005. Challenge Shoots

A discussion paper for Archery Australia.

Overview

In Victoria we have renamed the handicapped shoots into Challenge Shoots primarily to get away from the term handicapped.

Archery Victoria first introduced the Challenge Shoot in 2010 in an effort to gently break archers into competition by offering shorter rounds than their regular category may offer.

An example of this may be a 19-year-old male who shoots a recurve bow. If he wishes to shoot a FITA 1440 at his club's state-wide tournament (not the State Championships) he would have to shoot the FITA 90m. By offering a challenge shoot within that tournament he can choose from a FITA 60m, an Intermediate round or the Horsham round.

For a new archer with a light-weight bow this is a great opportunity to shoot next to (and be mentored by) the experienced archers but at distances that they can handle.

The Proposal

• That Archery Australia adopt the term Challenge Shoots to describe handicapped events.

• That Archery Australia encourage the SSAs to incorporate these shoots into their regular tournaments.

The Detail

The major premise to accept is that not everyone wants to be a high-end competition archer, nor does everyone have the skill, fitness, agility, mobility or strength to be a high-end competitive archer.

The next question is; "What is a competition?"

There are certain people on the Board of Archery Victoria that believe all members should be competition archers and if they are not good enough then they should leave the sport. Surely when one person is shooting with/against another archer there is already a level of competition.

To be a governing body in a sport means you should provide for all skill levels. The Mission Statement, Vision and Values of Archery Victoria certainly states that but getting certain Board Members to understand and accept it is a different matter.

Golf NSW recently advertised for a CEO. They are offering $150K to manage a $9.5M turnover coming from 160 clubs and a total of 140,000 members. We are sure most people understand that 95% of that membership are social players that use a handicap.

Why isn't Archery Australia using this membership model?

The Rating/Handicap System
Archery Australia has had a handicap system for over 50 years but don't use it effectively. What we would like to see is new archers being introduced to the Ratings System from day one, just like they are in golf.

To do that we need to make some changes to how the tables work, how the system is communicated to the archers and how we can make it easier for the club recorders to manage the system.

Rating Badges
This is a proposal to get archers to understand and converse about their current rating. From day one the objective is to get new archers to understand their long-term goal is to strive to **decrease** their rating.

This is a big change from what we already have. In discussions in Brisbane 2009 most SSAs accepted the Ratings System, with its only apparent flaw in that it goes backwards. This is apparent when you compare it to Golf. Since Golf is worldwide, and easily understood, then why should we reinvent the systems and the terminologies to create a different version. Our suggestion is to keep the Ratings Tables but to make three major changes.

- Condense the table. Reduce the table from the current scale of 10 to 125 to the proposed scale of 100 to 0. A reduction of 15.

- Reverse the table. That the table start at 100 (lower level) and finish at 0 (upper level) which may also be called scratch.

- Remove the classification system.

Badges
Ratings Badges shall be available along the lines of how the current classification system works.

Shoot 3 events and achieve the desired rating and you can purchase a badge.

We suggest the following as a discussion point.

Rating	Badge Colour	FITA 900 Score (based on a male recurve for this example)
70	white	540
60	black	634
50	blue	709
40	red	764
30	yellow	808
20	bronze	842
10	silver	866
0	gold	884

When an archer reaches a rating of 70, they may purchase a black ratings badge.

The Classification System

When we look at the classification system it starts with 3rd class but the public's perception will then be that 1st class will be the highest honour but of course we have MB and GMB above that. We could start at 5th class but from a social point of view we also believe the term "class" can be derogatory. It would appear 5 levels are not enough because (as memory serves) there was a motion in late 2007 to introduce the Elite class.

We recommend the removal of the classification system.

If we look at Golf as an example you start with a handicap of say 30 strokes and as you improve your handicap the reference score drops to say 25 strokes, then 20 strokes and so on. When conversing with the public most would have an understanding of this handicap method.

There are a lot of sports in Australia that use this reducing handicap method.

In Archery we have 3rd class, 2nd class all the way up to Grand Master Bowmen yet when we shoot our National Championships these terms of skill are not referred to. In Victoria there has been only one event where the classification rankings were applied but for 2011, we removed it. All other events only use categories.

The current version of the Pathway Program talks of ratings and we feel this is the best way to describe an archer's performance. When Mr. Public comes along for his first try of archery, we should be talking about his future performances along the lines of trying to reduce his National Rating.

Bow Types

In both the ratings and the classifications there is no clarification of bow type. A person shooting a longbow will rarely get to red whereas a compound archer would do that score easily. We therefore propose that the badges have an insert that shows the bow type.

Bow Type		
Y	Barebow Compound	
C	Compound	
B	Barebow Recurve	
R	Recurve	
L	Longbow	
X	Crossbow	

Ratings Board

Virtually every club we go to have a high score board. Whilst these are a good way of showing the highest score shot per round it rarely shows the bow type used.

We would like to propose that Archery Australia encourage the installation of a Ratings Board in each club.

