



Judging FAQs

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1. How to become a USA Archery judge:

Here is a link to the USA Archery Judge program information: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Archery/Events/Judges> Judges are teachers and helpers to the archer and the sport.

2. Where do I find the tournament rules?

- Here is the tournament rules link: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Archery/Events/Rules> USA Archery primarily follows World Archery rules. USA Archery has national "Flight" and national tradition bow rules.
- World Archery rules are updated periodically via bylaws and interpretations. <http://www.worldarchery.org/HOME/Rules/Constitution-Rules>

3. What is the USA Archery dress code? When does it apply?

- Here is the dress code link <http://www.teamusa.org/Home/USA%20Archery/Resources/Forms%20and%20Policies>
- The dress code applies to all USA Archery national events including USAT qualifiers, National Team Trials and National Championships. State and local tournaments have the option of requiring the USA Archery dress code.

4. What are the competition age classes?

A competition category is based on division and class. Divisions are based on bow types. Class is based on gender and year of birth.

Internationally and national age classes are:

- Cadet: Eligible up to and including the year of the archer's 17th birthday and younger
- Junior: Eligible up to and including the year of the archer's 20th birthday and younger
- Adult, also known as senior: Any age,
- Master: year of the archer's 50th birthday and older.

Nationally, USA Junior Olympic Archery Development adds two youth age classes:

- Bowman: up to and including the year of the archers 12th birthday and younger
- Cub: up to and including the year of the archers 14th birthday and younger.

Nationally, there may also be Master 60+, 70+ and so on.

5. Basic tournament rules and procedures summary:

Here is a link to a summary of ranking round tournament rules and procedures.

http://www.azjoad.com/main/forms/USAA-AZ_Tournament_Rules_and_Procedures_Summary-March-04-2013.pdf

6. Team round rules and procedures summary:

Here is a link to a summary of team round tournament rules and procedures:

http://www.azjoad.com/main/forms/2014_Team-Rounds-Instruction-and-Information-April.pdf

7. What is the USA Archery judges uniform:

Uniforms allow for quick and easy identification. Judge should dress professionally; shirt tails tucked in; long pants and athletic shoes. Avoid logos or advertising of archer, team or club preference. The current USA Archery judge uniform is a red uniform shirt and Khaki pants. Tournament may issue event specific judges shirts and uniforms. DOS often wears a different uniform.



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8. What immediate advice is there for a new judge who can't attend the seminar?

- Safety first.
- Read the WA rules book, bylaws, interpretation and WA judge guide book, found on the WA website under "Rules" and "Judge" links.
- Officiate with an experienced judge including learning how to call an arrow value with a magnifying glass from two sides of the arrow at the target face.
- Never "reshoot" an arrow (exception 3M line dropped arrow, target blows or falls away)
- For JOAD competitions review the USA Archery JOAD handbook for Bowman and Cub distances and target faces size and scoring. JOAD handbook link:
http://www.teamusa.org/~media/USA_Archery/Documents/ARY_2013_JOAD%20Handbook%20Edits%20for%20Scoring%20Matrix%20May%201.pdf

9. What equipment must a judge have?

In addition to the judge uniform professional appearance, each judge should have the following:

- Magnifying glass to determine arrow values.
- Red pen to make score card marks and judge initials.
- Yellow card for team rounds.
- Vernier calipers (or dividers) for closest the middle measuring during match play.
- "Access" to the WA Rule books, bylaws, interpretations and WA judges guidebook.
- A piece of paper to write note is nice to have.

The tourney or the judge team will need other tools such as bow scale, arrow and point measuring micrometer, equipment inspection measuring ruler, measuring tape for range and targets and target faces measuring. Arrow marking pens, whistle and binoculars can be helpful, however they are not essential for each judge to have. Tournaments may or may not provide two way radios for the judges.

10. What makes for a good judge?

The World Archery Judge Guidebook includes an introduction excerpt by Mr. Don Lovo, pages 2- 3:
http://www.worldarchery.org/UserFiles/Document/FITA%20website/07%20Publications/02_Downloads/Judges_Guidebook-e.pdf

There are many attributes of a good judge including:

- Consistency: So that the archers are treated the same regards of which judge is officiating
- Attitude: Ability to be friendly and helpful to the archers and at the same time insure fairness.
- Conscientious: Stays up to date on rules, bylaws, interpretation and procedures.

