

# JUDGES NEWSLETTER

Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc  
INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY FEDERATION

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## FITA Judge Newsletter

Edited by the FITA Judge Committee

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### In Commemoration of Joe Lin



**When reading this Newsletter you probably already know the very sad news that Joseph (Joe) Lin has passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

He was a FITA International Judge and many times a Technical Delegate and member of the Jury of Appeal. Joe was also member of FITA Council from 1995-1999 and the Target Committee from 1991 till 1997. He was the driving force behind the success of the Chinese Taipei Archery Association. Joe was suffering since many years from a cancer and he fought the disease successfully for years. He was recently elected as Vice-President of the Asian Archery Federation in which he played an important role. Joe was a character that everyone knew in archery and he was especially known for his humor, his generosity and his friendship. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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## 1. Editorials

### **A message from the Chairman of the Judge Committee**

Dear Judges.

With Don Lovo's retirement from the Judge Newsletter's editorship an important era of FITA has sadly closed.

I have known and greatly respected him since I attended his seminar in Italy in 1991 when I became a FITA Judge. He has been my teacher, my confident and my friend since that time, always responding immediately to any question or query about the rules.

I believe that he has served FITA for more years and in more capacities than any other person before him, living or dead. He started as a World Competitor in 1965, served on Canada's International team for the next 10 years and then in FITA as a member of the Constitution and Rules Committee, Chairman of the Field Archery Committee, Member of the Development Committee and finally for twenty years chairman of the FITA Judge Committee. He entered Council early in his FITA career and remained there as First Vice-President until his retirement in 1999.

His Judge development work and seminars have taken him to every continent many times.

I have asked him to continue working with us by regularly writing a column in the Judge Newsletter on his observation. He has agreed to do so.

Thank you Don. You are greatly appreciated by those of us who truly know you.

Gian Piero Spada, Chairman of the Judge Committee

A message from Don Lovo

### **To my friends and my "old Judge Family".**

With considerable sadness and regret I have decided to resign as the editor of the FITA Judge newsletter.

Sadness because I started this Newsletter 58 issues and 25 years ago and it has been a large part of my life and my soul for all those years.

Regret because I will miss the constant exchange of thoughts, philosophies and ideas to improve the rules that regularly came from my friends the Judges of the world in response to case studies. Judges who, but for a very few were my students.

When I resigned as your chairman in 1999, your new chairman G. P. Spada asked that I continue as editor, I agreed, and did so for the last three years. The fact is however I have made major changes in my life, and have many new and exciting interests. I have become deeply involved in Rotary International, I am Chairman of the Judges Committee and V/P of Copanarco, (the America's Archery Federation) and have been able to find a little time to go back to many of the joys and hobbies that I had to put on hold because of my FITA work for more than 20 years. More over the internal politics of International sport sapped my energy and much of the great love I had for my work.

Since my resignation from FITA Council, I am no longer on the forward edge of the rules making and as such am not always currently aware of the changes that are being made.

That never happened before and I do not feel that I can really stay on top of the questions and case studies as they effect current competition, and serve you the way you deserve

The current Judge Committee chaired by G. P. Spada are all my students and I know clearly that they for the most part share and teach my basic philosophy of:

- *being protective not punitive,*
- *using common sense*
- *Understanding the “intent of the rule.*
- *and giving the archer the benefit of the doubt when the rules allow you to do so.*

I am very proud that Congress gave me the great privilege of being named honorary Judge Chairman and Honorary 1st V/P of FITA for life. In these capacities I am still an part of your ranks and look forward to little or no change in the thousands of personal letters I have receive for all those years “discussing personal views on changes and improvements necessary to better serve our competitors. I am also still working as an active Judge, having recently served in the World Games in Japan.

My home and my fishing yacht await a visit from any of you who pass through my beautiful part of the world, and I mean that with great sincerity. Over the 35 years I served as a FITA officer, more than 100 Judges and friends visited me, some staying for almost one year! All it takes is a fax, phone call, letter or an Email and Lois and I will meet you wherever!

