



SOUTHERN COUNTIES ARCHERY SOCIETY



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Dear Colleagues,

As some of you are aware we had a JLO Meeting with the National Committee at Lilleshall last weekend. Lots of important things were announced, so please read the below carefully

1) National Conferences

Following the cancellation of the National Conference this year the National Committee has decided to change the format of the National Conference. Going forward it will be a one day event – which will mean that it is no longer a necessity to stay away overnight. The Conference will also move around the Country each year, meaning that at least one will be close to you.

The Conference will continue to be held in February to early March. The proposed locations of Conferences are below, with the aim that all locations will be near public transport.

- 2017 WMAS - Lilleshall
- 2018 SCAS – in the Stevenage/Bedford/Milton Keynes area
- 2019 NCAS - Newcastle
- 2020 GWAS - Bristol
- 2021 EMAS - Nottingham
- 2022 WAA – Cardiff
- 2023 SAA - Edinburgh

2) Mandatory Equipment Inspection at Archery GB Record Status Tournaments

Just as a reminder the Operations Committee have issued a directive that there **will be an Equipment Inspection at all Record Status events with immediate effect.**

This can present problems, particularly Indoors where space is limited so try and do the compound bows at least before the start of the competition due to the space needed for the archers to draw back their bows so they can be weighed. Other bow styles can be done during the round, if needed.

One other suggestion to save time tracking down the archers is to get the archers to stand at their target number (on the shooting line) and work your way along the bosses – for example one Judge can start at Target 1, one at the other end and meet in the middle. It is also worth contacting the Organiser before the day to ask them to have an up to date Target list available when you arrive – whilst this might change during Booking In it will be probably be more up to date than the one the Organiser has sent out previously.

To help us, Martyn Gore came up with the idea of a quick aide-de-memoir of the important points of each bowstyle. It has been written just as a reminder, so don't be afraid to get the Rule Book out if anything really strange comes up so you can check the exact wording of the rules. The document is a word document so you can alter the formatting if you want or add your own notes, but if you have any difficulty opening it let me know and I will send it as a PDF.

If you are Chair of Judges you might also want to have a think about whether or not you need to increase the number of Judges at a tournament to accommodate the extra workload.

Don't forget that the archer is responsible for ensuring their equipment is legal and complies, therefore if you find that an archer is not complying and has to have their scores disqualified, that is their responsibility.

3) County Judge Assessments

Following the success of the Candidate Judge Seminar in January the National Committee have been looking at the County Judge Assessment process and the Candidate Judge Seminar.

Going forward at the end of the Candidate Judge Seminar there will be a formal test which will be the written part of the County Judge Assessment. There will still be an "on the field" practical exam at a suitable tournament. Hopefully this will ease the pressure on the Candidates and make the assessment process simpler.

The practical part cannot be done until you have fulfilled the number of shoots requirement (as outlined in the J10), but It does not matter which order the written or practical part are done in, but they will not qualify as a County Judge until they have passed both parts. So for example you can do the written part before you have done your required number of shoots, and then do the practical part when you are ready. Likewise you can do the practical parts after your required number of shoots, and then do the written part/Seminar when you can. The Candidate Judge Seminars will tend to be held at Lilleshall, with one being held at the end of January (which will also be the Youth Judge Seminar) and another being held around October. If there is the requirement other ones can held more locally.

For those Candidates who have already done a Seminar, don't worry you don't have to re-do the Seminar, your assessment will be done as we have done with previously, with your written and practical exam being done on the same day.

4) Regional Judge Assessments

Following the changes to the County Judge Assessment process the National Committee have also been looking at the Regional Judge Assessment process.

Starting in 2017 people going for Regional Judge Assessments will need to attend a one day seminar, which will tend to be held at Lilleshall in March/April time. If there is the requirement other ones can held more locally. The Seminar will teach them the extra skills needed to become a Regional Judge. At the end of the day there will be a formal test which will be the written part of the Regional Judge Assessment.

As with the County Assessment they will still need to do an “on the field” practical exam at a suitable tournament.

It does not matter what order you do the written and practical parts in, but it might be worth doing the Seminar/written paper early so you have time to put in to practice what you have learnt before your practical exam. You need to have done and passed both parts before you are a Regional Judge.

5) Judging Uniform

The National Judge Committee have finalised the design of the new trousers. Hopefully these will be available shortly, as will the ordering dates. As soon as I have more information I will let you know.

For those of you who have ordered the trousers, you should have been contacted by Kudos asking for your details so a refund could be processed. If you have not heard from Kudos then contact them directly by phone or email (I have contact details if you need them).

