

INTERPRETATIONS

WORLD ARCHERY CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Book 1, Chapter 2, Article 2.3.4

A question was raised by an Executive Board Member on a clarification of the alcohol testing rule and procedure.

The Constitution and Rules Committee (“C&R”) finds the question presented to be within its terms of reference. The following interpretation is not contrary to the existing rules or Congress decisions.

Response from the Constitution and Rules Committee:

A clarification has been asked on the consumption of alcohol during competition and when athletes can or cannot consume alcohol and can be checked.

Alcohol abuse is harmful to any athlete’s health. We refer to other organisations, like the World Health Organisation that are much better equipped to give a professional view point on health-related matters.

Furthermore, this clarification is only applicable to the periods of competitions. Also, there are national legislations which regulate the consumption of alcohol that will always supersede these matters.

A distinction has to be made between the rule for competing athletes where the **presence** of alcohol is a violation of the rules and the **abuse** of alcohol which is applicable for all accredited persons (coaches, judges, staff, etc.) which is banned under the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

The ban on alcohol is based on the same principles as other banned substances under the World Anti-Doping Code and is based on the strict liability principle, which means that when an athlete is tested, and the presence of a banned substance is found, he has violated the rules of World Archery and will be subject to penalties. The burden of proof is on the athlete, not on World Archery or the organisation that has mandated the test.

Therefore, the final decision to consume alcohol close to a competition (for instance the night before) is the choice of the athlete and he takes the risk associated with this.

As for the timing and location of a test, the following principles apply:

- Testing will only take place when the athletes are supposed to be present on the field of play during competition. Meaning testing can take place from the moment the field of play is open (arrival of the first bus) till the field of play is closed at days of competition. Testing for presence will not take place at the official practice.

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- When an athlete has finished competing and is not competing at another session that day, the time frame for being notified for testing ends with the end of that session plus 30 minutes.
- Testing will only take place with a notification on the field of play or the athletes' areas within the time frame mentioned above and the athlete has to report for testing as soon as possible and within a 1h period following notification. Any extension would be treated in a similar way as for doping control and the athlete will be observed during this period.
- Only athletes competing in a session that day can be checked that day. If an athlete acts as coach, he is still bound by the Code of Ethics and Conduct that also prohibits abuse of alcohol for anyone accredited but there is not presence but abuse that is checked for.

Some additional information:

- Testing will not take place at hotels
- The fact that someone consumed alcohol only the day before is NOT a valid excuse for presence the next day.
- It is good practice for all athletes to stop consuming alcohol latest upon arrival at the city where the competition takes places until they have been eliminated and in a spirit of fair play and team spirit to do this as long as any of their team mates is competing. The same applies for coaches and officials to lead by example.

Approved by the World Archery C&R Committee, 1 May 2019