

Disabled Archery from a judges perspective.

Thank you for asking me to do this presentation, I hope you learn something more about Para/Disabled archery, I certainly did, whilst putting this presentation together.

**slide 2**

Disabled Archery, para Archery is a vast subject to cover in a short space of time, as it covers all the general rules of shooting and then add on the disability rules.

As this is a vast subject I will keep to just a few basics for now, but if you have any questions throughout, please stop me and ask and we will cover it.

As there have been an influx of archers with disabilities in recent years the rules have evolved to what they are today.

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Archery is a fully inclusive sport for all and this should be encouraged at all levels of our sport.

The rules that have been put in to place for disabled archery, whether it be Para or disabled archery are in place to make sure everyone can compete at an equal level, without any beneficial advantage over one another.

As judges we should not get overwhelmed by the task of following and enforcing the rules, we should be knowledgeable, calm, efficient and fundamentally fair.

If you are in any doubt or concerns allow the archer to participate with their dispensation in accordance with the rules, any issues can be resolved afterwards.

**slide 4**

AGB Rules

Rule 1100. Disabled archers should be in a position to participate and compete to the best of their ability. If disabled archers are unable to comply with the rules of shooting then they will be allowed dispensation from that rule and any reasonable adjustments necessary will be made. Any variations must be related to the needs and safety of the person concerned..

**Slide 5**

Club and non Record status tournaments.

Archery can self declare a disability and use any variation of the rules of shooting, provided it is safe to shoot.

Evidence of a disability should only be sought under exceptional circumstances.

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Record status tournaments

An archer can still self declare a disability, but for automatic dispensation, must be seen to make compliance with the rule Impractical.

Judges are not required to seek evidence from an archer of his/her disability, but do need to validate that an archer and equipment is in accordance with the rules.

**slide 7**

These are some examples of documentation that can demonstrate eligibility for dispensation.

A Local Council blue badge scheme, the rules on obtaining this is getting stricter, as there has been some system abuse using these badges in the past. This will not give you a reason for Disability but will tell you there is a low mobility issue, check the photo and ownership name and valid date

**slide 8**

These Archery GB dispensation cards were issued out three years ago and were obtainable in writing to AGB with medical evidence. They were credit card size and stated the dispensation given, these are no longer issued, which is a shame but are still currently valid.

**slide 9**

Most local councils offer assistance cards, this one is credit card sized and has been issued for sight impairment.

**slide 10**

You can accept NHS medical certificates such as this one for sight impairment, you could also accept doctors/consultants letters with a diagnosis. Anything that could indicate a need for the dispensation sought.

#### slide 11

British blind sport issue sight impairment certificates for their VI classification.

#### slide 12

This is a front page sample from the classifiers at BWAA, in SCAS we now only has one classifier now that Pauline Betteridge has retired, this will be used for non eligible archers and nationally classified archers, to obtain one of these you undergo a vigorous and thorough going over by a trained physiotherapist and classifier. anyone wishing to be put into contact with a classifier, please ask and I will forward on contact details.

#### slide 13

This is the back page of the same document and is where all your physical data is kept and what the disability is and how it effects the archer.

#### slide 14

This is a copy of a national certificate that could have been used as an international classification until 2013, these are still valid for RS shoots but not WRS at international level.

#### slide 15

This is the back page that shows the award points and the dispensation & Disability

#### slide 16

These are all good examples of eligibility evidence and there are many others. Drs letter, NHS consultants, PIP, DLA ESA etc

Look and see How does their disability effect their Archery ?

Are they shooting safely within the rules and as such any devices used suitable & practical.

In cases of doubt, dispute or complaint, the archer should be allowed to participate.

If you are a coach and work with archers with disabilities you get to see these classifications on a regular basis as judges we don't necessarily get to see them.

(Afterwards forward any concerns direct to AGB via the Record status paperwork).

#### slide 17

"Don't feel awkward to talk to the archer should the need arise to ask for dispensation evidence or to look at any adaptations to their equipment".

