

JUDGES NEWS



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Dear Judges,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe.

If you have not already done so, please have a look at the new Officials pages on the Archery Australia website.

Officials' information and documents are now to be accessed from the main menu page under the heading 'COMPETITIONS'. Thanks to Judge **Murray Frith** for his work with this.

I am hoping the new organisation will make things easier to find. The first page will give you links to all the drop-down menus, so once you become familiar with the layout, you can access information straight from that front page.

Any comments are welcome. Please email to officials@archery.org.au

Karen O'Malley

Message for National Judge Candidates

Due to the lack of events being held for a good part of this year, the Archery Australia Officials Committee is allowing all National Judge Candidates an extra 6 months to qualify as National Judges. Please add 6 months to the date given in your original letter. This extension of time will be reviewed as we go.

Online Zoom meeting

It was good to see so many judges attending the Zoom meeting last Monday evening. Altogether, 49 people were in attendance, and this was the first online meeting to which the Event Judges had also been invited.

Thanks go to Alison Hagaman for her informative presentation on the Role of the DoS.

The next online meeting topic will be 'Archers Diary'.

If you have any particular issues you would like explained/covered in that presentation, please email officials@archery.org.au

State of play with Officials in each RGB

Following our re-accreditation this year, I include below statistics regarding officials in each RGB.

For those of you who are RGB Co-ordinators, I would encourage you to offer more training courses to expand our National Judge fraternity.

I have send out an email to the many Club Officials who are actually eligible to apply for Event Judge status. There is no obligation of course, but there is quite a pool of people who were interested enough to complete the necessary Online Modules but have made no application for Event Judge accreditation!

ACT:	9 NJs 1 NJC 3 Event Judges 24 Club Officials	(All 3 clubs have a club official)
NSW:	10 NJs 4 NJCs 17 Event Judges 41 Club Officials	(14/36 clubs do not have an official)
Vic:	13 NJs 0 NJCs 28 Event Judges 26 Club Officials	(10/29 clubs do not have an official)
Tas:	9 NJs 1 NJC 1 Event Judge 4 Club Officials	(1/7 club does not have an official)
SA:	10 NJs 2 NJCs 20 Event Judges 42 Club Officials	(5/21 clubs do not have an official)
WA:	2 NJs 1NJC 4 Event Judges 30 Club Officials	(7/21 clubs do not have an official)
SQld:	12 NJs 1 NJC 4 Event Judges 32 Club Officials	(2/11 clubs do not have an official)
NQld:	4 NJs 3 NJCs 2 Event Judges 5 Club Officials	(3/7 clubs do not have an official)

BacktoArchery national competition

The success of the first weekend's participation in the BacktoArchery national competition was very heartening. Thanks to all of you who assisted your club, either in a consulting role, or by actually officiating at the event.

If you do take part as a judge on the BacktoArchery competition dates, remember to log them into your Judges Online Diary as part of your officiating for 2020-24.

Judges Applications for 2021 National Events

Normally at this time of the year we are seeking applications from National Judges and NJCs for National events for the following year. However, as the dates for 2021 are not yet certain, I anticipate the application will come out with the December *Judges News*, or as a separate email.

From World Archery

There have been some new interpretations published this year by World Archery:

All interpretations are available on the RULES page of the World Archery website through this direct link –

<https://worldarchery.org/rulebook/interpretations>

– or for download as pdf documents from the extranet at

<https://extranet.worldarchery.org/documents/index.php/?dir=613>

The following screen shots come from a recent online seminar held for international judges by the World Archery Judges Committee and have been provided by Susanne Womersley. You should find them interesting!

3. Ranging on unmarked courses

- Removing unmarked rounds is not a policy area for the WAJC.
- Ranging is a fact-of-life, you can be sure that everybody does it. It is considered to be part of “fieldcraft”, it is a skill.
- We should just make sure there is no illegal equipment used.

