



## CLASSIFICATION NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

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Dear friends,

Let me conclude my four consecutive terms on the Ad Hoc Classification committee experience and share my feelings with you. Every single year in the classification team was a great experience for me, lots of professionalism combined with friendship is something unique in our team. Especially last five years while I have had the honour to chair the best Ad Hoc Committee I have ever seen. We have done such a great amount of work together which is still not finished, because classification is a live organism.

My life is bringing me another challenge to work as 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president of Czech Paralympic Committee, Because I am keeping my regular job as well, I had to make a decision, which I feel is the best for classification team of World Archery. I am leaving the committee but remain a IC team member available mostly for European classifications.

Thank you all very much for your work in such an important part of Paralympic sport, classification.

I am happy with the new team in a committee which is not that new, because three of four previous members remain in the committee and will continue the work under the leadership of Nancy Litke as the Head of Classification. Welcome Herve to the team. This is for me guarantees that work will continue to be done, no doubt.

Hope we will have the opportunity to meet during international classifications or in Pilsen 2023 during World Championships which getting closer. Pilsen is my hometown, and I will chair the Organising Committee.

Thank you  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

With warm regards

Roman Suda

### 1. Classification Committee update

**from Nancy Litke, Head of Classification**

Hello Classifiers

I realize it has been a while since we have published a newsletter but, like everyone, it has been a crazy 18 months for the Classification Committee. We have been working hard to provide a limited number of classification panels as well as providing educational opportunities to National Federations who wanted to increase their base of National Classifiers. As you will see below, we were also tasked with reviewing and updating the Assistive Device rules to ensure complete alignment between the WA Rulebook 3, Chapter 21 and the Classifiers Handbook.



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## *World Archery Classification Newsletter*

Edited by the World Archery Classification Committee

As you are probably aware the composition of the classification committee will be changing as of Jan 1, 2022. Roman Suda will be stepping away from the position as the Head of Classification to pursue a new role as the First Vice President of the Czech Paralympic Committee. Roman will continue to be involved as a classifier at events in the Czech Republic and will continue to support the committee in a consultation role. We want to thank Roman for all his years of dedicated work on behalf of the Classification Committee, Para Archery Committee, and all International Classifiers and Classifier Candidates. Congratulations on the new role and good luck in your new endeavors.

Chiara, Lars, and I would also like to welcome Herve Toggwiler to the committee. Most of you will be familiar with Herve in his many roles as International Classifier, Physiotherapist for the French Para Archery team, and National Classifier educator both within France and around the world. We will continue to work hard for our classification teams throughout the WA family.

I am hopeful that 2022 will return to a more normal year with more classification opportunities, training sessions, and collaboration with our colleagues of judges around the world.

Nancy Littke  
Head of Classification

### **2. Update on International Classification**

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Effective Jan 1, 2022, International Classification evaluations will only occur at World Archery Para Events. This includes World Championships, Continental Championships, Para World Ranking events. All requests for new classifications, classifications for athletes with a RFD or Review status, and re-classification requests must be submitted by the athletes National Federation using the Para Archery Medical Form found on the World Archery Para Archery Webpage. The Classification Committee will identify international events that will include classification panels. These will be announced via the World Archery newsletter and information will be included in the event invitation documents.

### **3. Updated Assistive Device appendix**

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The Assistive Device document will be updated, and any changes will be effective early in 2022 once it has been formally accepted and approved. There have been issues with inconsistency between the World Archery Rules, Book 3, Chapter 21 and the Classification Handbook. To resolve this, there will be only one document that will be used by classifiers, judges, archers, and others and this should ensure consistency between classification and judges/equipment inspections. Where this document will be housed is to be determined by the C&R committee and we will notify everyone once this decision has been made and the document has been uploaded as a By-law. The effective date for these changes will be determined by the World Archery Executive Board. The full document will be available once it has been accepted and approved.

### **4. Changes to protrusion and strapping assistive device rules**

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The use of lateral supports, as defined under the wheelchair assistive device document, will now be allowed for any archer authorized to use a wheelchair. This decision has been made to simplify the rules



and classification process and to recognize that many wheelchair archers use a customized molded back on their chairs that provides significant lateral support. To ensure consistency and fairness to all archers, the use of any form of lateral support that fits within the dimensions as defined in the document will be automatically allowed. Judges will simply need to ensure the lateral support (molded back, attached protrusion, etc.) sits no higher than 110cm below the top of the axilla and does not sit any further forward than ½ the trunk.

The additional use of an eligible strap (5cm width) will be considered an assistive device and will need to be authorized for archers whose sitting balance is poor and are at risk for falling during the shooting sequence without it. Classifiers must review the wheelchair archers sitting balance using perturbation tests, determine their level of balance (normal, fair, poor) and authorized the use of a strap if the archers balance is poor. The classification form will be updated to change the assistive device section by removing protrusions and strapping and only identify strapping. Existing classifications will be reviewed over the next few months to ensure the information is correct on the Master list and in the WAREOS data base.

## **5. Database**

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Judges will no longer require classification forms during equipment inspection except for archers who have been newly classified during current event and not yet added to the Database. Judges and classifiers will be given list of entries generated from the WA Database for all athletes registered for the event. This list will include all necessary information included.

