



SOUTHERN COUNTIES ARCHERY SOCIETY



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Dear Colleagues,

Following the Archery GB Conference on 9th March please find some updates below.

In order for attendance to the online Conference to count towards re-accreditation or assessment for the next grade you need to have attended the online Conference and then attend a further 3 webinars which will be held throughout 2024. Details of the various webinars will be released in due course.

AGB Rule Update

There are some up coming AGB Rule Changes

Coaching on the line – AGB currently do not allow coaching on the line, however WA do. This is leading to confusion for archers, so AGB are going to amend their rule to come in line with WA. Coaching will be allowed on the line as long as it does not disturb anyone and the conversation can only be one way – the coach can talk to the archer, but the archer cannot talk back to them
Vegas 300 – there is anomaly in the rules on whether scoring zones 5 – 1 can be used when using a full size face, this is going to be cleared up

Crossbow – there are some amendments relating to face set up for crossbows and also some new rounds for them

Interpretations – World Archery currently issue interpretations to everyone. Archery GB tend to just send an interpretation to the person who requested it and it is not shared. They are looking at a system to allow the interpretations to be accessible by everyone. Archery GB will only be able to issue interpretations on Archery GB rules, where rules relate to World Archery Rules their interpretations will take precedence.

WA Rule Update

As per the attached presentation there was a brief reminder of the WA rule changes that came in during 2023 and a look at the Rules that have come into effect as at 15th January 2024. There is not a large amount as it is an Olympic year.

Field/3D Changes Update

World Archery – they issued some rule changes which took effect on 15th January 2024. They include

- Removal of the pool system as brackets for H2Hs, they are now run the same as Target H2Hs.
- Change in the number of arrows shot in 3D has now changed to 2 arrows
- Mobile phones are now allowed on Field/3D courses as long as they are only used for promotion of the sport and social media and medical device monitoring. This does not apply at World Ranking Events, World Champs and Continental Champs. If you suspect an archer of using their phone for anything else – for example ranging, checking notes or passing messages – then a Judge has the right to check the phone and if the archer has then they may be disqualified. At WA events in the UK archers will be able to use phones as per the new rules. Other items like smart watches, fitbits and other wearable technology are still not allowed as per the rules about communication devices.

Archery GB – various changes were put in the Winter Archery UK magazine for consultation. As long as there are no objections they should come into effect during the year (exact dates to be confirmed).

They include

- The bowstyles will be updated so Recurve, Compound, Barebow and WA Longbow will reference directly the WA rules, the rest are AGB bowstyles and remain in the AGB Rule Book
- Some changes in Pegs, the Red and Blue pegs are WA pegs and will remain as is. The White peg which was for Juniors will be renamed to Novice and a Yellow peg for Intermediates will be introduced. This has been done to encourage more people to try Field archery, without them having to worry about hitting the longer distances of the Red and Blue pegs. A new chart showing the new distances etc was published in AUK.

More details will come out when the rules are published.

Changes to the J10

The J10 has been revised to reflect some changes in situation and to make sure that Judges have sufficient experience before progressing through the grades.

Changes include –

- Previously it referred to the Judge Working Group and the Judge Training and Education Group. These are now one group so the wording has been changed to reflect this
- Changes to reflect that moving when from Candidate to County and County to Regional, Judges can now do the e-learning and attend webinars instead of attending an in-person Seminar. They can also now do the written paper at a date and time of their choosing.
- The requirements for the number of days completed before assessment as a County has been amended to reflect that attending Conference and Seminars are no longer classed as Judging Days
- Practical Assessments for County must be done at Outdoor events except in exceptional circumstances
- The requirements for Regional is now 18 tournaments, not 18 days. So two day events (or longer) only count as one tournament.
- Likewise the requirement for National is now 25 tournaments, not 25 days

- The Sabbatical system has been replaced with a more flexible approach, where depending on how long someone has not been an active Judge will depend on what they have to do in order to return to Judging. However this does not apply to Candidates.

