



Appendix

List of assistive devices

VERSION 1.0 / 18 JANUARY 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to propose a new list of assistive devices permitted during the classification process. The document is treated as a bylaw, is already approved in principle and is ready to be distributed for feedback.

Version

This document is produced by the para archery committee, in cooperation with the classifiers committee, and checked by the communications department within World Archery. It was first published in 2022. Under rule 11.1 of the *Classification Code*, national federations and National Paralympic Committees have until **31 January 2022** to give their input. The executive board will then take a final decision. If approved, the changes would come into effect in March 2022 (after the para championships).

Version number	Date	Owner
1.0	18 Janvier 2022	Para archery committee

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1. Wheelchair

A wheelchair of any type (provided it does not have more than four wheels) may be used provided it subscribes to the accepted principle and meaning of the word “wheelchair”.

- a) No part of the wheelchair may support the bow arm while shooting.
- b) For all wheelchair athletes, any lateral support defined as anything that prevents the athlete falling sideways in the chair by providing support to the side of an athlete's trunk above the pelvis is allowed,
- c) A lateral support may not protrude further forward than half the width of the athlete's rib cage measured as the half point between the base of the sternum (breastbone) and the spinous process at T7 (midback).
- d) All parts of the chair back and lateral support shall be at least 110mm below the athlete's armpit while shooting at any distance. In the case of uneven/rotated shoulder height related (e.g., scoliosis) the distance is measured from the lower shoulder.
- e) For W1 sport class athletes, if there is a medical reason for the back of chair height to be less than 110mm below the armpit, the additional height may be approved by classifiers and noted on the athlete's classification card.
- f) Push handles attached to the uprights of the wheelchair back are considered part of the chair and must conform to this measurement or be removed.
- g) Push handles that are not directly attached to the uprights of the wheelchair back are not considered part of the chair back for the purpose of this rule.
- h) The wheelchair shall not exceed 1.25m in length.
- i) The use of anti-roll devices is allowed.
- j) Neither the feet of the athlete nor the footplates of the wheelchair may be in contact with the ground when shooting.

2. Strapping

Strapping in any class is only to be used for medical or safety reasons and not to enhance performance.

W1 athletes, when their classification card allows strapping, may use any

amount of strapping in any combination to maintain body stability if no support is given to the bow arm while shooting.

W1 class para archers may use any non-rigid corset-type body support and/or chest straps in any combination as medically necessary and as approved by the international para archery classifiers.

W2 athletes, when their classification card allows strapping, may have only a single strap of not more than 5cm wide at any point and wound only horizontally and only once around the torso and must sit at or below the 110mm height restriction.

For some athletes, leg strapping may be authorised as specified on their international classification card and is limited to 5cm wide. Leg straps are available to use for safety reason and may be placed around the ankles, knees and/or mid-thigh.

Where, for medical reasons and with a prescription from a medical specialist, a rigid or non-rigid corset type support is required for a short period of time, it may be temporarily approved by classifiers for a specified time. The W2 archer may not use the corset in conjunction with strapping.

Note: The time limit must be designated with a fixed review date on the classification form and be determined by a classification panel. The reason for the temporary use should be clearly described in the comments on the classification card.

3. Stool

A stool may be used by standing class athletes with a minimum disability of 38 points in the lower limbs.

A stool must not have a backrest of any kind.

The stool and archer must fit within the shooting line space of 80cm along the shooting line and 60cm at right angles to the shooting line.

The classification panel may approve stool use for an archer who scores fewer 38 points on the grounds of safety due to poor standing balance. The rationale for approving the use of the stool must be clearly outlined in the comment section of the classification card.

4. Release aid system

International classifiers may authorise the use of a simple system that assists the archer to use a legal release aid based on the functional deficit of the athlete (e.g. simple harness system). The release aid system cannot function as a form of lateral support or as a rigid corset.

The release aid itself is governed by World Archery rules, [Book 3, chapter 11](#), and must be approved for use by the judges at the event.

Para archers may use a mouth tab provided it is permanently attached to the string.

5. Bow bandage

Para archers with a bow arm disability may use a bow bandage to secure the bow grip to their hand as deemed eligible by the classifier. A bow bandage represents any form of non-rigid strapping which assists with bow gripping while still allowing for bow movement upon arrow release.

6. Bow arm aid

An archer who is unable hold a bow may use an artificial aid or prosthesis to do so. This aid may be attached to the bow, if it is not totally rigid or permanently fixed while still allowing for bow movement upon arrow release. Under no circumstances may it be electric or electronically controlled.

7. Bow arm splints

Para archers with a bow arm disability may use an elbow splint and/or wrist splint, as deemed eligible by the international para archery classifier based on the functional impairment of the athlete. This must be clearly described on the classification card.

8. String arm wrist splint

Para archers with a string arm disability may use a wrist splint or wrist splint-release aid combination as deemed eligible by the international para archery classifier based on the functional impairment of the athlete.

9. Block or wedge

Blocks or wedges do not require authorisation to use ([See rule 11.1.10.1](#)) Devices to raise the foot or part thereof, attached, or independent of the shoe are permitted, if they do not present an obstruction to other athletes at the shooting line, are in contact with the ground, and such that they do not protrude more than 2 cm beyond shoe dimensions.

10. Shooting assistant

With classification panel approval, 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. The shooting assistant must not adjust the bow sight until the end of the shooting signal.

The assistant must not be a disturbance to other archers and must wear the same uniform and number as the para archer. If the para archer obtains approval to use an assistant, then the assistant should assist during both the qualification round and during match play.

11. Visually impaired aids

Allowed devices are blindfold, tactile sights and an assistant or a coach as authorised by World Archery classifier and as outlined in World Archery para archery rules, [Book 3, chapter 21.12](#).