



Judges Information Update May 2014

New Judge

Last month we enrolled a new Candidate judge who is a member of the Yorkshire Archery association. The Candidate is Gareth Allen, who is a member of Bronte Archers. As usual we wish Gareth a long and happy career in the NCAS judging fraternity.

April Newsletter

In last month's newsletter there was an article on Field Inspections, which I hope you all found useful and informative. Unfortunately there were a couple of judges who didn't quite understand the principle of the article and therefore I would like to clarify a few things.

The article was written to be pertinent to both AGB and WA rules, and since tournaments shot to WA rules are generally more demanding the article had to cover these. This means there were of course some items listed that would not necessarily be required if you attend an AGB tournament, depending on the status of the shoot, or like the overshoot and side safety zones would be measured in yards rather than metres. This is of course why, as stated in the "Preparation" section of the newsletter, judges should always look through the rule books before attending a tournament just to refresh their memories and/or check up on any details they are not sure about, or which are AGB or WA specific.

Continuing the theme of the last newsletter I have included an article below on Equipment inspections. As with the previous month this is intended to give you a good idea of what you are required to do, but it is not meant to replace the need for you to read your rule books, as the article will not cover every eventuality.

Equipment Inspection

Under AGB rules there is no formal equipment inspection required, unless you are doing a Field shoot, however you still have the right to inspect the archers equipment if you so desire, and as in WA tournaments you can re inspect equipment at any time or as many times as you wish during the tournament.

WA rounds require a formal equipment inspection which should be carried out before the tournament starts, and every archers equipment should be checked.

In order to do this it is vital that an up to date target list is provided by the TO. WA rules do not specifically require that the archer has to show all the items they might be using, but it is their responsibility to use legal equipment. It is traditional and efficient to hold the equipment inspection in the middle of the field in front of the judge's area. Archers can be called by target or as a whole.

It is very important to understand that WA equipment rules basically describe what is allowed to be used, consequently what is not mentioned is not allowed.

As Judges you will establish your own routines for inspecting equipment, but usually one judge ticking off names and the remainder inspecting the equipment is the most efficient system. Of course, you must be completely familiar with the rules governing each division and discipline (target, field, etc.) and any interpretations which may have been made regarding it, and it is always worthwhile reading through the rules the night before a tournament, especially if you are going to encounter multiple bow types.

It is the archer's responsibility to use equipment that complies with the rules. It is our duty to make sure that they comply.

Recurve bow

- Check the overall appearance of the bow, to take note of any differences in general structure. Hold the bow by the limbs in the area closest to the riser, with the string facing you.
- Never hold the bow by the grip. Your hands may be sweaty or greasy from sun oil etc. and the archer would not like traces of that on the bow grip.

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- Check the sight; remember the rule about sight pins, hoods, tubes etc. which limits the length to a maximum of 2cm. This limitation in size is to avoid using the sight to level the bow. Fibre optic pins are treated as a separate unit. The WA Technical Committee has made the following statement in this respect:
 - “Regarding the overall length of the sight, the fibre optic sight pin is considered to be a separate unit which may be a maximum of 2cm in a straight line. The housing supporting the fibre optic pin may also be a maximum of 2 cm in length. The housing and fibre optic sight pin are measured independently”.
- Check the arrow rest, plunger button and draw check indicator; never touch these items. We are mostly concerned about the distance from the pivot point (deepest part of the handle), a distance not to exceed four (4) cm, and that none of the items are electric or electronic.
- Check the string and its attachments; with focus on the possibility of finding additional sighting aids. Some archers do turn up with various items on the string, which are obviously not for sighting. However, additional items other than those described in the rule book are not accepted.
- Check the tab or glove; if you need to touch these items, be careful you have no sweat or grease on your fingers. There should be no need to touch the surface of the tab, as your attention should be drawn to the other layers of it.
- A number of bows have a brace on the riser. During practice if you see such a bow observe the archer to check that the brace is not consistently touching the archers forearm or wrist. This can be difficult to do so you will need to be able to watch from the proper angle.