Barebow Compound		Compound		Barebow Recurve		Recurve		Longbow	
AAA	65	FFF	95	KKK	45	PPP	65	UUU	35
BBB	64	GGG	94	LLL	44	QQQ	64	VVV	34
CCC	63	HHH	93	MMM	43	RRR	63	WWW	33
DDD	62	III	92	NNN	42	SSS	62	XXX	32
EEE	61	JJJ	91	OOO	41	TTT	61	YYY	31

Ratings Challenge Table

Starting in Victoria in 2009 was the Ratings Challenge Table. It is a postal shoot designed for the newer archer to test themselves against everyone else in the State.

It is 72 arrows at 30 metres on a 122cm target face. The scorecard is handed to the club recorder who applies the handicap. At the end of each month the club recorder sends in the results to the SSA and they post it on their website.

Name	Club	Category	Score
Your Name	YC	LJW	672
The Other Person	TOC	CCM	671

This postal competition has the benefits of encouraging new archers to shoot a round, to score and to try and improve. The archer can shoot as many times a month as they like as only the highest score is used.

It also provides them with a Rating so they can proceed into Challenge Shoots. We would appreciate Archery Australia supporting this concept through the SSAs.

Challenge Teams

Challenge shoots also have team events and can be made up of 3 people in any combination regardless of bow type, age or gender. They can shoot with some mates from their club, shoot with their family members or meet new people by making up a team with them.

There is a prize for the winning team as well and in most cases a handsome trophy that will have the team name emblazoned on it for the next few decades to come.

The Ratings Table (example)

Rating	Horsham 40m	Intermediate 55m	FITA 60m	FITA 70m	FITA 90m	
0		1438	1435	1425	1412	Gold
1			1434	1423	1409	
2			1433	1421	1407	
3		1437		1420	1405	
4		1435	1432	1418	1402	
5	1440	1434	1430	1416	1400	
6				1413	1397	
7		1433	1427	1411	1394	
8	1439	1432	1424	1408	1391	
9		1431	1423	1407	1389	
10	1439	1429	1422	1404	1386	Silver
11	1438	1428	1419	1401	1382	
12		1427	1417	1398	1379	
13	1437	1425	1415	1396	1376	
14	1436	1423	1413	1393	1372	
15	1436	1420	1410	1389	1368	
16		1419	1407	1386	1365	
17	1433	1417	1405	1383	1361	
18	1431	1415	1402	1380	1357	
19	1430	1412	1399	1376	1352	
20	1430	1410	1397	1372	1347	Bronze
21	1427	1407	1394	1369	1344	
22	1425	1407	1390	1364	1338	
23	1423	1403	1386	1360	1333	
24	1421	1400	1384	1356	1329	
25	1419	1396	1380	1352	1324	
26	1416	1394	1376	1347	1318	
27	1415	1390	1373	1343	1313	
28	1412	1387	1368	1337	1307	
29	1409	1384	1364	1333	1302	
30	1406	1381	1359	1327	1295	Yellow
31	1405	1377	1356	1323	1290	
32	1401	1372	1351	1317	1284	
33	1398	1369	1347	1312	1277	
34	1395	1365	1343	1307	1271	
35	1391	1361	1337	1300	1264	
36	1389	1357	1333	1294	1256	
37	1385	1353	1326	1288	1250	
38	1382	1349	1322	1282	1242	
39	1378	1342	1317	1276	1235	
40	1374	1338	1312	1270	1228	Red
41	1370	1333	1305	1263	1220	
42	1366	1328	1300	1255	1211	
43	1361	1323	1293	1247	1202	
44	1357	1318	1288	1240	1193	
45	1353	1312	1282	1233	1185	
46	1349	1307	1275	1226	1177	
47	1343	1300	1268	1216	1165	
48	1339	1295	1261	1209	1157	
49	1335	1290	1254	1201	1147	
50	1329	1283	1247	1192	1137	Blue
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58						
59						
60						Black
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Objective; get the whole table onto one page.

Ratings Versus Classifications
In other discussion papers submitted since 2006 we have been suggesting a tiered membership system. This is where a competitive archer (Gold Membership) shoots open competitions without a rating.

The social archer (Silver Membership) is not allowed to shoot open competitions but is encouraged to compete in Challenge Shoots. As this archer competes primarily within the rating/handicap system then we believe we should provide a recognition for them. This is where the archer can achieve a certain rating and then purchase the appropriate badge if they wish.

Summary
The structure of Golf is a very good example for archery to model itself on. We believe the open competition structure is quite good but we need to supplement that for those archers that don't want to shoot high level competitions.

Introducing ratings to an archer from day one gets them into an understanding of how the system works very early in their career. We need to support that with;

- The Ratings Challenge Table

- Revised Ratings/Handicap Table

- Challenge Shoots including Challenge Teams

- Ratings Badges

- Ratings Board

These five items support each other and create a solid foundation for the sport to grow.

A well-constructed Challenge Competition system will dramatically improve retention of those members. The longer a person is in archery the better their skill and maturity. It is these archers that will provide the opportunity to win these Olympic medals but we need to increase the base membership size first.

Relying on a national membership of 6,000 in a population approaching 23 million will not produce the results. We need to reach 100,000 members in the short term and push on from there.

For your consideration.

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~ The primary focus of all obstacles is to induce labour so progression can be born~ "Lil' C"