A procedure to delete archers who are not active any more will be initiated. At the end of each Paralympic year the current list of classified archers will be sent to NF representative for their confirmation of who is still active and who they want delete form the list. We will delete archers from database only upon the request of NF.

## **6. Education of International and Continental Judges**

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The Classification Committee will be working with the Judges Committee to offer courses for judges to help ensure a consistent understanding of the para-archery rules, the use and inspection of assistive devices, and the expectations of both classifiers and judges during equipment inspection. Megan Tierney, International Judge, and International Classifier will work with the Classification Committee to develop both the online seminar and a resource document to be placed on the WA website for future reference. Judges involved in the Para World Archery Championships will be invited to join classifiers during the Classifier Conference and Seminar.

## **7. National Classifier training**

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World Archery is working to ensure consistency in training of National level classifiers to ensure athletes classified at the national level are done so based on the same procedures and rules and that all national



classifiers are appropriately trained professionals (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, sport or orthopedically trained medical doctors). Training new national classifiers by the World Archery Classification Committee also provides a natural feeder system of national classifiers who wish to become international classifier candidates and eventually international classifiers.

The goal is to provide consistent, virtual or in-person national classifier training seminars to national federations or groups of federations through the World Archery Classification Committee training program. National Classifiers trained through this process will be recognized by World Archery, included on the World Archery classifier master list, and included in any communications published through the WA Classification Committee.

National Federations or Continental Associations are asked to submit requests for National Classifier Training seminars to the WA Classification Committee [clasification@archery.sport](mailto:clasification@archery.sport)

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## **8. SAVE THE DATES - Upcoming Classifier Conference and National Classifier Seminar**

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**Classifier/Candidate Conference** will be organized by Classification Committee for ICs and ICCs to update information regarding classification, present the ideas of improving classification, refresh everyone's routine in terms of classification procedure. *Conference for ICs and ICCs* - free accommodation and boarding 1st to 4th day covered by WA. Travel expenses and insurance are not covered by WA. Plans are to offer the conference through a hybrid model to allow both in-person attendance and virtual participation for classifiers and candidates who are unable to travel to Dubai. Worst case scenario, the entire conference may be offered virtually if international travel rules change in the next two months.

**Seminar for National classifiers** – All WA trained National Classifiers are invited to attend the Seminar. Successful completion of the exam will result in the participant moving onto the International Classifier Candidate list. All expenses are covered by attendants or their national federations. Application should be sent by National federation. THIS SEMINAR MUST BE ATTENDED IN PERSON. There will be no virtual option.

Basic information is:

Date 17th - 21st February 2022.

Day-1 Arrival of ICC & IC conference participants

Day-2 Morning and afternoon conference sessions  
Arrival of Seminar participants

Day-3 Morning session – Conclusion of Conference  
Afternoon session – Classifier seminar (theory)

Day-4 Departure of ICC/IC participants not involved in classification panels

Morning session – Classifier seminar (theory)

Afternoon session – Seminar (practical observation of classification panels + open book exam)

Evening session – Seminar conclusion +certification of new ICC's

This program is set up with the purpose that NC Seminar attendants will have opportunity to attend classification procedure and take part there.

During morning session of conference (day three) international judges will be invited to join ICs and ICCs for common meeting.

Seminar educators will be Herve Toggwiler and Chiara Barbi.



## Look for more information re registration etc. in the New Year.

### 9. 2022 Classifier panels

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The following classifiers have been appointed to known events in the 2022 season. More WRE may be added upon notification of World Archery.

#### 2022 Classification Panels

WAPC Dubai Feb 20 – 22, 2022

2 Panels - **Nancy Littke, Chief Classifier**

Reza Rashidi

Ida Hasni

Ela Matzkin

European Cup #1, Nove Mesto July 1-3, 2022

Panel – **Roman Suda, Chief Classifier**

Lars Meiworm

Irene Cuesta (2<sup>nd</sup> panel if needed)

Ayunur Demirel. (2<sup>nd</sup> panel if needed)

European Para Championships Rome Aug 1-3, 2022.

Panel – **Irene Cuesta, Chief Classifier**

Nancy Littke

Megan Tierney (2<sup>nd</sup> panel if needed)

Reza Rashidi (2<sup>nd</sup> panel if needed)

Asian Para Championships Hangzhou, CHN Oct 8 – 10, 2022

Panel – **Herve Toggwiler, Chief Classifier**

Kwanchit Chinakas

Kim Fong Pang (2<sup>nd</sup> panel if needed)

Guozin Chen (2<sup>nd</sup> panel if needed)

Para Pan American Championships Santiago de Chile, CHI Oct 30 – Nov 1, 2022

Panel – **Megan Tierney, Chief Classifier**

Marc Remie

Petra Sanchez-Ruocco

Nancy Littke (chief classifier supervisor)

**WISHING ALL OF YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.  
LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022 AND A RETURN TO MORE NORMAL TIMES.**

Nancy Littke, Head of Classification

Chiara Barbi

Lars Meiworm

Herve Toggwiler