#### slide 18

If an archer, disabled or not is claiming a dispensation, but do not have the correct evidence with them.

- Under Archery GB rules: They should be allowed to participate in the tournament with their dispensation claim and then afterwards pass your concerns on to AGB for clarification and or investigation.
- At World Archery events at National level: They should be allowed to participate in the tournament, their score can be used in the competition, records, ranking lists, target awards (but could be subject to investigation and reversal if found not to be within the rules, they should also be allowed to participate in any H2H's .
- Under World Archery rules at International level: An archer MUST have a classification, if they want a dispensation.

(An our club, county, RS and WRS level we should be encouraging more participation in the sport, using the rules given to us to officiate at in a fair, knowledgeable manner)

#### Slide 19

When a disabled archer is progressing their archery and wish to shoot at higher levels they should get classified, if they require dispensation.

We have a classifier within SCAS, she is based with BWAA at Stoke Mandeville. (details can be passed on)

Eligible Classification injury types include: (must be a permanent disability)

Impaired muscle power, Impaired passive range of movement, Loss of limb or limb deficiency, Hypertonia, Hypertonia is a term sometimes used synonymously with spasticity and rigidity in the literature surrounding damage to the central nervous system, namely upper motor neuron lesions. Ataxia the loss of full control of bodily movements. and Visual Impairments

Non Eligible Classification injury types include: (must be a permanent disability)

Pain , Low Muscle tone, Hyper mobility of joints, Joint instability, (such as unstable shoulder joint or recurrent dislocation),

Impaired motor reflex functions, Impaired muscle endurance, Impaired cardiovascular or respiratory functions, Impaired metabolic functions, Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

## Slide 20

AGB & WA Classifications:

OPEN (formally ST (standing) and W2) Athletes may have impairment in the legs and use a wheelchair or have a balance impairment and shoot standing or resting on a stool. Open category athletes may shoot in recurve or compound competitions.

(Athletes using a stool must have feet on the ground, where as Wheelchair athletes must have feet on the chair).

- W1: W1 Athletes may have impairment in the legs and make use of a wheelchair. W1 athletes may shoot either a recurve or compound bow modified from standard rules, do not have separate competitions for the two disciplines (feet must be on chair)
- NE: Non Eligible (National level only)
- Visual Impaired Classifications:
- V1: This category encompasses no light perception in either eye to light perception, but inability to recognise shapes at any distance or in any direction
- V2 & V3: Both of these categories involve a low level of usable partial vision, those in this V3 category will be able to see more than those in the V2 category. V3 is the highest category used for International and Paralympic sport.

## slide 21

This is the current World Archery international classification, the rule book speaks of a card, these have not been issued as yet, they are still paper form, this would give you the classification, dispensation, photo and personal details

## slide 22

Page 2, shows all your classification award points and is clearer to read and understand.

Classification points if an explanation is needed:

The ROM (Range of Movement) is scored out of 5, with 5 meaning full or normal range. 0 means no movement, 3 for half range, 4 for three quarters etc.

There is no maximum score for classification, but the calculation is done on deficit points. I.E. If you score 4 points in one muscle group, that is one deficit point. I.E. One point less than maximum.

The classifiers manual details how many deficit points are needed for each category.

The strength assessment is also out of 5, 0 is nothing, 1 is a flicker but no movement, 2 is movement but not against gravity, 3 is movement against gravity but not resistance, 4 is movement against some resistance and 5 is normal.

Deficit points are calculated the same way.

**FUNCTIONAL REACH TEST (EXPLAIN)**

LES AUTRES is French for *the others*. Examples of disabilities covered by this category are dwarfism, multiple sclerosis, and congenital deformities of the limbs.

In the column under ROM there are big these numbers such as under shoulder: flexion 170, extension 40 etc. Those will be the number of degrees of movement considered normal, to help the assessor to determine whether the individual has full or half range etc.

If anyone would like a copy of the Classifiers handbook or the IPC Classification Model Rules for Para Sports, ask and i will email you a copy

#### slide 23

Here we have a world Archery Visually impaired classification, these have the archers photo on and all there awarded points to show their classification.