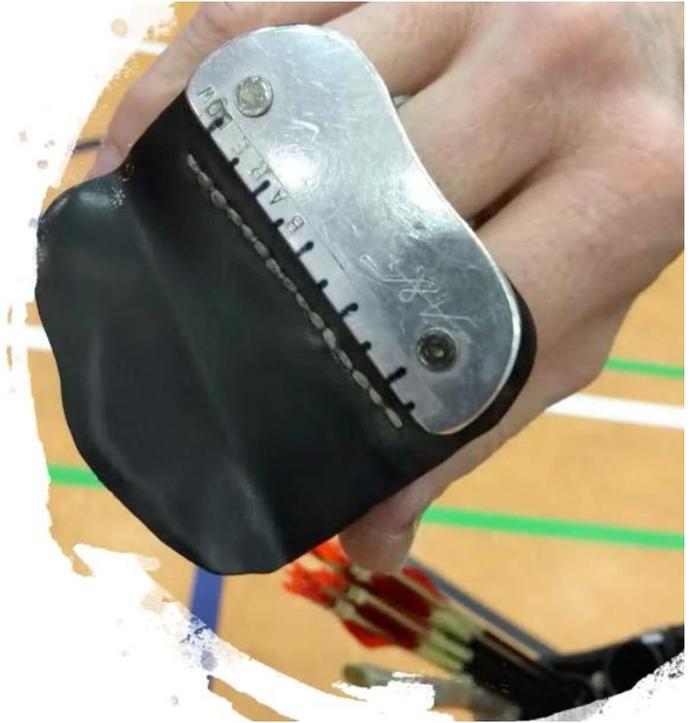


Barebow Tab with uneven spacing

According to a new interpretation from the Technical Committee of May 2020, these marks are fully legal on a barebow tab, even when the archer has applied the marks himself.

Barebow Tab with two different lengths of lines

- According to a new interpretation from the Technical Committee of August 2020, these marks of two different lengths are fully legal on a barebow tab, but more than two different lengths are not allowed and it must be a pattern visible.



Barebow Tab with two different colours

- According to a new interpretation from the Technical Committee of July 2020, stitching on a barebow tab with two different colours is not allowed.



Bow Grip



At first, we had a Case Study about it, where we had mixed reactions of the judges

- Now we have an interpretation of the Technical Committee: this Bow Grip is legal for Compound, Recurve and Barebow

Barebow Riser Gillo GT



Material: Rubber

- Considered as limb dampeners
- Fully legal in barebow

Mantis X8 System

- Training aid to analyse movement patterns of the bow
- More publicity given to this product recently in magazines etc
- Affixes to the bow using a bracket – can be positioned where the athlete wants it
- Streams data via Bluetooth to an app on phone or tablet
- Electronic, so is not allowed to be used during competition
- Can be removed from the bracket, but the bracket can remain on the bow while in competition for Recurve and Compound
- For Barebow, if bracket is left on the bow, it must not aid sighting



SweetSpot Pro - comparable system

You be the Judge - Answers from Issue 105

Thanks to the RGB co-ordinators who are organising case study discussion groups, whether meeting face-to-face or online (marked with*below). This has improved your response rate and ensures the future of judging in your RGB.

RGB	Judges	Replies	RGB	Judges	Replies
AACT*	10	8	ASA*	12	10
ANSW	13	4	AV	15	7
AST	10	3	SQAS*	13	12
AWA	5	2	NQAA	6	4
<i>Oceania</i>		2	Total	84	50 +2

It's interesting that in a time when we have had virtually no events that the response number is so low. I wonder how much of that can be attributed to the kind of questions ... no quick 'look it up' answers to be had in this lot!

Thanks to Continental Judge *Eric Halil* for completing the task of compiling our responses to the case study scenarios. He has done an amazing job!

105.1 A young archer is having a bad day at a tournament. They are visibly crying when they go to score but to their credit are still shooting.

- a) Is it suitable to try to support the archer as a judge?
- b) What kind of support is appropriate?
- c) When might it be considered too helpful?
- d) What if the archer is an adult?