I would ask you to maintain the dedication you feel for your work, but I know that is not needed. It is imbedded in your heart and soul

You have enriched my life! Let’s continue to hear from you.

Don

## **2. Comments on the previous Case Studies (Issue 58)**

### **Case study 58.1**

An archer comes to the line with his arrow quiver attached to the tripod of his telescope which he places beside him within easy reaching distance on the line.

The Judge in charge advises him that article 7.3.3.10 does not permit him to leave his arrows or quiver on the line between ends. The Archer protested to Jury.

- a) Was the Judge correct?
- b) You are on the Jury. How will you find?

The answers to this case study showed that the answer was not that simple. Again we are facing some rules that may seem a bit contradictory. We have the rule saying that the archer not shooting shall remain behind the waiting line with their equipment (7.7.4.1, Ed. 2002), but on the other hand the same rule is saying that the scope can be left on the shooting line providing it does not create any obstacle to any other competitor.

We also have an old rule re equipment allowing a ground quiver, and from the beginning these were quivers stuck into the ground, of course always permanent on the shooting line.

Looking at the first rule, there may be several reasons for wanting the archer to bring the equipment away from the shooting line;

- 1) As mentioned by several Judges; to avoid any obstacle for other archers to shoot.
- 2) To give a signal to the DoS that in fact the archer has finished his shooting.
- 3) To avoid accidents, like a bow left on the line is blowing over and hitting an archer during shooting.

The latter reason has, however, become invalid as we nowadays accept leaving scopes and all experience is telling us that accidents in this respect rarely happens.

Looking at the situation from the DoS side, we believe that leaving some arrows on the line would not cause him to interrupt his normal procedures. Leaving a bow, however, would be a different matter, and possibly the law-makers at that time were basically referring to the bow.

Looking at the modern judges' approach; not being overzealous, the best solution would be to allow the quiver attached to the scope, unless it creates any obstacle or possible danger to other competitors.

This solution is also according to the majority of our Judges and is supported by the Judge Committee.

### **Case study 58.2**

At the recent Indoor World Junior Championships: A female archer had a bouncer. Confused by the incident she stopped shooting and turned to the Judge informing him of the incident. The Judge asked how many arrows she had left, but the archer misunderstood the question and answered by showing two fingers (meaning she shot two arrows/or that maybe this was her second arrow). The Judge then told her to continue shooting two arrows, which the archer did within the time limit. Upon scoring the archer now had the following scores:

Upper centre: 9

Middle centre: 10

Lower centre: 8

and one bouncer on the floor in front of the target.

None of the archers on that target had marked the arrow holes and there were several unmarked holes in the various centers, the lowest unmarked hole in the upper centre was 7, in the middle centre 8 and in the lower centre another 7. There was also one unmarked hole in the paper outside, but close, to the lower centre - in the corner of the paper.

The Judge scored 9-8-M.

Was his decision correct? (This is not all that easy!)

Here we suddenly experience another – and more complicated – situation related to the triple face indoor shooting.

A lot of Judges is mentioning the “misunderstanding” between the archer and the Judge re the number of arrows. Maybe the Judge could have handled the situation described differently (i.e. just telling the archer to go on shooting - as she is alone on her target). However, an archer in a competition should know the procedures of a bouncer, and for sure know the number of arrows to be shot (and keep control with that). It would hardly be fair to the other competitors to allow such a mistake which *might have given an advantage*.

Therefore we have to consider this as an “ordinary” four arrows situation, although the scoring is complicated by the fact that the holes were not properly marked and we have a triple face.

According to our rules a bouncer – in a situation without properly marked holes – shall be given the score of the lowest unmarked hole in the target (face), this is a 7.

Because we have a triple face, we now have two aspects;

a) This means that there are suddenly two scores in one of the centres, causing the highest one to become a Miss.

b) In our situation, this will vary according to which 7 we are choosing. If we use the upper centre, a 9 would become an M – but if we use the lower centre, an 8 would become an M.