#### slide 24

World Archery rules.

Under WA rules an archer MUST have a classification if they want a dispensation.

If shooting a national event this needs to be a national classification, issued by a classifier from the Same country Or an international classification.

For international events this needs to be an international classification, which is issued by 2 classifiers from separatist nations from each other and the archer. This process is far more invasive and rigorous than a national classification and any para archer will have been through the same physio inspection.

There is also a classification for non eligible archers, this is where the archer does not meet the correct criteria and standard for international competition, this paperwork will indicate what dispensation is required to allow the archer to compete.

#### slide 25

Equipment inspections.

Mainly all General Shooting Equipment (bows & arrows) is the same for all archers except for W1 archers, including VI archers who are also W1 archers.

Classifications and dispensations are part of the archers equipment inspection.

W1 Archers: Peak draw weight of bow is under 45lbs, No peep sight or scope is allowed, No leveling device and Release aids are permitted

VI Archers: shooting with a visual sight, can modify it, including adding magnification. (45lb limit to all VI compound bows)

W1 Archers use a full 80cm 10 ring face for ranking rounds and H2H's whilst Open compound and match play ,the 6 ring 80cm face is to be used (only in Para specific events) because results are normally recorded by classifications.

#### slide 26

Wheelchair: a wheelchair of any type provided it has 4 wheel and conforms to the term wheelchair (anti roll devices are allowed, small wheels on the back)

The wheelchair chair should not exceed 125cm in length.

No part of the wheelchair should support the archers bow arm whilst shooting

The sides of the back support of the Chair may not be further forward than half the archers body on both sides.

The body support protruding forward from the main vertical frame of the chair, shall be no longer than 100mm and shall be at least 110mm below the archers armpit.

All parts of the chair shall be at least 110mm below the archers armpit whilst shooting at any distance. W1 sport class archers, if a medical reason is present and approved by the classifier and noted on the classification paperwork, this can be accepted.

#### **slide 27**

Picture

#### **slide 28**

Shooting stools or perching stools: any type of stool can be used as long as it conforms to the principle of the meaning of the work stool.

No part of the stool can support the bow arm whilst shooting

No part of the stool can be in contact with the archers trunk ( no back or sides on the stool for the archers to lean into)

The area of the stools framed legs and the archers feet must not exceed 60cmx80cm along the shooting line.

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Permitted body supports:

Only W1 archers are allowed to use both protrusions and strapping at the same time. They may use as much support strapping to maintain body stability as long as none of the support or strapping is giving support to the bow arm whilst shooting.

Other archers, only when their international classification cards allows, they may use a single strap, no wider than 5cm at any point and only the horizontal plane and wound only once around the torso, never diagonally. Some wheelchair archers may have leg strapping and only if authorised and noted on their int classification card.

Release aids, any release aid can be used and may be attached to the wrist, elbow or shoulder or even held in the mouth and may also be permanently attached to the string. No release aids may be used in the Recurve divisions, except mouth tabs.

#### **slide 30**

Head to Heads:

During H2H stages a VI archers don't move from their position on the shooting line.

At WRS shoots (non Para), Para archers should be treated as other archers and should move during the stages of H2H's, just give them plenty of time to re- locate.

At WRS Para events (such as the BWAA Champs and Disability Champs the archers have 30 seconds per arrow if taking part in individual alternating H2H.

Ties: If there is a W1 tie and both reshot a 10, then they re-shoot the tie again, whereas Open compound re-shoot if both shoot an X. This is easy to confuse as most W1's shoot compound and shoot at 50m, so it is easy to apply the wrong tie rule.

#### **slide 31**

Visually Impaired (VI)

A VI para archer is one with visual impairments. There are two divisions: VI 1 athletes wear a blind fold (Should be worn whilst before entering the tournament field of play).

VI 2/3 who do not wear blindfolds.

These para archers must be classified by an International Blind Sport Association (IBSA) Classifier nominated by the International Blind Sports Association for International Classification or BBS (British Blind Sports ) for National Classification.

