

INTERPRETATIONS

WORLD ARCHERY CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Book 3, Chapter 11, Article 11.3.3, Chapter 20, Article 20.1.1, Book 4, Chapter 33, Article 33.1

Archery Association Namibia has requested an interpretation on whether (i) all target bows must have a solid colour on the riser to avoid containing “camouflage” and (ii) the bow shown below contains camouflage?

The National Judges Committee of Real Federación Española de Tiro con Arco (RFETA) has requested an interpretation on (i) whether the requirement that “athlete equipment shall not include camouflage colours of any kind” applies to bows, quivers, arrows and accessories such as backpacks, gloves, etc. and (ii) what constitutes “camouflage colours”.

The Constitution and Rules Committee (“C&R”) finds the question presented to be within the terms of reference of the Technical Committee and C&R.

C&R has determined that the two requests are related and are appropriately answered in this interpretation.

C&R has determined that the following interpretation is not contrary to the existing rules or Congress decisions.

Response as approved by a majority of the members of the Technical Committee and C&R:

Book 3, Chapter 3, Article 11.1.3 provides that “athlete equipment shall not include camouflage colours of any kind.”

While read literally, this could be construed as restricting any colours that are used in traditional camouflage even though not used in a camouflage pattern. For example, green, brown, black, tan and white are often seen used in camouflage patterns. Construed in this manner, this would prohibit all equipment which is a solid green, brown, tan, etc. This is not the intent of the by-law.

However, other colours that are not traditionally used in camouflage, such as pink, blue and bright yellow could be used in a camouflage pattern. The intent of the by-law is to restrict the use of equipment with a camouflage pattern.

Likewise, the intent of the by-law is not to restrict abstract designs or multi-colours (whether random or otherwise) which are not in a camouflage pattern.

Rather, the intent of the by-law is to restrict the use of camouflage patterns regardless of the colour. Accordingly, the term “camouflage colours” is hereby construed as follows:

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“Camouflage colours” are trademarked or other digital designs, whether random or not and regardless of colours used, which consist of natural material camouflage patterns such as bark, twigs, or leaves that are used for the purpose of blending in with natural environments thereby providing less visibility to game, military personnel, or others. Non-traditional camouflage colors such as pinks, blues, bright yellow, etc. in camouflage patterns that are used in designs for the purpose of blending in with natural environments whereby providing less visibility are considered camouflage.

No part of any equipment can have camouflage patterns.

Applying the above analysis to the questions asked by Archery Association Namibia:

- (i) equipment does not have to be a solid colour.
- (ii) it appears from the picture below that the bow shown has camouflage patterns and therefor is not permitted without such portion having the prohibited design being taped over.

The restriction applies to athlete equipment. The initial sentence of Book 3, Chapter 11 provides that “this article lays down the type of equipment athletes are permitted to use when shooting in World Archery competitions.” Accordingly, for this purpose, “athlete equipment” consists of all equipment used by an athlete in connection with competing, including, without limitation, anything used, worn or taken by the athlete on the field of play. Equipment includes, but is not limited to, the bow, quiver, arrows and accessories such as backpacks and gloves.

World Archery Technical Committee and C&R Committee 13 January 2016