

INTERPRETATIONS

WORLD ARCHERY CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Book 3, Chapter 13, Article 13.9, Chapter 15, Article 15.4.3, Chapter 21, Articles 21.5.3, 21.11.3, 21.11.4.

Three questions were raised by the Dutch Archery Association:

- 1. Given Article 21.5.3, is it acceptable to deny entrance to a para-athlete without valid classification if the organizer (e.g., of a national championship) can fill all seats available with able-bodied athletes and para-athletes with valid classifications?*
- 2. Given Article 21.11.3, can para-athletes claim a minimum space of 1.25m on the shooting line at non Para-Archery event?*
- 3. Articles 13.9 and 15.4.3 state that athletes with a classified disability may be on the shooting line. Should this be interpreted as a favour, or as something they are entitled to (all the time)?*

The Constitution and Rules Committee finds the question presented to be within terms of reference of the Para-Archery Committee. The Constitution and Rules Committee has determined that the following Interpretation of the Para-Archery Committee is not contrary to the existing rules or Congress decisions.

Response from the Para-Archery Committee:

Response 1 - The event appears to be one in which there are opportunities to compete for Para and non-Para athletes. The issue is not one about “denying” entrance, but rather in which division the athlete may compete. Indeed, if an athlete has a valid classification card (either international or domestic depending on the level of tournament) then the person has the right to compete in the Para-Archery section of the event. If there is no valid classification card, then the athlete is entitled to take part in the able bodied divisions. Additionally, under Article 1.4.2.3, the organizers may not discriminate against any athlete or class of athletes in determining who may participate, whether able bodied or otherwise. The determination of who is entitled to participate must apply to all athletes in a non-discriminatory manner such as based on time of application, rankings, score level or otherwise.

Response 2 – Article 21.11 refers to Para-Archery events only, otherwise the standard amount of space is the rule which applies. However, most local organizing committees, when having wheelchair athletes, are prepared (but this remains discretionary) to have only two athletes, one wheelchair and one other athlete on a target.

Response 3 - This is not a “favour” and the term “may” is to be interpreted as an entitlement for the athlete i.e., it gives the athlete the option of staying on the line or not, according to their personal preference. Some Para-Archery athletes do leave the line, especially if the weather is particularly hot or cold/wet. However, most elect to remain on the line for the entire shoot/round, as is their right. Please note that Book 3, Article 13.2.2, states that wheelchair athletes can stay on the line for the entire match and Book 3, Article 21.11.3, provides that wheelchair or other seated athletes may stay on the shooting line at all times.

World Archery Para-Archery Committee, January 15, 2018

Approved by the World Archery C&R Committee, January 15, 2018