In such a situation the benefit of the doubt should be given to the archer, so we chose the lower centre, which then will give a 7 and an M.

We have now found our four scores; 9 (upper), 10 (middle), 7 (lower) and M (lower).

And when we have four scores we only count the three lowest; the result is 9-7-M.

(The smart Judge would also notice that if the bouncer could have been positively identified as a regular Miss – that is, if that arrow would have rebounded from a non-scoring area of the butt - the archer in this situation would have got one more point, because then we would not have had the “two arrows in one centre”-situation. It would be 9-8-M).

### **Case study 58.3**

During an Indoor tournament at 18m with 40cm vertical triple faces, the following occurs: In the qualification round an archer shoots:

1 arrow a 10 in the top face

2 arrow a 9 in the face of the middle

3 arrow an 8 in the lower face

A few seconds after the time runs out he shoots a fourth arrow which falls well within the 3 meter line!

As a Judge, how will you score this end?

The Judge Committee is really surprised by the punitive action many Judges would have taken in this respect.

An arrow within the 3m-line is deemed not having been shot! Therefore this arrow does not count and thus there is no shot after time limit and no four arrow issue. Certainly such an arrow doesn't change validity just because it ended there after the time expired; if that was the matter the rule would have said so.

May be this archer was lucky, may be it was a compound archer trying to take down when the signal sounded but released the arrow on his way down.

Did he have any advantage to the others? This is one of the first questions you should ask in tricky situations.

In this case you have only three valid shots – all made within the time limit – and the score for that end will be 10-9-8.

We of course agree with the Judges who would remind the archer to keep control of the number of arrows he is shooting.

### Case study 58.4

During a very windy day in a National Championship a disabled archer was politely warned by a National Judge because the string of his bow was in contact with the wheel on the wheelchair. The National Judge stated that this situation could represent an advantage and advised him against this action. The archer became confused and angry with the Judge and decided to continue shooting same way. A small meeting of the Judge commission took place and they by majority decided to disqualify him.

Was the action of Judges correct?

Our rules do not say much about disabled archers, and Art. 7.4.4 (Ed. 2002). can actually be read as if disabled not only are excepted from having to be standing, but also from having to shoot

without support. *But this is related to the possibility of support in order to manage a standing position.*

No archer is allowed to have a support in order to keep his bowarm steady. Several judges are discussing if it is an advantage to draw the string to the wheel of a wheelchair, or if it is in fact a disadvantage. For sure it can be an advantage, especially in windy conditions, if you have a consistent shooting technique. It may also be an assistance in controlling the body position when shooting.

But our concern is that no archer may have a support in drawing, aiming or releasing – and this is also in line with the rules within IPC (disabled's own events).

Certainly the archer must receive a warning before a possible disqualification of scores.

(Some Judges have realized that there are guidelines in our Guide Book re handling some issues related to disability!)

### 3. You be the Judge – New case studies



You be the judge...

Please reply to the following case studies within June 30, 2002.

#### Case study 59.1

In the first end of a match round of an indoor competition, in alternate shooting, Archer A shot his first arrow in the 10 when time expired just after the audible signal. At scoring, the judges said that the highest score of the three arrows would have been forfeited. Archer A protested, saying the procedure was not clear and there were no lights and no count down timers. The match was indeed controlled by two judges behind the archers, who were timing and giving verbally indications about when time was started; the signal of time expired was given with a whistle. Archer B (the opponent) said that he was accepting the ten from Archer A. So the Judges accepted Archer B's decision and the 10 has been scored.

A) Was the action of judges correct?

B) May have any relevance the opinion of a competitor in the final decision?

Case study 59.2

At 8th final of a match play, two competitors did not show up. The first end was shot and then archers went to scoring.

