

Book 2, Article 7.3

A question was raised by a Member Association whether athletes may wear noise reduction devices while on the shooting line in order to minimize external sounds (non-electronic devices such as noise reduction headsets or ear plugs).

The C&R Committee finds the question presented to be within terms of reference of the Technical Committee, and has determined that the following Interpretation of the Technical Committee is not contrary to the existing rules or Congress decisions.

Response from the FITA Technical Committee:

1) Clarifying Statement Regarding Hearing Protection and Decibel Reduction Devices:

The Technical Committee has determined that devices for Hearing Protection in regard to sound reduction and or elimination are not legal for any FITA competition (see official interpretation below). However, there are specific instances where “ear protection” is necessary in cases of extreme cold or medical requirements. Garments such as hats with ear flaps, wide head bands and similar outerwear used in cold weather and or cotton in the ear to follow medication are legal. Items such as a scarf, hat, wide head band or cotton do not constitute a device to reduce or eliminate sound. The rule was made specifically toward any device used for reducing sound, such as used in firearm sports or in industrial use. Any device made specifically for reducing decibel levels to protect hearing or reduce sound is not legal due to the danger of not hearing possible emergency signals on the competition field or venue, as well as other reasons noted in the official interpretation.

2) Subject: Earclocks, Ear covers, Hearing Protection, Decibel reduction devices, etc.:

It is the majority opinion of the FITA Technical Committee that any type of hearing protectors or devices that reduces audible decibel levels for archers during competition are not legal in any FITA discipline.

Our first and foremost concern is over the issue of safety. Modern hearing protection and decibel reducing devices are in many cases so efficient that audible signals from the director of shooting could go completely unnoticed. In this event, it creates a safety hazard should any emergency arise on the field of play or competition venue.

Secondly, external hearing reducing/eliminating devices could easily house micro transmitters that would be virtually undetectable to judges and therefore provide an unfair advantage to the competitor using such a device.

Third, equipment restrictions exist in all divisions and are so provided for the purpose of limiting archer aids. Allowing any device that can reduce a specific stimulus to allow for a higher level of concentration by artificial means is, in our opinion not within the spirit

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of the rules of our organization. Additionally, and as is noted above, the reduction or elimination of sound is a safety hazard, and therefore a danger to the wellbeing of the athletes competing in an event.

FITA Technical Committee, 22 October 2007
Approved by C&R Committee, 22 October 2007

Book 3, Article 8.3

A question was raised by a Member Association whether athletes may wear noise reduction devices while on the shooting line in order to minimize external sounds (non-electronic devices such as noise reduction headsets or ear plugs).

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FITA Technical Committee, 22 October 2007
Approved by C&R Committee, 22 October 2007

Book 4, Article 9.3

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