rules should apply in this case?

Answer:

Most of you refer to the expected rule 13.7.2: "In the team event, if shooting is suspended...shooting shall resume from the shooting line." but there was a clear difference of interpretation of this amongst the judges.

We felt as a committee that this rule needed further clarification if this should also apply at the start of a rotation as in the example given above where the archer has not stepped on the shooting line.

The answer we got back, is that archers should resume shooting from the shooting line, not behind the 1m line, no matter where they are in the rotation or the numbers of arrow shot. This will apply for simultaneous and alternate shooting.

That being said, the appeal would be upheld since the correct procedure wasn't followed. But arrows cannot be reshot and the result shall remain, as almost all of you mention.

It is true that the coach should have raised this concern before the arrows were shot. And it's also true that if such a case happened, the CoJ and the DOS should intervene beforehand to prevent any mistake.

**112.2** During the Gold Medal match in one of the Continental Games, which was being shot alternately, you are appointed as the scorer for the Match. Inside the blind, while shooting was in progress, there were no arrow which was called doubtful by the Target Judge. Also, the spotter did not have any confusion about the position of the arrows, hence there were no arrow value marked with a \* in the display board. Once shooting was over and everyone went to the target, the Target Judge upgraded one of the 9's to a 10. Below picture circled in red represents the upgraded arrow. Once the call was made, the agent from the opposite team raised some concern which was overruled by the judge by explaining that only one arrow call was allowed and this could not be appealed.

As a scorer how should you respond? Do you wait till the athlete's agents raise a concern or react proactively?

Answer:

Although some of you mentioned that the above situation was not very clear, specifically if the judge used or not a magnifying glass to determine the arrow value, we are happy to see that the majority of you would act proactively in this situation.

The point we wanted to raise here was to know how you would react as a scorer in a situation where there were no doubtful arrows and suddenly one arrow was upgraded (without the use of a magnifying glass).

We would like to remind you that the role of a scorer is also important for the successful outcome of a competition. Besides noting down the arrow values, the scorer should bring to the attention of the target judge any possible errors either of arrow values or on the scorecards.

It is good practice as scorers to double check scores by making one step out of the middle of the two targets, which is the usual position of the scorer, in case we detect something different from the scorecard that has been said by the target judge. We can ask the target judge to repeat the arrow values and if we spot a mistake, bring this to the attention of the target judge.

As we saw previously in this Newsletter, the target judge and the scorer should work as a team, and together with the agents avoid any possible mistakes. Agents are there to represent the athletes on the shooting line and they are on their right to raise any concern if they see a possible mistake.

We know that the target judge is the one that makes the final arrow decision, but we are humans and mistakes can happen. Correcting yourself doesn't mean you are giving a second arrow call.

As a summary, if you spot a mistake, act proactively and bring this to the attention of the judge and keep on insisting politely. If this fails, you can always ask the Deputy for help.

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## 12. Case Studies n°113

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### 113.1

During one of the qualification days at the first stage of the Indoor World Series, an archer calls you to verify an arrow value. She shot three arrows: one 10 in the upper face and one 9 in the middle. Her last arrow hit the bottom face but she didn't realize that the nock had a fracture and at the moment of releasing the arrow it split in two pieces. The point hit the 7 and the rest of the arrow the 9. The three arrows were shot on time.

How would you score the last arrow?



### **113.2**

After the qualifying round of a Continental Championship in which the top 8 archers pass by, there are three archers tied in 8th position in the compound women's event. You are the Chair of judges and you need to implement the procedure for determining which archer will get the 8th place and who 9th and 10th. You decide to use three buttresses in the middle of the field with one target face each in the middle.

After appointing a judge to supervise the shoot-off and telling each archer their targets. You stay on the line watching the archers shoot and watching the judge do the job. The judge had to use the caliper to determine which arrow was closer to the center and after measuring each arrow with the right procedure, the judge announced the winner.

When the judge returns to the shooting line you ask if it was a difficult call and the judge replies that the 8th position was clear but the other two arrows had the same distance from the center so the judge decided to toss a coin to determine the 9th and 10th position.

How would you react as the Chair of Judges after hearing this?

***Replies to case studies should be sent to  
sderiaz@archery.sport by 31 May 2024***