

Item 14.7 Para Archery Committee Congress Report

By Carole A. Hicks, Chairwoman

Committee Members: Carole Hicks (Chairwoman), Dominique Ohlmann (deputy) Sheri Rhodes, Pippa Britton, Nancy Littke, Eric Bennett, Roman Suda.

The former Para Athletes representative, Pippa Britton was elected to the Para Committee at the 2017 Congress and Eric Bennett was appointed to replace her until the Para athletes' election to take place at the Para World Championships in June 2019.

The Classifiers Ad Hoc Committee under the expert leadership of Roman Suda, Head of Classification, with committee members Chiara Barbi, Nancy Littke and Lars Meiworm, has raised the quality of the international classifiers and from mid-2019 will make available a course and tutors for those Member Associations which wish to have well trained national classifiers.

The Para-Archery Committee maintains its good working relationship with the Medical and Sport Sciences Committee.

1. Continental activities

Members of the committee have portfolios through which they seek to promote and develop Para-Archery. The Continental Associations form one set of portfolios

AFRICA

During the 2 last years, attention was concentrated on the development of Para archery in Africa, with the efficient help of Khaled Sofiane LAMANDE, in charge of development in Africa.

Talking about Para archery in some countries in Africa has to first talk about Archery's development issues, a major problem being equipment cost. Then we've chosen the option to prepare the African coaches to add the knowledge about shooting for people with disabilities when they learn how to teach archery.

A first seminar was organized in 2018 combined with a coaches course.

The objective was to develop the coaches knowledge and skills of coaching beginners and adapting equipment for beginners to use.

The content, tools and courses were prepared and managed by Archery GB in cooperation with French Handisport Federation. This collaboration was the second one (first was in April in Serbia for World Archery Europe). The courses were delivered in three languages: Arabic, English, French.

Attendees included coaches (19 male and 6 female) from across Africa (Egypt, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Libya, Algeria, Guinea, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Tunisia, Morocco). The majority of attendees had completed the World Archery Level 1 Coaching Course the week before this event.

The success encourages World Archery Africa to organize another seminar in 2019.

AMERICAS

A Classification seminar was held in March in Cancun with participants from Turkey, Mexico, Brazil and USA. The following were accredited as International Classifier Candidates: Petra Rucco (BRA), Megan Tierney (USA), Cindy Poorman (USA) and Aynur Demirel (TUR).

Forty-seven Para athletes participated in the Pan American Championships.



USA Archery held a Para World Ranking Event (WRE) in September with 53 athletes from Singapore, Brazil, Canada, Puerto Rico and USA. In addition to Para classification, a Visually Impaired (VI) classification also was conducted. Four V.I. athletes were classified. We have arranged with the head classifier of the panel that worked this event to provide National/Provisional classification so we can encourage more V.I. participation. The second V.I. classifier was from Mexico and I am reaching out to her to see if she will also provide National/Provisional classifications.

Following the USA Para WRE, a Para Coach Seminar was conducted with 23 coaches and athletes from Brazil, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Mexico participating.

In general, more events in the Americas are also including Para categories.

ASIA

While Asia has many countries strong in archery, wealthy and with good coaching and development programmes, Para archery is not strong across the continent.

In conjunction with the Asian Paralympic Committee, courses are being run to train coaches of Para archery and national classifiers for countries with few resources. The Para Committee acknowledges the support of the Asian Paralympic Committee in the provision of funding for athletes' equipment, targets and other tournament equipment.

The Asian Para Championships were successfully held in Jakarta at the end of 2018. It was the largest Asian Para archery championship to date and included development support for a number of countries. As a consequence of its invitation and support at the tournament, Cambodia is now seeking membership of World Archery with a small association of mostly Para athletes.

Communication between the World Archery-Asia and its member associations needs some improvement if the various parts of this very large continent are able to work together. It is to be hoped that World Archery-Asia will seek membership and co-operation with the Asian Paralympic Committee.

EUROPE

A Para Coach training event was held in Serbia in April 2018. The event was successfully organised by Dimitrije Milović (Para-Archery Federation of Serbia) with support from World Archery Europe. Attendees included 14 coaches (10 male and 4 female) from across Europe (Czech Republic, Portugal, Sweden, Greece, Denmark) and 6 (male) Serbian para archers.

Europe has established a two leg "grand prix" for Para archery and also included an Indoor competition.

The European Archery Championships was held in Pilsen and was a very successful event with good feedback from archers and coaches alike. At this event a meeting was held with both VI archers and coaches (non VI as well). Discussion took place around barriers to participation and an agreement was made that I would construct a survey to examine this further.

The survey was sent to between 160 and 200 people and was open for 3 months. Response rate was just under 20%. Whilst this sounds low, some evidence suggests that in the case of coaches (and possibly some archers) there may have been one person completing it on behalf of several others. The final results of the survey were shared with the VI community as well as the Para archery Committee and can help guide future decisions around this area of our sport.



OCEANIA

Archery is not a well-supported sport in Oceania and Para archery is practically non-existent. A small number of Para archers including several archers with Visual Impairment compete in Australia but there are very few elsewhere.

There are no international archery classifiers in Oceania which delays the classification of newer archers who have to travel to tournaments some thousands of kilometres away. Other Para sports like track and field athletics and swimming are well supported and have a number of world ranked athletes.

CLASSIFICATION

World Archery has continued to tighten and clarify the criteria and processes for classification to ensure it remains within the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) classification guidelines and procedures. The Classifiers Handbook has been updated and is available on the World Archery web site as are the forms for athletes seeking an international classification. It is important that the classification and medical information forms are properly completed and emailed to World Archery at least 30 days before the tournament at which the requested classification will take place. In 2019 there will be a course to train national classifiers in Dubai where seven countries with few resources have been invited to send up to two prospective classifiers.

The ongoing upskilling and education of international classifiers and international classifier candidates continues with regular newsletters including case studies which are later marked and discussed.

NEW RULES

The Para Committee has worked with the Executive Board to tidy up some of the rules applying to Para archery. This includes ensuring the W1 round is correctly named and described. The still very small number of VI athletes is a concern. As a consequence a new bylaw permits there to be only one division if there are insufficient entrants for both the current divisions to proceed. Regardless of their classification all VI athletes in the single division will wear a blindfold. If the divisions are combined, countries are entitled to enter up to six (6) athletes in the competition.

RESEARCH

World Archery sought funding from the AGITOS Foundation, a part of the International Paralympic movement. This was a joint proposal between World Archery and a leading German university to seek greater information about the effects and importance of balance in archery and particularly Para archery. Regretfully the bid was unsuccessful but further applications will be considered in 2019.

CONCLUSION

There are areas of good progress in Para archery and the Para Committee is grateful to our Member Associations that are encouraging persons with disabilities to take up archery, assist them with coaching and support to enter competitions. We hope that the workshop during Congress will help those who have little knowledge learn what a difference Para archery can make to the lives of the athletes, their families and indeed the whole community.

For the Para Archery Committee