These archers are tested for visual acuity only.

Visually impaired archers are allowed assistive devices such as blindfolds, tactile sights and an assistant or a coach.

#### slide 32

A VI archer using a tactile sight will shoot an extra end of sighting arrows at the initial distance, unless they opt not to.

For all rounds that have change of distance of the target, a vi archer-using a tactile sight will shoot-an end of sighting arrows at each distance change, unless they opt not to.

A VI archer using a tactile sight will shoot a complete end of 6 arrows before retiring from the shooting line.

Any adjustments of the tactile sight and foot locators by the archer or 3<sup>rd</sup> party can happen during sighting arrow ends and between shooting ends.

A VI archer is permitted a spotter, they are allowed to stand 1m behind the archer and give basic instructions to the lay of the arrows. G, bouncer, 12oclock score 5, but must not be a disturbance to other archers.A VI archer with a spotter, may only approach the target accompanied by their spotter.

A VI archer with a spotter May only approach he target accompanied by their spotter.

(There is no rule exception for this, VI Tactile sight archers who are occupying the shooting line, is there any need for them to alternate as everyone else does, we can see that it takes a VI archer longer than the given 10 seconds lead-in to get themselves into place and settled and ready, so why should we disadvantage them, by insisting they follow alternating details)

#### slide 33

Visually impaired equipment

Mainly these will be found to be on scope tripods and take on various forms, cut n shuts from recurve and Compound scopes, to allow fine tuning to rudimentary designs that are fit for purpose.

Under WA rules the sight (this is the tactile sight that has contact with the hand) should be no more than 2cm and a non WA compliant one would be around 4cm as shown .

At no point should the tactile sight be used as a resting device, you should find out how they draw to if and see if they are using it as a rest, there is nothing stopping you double checking periodically, to satisfy yourself

The sighting stand should not represent a hazard to others.

Once set up the sight can be left in the same position until the end of the tournament.

The tactile sight must be able to be adjustable by the archer or 3<sup>rd</sup> party without moving from the shooting line.

#### slide 34

Here are some diagrams that depict correct hand contact with the tactile sight and those that might cause for concern, ask the VI archer to demonstrate how they are using their tactile sight and as with standard equipment inspections, it is worth periodically discreetly checking whist the archer is shooting.

### slide 35

Here are some examples of foot locator pegs and tactile sights, these are ones are used, by a couple of our seasoned VI archers.

### slide 36

Foot locators, I understand that WA are reviewing these specifications to make them more clear,

The total width of the sight stand and foot locator should not be more that 80cm

The maximum depth of the functional part of the foot locator in contact with the archer shall not be more than 6cm

There should be a space of not more than 90cm between each tactile stand/locator. This is measured from the nearest point to each other on the shooting line.

### slide 37- slide 39

#### Pictures

### slide 40

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk about disabled Archery from a judges point of view, I hope you learned something new from this, I most certainly did.

As this is such a vast subject I have purposely left out some points, such as field layout, Lane spaces etc. Different issues, prosthetics, splints, leg blocks, bandages, different vi categories and their individual rules (blindfolds etc), VI is something I have coached, but mainly focused on Para, I have taken steps to be more involved in vi archer to have a better understanding from an archer, coach and Judge point of view.

I have just highlighted some of the main issues that you may encounter, but there are many more and as more people are taking up disabled Archery and para Archery, help The hero's etc the rules will change and evolve more frequently.

\*\*The main focus for this presentation, if you do not know the archer in question, your unsure, ask to see their dispensation and equipment, they will not mind, in fact most have found they will welcome it and will go through it with you\*\*

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If you have any concerns or further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Please contact either:

SCAS Disabilities Liason Officer: [disability@scasarchery.org.uk](mailto:disability@scasarchery.org.uk)

Or

Karen Hodgkiss at AGB. [karen.hodgkiss@archerygb.org](mailto:karen.hodgkiss@archerygb.org)

Thank you.