Hints:

- Prompt: Judges are expected ready ahead of schedule (Judges are should arrive 15 minutes earlier than scheduled. Never be the last judge to arrive.)
- Helpful: Judges are not field crew, however, when judge can help and do so willingly and without delay so long as helping does not hinder the primary focus of judging.
- Team work: Judges should help each other and look out for each other. If one judge has trouble, we all have trouble. When a judge succeeds it's a judge team success.

11. What is the Chair of Judges?

The Chair of Judges(COJ) is the main point of contact for the judge team. If there is only one judge they are automatically the Chair of judges. Always have a designated Chair of judges well before the tourney. The Chair of judges works with the Tourney director or for large tourneys, the Technical delegate and Local organizing committee.

12. What is a Deputy Chair of Judges?

Chair of Judges may assign deputy chairs to act on behalf of the chair when unavailable. The Chair and Deputy work as a team. Deputies often assist with making judge duty assignments and/or act as a liaison between the judge and the Local organizing committee and tourney director.



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13. What should I do if selected as a tourney judge:

You and the Chair of Judges should exchange the following information:

- Arrival and departure date and time.
 - Food: What will be provided and what is the responsibility of the judge.
 - Transportation: By the judge or otherwise.
 - Lodging: By the judge or otherwise.
 - Compensation.
 - Schedule and format.
 - Anticipated duty assignment (Chair, Deputy, DOS, alternate, other).
 - Range and equipment inspection: Judges to arrive early to inspect the range and equipment.
- Be sure to refresh rules and procedures knowledge and understanding.

14. What should be done before a tourney?

The Chair of Judges should communicate with the judge team, director of shooting and tournament director to verify that all is prepared to execute the tourney including:

- Score card have the proper information including tie breaking information, archers information and signature areas.
- Range will be rules compliant.
- Correct target faces in sufficient quantity and licensed.
- WA Star registration, USA Archery sanctioning or other.
- DOS location, timing system and PA system information. Coordinate with the DOS.
- Emergency equipment.
- Two way communications (radios).
- Schedule practicality.
- Rules compliant format.
- Results documentation system.

If this doesn't happen well in advance, ask.

15. What should be done during a tourney?

- Meet at the start of the day to review the day's activities and refresh rules and procedures.
- Be attentive.
- Watch out for and help your fellow judge.
- When off duty, check if your fellow judge, needs a break water or a snack.
- COJ to collect judge duty payment form information and signatures.
- COJ to look ahead to the next day's needs.
- Help the archers and tourney to be fair, efficient and effective.
- Confirm the next day schedule and uniform requirements.

16. What should be done after a tourney?

Several items are primarily the responsibility of the Chair of judges and the tourney.

- Confirm that the tourney will verify the results and publish.
- Confirm that the tourney will check and submit for applicable local, state, national and international records.
- Report to the tourney including recognition for a job well done and suggestions for improvement.
- Submit USAA judge and DOS assessment report, online form.
- Submit judges' payment form to appropriate entity.



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17. Who is in charge? Tournament Director? Director of Shooting? Chair of Judges?

Responsibility is shared. The DOS is in charge of timing and shooting conduct in consultation with the Tournament Director for schedule. The Tournament Director is in charge of format in consultation with the COJ for rules compliance. The COJ is in charge of rules compliance in consultation with the DOS with regard to shooting conduct. Decisions are made by group consensus to avoid conflict.

18. Can a tournament judge be on the Jury of Appeals?

YES! It is best to have jurors who know the intent of rules. It is an inappropriate assignment for persons with little or no rules knowledge. Common sense dictates that only judges who are not involved with the appeal take part as a juror.

19. What do I do if I see a fellow judge make a mistake?

Judges are human so mistakes can happen! First know that it is more important to be correct than quick. Most mistakes can be fixed. First calmly consult with the judge in question, involve the COJ as soon as practical. Avoid disturbing the archers so as not to hinder their performance or confidence in the judge team. Come to a consensus and then make the correction to the extent possible. Inform the overall judges commission when the judges meet to teach and learn.

20. What is the best way to learn and improve as a judge?

There are several key efforts:

- Keep current with the rules, bylaws, interpretation and WA judge newsletters and judge case studies by visiting the WA judge webpages monthly or more.
- Judge with more experienced judges, listen, observe, ask questions.
- Take judge seminars: USAA sanctioned first then Continental and International when available.
- Serve as DOS, COJ and juror.
- Learn what is important to archers, coaches and tournament staff.
- Officiate team rounds, work finals matches as a line judge and finals matches as target and scoring judge.
- Arrive early, help your fellow judge.
- Conduct yourself as instructed to the international standard of judging.