At that moment, the two missing competitors arrived, and claimed that they were not informed the match was going to take place immediately after the other one. The judges, with the agreement of the two opponents, have decided that the match was going to be re-shot for them. It means that the two late archers and their opponents went back to the shooting line and shot the match (again), and so it was scored.

- A) Was the action of judges correct?
- B) Which action would have you taken?

**Case study 59.3**

During an end the first arrow of an archer is a "miss-shot" for some reason, and the arrow falls down clearly within the 3-meter line. The archers then shoot five arrows, but when aiming with his 6<sup>th</sup> arrow he is blown off due to the expiry of time. He then takes down (do not shoot), but pick up the red flag calling a Judge, claiming the right of an "equipment failure" and asks for 40 seconds to shoot his 6<sup>th</sup> arrow due to the "miss-shot".

How would you handle the situation:

- A) in a Qualification Round?
- B) in a Finals Round?

**Case study 59.4**

At a windy tournament one of the butts falls to the ground with the face down during an end. All the arrows in the face broke into pieces or were severely displaced, and one archer (B) claimed to have just released when the butt fell over, causing him to hit nothing (as the butt disappeared while the arrow was in the air). There were three archers on the target, and the Judge did the following;

Archer A was given 10-9-9

Archer B was given 8-7 and told to shoot one more arrow as the arrow mentioned above was considered not having been shot.

Archer C was asked to "re-shoot" all three arrows as the Judge found it too difficult to decide their values.

- A) Archer A is asking for a second call. Is he entitled to have a second call in this situation?
- B) Furthermore he (A) is protesting against the judgement given re "the arrow in the air" which he doubts would have hit the target at all. Is he allowed to file such a protest?
- C) What is your opinion about the Judge's action(s) in this situation?

## 5. In evidence

### **Close-to-the-line arrows**

**Judges are normally present only to secure that the tournament runs smoothly, with discrete checking that everything is going on in a fair way. But when it comes to arrow calls, first, second or third call, the Judges are suddenly in focus. In the minds of the archers, judging close-to-the-line arrows is in most cases when trust or mistrust vis-à-vis judges is created, because then the Judges and their actions are visible.**

The FITA Judge Committee has during several years worked toward consistency in judging - and, as our Honorary Chairman is stating elsewhere in this Newsletter, creating an attitude of being the "servant of the competition" (polite, helpful and trustful). Based upon feedback from archers and coaches, we seem to have succeeded, or is about to succeed.

This is a very important role for the Judges to fill, and when it comes down to it; the fundament is often made when judging close-to-the-line arrows. Therefore, it is absolutely not acceptable when we still, fortunately very seldom nowadays, see that judges occasionally are approaching a close-to-the-line arrow without magnifying glass or looking upon an arrow only from one side.

In such cases the Judge does not fill his role.

In this respect we are not talking about making a "correct call" or not, but we are talking about the impression given of doing the work consciously, so that the archers trust that the decision is correct and fair.

Be aware that the whole group of International Judges often is measured by the standard and performance of each Individual Judge, and be also aware that all the procedures of Judging have been made open to the public through our Guide Book on the FITA web. So people now what the Judge is supposed to do!

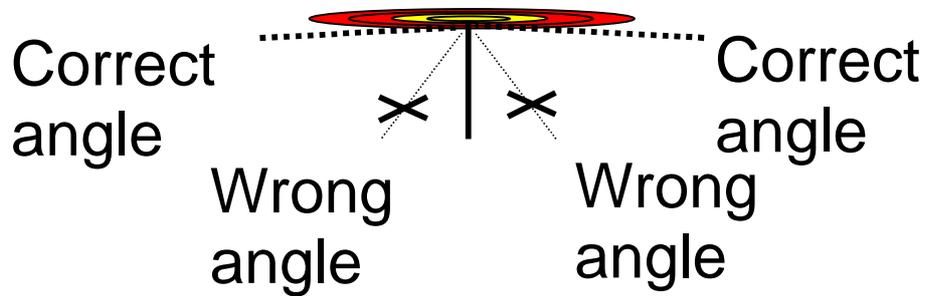
Our next challenge re close-to-the-line arrows is to "meet" situations in the same way, in order to make - in the best possible way - consistent judging also re arrow calls.