Most judges cited the World Archery Judges' Guidebook Section 1.4 as guidance for this case study. In particular the following points in that section were most often referenced:

WA Judges' Guidebook: 1.4 Do's And Do Not's of being a WA Judge.

*An exhaustive list of do's and don'ts is not possible. **The guiding philosophy is that your behaviour should be a credit to archery, to World Archery, to yourself, and to other Judges.** Keep in mind the image you portray to competitors, spectators, officials and the media and act accordingly. **Common sense must always be your guide.***

DO

- (b) Think of yourself as a host welcoming guests.*
- (c) Be enthusiastic, courteous, and friendly.*
- (d) Apply the rules fairly, consistently and firmly.*
- (e) Offer polite assistance to all: athletes, team officials, guests, spectators, media personnel, other officials.*

DO NOT

- (a) Allow your attention to wander from your primary duty, which is the competition.*
- (c) Chat at length with competitors or other officials, while on duty this act may lead others to believe that you are not paying proper attention to your assigned duty or that you may favour certain athletes.*
- (d) Cause any distraction not related to a safety problem. Any official contact with athletes, other than safety related, must (preferably) be through the team manager if one exists.*

Some judges also referred to

- AA Policy 1002 Code of Conduct
- AA Policy 1023 Member Protection

The general consensus amongst judges was to determine (if possible) the reason for the archer's distress and based on that, find a suitable adult that might be able to support the archer (parent, coach, team manager and so on). Depending on the situation, the judge might need to take additional action (for example, if there is bullying involved). Clear examples of a judge being too helpful would include providing coaching, directly helping with equipment issues, or anything else that might be perceived as a competitive advantage for the archer (or disadvantaging other archers). In principle, everyone suggested that an adult would be assisted in a similar way as the youth archer with minor changes as needed.

Many judges also mentioned the importance of not making any assumptions about the situation and understanding the possible reasons for the distress of the archer. The AACT group response (verbatim below) is a very good overview and is representative of many other responses:

With this in mind this scenario is a sensitive situation that calls on the Judge to consider the archer's emotional state and balance it with a socially appropriate and professional course of action. The Judge should not jump to any conclusions as to why the archer is in the state they are in and should be observant as to whether the archer is impacting the other competitors, particularly those on the same target and the targets either side.

With regard to the specific questions:

a) *Is it suitable to try to support the archer as a judge?*

It is appropriate for the Judge to:

- a. Determine the archer's level of upset;
- b. Ask the archer compassionately to explain why they are upset.

b) *What kind of support is appropriate?*

It would be appropriate for the Judge to ask the archer if there is anything they can do to assist the archer and/or ask the archer if there is a parent of support person that can assist them. Depending on the answer provided, the Judge will need to respond appropriately by assessing the archer's answer against the reason for their being upset, e.g.

- The archer may be being bullied by other archers – Judge needs to verify, issue warnings and continue to monitor.
- The archer may be ill – Judge needs to observe archer and/or speak to parents/guardians/Coach/Manager to ensure that archer's welfare is not at risk.
- The archer may be upset and petulant – Judge needs to try and compassionately calm down the archer and check that the archer is not adversely impacting the other archers.
- The archer may be suffering performance anxiety, which could be from any number of sources – Judge should compassionately remind

the archer that it's not the end of the world and they should concentrate on completing the round as best they can.

- There are any number of scenarios here but the main point is that the Judge should support the archer to the extent of determining, if possible, the reason for the archer's upset and seeking a response that will help the archer to continue to shoot the round in a safe way that will not cause them any further upset or affect other archers. Depending on the state of the archer it may be appropriate to suggest that the archer withdraw from the round if they are adversely impacting the archers around them or behaving in an unsafe manner.

c) *When might it be considered too helpful?*

The Judge's primary role in this situation is to ensure that all archers are competing in a safe and fair manner. To that end it would not be appropriate for the Judge to:

- Hug or physically console the archer. That should be left to the parents/guardians/carers.
- Offer coaching advice to help the archer improve their shooting for the rest of the round.
- Offer any sort of support that will advantage the archer, e.g. pulling arrows, carrying equipment, etc. (unless the archer withdraws from shooting and is visibly distressed and the field of play needs to be cleared).

d) *What if the archer is an adult?*

I don't consider that a Judge should treat an adult any differently to a junior, however a Judge needs to be observant and aware of the different range and level of emotions that can be exhibited by adults and juniors.

