



## JUDGES NEWSLETTER

Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc  
INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY FEDERATION

ISSUE #71

May 2009

### Content

1. Editorial from our Chairman
2. "The Judge" poem
3. Commission Report from 2009 Indoor WCH
4. Length of fibre optic sight pins
5. Judges Conference in Ulsan (KOR)
6. Losing the highest score
7. Scoring in finals matches
8. Mixed Team at World Cup Events
9. Replies to Case Studies 70
10. New Case Studies

### 1. Editorial

**By Morten Wilmann, Chairman**

Dear Judges,

I hope the new year has started well for all of you – and some of us have already been in action at the World Indoor Championships in Rzeszow (Poland) and the first World Cup stage in the Dominican Republic.

This time I would like to draw your attention to visa problems that may occur for judges around the world, and at the recent World Indoor Championships the visa issue caused the drop-out of two judges.



Already when you sign up for duty you should be aware of your visa position related to the country hosting the event. And when appointed you should immediately start the procedure to get your visa. We know from recent experience that obtaining a visa takes more time than before, and FITA cannot risk to book flight tickets for judges unable to attend and then being stuck with the amount due.

On our hand, in cooperation with FITA management, a letter of invitation will be sent to the Judges appointed from the Organizers immediately after appointment, in order to ease – and speed up – the process.

Another subject: The FITA Judge Committee acknowledge the fact that our judges often use holidays or have taken time off from work to be judging archery events. Even if this is due to their voluntary interest in archery – and judging – they have a certain right to be addressed with respect by archers, officials and organizers – and thus treated well.

However, occasionally mistakes are made and we should all be mentally prepared that sometimes things do not work according to expectations, and it is also important that our judges can handle such incidents with patience and even a smile. "Don't lose your temper" is an important part of our philosophy. Make it valid both on and off duty when you represent the FITA judging family.

All the best,  
Morten



## 2. Poem

---

Have fun with this poem. We truly hope you've never called a ten an eight.

# *“The Judge”*

*You raise your hand you give a smile, you ask to have a call,  
You know that it will go your way, 'cause you have got it all,  
Your name's atop the leader board, and you are now a star,  
He'll have no choice he'll call it in, for he knows just who you are.*

*He comes your way and asks, “Which one?” and gazes through his glass,  
He bends, he squints, he puts his knee down in the cold wet grass,  
He looks at it from up and down, he looks from every way,  
You know the shot will be a “ten”, and it will make your day.*

*He will reward your errant shot, he will not spoil your fun,  
'Cause he's just a Judge and you're a star, and that's the way it's done,  
He's finally through and rises up, you know it will be great,  
And with a smile upon his face, he calls your ten an eight!*

Published with the Following Acknowledgements and Statement:  
Provided to John Womersley  
FITA International Judge  
by Don Marcure late 1993  
Provided to NAA President, Don Marcure  
by Dr David Brandfass  
31 July 1993  
Not for commercial use or financial gain



### **3. Judge Commission Report – Indoor WCH, Rzeszow (POL) By Morten Wilmann, Chairman**

The championships being held in Rzeszow, Poland, was carried out successfully, although it seemed to have been initially planned for a smaller event than it actually turned out to be, causing last minute solutions in some details; i.e. looking for a proper room for the judges upon our arrival and instructing field crew on the spot when needed – and also a couple of misfortunes at the judges pick up at the airport upon arrival.

The Judges at the event:

Morten B. Wilmann (chair)  
Schandorff Vang (deputy chair)  
Jay Ben-Ari  
Marco Cattani  
Tom Green  
Stephan Lehmann  
Karen O'Malley  
Young-Sook Park  
Myat Yu Soe  
Simon Wee  
Patrick Wiggeler  
Xiuzhi Zhang  
Jean P. Galeyrand (director of shooting)

We were one judge short due to visa problems and both alternates already had been used due to various circumstances.

In my opinion the Judges did a good job, although having to adapt to changes on short notice.



The judges at the 2009 World Indoor Championships



## Venue inspection

The following was noticed:

- a) Target numbers were too small (according to the rules), but filled the intention of being visible to all.
- b) Scoreboards were fixed to the buttresses, which is not according to the rules. However, the results service got a benefit from this fact, and the archers did not seem to be disturbed.
- c) The 3 meter line itself was not included in the 3 meter area, as it is supposed to be. It was measured from the centre of the shooting line to the centre of the 3m line, a common mistake.
- d) The distance between the faces on the buttresses had to be corrected to accommodate the rules. However, in the finals – due to TV coverage– the distance between the vertical rows was adjusted to less than the rules prescribe.