21. Why are the WA rules so rigorous? The rules hinder our ability to conduct an event.

The rule books address World Archery Championship level competitions. As a result, strict compliance to certain items are not practical or required for small or local events. When challenges arise in planning and execution, review a rules practicality and intent and take the appropriate action. The key is to conduct a fair, efficient and meaningful event.

22. What are some common judging mistakes?

- Being unprepared, having sloppy uniform, lacking judging tools and having poor rules knowledge.
- Having a punitive attitude with regards to the archers, instead, judges should have a helping attitude.
- Making up the rules, it is best to be sure of a rule, intent or procedures, avoid guessing.
- Acting when there "may" or "may not" have been a rules mistake. Instead judges should act only if the judge is confident that there was a mistake and action is needed.
- Acting on the strict written rules. Instead a judge should act based on the intent of the rules to provide fairness and effectiveness.
- Not understanding indoor JOAD Cub and Bowman target face size and scoring and scoring the inner 10 for compound indoors.
- Arriving late, being on time per the schedule is 15 minutes late for a judge.



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- Thinking you judge an arrow better than others, instead of calling an arrow per the instructed international standard so that all archers are treated the same for fairness. This also applies to team rounds, yellow card arrows in quiver and crossing the one meter line process.
- Disallowing equipment that meets the intent of the rules.
- Making things worse by being excitable and unsure. It is much more helpful to be calm and confident.
- Becoming dehydrated, hungry and sun burned, resulting in less than best judgment.
- Lack of communication, speak up.

23. What are some common archer's mistakes?

- High draw that can result in dangerous arrow overflight or range damage.
- Oversized arrows; Sometimes the archer can borrow some compliant arrows, or the tournament can let the archer know he can shoot, however the scores are un official.
- Battery light on a scope. Have the battery removed.
- Not standing over the middle of the archers position mark on the shooting line.
- Sideways swinging of the bow by an archer hindering a neighboring archer.
- Not understanding Indoor JOAD Cub and Bowman target face size and scoring and scoring the inner 10 for compound indoors.
- Forgetting to check and sign the scorecard.
- Pulling arrows before the score card values are accepted by the archers.
- Scoring on the wrong score card.
- Failure to mark the arrow holes.

24. May I call an arrow value on a target with archers from my home club or similar familiarity?

Yes you may, however avoid doing so as to avoid any impression of favoritism and unfairness. A protest would delay the tournament more than waiting for help from a neighboring judge.

25. May a judge become involved to help avoid a written protest?

YES, Listening to concerns and being willing to help is often all that is needed. Misunderstanding rules that can be quickly corrected. Avoiding a protest helps all the other archers avoid a lengthy delay.

26. What is the fee to submit an appeal?

Tournament can choose not charge or set a fee. As of 2014, the WA appeals fee is \$50 USD cash that is returned if the appeal is successful. It is best to publish the fee and policy well in advance of the competition.

27. Must an appeal be on an official appeals form?

No, but it is helpful if it is on the form.

28. What is the DOS? What is the best way to learn to DOS?

"Director of Shooting" controls the shooting sequence, timing and range safety.

- Become a knowledgeable judge then volunteer to shadow a DOS as an assistant DOS.
- Learn how the timing system and PA operate.
- Learn how to manage equipment failures, pass thru, bounce outs, left arrows and arrows hitting the wrong target.

29. Can the DOS and the COJ be the same person?

Yes. For small and simple Tournament formats, a judge can be both. However it is best when the DOS can COJ can focus on their respective tasks depending on event size and complexity.



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30. How are multi spot indoor shooting mistakes scored?

- First, deal with too many arrows in each multi face target spot.
- Second, score the allowable number of the lowest value arrows.
- Third, deduct the highest arrow on the score card for an arrow shot out of time.

Here is an example diagram:

<http://www.azjoad.com/main/forms/3Spot%20Scoring%20Guidelines.pdf>

31. The Tournament applies a “rule” or “procedure” that is not in the rule book. Should they be corrected?

Local and state communities often “add” local procedure policies. An example from National Archery in the Schools Program, arrow many not be nocked until the signal to shoot is given. NASP archers and coaches bring the procedure to USAA. This is acceptable if all are informed that the procedure is not required by USA Archery or World Archery. Local tournament may publish extra ordinary policies to address local circumstances. However, shooting 17 meters for an 18 meter world record is not acceptable.

32. I have more questions? Please Contact:

USA Archery Arizona judge coordinator: **Bob Pian** azjoad@cox.net

USA Archery judge program coordinator: **Sheri Rhodes** srhodes@usarchery.org

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