

INTERPRETATIONS
WORLD ARCHERY CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Book 3, Chapter 11, Articles 11.4 and Book 4, Chapter 22, Article 22.3

USA Archery has requested an interpretation whether a the thumb pad activated release trigger developed to act as a subconscious trigger to release the arrow during the expansion phase of an archery shot is legal in the Barebow Division. According the interpretation request: "It is a small and unobtrusive piece of spring steel wrapped under a vinyl covering that is carefully placed on the bow grip where it contacts the hand and thumb pad. It serves to activate a subconscious release while increasing pressure on the bow string. When positioned and used properly, a small increase in pressure on the grip during expansion causes a crisp, tangible movement of the device, which is used through training to trigger the subconscious release."

The Constitution and Rules Committee ("C&R") finds the question presented to be within the terms of reference of the Technical Committee.

C&R has determined that the following interpretation is not contrary to the existing rules or Congress decisions.

Response from the Technical Committee:

It is the majority decision of the Technical Committee that the device shown in the photos below and described in the interpretation request from USA Archery is not legal in the Barebow Division. Under rule 11.4.4. and 22.3.4, no draw check device may be used.

Although the argument in the interpretation request differentiates between a "draw check" and a "subconscious trigger device", the two have always been determined under the spirit of the rule as being the same thing. When the rule regarding draw checks was written, the device used in this rule determination was the commonly known "Clicker". A standard clicker is both a draw check and a subconscious trigger device. It is well understood that the main advantage of a "clicker" is as a subconscious trigger device, not as a draw check. The common clicker was the only device at the time and was called a draw check, even though any experienced recurve archer knew the advantage of the device was that of the subconscious trigger action. What it was called in the rules and what it provided the archer was a dual purpose device, with both aspects of the device being legal in the Recurve Division, and illegal in the Barebow Division. In the Barebow Division, it was specifically disallowed because this division is to be one of having far less "additional aids".

Additionally, there has been significant precedent set by the Technical Committee over many years in disallowing many similar devices, all geared toward limiting "subconscious trigger devices" for the Barebow Division of World Archery.

World Archery Technical Committee, July 18, 2020
Approved by the World Archery C&R Committee July 21, 2020