There is a need to look further into the rules in this respect, and that also goes for the set-up of two vertical triple faces. The minimum distance of 25cm is inconvenient for teams, unless they always use a "one arrow at the time" rotation.

f) Faces. The Organizers had two different types (licensees) of faces, with a significant difference in colours – and therefore these could not be mixed. Due to the number of faces available, we made the decision of using one type during practice (practice hall) and on the official practice day (JVD – which did not comply with the colour requirements) – and one type during the competition (Bjorn Bengtson).

g) Lanes and areas. There were taped lanes on the floor by every fourth target, which was totally unnecessary. The rules describe by each two archers, but again there is a question of necessity and perhaps a "rule clean-up" is needed.

There was from the beginning no barrier which could indicate the actual field, so during the Qualification and the Elimination Round it was very difficult to monitor the number of officials present. However, this was improved for the team event and the finals round.

As a summing up of this point, it seems that the Organizers should have been provided with a checklist beforehand, in order to be assisted in their efforts. This checklist should include both venue set up and a description of field crew tasks and procedures.

## Further inspection

Equipment inspection was carried out in a traditional way, and there is a question to be discussed in this respect.

Based on a future monitoring of deadline of entry, so that there will not be any last minute changes in shooting positions, the most practical way of carrying out an equipment control would be to ask the archers – as a group – to step forward to the shooting line, while judges (grouped into the various categories) walked down the line checking according to the start list.

I would guess that equipment control in this way would take approx. 2x20 minutes – instead of a full day – and archers would not have to carry their equipment over a distance and queue up in a line for inspection.



Behind the line inspection picked up one illegal taping of glasses, but in general the archers' equipment complied with the rules (one archer had to adjust his compound weight).

During shooting a couple of archers were advised to lower their drawing due to safety and one archer had to adjust his grip to avoid permanently touching the brace of the bow. However, one archer (a lady from USA) was not observed until the finish of her bronze medal match using a certain silencer on her cable guard permanently as a possible checkpoint of stabilization against her arm. Thus no action was taken.

Dress rules.

Much effort was put into an attempt to monitor the dress rules, and quite a number of archers – and particularly team officials – had to make changes to conform to the rules.

However, I would advise FITA to address the Ukraine and the USA associations on the issue, as there seem to be no knowledge of the rules, and also less understanding re the policy behind these rules. At the same time I would like to underline that there are "grey zones" in this respect, which make it difficult to enforce the dress regulations and also to make consistency in global judging ; especially re the following two areas:

- a) What constitutes a team in respect of uniformity?
- b) What is a "sport shoe"?

### **The role of a judge**

In order to reduce time during the day of medal finals, the use of agents and target judges was introduced after the team event. The judges adapted to the change and also did the scoring.

For the future I believe the use of target judge and scorer should be used even indoor, but it should be well planned in order to have separate judges and scorers, and using two judges and two scorers would have made it even more efficient – also if scoring would only take place at the target (no pre-scoring from a blind).

### **Appeals**

There were no appeals during these championships, but there were three incidents that might have led to it:

a) A scorecard (at least one) was not filled in with totals, 10s and 9s and signatures, and there was a question if the scores should be nil for ranking – as not conforming to the rules. Due to the circumstances no further action was taken, but the seriousness of the rules in this respect is not made totally clear, as no "penalty" is included in the rule text. In general it is difficult to take away points or disqualify if the rules do not explicitly say so.

b) A judge made a mistake in the team event, by giving a yellow card to a team when an archer shot two arrows in simultaneous shooting. Fortunately this misconception was corrected before further action mistakenly was taken, and the team disadvantaged by the incident won the match.

c) There were repeatedly problems with the timing equipment, sometimes causing an audible signal without visual start of the clock (went black). Shots according to the audible signal were of course accepted, while some archers stopped due to the non-visible timing. The system should be matched so that it's either both signals or no signals, thereby we would avoid any questions or uncertainties.



## Miscellaneous

### **Name plates**

Just an observation made: names indicating the match play during the elimination and first final stages are very small – and invisible for the spectators. The rules in this respect are only met when using the electronic scoreboards in the medal finals. Are there any possibilities of improvement in this respect?

### **Assistant Director of shooting**

The Organizers did not supply any assistant DoS to replace the FITA appointed DoS when needed. This is a task they have to do according to our administrative rules, and he or she should even be named to FITA with suitable time in advance. In future events this must be taken care of.