Compound bow

To all intents and purposes the compound bow and its accessories are unlimited. With the following restrictions:

- In all classes, the peak draw weight must not exceed 60lbs.
- There must not be electronics on the bow, sight, arrow rest or release aid.
- The pressure point of the arrow rest must not be more than 6cm behind the pivot point of the bow (deepest part of the handle grip).
- When checking the drawing weight of a compound bow we use either spring scales or electronic scales. If possible you should use scales that have been calibrated either at the Judges National conference or by your local weights and measure. During the tournament you can do random spot checks on any or all of the bows.
- Generally most archers now bring a bow to inspection that is well under the limit to avoid problems. If one is checked that is within one pound of maximum, it is advisable to re-check it. Do not draw the bow yourself, but always have the archer draw his/her own bow. Check to see the archer is not twisting the scale when drawing, as this can lead to wrong indications on the scale. Unfortunately there have been occasions when spot checks during the competition have shown that compound bows have been above the weight allowed. Therefore it is importance that such spot checks are made, in order to prevent possible cheating.
- Without exception, all other equipment of compound archers, e.g.; arrows, etc., must conform to WA regulations.
- In the case of compound bows, the string/cables must not consistently touch the archer’s hand, wrist and/or bow arm and as with the Recurve bow it is worth checking this during practice.

Officially under WA rules the Bare Bow & Longbow Divisions are only for field or 3D archery, so for Target rounds you have to apply the AGB rules.

Barebow

Recurve Barebow is generally as described for Recurve with the following variations:

- The bow must not have a sight, draw check indicator or stabilizers.
- It must not have any protrusions, marks, blemishes or laminated pieces which could be of use in aiming.
- All weights, regardless of shape, must mount directly to the riser.
- The bowstring shall not have a lip or nose mark.
- The pressure point shall be placed no further than 2cm back (inside) from the throat of the handle (pivot point) of the bow

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Longbow

- Check the overall appearance of the bow and that it is made from either wood or Bamboo.
- Check the string and its attachments, a kisser button is allowed.
- Check that only one of the following is used by the archer as a sighting aid:
 - A mark on the bow limb.
 - A rubber band of no more than 1/8" in depth and thickness.
 - A ground marker of any design provided it does not exceed a height from the ground of 6 inches or a diameter of 3 inches or impede any other archer.
- Check the arrows are made of wood with feather fletching's, and either horn, self or applied nocks.
- Check the finger protection. Finger stalls or tips, gloves, shooting tab or tape (plaster) are allowed. A separator between the fingers and/or a platform tab may be used.
- On the bow hand an ordinary glove, mitten or similar item may be worn but shall not be attached to the grip.

Arrows

Check the arrows for initials which should be on the shafts NOT on the fletchings.

Check the diameter of the shafts, diameter 9.3 mm maximum, and the point diameter is a maximum of 9.4 mm.

Check the length of the arrow wrap, 22cm maximum length from the throat of the nock, but only if the addition of the wrap would make the shaft diameter greater than 9.3mm.

Clothing

- Check that footwear fully encloses the toes and front of the foot.
- Tops or shirts must cover the front and back of the body (including the midriff when at full draw), they must not be strapless and, for gentlemen, must include sleeves.
- Any colour garments may be worn except blue denim or camouflage pattern.
- Badges, Logos and Wording.
 - Clothing manufacturers' trademarks are allowed. The wearer's name is allowed.
 - Sponsors logos and names are allowed during the sponsorship period only.
 - Wording or badges on clothing must represent archery organisations.
- A member of Archery GB who has represented Great Britain (GBR) as an archer at an international tournament may wear their international shooting uniform for the remainder of that season and the following one.

Additionally all clothing should look neat and tidy, though this can be a matter of personal opinion, some archers are by nature quite scruffy, so what they consider as neat and tidy may not be the same as yours. If an archer does turn up dressed in the wrong clothing then ask them to change if possible. Usually archers will have waterproof clothing with them, and as a last resort you can ask them to wear this if they have nothing else to change into.

The above lists are not exhaustive, there are of course other bow divisions, especially at a field shoot, so as I have already mentioned in this newsletter you should look through the rules and check what is allowed for each bow type at the tournament you are attending.

Also remember if you come across anything you are unsure of, or have not seen before when doing an inspection, check with your fellow judges, and of course you can always refer back to the rules.

There will be no June newsletter as I will be away on holiday, but it will be back in July.