The new J10 will be published shortly along with an effective date, but it is expected it will come into effect before the Outdoor season starts.

Regional Reaccreditation

The Working Group were pleased with the quality of the responses. Just a couple of notes for future re-accreditations.

- Make sure you answer the questions thoroughly. There was one question where it asked what the Judge should do and why, and a lot of people just answered with what the Judge should do.
- Also make sure you read the questions carefully. If the question is asking about the tolerance on the height of a 122cm face it is obviously talking about outdoors as 122cm faces are not used Indoors.

Myth Busters

Various "Myths" were reviewed to ensure Judges were using the correct information

- Archers are not able to wear leggings/yoga pants – any leg wear is allowed as long as it confirms with the clothing rules – so not ripped, camouflaged etc
- Arrows have to be numbered – arrows only need to be numbered for the Vegas Round. However they must have the archers name or initials on them so they can be identified. The name or initials must be on the shaft and not on the fletches. The exception is Longbow (Rule 206 d) where it says "There is no limit to the maximum shaft diameter. The pile shall not exceed the diameter of the shaft at the point of fitment. Shouldered piles, whilst not disallowed, should be avoided because of excess damage to targets. Arrows shall be properly marked, so that there shall be no difficulty in claiming them."
- Markings have to be painted on the ground – The Organiser can mark the field however they feel is appropriate, but just be careful of any trip hazards for the archers and warn them if needed
- Venues have to be measured with steel tapes – tapes do not need to be steel, any no stretch material is fine. Be careful about using range finders as a lot of them do not meet tolerances needed. There was some talk about whether range finders needed to be recalibrated, Archery GB are going to look into this.
- Arrows out of time are judged by when the arrow hits the target – arrows are assessed as being out of time based on when the archer releases the arrow. This is why if an archer is close to time the Judge needs to be in a position to see the release.
- Mobile phones are not allowed at the target – it is allowed for an archer to have their phones at the targets as many people use them to record / plot their arrows and help them with scoring. However they cannot use them for communication and should take part in the scoring
- Tournament Organisers can ban carbon arrows at Record Status Events – No they cannot. Carbon arrows are legal under the Rules of Shooting so archers must be allowed to use them at Record Status or World Record Status events. If an Organiser is found to be banning them then Archery GB will remove their Record Status

- The arrows values on target faces must be horizontal – no, the Organisers can put the target faces on in the best way for their targets. However they should be put on the same for the whole line/target type (so if the line is part straw and part foam they should be the same for the target type)
- Archers are not allowed camouflage equipment – in the UK archers are allowed camo archery equipment (including accessories) but they cannot have camo clothing, this includes headwear
- Compounds can only shoot the first 3 ends of a bye in a Head 2 Head – Compounds can shoot 5 ends of 3 arrows if they have a bye. Recurve/Barebow/Longbow can only shoot the first 3 sets of 3 arrows if they have a bye. A bye should simulate the shooting if the archer wins
- If an archer wins a shoot-off the score is 7-5 – If at the end of a match the archers have 5 – 5 set points, then they have a shoot off. The winner of the shoot off gets one point (not two), so the shoot-off score would be 6-5 or 5-6.

Judge Tournament Report

Archery GB are changing the Judge Tournament Report to make it more meaningful and more confidential and can also highlight general Judging training needs or trends in tournaments that need to be addressed. Unfortunately there are still a lot of Organisers who fill it out for the Judges or the Judges feel unable to put the truth on there. The new form is an online Google Form which is not seen by the Organiser unless the COJ wants to share it with them.

There are some new questions on the form, like making sure at WRS events there are two scoresheets, and there are some changes to existing questions to make them more meaningful. A copy of the Form can be printed off as a PDF so it can be filled in offline at the event, and then transferred to the online form later. Or it can be done online at the event with the other Judge's input.

Once the form is completed online a copy of the responses can be emailed to the COJ for their records if they want.

During 2024 they will be running the two systems in tandem to check the new system does what is needed.

If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me, Hannah or Richard.

Kind regards

Katy Lipscomb