### **Marking arrow holes**

It was reported that especially in the compound division the marking of arrow holes seem to be made in order to create a better aiming point, causing the use of an even bigger number of faces due to shifts. As the rules are saying that arrow holes should be marked, may be a short addition on how to mark them would be helpful.

## Summing up

From a "bird's eye perspective", so to say, the championships were well organized and I believe the archers had a good experience, even if some "backstage" details were missing or could have been better planned or executed.

There was always a willingness to perform well from all parties involved, and my personal cooperation with the TD - Juan Carlos Holgado - was excellent.

I would also like to say that I appreciate the willingness, flexibility and stamina of my fellow judges during the many long days in Rzeszow.

## **4. Length of fibre optic sight pins**

---

During some years now the FITA Judge Committee has instructed the judges re the understanding of the rules re fibre optic sight pins – ref. article 7.3.1.5. – at seminars and on other occasions.

The "history" is dated back to Judge Newsletter of January 2003 where the guidelines were given and thereafter followed by the Judges. Some incidents and questions lately may anyway indicate that it is necessary to stress this point again.

Let us start by stressing that a fibre optic sight pin may not be more than 2cm in the line of vision – this follows clearly from the rule text. But when checking sights, the fibre optic sight pin is seen as a separate unit (it will be explained below) from the rest of the sight.

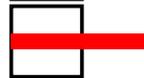
Therefore – all the variations illustrated here will be legal, as the fibre optic sight pin is not exceeding 2cm.



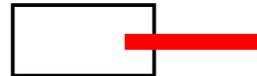
Length tunnel 1 cm, Pin 2cm, total length 2.5cm



Length tunnel 1 cm, Pin 2cm, total length 2cm



Length Tunnel 2cm, Length Pin 2cm, total length 3,5cm.



What has been confusing is that the rule 7.3.1.5.2 is saying that the "overall length of the sight (tunnel, tube, sighting pin and/or other corresponding extended component) will not exceed 2cm in the line of vision of the athlete.

But remember that a regular sight pin may be fixed in many ways to the sight house, and the intention of the rule is that there shall not be possible to have something more than 2cm to be used for leveling the bow.

Then back to the fibre optic sight pin. This pin is only fixed to the centre of the sight house in order to enlighten the sight point. In this respect it is not a "sight pin" as such, as the fibre optic itself is not used for aiming.

From a practical point of view it is not possible to use this as a continuation of the sight house for leveling purpose, and therefore we must look upon this as a separate unit in relation to a possible leveling aid.

As a support for this understanding you will see that article 7.3.1.5.3 last bullet is only mentioning the fibre optic pin itself when limiting the item to 2cm before bending (not including parts from the sight house).

(Thanks to Jean Martens who draw our attention to the issue, and who provided the drawing examples).

## **5. Judges Conference in Ulsan (KOR) – September 2009**

The 2009 FITA Judges Conference will be held in Ulsan, Korea, right after the World Championships. Be advised that attending a Conference in the three-year period starting in 2008 is mandatory to be re-accredited. Those judges who attended the 2008 Conference in Guatemala do not necessarily have to be in attendance in Ulsan, but they are welcome if they wish to participate. The "last chance" to be at a Conference within this reaccreditation period will be in Europe 2010.

What follows is a tentative agenda which includes the most important issues to be discussed:

- Judge Committee work and plans
- Sport Presentation
- Judge Structure - appendix 4
- Subjects arisen lately
- News on by-laws, interpretation - and from recent Congress
- Various judging procedures
- The new Judges Guide Book
- Archery for the disabled
- Commission Chairman responsibilities
- Case studies



A picture from the near past: the judges at the Beijing Olympic Games

## **6. Losing the highest score**

---

If you take a few minutes to read the rules you will notice that a statement saying that the "archer/team will lose the highest score..." is present in several rules and/or by-laws. Losing the highest score is a penalty applied to archers/teams which have shot an arrow out of time or shooting sequence, and not to archers/teams shooting more than the permissible number of arrows. We often hear judges around the world refer to "a rule" which states that an archer shooting 7 arrows will lose the highest score. This is a conceptual mistake. If you shoot 7 arrows, you only score six values: the six lowest ones. You do not penalize this archer or team with the loss of the highest score. He/she/they will simply score the lowest values (either three or six) for that end. There is only room for three or six values in the scorecard, so all you do is have the archers score the lowest values to fill out the scorecard.