Through our observations we have now clearly proved that the differences between Judges re the angle of watching the doubtful arrow, also creates most of the different calls, requiring the third Judge.

More important is it to avoid that archers face and accept obviously wrong calls, as this is unfair to them.

Those of you, who attended the Judge Conference in China last year, had the privilege to see a photo session of an arrow seen from various angles and the impression of the value given at these angles. Shortly speaking; an arrow being watched from the wrong angle may be clearly to the higher zone, while watched from the correct angle will be clearly to the lower zone.

Therefore we must be sure to watch it from the correct angle!



Sometimes we must realize that it is impossible to have a proper look at the arrow in question, due to other arrows preventing the view. If - in such cases - it is difficult to make a justified call, the archer shall be given the benefit of doubt (the higher score), as always when in doubt.

(The photos from the photo session are electronically available from MBW (Morten.Wilmann@nif.idrett.no) upon request; size approx. 3 MB).

## **6. Don's "Think Tank" by Don Lovo – Honorary Chairman of the FITA Judge Committee**

*[The opinion expressed in this survey is the author's opinion and does not necessary reflect the position of the FITA Judge Committee]*

Greetings to all FITA's Judges:

As the Editorials indicate I have given up the "Editorship" of this newsletter. I am pleased to be able to continue on in a small way.

In a regular column I intend to discuss modestly controversial items that our Judges are regularly faced with.

### **Peep sights!**

Few of you will recall the great debates and varied opinions of the "Peeper" (string peep sight) that plagued FITA for many years. Past FITA 1 Vice President George Helwig and President of the US NAA year after year proposed a motion to FITA Congress that Archers should be allowed to use a string peep sight in World Class Recurve Archery. Through the years the subject consumed many hours of Congress time with strong and vocal pro and con advocates on both sides of the discussion. Finally Congress did allow the "peeper" in the then new, at that time Compound class. It is now accepted, and I am sure 99% of today's Compound archers probably believe it was always allowed. Over the years many recurve archers as well as senior FITA officials have on occasion suggested that now, the peep sight should be allowed on the Recurve bow.

There are of course “pros” and “cons” to this suggestion.

A strong “Pro” would be the fact that new archers could achieve a much higher level score in a lot less time than is needed with the current rules. This would probably reduce the terrible statistical “fallout” of new archers who become discouraged and quit with the seemingly slow process. I believe that is probably true.

And equally strong “Con” of the suggestion would be the fact that current top archers, got there without this gadget and World and Olympic records would fall if the vital and critical “proper anchor” was simplified, giving the archer two sights rather than one only. That philosophy could I am sure be attributed to carbon arrows, Kevlar (in it’s time) and fastflight strings. They all made a significant increase in score because each of them increased the velocity of the arrow, thereby cutting down the trajectory parabola, “cone of error” and exposure time to the elements.

I am not taking a position on either side.

Let’s have your comments. You, the Judges are on the “front line” and are exposed to archers’ feelings and opinions.

Responses should go to me so that I can prepare a survey result.

Regards,

Don Lovo, Honorary Chairman

## 7. Photo Gallery



Morten Wilmann, Chairman of the Jury of Appeals at the EMAU Indoor Champs and Skip Phillips, Judge Emeritus and DoS. Question: Who told the joke?

**Call for pictures:** when you have pictures taken during international events where our judges are in some way involved, please send me copy of them, possibly in electronic format. Thanks. GPS ([gspada@alma.unibo.it](mailto:gspada@alma.unibo.it)).



The Judges at the EMAU Indoor Championship 2002 in Ankara. From left: Peter Morris, Joop Kramer, Jean-Pierre Gabarret, Henrik Larsen, Aurel Robu, Victor Stanescu, Neil Dimmock (Chair), Manfred Weinlich and Helmut Weinlich.