

## Item 14.5 Judges Committee Congress Report

By Morten B. Wilmann, Chairman

Committee Members: Morten B. Wilmann, Sergio Font, Dion Buhagiar

### General Comments

During the past few years the “**art of judging**” has become more challenging, this primarily due to the fact that our sport has made a huge leap into the media world, especially with television, social media etc; this has made archery more visible to the public and inevitably added some stress to the judges. This in addition to the development of 3D archery which has shown significant growth, bringing yet more rule changes.

Regretfully, we have observed in the recent past, several individual judging mistakes. This contrasts greatly with the relatively stable period of a decade ago. The judges committee cannot but stress that **there is no room for mistakes**. Archers have become much more professional in their approach to this sport, and in doing so this requires that all judges also become more professional in their attitude toward judging. A fact that this committee has taken and is taking very seriously. In order to meet these challenges the Judges Committee is tackling this issue on several fronts, notably;

- (a) We need to ensure that the judges are completely focused, alert and knowledgeable of all the competition procedures/rules, at all stages of a competition. To achieve this the Judges committee issues regular Judges Newsletters, holds Judges Conferences, updates the Judges guidebook, prepares judging seminars and organizes tests. Accredited Judges will in future be required to demonstrate a strong working knowledge of the rules, and display practical interpretation and personal initiative.
- (b) We need to emphasize the need of having rules, interpretations and procedures that are applicable, for judges to handle on the competition field.

Since 2013, the Judges committee has successfully held two Judges conferences, one in Bangkok (2013) and another in Antalya (2014), two international Judge seminars (Thailand and USA) and in addition to these, we have successfully held an International Youth Judges seminar in UKR (2014).

We have also introduced a quick stress test, at the international judges' conferences and this has given us very useful feedback. The information gathered will be used to address areas where the application of the rules need strengthening and/or clarification.

We have also successfully concluded the Judges reaccreditation exam with **54** international Judges and **50** International Judge candidates being re-accredited for the period 2016 – 2019.

## The Way Forward

From a Judges' perspective it would be better if less changes in the rules were to occur, this would certainly usher a period of consolidation of our present rules, however the Judges Committee and all Judges appreciate that our sport has undergone considerable, necessary, change and we therefore understand the need for adapting to the "changes brought about by the World Archery Plan".

Archery is being televised on social media and television, with ever increasing air-time, as a result of this, the judges have become extremely visible, as they are now an integral part of the competition, bringing with it a greater need for the Judges to show that they have control of the field of play. In order to achieve this the judges must look and act professionally, and show initiative.

The continued education and formation of new judges will always remain two important factors of the Judges Committee work program. We feel that the present process need to undergo some change, we also feel that a better understanding of the Judging procedures may require a more practical approach to certain aspects of the competition, and this might be achieved by showing specific judging footage and/or practice on the field. Further emphasis will be given to quick tests, where the results obtained during such tests will form part of the overall assessment when considering re-accreditation.

And as always, judges selected for duty will have to demonstrate greater skills and professionalism.

In addition to educating our present Judges we also need to have some cooperation with our member and continental associations, in order to promote judging for younger people, both by finding talents and to give them practice in domestic and continental events. The Judges committee has shown the way forward by introducing the International Youth Judges scheme, we have held three successful seminars, and many of these young judges are now today following the mainstream Continental and International Judges routes. We are very pleased by having more than 20 new and promising youth judges at our disposal after a successful seminar in UK in 2014. **However, they need both trust, challenges and experience to make them future International Judges.**

Having said all of the above, we believe that there is much more work to be done.

I would like to thank my committee members for their dedicated work during this period of service.