A shooting-out-of-time situation will of course cause the archer/team to lose the highest score, which will mean deducting the highest score AFTER it has been written in the scorecard. The original highest score MUST be written in the scorecard. The judge WILL then draw a diagonal line across the square and write an M on other side. This is done to indicate that a penalty has been applied, and to allow for the possibility of the score being reinstated in case an appeal is lodged and Jury decides that due to circumstances that may probably concern the actual duration of the time allotted, the archer did not really shoot out of time.

In situations in which two mistakes are made by an archer: 1) Shooting 7 arrows, 2) Shooting one of them out of time, you will handle the problem in the following order:

1. You will enter the six lowest values
2. You will deduct the highest score (of the ones already entered in the scorecard).



---

## **7. Scoring in finals matches**

---

When finals matches are shot following an alternating sequence, and there are judges positioned behind blinds close to the targets, it is important that the Chairman of Judges should make his target judges aware that the procedure should go as follows:

- Once the judges, agents and scorers have walked to the targets, the judge calls - and if there is an arrow close to the line (not possible to an immediate call) , he invites the agents to decide. If there is a disagreement the judge will do the "arrow call procedure. If you are the chairman of a judge commission, discuss with your judges the procedure to follow, so that consistency is achieved in this regard if you need to change target judges from one match to another. At a recent major event, the same agent was appointed to act in two different matches with two different judges, and he was confused because the first judge called the arrows himself, and the second judge asked the agent to call them.
- A scorer is not always necessary anymore in World Championships and World Cup finals matches, because there are spotters positioned somewhere out of the blinds who actually entered the unofficial scores in the scoreboards. A target judge can now handle scoring himself, but he should bear in mind that if he writes scores from behind the blind, these scores are UNOFFICIAL. They only become official once actual scoring has taken place in front of the target.
- Confirmation of total scores is a now a key procedure which must be carried out by radio. The judge at the target will communicate with the spotter to advise him/her what the cumulative score is. This is vital in order for the spotter to clear the individual values of arrows in the scoreboard, indicating that the total score is now official.
- Make sure you ADD CORRECTLY. Correct addition is vital before you, as a target judge, confirm the total score to the spotter. A correct total displayed on the scoreboard does not only keep the spectators well informed on the partial result of the match, but has an implication on the order of shooting for the next end.
- If you enter an unofficial value from the blind, and you need to correct it once you are at the target, do not forget you need to follow the diagonal-line procedure here as well. At a recent important event, the judge overwrote a 9 on top of an 8; one end later the opposing agent questioned the score arguing that the value was an 8. This situation could have been avoided if the proper procedure had been followed.
- It is not necessary to score X's in final matches unless all the arrows have, from the first end on, been 10s. The number of X's is only needed here if the total score is 120 (individual) or 240 (team). Do not bother to correct 10s into Xs when you walk to the target if the score is not the maximum.

---

## **8. Mixed Team at World Cup Events**

---

A Mixed Team competition has been introduced in the 2009 World Cup season in order to develop and promote such a competition. A mixed team consists of one male and one female archer from the same country and same bow division. Therefore, there is a Recurve Mixed Team competition and a Compound Mixed Team competition.

Each country that will have at least one man and one woman in the same bow division will automatically have a mixed team. The best scores from the qualification round of one man and one woman from the same country and bow division will establish the score of the mixed team. The top four teams from qualifications will go to the elimination phase—semi-finals and medal matches.



The match format for the Mixed Team competition will be based on 16 arrows at 70 metres — four ends of four arrows (two per archer) with 80 seconds as the maximum time allowed per end. All other rules governing the traditional team event apply to the mixed team. At this point the team may decide whether the first archer to step on the line will shoot two arrows, or if the team wants to rotate after every single arrow.

The best four mixed teams will receive points for the Mixed Team Ranking (MTR). The top three World Cup scores—points—won by each country in the MTR will be added up to compile the final MTR. After the four World Cup Stages of the year, the best two teams—first country in recurve and compound MTR—will qualify for the World Cup Final. In addition to the individual competition held in Copenhagen (DEN) in September, the gold match of the Mixed Team competition will be organized. The qualifying countries in compound and recurve will compete against the teams of Denmark.



