



## CLASSIFICATION NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

ISSUE #7

March 2023

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Dear friends,

Welcome 2023 and a return to a full, normal competitive season. I have a great announcement to make. **WE FINALLY HAVE NEW OFFICIAL WORLD ARCHERY UNIFORMS!!!!** They will be distributed at the various events that each of you will be attending. It has been too long a wait for this recognition of your contributions. I hope you like the style and colour decisions we made. I sure do.

This newsletter has four main points for your attention. Any questions can be directed to [classification@archery.sport](mailto:classification@archery.sport).

With warm regards,

Nancy Littke  
Head of Classification

### 1. Classifier Conference

#### **BOOK YOUR CALENDAR!**

We are planning for a Classifier Conference to be held ahead of the 2023 Para World Championships. This will be a one-day conference and we will be using a hybrid model to deliver the information to those who can attend in person and those who can attend virtually. I will try to plan the timing of the conference taking different time zones into account as best as I can. We will also ensure that the entire conference will be recorded and available after the event.

The Classifier Conference will be held on **14 July 2023**. Participants will arrive on July 13 and depart on July 15 unless they have other duties at the Para WC. World Archery will cover the costs of accommodation and board for the evening of July 13, July 14 full day, and the morning of July 15. All other costs must be covered by the individual participant and/or their National Federation. Please fill in the [registration form in here \(click to open\)](#) latest by 10 June 2023.



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## 2. Changes to the Equipment Rules

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New rules with updates to bylaws were published on March 1, 2023. It is your responsibility to be aware of all relevant changes.

The first change you will notice is the different terminology. To keep in line with the terminology used by IPC, World Archery has officially moved from “assistive devices” to “adaptive equipment”. It is important that we all try hard to use the new terminology when talking with archers, coaches, and judges. There have been a few changes made to the rules in Appendix 2 to address some interpretation requests and provide more clarity for judges, athletes, and you as classifiers. These were published and became effective on 1 March 2023. We will be able to discuss these changes/updates in more detail at the conference. You will find the Adaptive Device rules in [Book 3, Appendix 2](#). There will also be a link to [the Adaptive Device Resource Guide](#) included in the Appendix. This link was missed last year resulting in some confusion and miscommunication with the judges. We hope that having the rules and the resource guide in one place will ensure everyone has the same information. The Resource Guide has also been updated and continues to be found through a link in Section 6 of the Handbook and in the [World Archery Documents Manager, Para Archery section](#). There have been no significant changes to the Classifiers Handbook other than changing the terminology related to authorised devices. All classifiers, judges, coaches, and athletes will access these rules in only one location. This will ensure we are all working from the same set of rules. Please ensure you are familiar with this document.

One significant change has been made to the maximum size of the release aide system. The previous document indicated it could be a maximum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the circumference of the trunk. These dimensions have been changed to a maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the circumference of the trunk and no lower than the bottom of the rib cage. This ensures the system does not add any added lateral support to the trunk, nor can it be used as a rigid corset. These changes primarily affect the judges and how they measure the release aid systems during equipment inspections. You will continue to authorise release aid systems as appropriate for the impairment.

In summary, every effort will be made to ensure judges and classifiers are fully aware of the new rules and how they affect their jobs. However, as with any change, this will take some time and I urge everyone to be patient as we work through the new process.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER**

Classification panels **MUST** continue to observe athletes on the field as they have always done. If it is felt that an athlete’s function appears to be different than what is identified on their classification card, an International Protest **must** be initiated to allow the classification team to reassess the athlete and ensure the athlete is in the appropriate class and using the appropriate adaptive equipment. Adaptive equipment must be authorised only in the case where the athlete’s functional impairment warrants it and the adaptive equipment allows the athlete to shoot archery effectively. It is **not to provide** added stability to improve performance. The classifiers’ role is to ensure a fair playing field for all athletes. **DO NOT** simply leave this decision to the next panel. Every time an athlete is not re-evaluated and continues to compete in the same classification, it makes it harder to address the situation at a later date. If you cannot do the re-evaluation at the event, please ensure you notify the Classification Committee that a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances needs to be initiated.