6) County Re-accreditation

As you are probably aware the County Re-accreditation is due in 2016. The paper should be available in October/November and you will have 4 weeks to complete it. As with the other re-accreditations it will be an open book exam and you will be able to ask other Judges and each other for help. When the date for the exam is released we will see if it is worth getting together as a Region to go through it. All County Judges will have to do the exam, regardless of when you qualified.

If you do not complete and return the exam you will automatically be downgraded.

If you do the exam and fail you will retain your grade and be able to re-do the paper in the following January, if you fail that (or fail to complete it) then you will be downgraded.

You must also have attended a National or Regional Conference in the last 4 years and done a minimum average of 6 judging days over the last 4 years, 2 of which must have been at a UK Record Status or higher tournament. Don't worry if you do not met these, as you will be able to apply for dispensation when the paper comes out.

Please do not worry about the re-accreditation, I am here to help you, as are the rest of the Committee.

7) Judge Grades at Shoots

The National Judge Committee has been looking at the “Minimum Standard For Judge in Charge”, as outlined in Appendix B of the Rules of Shooting.

Currently only a National Judge can be in charge at any World Record Status Tournament.

However it is felt with the fact that World Record Status World Archery events are more common, and with the similarity between World Archery and Archery GB Rounds, that there

should be a distinction between World Archery WRS Rounds with Head to Heads and World Archery WRS Rounds without Head to Heads (such as WA 18m Round, 1440 Round, 70/50m Round).

Very shortly the rules will be changed so that REGIONAL Judges can now be Chair of Judges are WRS events without a Head to Head. Only National Judges can be in Chair of Judges at WRS events with a Head to Head.

If you are a Regional Judge and are a little nervous about these changes – don't worry! Just because you are asked to be COJ does not mean you have to say yes, but hopefully this change will encourage some of you to do more World Archery Rounds and maybe work with a National Judge to learn more, until you feel confident enough to be COJ. And don't forget there is no reason why a Regional Judge can't be COJ with a National Judge or two on the team as a kind of safety blanket if you want.

I will let you know when these changes come into force.

8) First Aid at Tournaments

Archery GB has been looking at First Aid at tournaments in general. It is hoping to create a form for the Organiser to complete which will contain all the important details, such as full address of the venue in case you need to contact the emergency services, contact details of local doctors and dentists, location of the first aid kit, if there is a qualified first aider available, location of a defibrillator etc.

This form will then either be kept with the Judges, or the Judges will know where it is kept so we can direct people to it if needed.

9) Dangerous Draw techniques

There is always a lot of discussion about dangerous draw techniques. Just as a reminder the definition is

“When drawing back the string of the bow an archer shall not use any technique which, in the opinion of the judges, could, if accidentally loosed, allow the arrow to fly beyond a safety zone or safety arrangements (overshoot area, net, wall, etc). If an archer persists in using such a technique, he will, in the interest of safety, be immediately asked by the Judge to stop shooting and to leave the area.” Rule 102 (b)

This could be a variety of techniques, such as a “high draw” where the arrow is pointing up high, a “side draw” where the arrow is pointing to the side or a “low draw” where the arrow is pointing down (this one tends to only be an issue when it happens Indoors).

When assessing whether there is a dangerous draw there are many factors to take into account. Firstly where is the arrow pointing when there is enough weight on the string, if the arrow is pointing high above the targets but it is at the start of the draw then it is probably not an issue, as if the archer let go there is no power behind the arrow and it won't go far. Secondly the archer and bow involved, if the archer is a small junior with a light weight bow and the chances of an arrow going outside of the safety area is small, but if it is an adult with a powerful bow, then it is more likely. Thirdly the venue, if you are at a venue with a 200/250 yard overshoot and plenty of room to the side then the chances of an arrow going outside of the safety area is smaller, but if the venue has the overshoot as laid out in the Rules and no more, it is more likely.

There was an excellent piece in the 2014 Winter Archery UK explaining more details and

with some photos which can be useful when talking to archers. I have attached a copy. If you think someone has a dangerous draw then ALWAYS ALWAYS ask someone else's opinion, and try and look at it from different angles. Don't be afraid to record or photograph the archer (discreetly) so you can watch the shot in slow motion. This can also be useful if you do need to speak to the archer as you can show them what the issue is so they know what they have to work on.

If you think someone's draw is borderline or could be an issue at a different venue, then talk to the archer at the end of the tournament, explain the issue and explain why it was okay on that day but why it might be a problem somewhere else so the archer can go away and work on it.

If you decide their technique is dangerous then let them know straight away and ask them to change straight away. If they cannot change or refuse to then you have to ask them to leave – this is safety after all and once you have identified an issue you need to sort it out straight away. Make sure you keep notes in your note book and make a note in the Record Status booklet (if there is one).

There has been a lot of information in here, so if you have any questions or are unsure or worried about anything, then please just let me know.

Kind regards

Katy Lipscomb