In short, a Judge should be observant, compassionate and offer reasonable, appropriate support to the archer without drawing attention to the situation where possible.

105.2 You are judging and realise another judge has made an error in applying the rules. You explain the situation and they agree it was a mistake but say not to worry about it as, 'we can't do anything now'. How do you react:

- a) If the mistake had no consequences to the results of the competition?
- b) If it does affect the final standings?
- c) If the judge we are talking about who has made the error is the CoJ?

And the WA Judges Guidebook comes in useful for this case study too! In particular:

WA Judges Guidebook 1.2 The Philosophy of Judging (extracts):

*We must know the rules thoroughly including the latest interpretations and by-laws. **It is imperative that we all keep up to date**, so we are not applying*

“old” rules. We must protect the rights of all, and in that effort, firmly apply the rules.

Initially, we must be certain that we are in possession of the correct and current information. Consultation with other Judges before making a decision does not indicate weakness, only a desire to make an absolutely correct decision. Judge commission meetings before and during an event are important areas for bringing up uncertainties.

Occasionally a question still cannot be resolved to everyone’s satisfaction. Should this occur, a final decision will have to be deferred until a meeting of the complete Judges’ Commission can be convened, and a positive statement given to those concerned.

Judges should be well informed, willing to discuss and to educate if necessary, be polite and firm about decisions. It is by being so we are seen to be professional about our duties.

As there has been a mistake made by a judge then we also need to consider the Jury of Appeal:

WA Judges’ Guidebook 1.5.6 Jury of Appeal

Upholding the rights of the competitors and their team officials is one of the most important considerations at any WA event. It would be very unfortunate if the actions of another competitor, a Judge, or member of the Organizing Committee unfairly affected the performance or score of a competitor. The Jury of Appeal is there to ensure the spirit of fairness in a competition and the fair application of the rules. In this way it protects the competitors’ rights as well as the Judge who has done the job responsibly.

Other references provided included:

- AA Judges Newsletter 67 (2010) discusses Appeals (from AACT):
 - *“The possibility of appealing against a decision made by the judges or tournament officials is a basic right an archer has in order to avoid being a victim of an incorrect decision or unfair treatment.”*
- WA Judges Newsletter 99 (Sep 2019) (from AACT):
 - Discusses a number of case studies where judging errors were made in high level tournaments. The thrust of these references centres on the rights of the archer and protecting the integrity of the sport.
- FITA Judges Newsletter 73 (from Anabela Robertson, ANSW):
 - *“Overruling – A difficult situation, and normally one would only seek to overrule a Judge’s incorrect decision if it affects an archer’s position, and to avoid a requirement to call the Jury.”*

Kudos to AACT and Anabela for finding references in previous WA and AA Judges Newsletters. For those interested, previous AA and WA Judges Newsletters can be found at:

<https://archery.org.au/officiating-in-australia/judges-news/>

<https://extranet.worldarchery.org/documents/index.php?dir=76>

Any judge can make mistakes (and everyone has!). Everyone is human. What is important is how mistakes are dealt with. We need to make sure they are acknowledged and corrected so athletes are not advantaged or disadvantaged by them.

Now going through each option:

a) If the mistake had no consequences to the results of the competition?