## **ASSISTANTS**

As classifiers it is our responsibility to ensure adaptive equipment are authorised fairly and based solely on the athletes' impairments. An adaptive equipment is authorised to that match the level of impairment and are not to be authorised to enhance performance. Sometimes it is difficult to balance the athletes request for an adaptive equipment and their need for one based on their impairment. Every effort must be made to complete a thorough bench assessment followed by a field assessment when required, before authorising an assistive device.

One of the more challenging adaptive equipment to authorise is the use of an assistant. An assistant is only to be authorised for W1 or ST class para-archers with **severe upper limb disability** who are unable to nock their arrows safely, or efficiently or adjust their sight may be allowed an assistant for this purpose. Just because the archer feels they want an assistant during elimination or finals does not mean they need one. We need to be clear that the archer must have reasons that they need one at any time. For example, an upper limb that does not function well enough to physically load the arrow, or significant tone that may be managed during regular competition but gets worse during the stress of finals may be relevant. But if they can efficiently and effectively load their arrows on the normal field of play and in various weather conditions, then they do not need an assistant during finals. That may give them a significant advantage over their competitors as they will have both an assistant and a coach available in head-to-head competition.

Be very cautious authorizing an assistant as adaptive equipment so that we are confident we are maintaining a fair playing field for all.

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## **3. Classifier Education and Training**

We have been working hard on producing a document outlining the training, education and accreditation pathway for our classification team. This document will clarify the journey a classifier will take from becoming a national classifier, to an international classifier candidate, and finally an international classifier. It defines the education required to become a classifier and to maintain accreditation as an international classifier. It will also identify how classifiers are promoted to chief classifier. Having a formalised, well understood, clear process for training, mentoring, reviewing, re-accrediting, and appointing classifiers has been a goal of mine for a few years. I think this document will help guide our team for the next several years.

This document was recently approved by the Executive Board as a bylaw. It is available in [World Archery Document Manager, policy section](#). We will review this document fully during the conference in July.

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## **4. Classifier Appointments 2023**

*IC – International classifier*

*ICC – International classifier candidate*

26-28 January **Oceania Grand Prix** (Jan 27-30)  
Chief Classifier Chan, Wing Nga, IC  
Kim Fong, Pang IC

Mulgrave, Victoria, AUS

12-15 May **Nove Mesto PWRE** (May 13 – 21)  
Chief Classifier Nancy Littke IC



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## World Archery Classification Newsletter

Edited by the World Archery Classification Committee

Reza Mohammadreza ICC  
Ela Matzkin (alternate if second panel needed) IC  
Micah Baird (alternate if second panel needed) ICC

16-18 July	<b>Para WC/WQT</b> (17-23 July)	Pilsen, CZE
	Chief Classifier	Herve Toggwiler IC Ela Matzkin IC Hannah Thiesmann ICC Marinda Rothman ICC
2-4 August	<b>Chicago Para Archery Championship</b> (3-6 Aug)	Chicago Illinois, USA
	Chief Classifier	Nancy Littke IC Aynur Demirel IC Petra Ruocco (alternate if second panel needed) IC Marinda Rothman (if second panel needed) ICC
14 August	<b>European Championships CQT</b>	Rotterdam, NED
	Chief Classifier	Irene Cuesta IC Lilian Brink IC Marc Remie (alternate if protest panel needed) IC Lars Meiworm (alternate if protest panel needed) IC
20-23 October	<b>Asian Paralympic Games</b>	Hangzhou, CHN
	Chief Classifier	Herve Toggwiler IC Kim Fong Pang IC Wing Nga Chan IC Micah Baird ICC
18-20 November	<b>Asian Championship CQT</b>	Bangkok, THA
	Chief Classifier	Chiara Barbi IC Ida Hasni Shaari IC Seunghwa, Lee IC Kwanchit, Chinakas ICC

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In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to para archery and your support of both me and our committee. I know you all work to provide the most accurate and complete assessments and decisions to ensure a fair and equal playing field for all the competitors. Keep up the tremendous work and I hope to see many of you over the course of 2023.

I look forward to seeing most of you either in person or virtually at the conference in July.

Nancy