Recurve Mixed Teams at the World Cup in Santo Domingo: France, Poland, Italy and India



---

## **9. Replies to Case Studies 70**

---

### **70.1**

*During a FITA-round there were four archers: 1A – 1B – 1C – 1D, at each target, shooting in two details; AB – CD, CD – AB. On one target, at the start of day two – shooting at 50m – the C and D archers changed shooting positions; 1D standing left and 1C standing right.*

*When they moved to 30m and a four-center target set up, the announcer repeatedly told the archers to remember to shoot as follows: A top left, B top right, C bottom left and D bottom right. However, at target 1 the archers still kept their positions; D to the left and C to the right. However, in the first end, both archers shot at the bottom right face.*

*You as a judge are called to the target to take care of the scoring, as the archers now did not know how to score these arrows. What would you do?*

This case seems to have created confusion among judges (and we are not talking about those who have mixed up C and D and left and right – there are some....). The confusion may be understandable as the rules are not totally clear. If we look at art. 7.5.1.4 the positions are indicated clearly. However, art. 7.5.1.3 gives the possibility for archers to change their position by mutual agreement. The confusion comes from the fact that 7.5.1.3 is talking about four archers shooting simultaneously, but there has been a long tradition (and possibly also the intention) that archers in general have the possibility of changing positions upon mutual agreement.

The reason for it developed from the fact that right hand and left hand archers would avoid standing face to face on a narrow shooting line.

The fact is, however, that the two archers in question did change shooting positions, and thereby also the corresponding target face. The whole setup is for left archer to shoot to the left and the right archer to shoot to the right. In this context archer D shot on the wrong target, as she should have shot at C face (according to the shooting line position).

Some judges are referring to the directives given by the announcer (which may have confused the archers), but such announcements are always informal. More than once such announcements have been wrong or improper for the situation, and cannot be totally trusted. The responsibility is always with the archer.

Some judges are saying that the complete situation may lead to acceptance of the scores of both archers. However, this sounds more like a “jury-decision” – and would possibly end up by the Jury anyway.

Again we face a situation where archers should have asked the judge what to do, before shooting. Then the judge would give proper guidelines. When an arrow (or more) is shot, we may not be able to help....

### **70.2**

*In a team match, the archer of team A who should start shooting the end, had some technical problems and decided not to shoot and went back behind the one-meter line to give space for another archer of the team to start the end. However, in changing both archers stepped on the ground in the one-meter area and the judge gave a yellow card.*

*The archer moving forward then shot his arrow, though without further action from the judge. The coach of the other team immediately filed a protest as he was of the opinion that team A should have been given a red card.*



- a) *Is this protest valid?*  
b) *In the opinion of the judge, there was no red card situation since the team A did not get any extra time advantage as the first archer on the line did not shoot. What is your opinion?*

We would like to start by referring art. 7.5.2.3. "One athlete will occupy the shooting line, while the other two athletes remain behind the 1-meter line. No more than one athlete at a time will be in front of the 1-meter line".

An athlete moving forward to shoot has to wait until the area in front of the 1-meter line is free, otherwise a yellow card is given.

The rules are not giving any exception in case an archer does not shoot, the team has to manage such a possibility. The team has 2 minutes to shoot their arrows according to certain rules and cannot be allowed "more time" by wrong crossing.

Is the protest valid? Yes, because a protest here concerns a red card, not a yellow card situation – and a red card should have been given indicating the deduction of the highest score for that end. This is handled as an arrow shot out of time, as the time to shoot the arrow in question was only AFTER the archer came back behind the 1 meter line and returned to the shooting line.

## **10. New Case Studies 71**

---

### **71.1**

In a team event alternating shooting the clock counted down from 10 seconds, and when the audible start signal was given, at the same time the clock went black. The first archer of the starting team, however, shot his first arrow. This was not noticed by the DoS, who restarted the clock from 120 sec. The shooting went on alternating and the starting team finalized their 6th arrow only one second before the time ran out. The other team then filed a protest because the starting team got extra time due to the clock started several seconds too late and also because the archer started shooting before the clock started running.

Give your consideration to the case.

### **71.2**

In an individual match, when starting the second end, the results display showed that archer A had the lowest score, and the clock started for archer A. However, archer B started shooting as there had been a mistake in scoring and archer B actually had the lowest score. At this point archer A informed the line judge that the result display was wrong. What would you do as the Judge in this situation?

### **71.3**

Two archers are shooting a match. In the second six-arrow end, archer A shoots an arrow whose vanes are not the same color as the rest of the arrows shot in the same end. Archer A wins the match, but archer B's team captain appeals to jury arguing that archer A used illegal equipment. Jury decided to support archer B's appeal, and deducted the value of the arrow in question, as the judge had written down its score in his notebook. Do you agree with the decision made by jury?

***The deadline to send the replies (to FITA Office) is 10 June 2009***