The judge should speak to the CoJ to let them know what happened and to ensure they are aware of the correct ruling in that case. The judge should apologise to any archers involved, explain the mistake and give the correct ruling. This ensures the archers are aware of the correct rules and that the integrity of the judges and competition is maintained. If needed, the archers should also be told about the right of appeal (though hopefully it shouldn't be needed in this case). When speaking to athletes it's best done during a break or time when it's not likely to distract them and affect their performance.

While some judges decided that no specific action was needed as the results were not affected it is important that action as described above is taken.

b) If it does affect the final standings?

The judges should alert the CoJ immediately. As it affects standings, the CoJ will likely need to co-ordinate with the OC/DoS/others to determine the best course of action to remedy the situation and make it as fair as possible for athletes. Ideally a remedy can be made without needing a Jury of Appeal though that of course needs to be maintained as an option. As a Jury of Appeal is a possibility, judges involved should make sure their notes are complete and as detailed as possible.

c) If the judge we are talking about who has made the error is the CoJ?

Mistakes need to be addressed regardless of who has made them. Discuss with the CoJ (given they have admitted the mistake) the importance of maintaining the integrity of the competition and that suitable action will need to be taken. In this case, it's expected that the CoJ would take the appropriate actions. If the CoJ doesn't wish to take action then try to understand why and what reasons they have (it's quite possible there may be extenuating circumstances). If you are still not comfortable you may wish to review what happened with your RGB Judge's co-ordinator or AA Officials Committee when possible. Regardless of the judge's actions, archers always have the right of appeal to address any rulings they are concerned with.

In any of these situations it's essential for judges involved to take notes about what has happened, when, who has been spoken to, the rulings that were made and the details of discussions. If possible, notes should be made at the time of the incident (or as soon as possible afterwards) and in some cases photos may also be useful.

It would also be useful to review any mistakes at the judge's debriefing, explaining the error, what the correct decision was and any ramifications that judges need to be aware of. Consider making changes which might prevent similar problems in the future. Any mistakes which have had a significant impact on the competition should be noted in the Event Verification form.

In this case study it's assumed the error has already occurred and been confirmed. But what can we do to minimise errors happening in the first place? Be familiar with the rules, keep up-to-date with changes, read the newsletter, feel comfortable asking other judges if you're not sure of a ruling or if you have the time, look it up yourself!

Don't feel pressured into making instant decisions you are unsure of; it's much better to take a little additional time to make the correct decision rather than fix problems later which were caused by errors. This sentiment was recently emphasised by World Archery itself after some judging errors made under pressure had serious consequences for a major tournament.

105.3 In the second last end of a WA 720 a junior girl accidentally 'releases' her Release Aid and it ends up 10 metres down the range. With three arrows left to shoot she calls for help.

Upon inspection it is found that the Release Aid had broken her arrow rest on the way through (it had also injured her knuckle).

As the Release Aid had broken her arrow rest on the way through, the equipment failure technically occurred before the Release Aid was lost. So in this case the judges allow her to make up the three un-shot arrows because of an equipment failure.

Is this a correct decision?

The relevant rule relating to equipment failure in this case is:

WA 12.2.4 *In the event (during the qualification round) of an equipment failure, verified by a Judge, or a medical issue, verified by medical personnel, extra time may be given to make the necessary repairs, change the damaged equipment or for medical personnel to determine the problem and decide whether or not the athlete is fit to continue competing unassisted. However the maximum time or number of ends for make-up arrows to be shot is 15 minutes (following regular order of shooting and timing), or two ends of six arrows outdoors and three ends of three arrows indoors, whichever happens first. The athlete shall make up the appropriate number of arrows at the earliest opportunity under the supervision of a Judge.*

The essential complement to this is WA Equipment Failure interpretation (10 Oct 2019) available from:

<https://worldarchery.org/rulebook/interpretations>

Please see the complete interpretation for more details and examples, but in brief:

The basic definition of equipment failure is the physical action of the athletes' equipment that fails to a point where it will no longer function properly and either needs to be repaired or replaced. [...]

