

INTERPRETATIONS

WORLD ARCHERY CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Book 3, Chapter 11, Article 11.3.2, 11.4 and 12.6

ARCHERY GB has requested an interpretation as to whether an athlete who has to wear hearing aids may use, together with their coach, the "Loop" system, as described below, which enables the athlete to hear coaching information from their coach.

The Constitution and Rules Committee ("C&R") finds the question presented to be within the terms of reference of the Technical Committee after consultation with the Medical Committee and the Athletes Committee.

C&R has determined that the following interpretation is not contrary to the existing rules or Congress decisions.

When wearing hearing aids, athletes can hear and be able to respond to shooting and emergency sound signals, however, they are unable to clearly determine or distinguish instructions/support from their coach which is delivered in a vocal level that does not disturb other athletes. This is because the hearing aid raises all noises level thus making distinguishing the right voice challenging. The "Loop" system (which is battery operated) enables the coach to speak in a normal voice into a microphone, and for the athlete to receive that information through the system which links to the hearing aids. The instructions from the coach cannot be heard by other athletes on the shooting line, and there is no ability for the athlete to communicate back to the coach. The system does not inhibit the athletes ability to hear and react to shooting/emergency signals.

Response from the Technical Committee:

It is the majority decision of the Technical Committee that the Loop System is not legal in any bow division of World Archery. Although there may be a disadvantage to some hearing impaired athletes in receiving verbal communications from behind the shooting line, the Loop System would offer a much greater advantage to those athletes using such a system over non-hearing impaired athletes. The Loop System has the ability to transfer information directly into the ear of the athlete, which is not legal for non-hearing impaired athletes. For this reason, the following rules must apply.

11.3. For athletes of both divisions the following equipment is not permitted:

11.3.1. Any electronic or electrical device that can be attached to the athlete's equipment.

11.3.2. Any electronic communication device, headsets or noise reduction devices in front of the waiting line provided that the use of software that simply allows the athlete to plot arrow impacts on the target as one would on printed paper used for the same purpose is permitted. No software that aids in bow sight adjustments may be used anywhere on the archery field (which includes any space either in front of or behind the shooting line up to the spectator area).

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12.6. While an athlete is on the shooting line he may receive non-electronic coaching information from the team management, provided that this does not disturb the other athletes.

World Archery Technical Committee, March 21, 2019
Approved by the World Archery C&R Committee, March 30, 2019