Factors which need to be considered are the following:

- *Is the failure unexpected and not routine? [...]*
- *Is the cause of the failure the result of negligence or athlete action or error? [...]*
- *Is there a failure in the item in question that reasonably affects performance? [...]*

Ultimately, while the foregoing are matters to consider, whether or not there is equipment failure depends on whether doing so is fair to the athlete.

The WA Judges Guidebook also provides detailed procedures for dealing with equipment failures (4.12) and notes on medical conditions (4.13).

There are a number of factors that need to be considered:

- The archer has 'accidentally' been released the release aid (and it is no longer available to the archer)
- The arrow rest has been damaged
- The archer has been injured

From looking at the 3 criteria in the equipment failure interpretation, it seems clear that what happened *was unexpected and the failure reasonably affects performance*. Normally there would be no issue allowing make up arrows if that were all. But in reviewing the criteria we also need to consider whether it was the *result of negligence or athlete action or error?*

Some judges considered that it was the result of *archer error* as she accidentally released the release aid so this would **not** constitute an equipment failure as per the interpretation. In addition, it was suggested that a medical condition would not be allowed based on the same reasoning: that it was caused by *archer error*. The interpretation however deals only with equipment failure and does not refer to medical conditions so does not seem directly applicable in this case.

The SQAS judges' group response suggested that it was unclear as to whether it was archer error or mechanical failure. After considering the difficulty of easily determining if it was a mechanical failure and considering the existing medical condition they decided pragmatically that regardless of whether equipment failure had occurred (as per the interpretation), make up arrows would be allowed in any case due to the medical issue.

Allowing make up arrows primarily because of the medical condition was representative of many other responses as well. The reasoning behind this is well described by Logan Andrew (NZ):

It is clear that, if the damage to the bow or the injury to the athlete had not been caused by the athlete in question, they would be allowed the time to make up the remaining arrows as per the normal rules. The tricky part is that the root cause was a mistake made by the athlete. Looking at the criteria for a gear failure laid as laid out in the interpretation, losing an essential item is not a gear failure, which would indicate that time should not be awarded. However, while this is literally true, I do not think this is the intent of the interpretation.

If an athlete was injured due to poor form and required medical assistance (for example, hitting their arm with the string badly enough to cause bleeding), I would still expect that this would be treated as a medical. While such a mistake is completely within the power of the athlete and is the result of their action/error, it was not an act of negligence or ill-preparedness.

Based on this, I would agree with the decision taken by the judges and allow the athlete to make up the arrows as per the medical rules.

The interpretation also concludes with:

Ultimately, while the foregoing are matters to consider, whether or not there is equipment failure depends on whether doing so is fair to the athlete.

It is considered that allowing make-up arrows was an appropriate and reasonable decision which is fair to the athlete.

NEW CASE STUDIES

You be the Judge, No 106:

Please remember to give reasons and quote appropriate World Archery or Archery Australia rules and references for all your answers.

106.1 A barebow archer presents at equipment inspection with a finger tab which has lines drawn on it which are of uneven spacing but of the same length and colour. Is this arrangement 'legal' according to the rules?

106.2 An archer presents at equipment inspection a barebow recurve which has the arrow rest mounted 5cm above the bow's shelf. Is this arrangement legal? (Hint: Have a look at recent World Archery interpretations on the WA website, under 'RULES')

106.3 A recurve archer presents at equipment inspection with his spectacles covered as shown in the photos below. What is your opinion of the legality of his arrangement?



Please have your replies with RGB administrators by mid November, who in turn are asked to collate and forward replies by the end of November. Alternatively, judges can e-mail their answers directly to Karen at officials@archery.org.au by November 30th, (but inform your RGB administrator you have done so).

Online Diary ...

Remember to log the number of your responses at your Online Diary at www.archery.org.au under COMPETITIONS/Officials/Judges Online Diary

For those of you who are *National Judge Candidates*, ensure you make it clear in the Online diary the events at which you have acted as Director of Shooting, as there is a minimum requirement for being a DoS.

Until next time - Happy Judging!

Karen