

Classification

The archery classification system is divided into three different classes:

Archery Standing (ARST): Archers in the Standing Class have no disabilities in the arms. The legs show some degree of loss of muscle strength, co-ordination and/or joint mobility. Archers in this class may choose to compete sitting in an ordinary chair with their feet on the ground or standing.

Archery Wheelchair 1 (ARW1): Archers in the ARW1 class have a disability in their arms and legs (tetraplegia). They have limited range of movement, strength and control of their arms and poor or non-existing control of the trunk. The legs are considered non-functional, due to amputation and/or similar limitations of movement, strength and control. They compete in a wheelchair.

Archery Wheelchair 2 (ARW2): Archers in the ARW2 class have paraplegia and limited mobility in the lower limbs. These athletes require a wheelchair for everyday use and compete in a wheelchair.

At all major competitions, classification takes place prior to the competition in order to ensure that all new athletes are in the correct class and meet the minimum disability criteria.

[Complete Classification Rules](#), last updated 01 January 2001

1. ARCHERY CLASSES

Archery will be comprised of the following classes

- ARW1 (with sub-class ARW1-C)
- ARW2
- ARST (with sub-class ARST-C)

2. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

This classification system uses disability profiles and a numerical calculation of locomotor ability as guidelines.

3. LOCOMOTOR DISABILITIES

1. All locomotor abilities are tested for the:
 - assesment of points for muscle testing and/or
 - assesment of points for dysfunction (coordination) testing and/or
 - assesment of points for joint mobility.
2. The number of 380 points has been allocated as relating to an able-bodied archer.

Body segmeny	Points
Arms	190
Trunk	60
Legs	130
Total	380

3. The minimal handicap to be eligible to compete is a loss of 25 points in the upper limbs or 20 points in the trunk or 15 in the lower limbs or 25 in the total.

4. The shooting testing procedure immediatly follows and updates the points calculation assessments, according to the movement abilities applied in the shooting.

4. CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

1. Each classification Team shall consist of at least three authorized classifiers, one of them being a medical.
2. Complete personal details on the Classification Report.
3. Testing to be done on a horizontal medical testing bench.
4. Perform the Bench Test. Look at all of the following tests and where necessary complete the appropriate test/tests.
 - assesment of points for muscle testing and/or
 - assesment of points for dysfunction (coordination) testing and/or
 - assesment of points for joint mobility.
 - equiparation of amputations to loss of functional ability.
5. For the archer who has multiple disabilities the tester assesses which of the disabilities (muscle sttrength, coordination, range of movement) is functionally more severe and test accordingly.
6. Mark the allowed assistive devices according to the allowance tables.
7. Perform the shooting test and if necessary update the point assessment
8. Note: it is more important the evaluation in the shooting test when the functionality of a shoulder is uncomplete.

5. ASSESMENT OF POINTS

1. Muscle strength testing
 - 0 - Total lack of voluntary contraction
 - 1 - Trace, faint contraction without any movement

- 2 - Poor, contraction with very weak movement when gravity is eliminated
- 3 - Fair, contraction with movement against gravity
- 4 - Good, contraction against gravity and some resistance
- 5 - Normal, contraction of normal strength against full resistance

2. Dysfunction (co-ordination, spasticity, athetosis, ataxis) testing

- 0 - No functional movement at all
- 1 - Very minimally co-ordinated movements and/or very severely restricted range of movement due to severe hypertonic muscle stiffness
- 2 - The sequence of movement is very difficult and can only be carried out very slowly and unco-ordinated and/or not more than 25% range of motion by fast repetition and/or severely restricted range of movement with severe spasticity - hypertonic muscle stiffness present
- 3 - The movements can only be carried out slowly but roughly without faults and /or not more than 50% range of motion by fast repetition and/or moderate range of movement with moderate spasticity with tone restricting movement and/or moderate co-ordination problems.
- 4 - The movements are slightly unco-ordinated and/or not more than 75% range of motion by fast repetition and/or slight increase in muscle tone.
- 5 - Normal

- 1. Archers with spasticity, ataxia and/or athetosis will be tested with an active tempo-motion test.
- 2. Associated reactions of upper and lower limbs have to be watched carefully during shooting test. Reactions and co-ordinating effect of the antagonistic muscle must be taken into consideration for upper limbs and upper trunk.
- 3. Testing should be repeated with the neck turned into the shooting position to note influence of the postural reflexes. Evaluation of the trunk coordination must be done mainly in the shooting test, considering that some incorrect positions or movements are caused by the technical level reached by the athlete and/or by a wrong shooting equipment or assistive device used and not by functional disabilities.

3. Range of Movement testing

- 0 - No range of movement
- 1 - Minimal range of movement
- 2 - 1/4 movement
- 3 - 1/2 movement
- 4 - 3/4 movement
- 5 - Full range of movement

6. CLASS PROFILES

1. ARW1

Defined as tetraplegic archer in a wheelchair or comparable disability.

1. Practical Profile:

Arms: Limitations in functional range of movement, strength or control

plus

Trunk: poor or non-existing control and/or balance, static and with the bow aimed to the target

and/or

Lower Limbs: considered non-functional due to amputation, limitation in range of movement, strength and/or control (almost non-functional for ambulation over long distances)

2. Disability Profile:

Tetraplegia

Quadriplegia, Triplegia or severe diplegia with limitation in control of upper extremities or upper extremity spasticity (spasticity grade scale for muscle tone 2-4) (almost limitation of draw weight due to shoulder and string arm elbow functionality or limitation of functionality of both hand, not considering the wrist).

Double amputation below knee associated with hip articulation or double above knee amputation with short stumps (i.e. proximal 1/3) associated with amputations in both arms or limitations in functional range of movement, strength or control.

3. Minimum disability in each arm: 5 points

associated with

Minimum disability of 15 points in the trunk or of 35 points in lower limbs or of 8 points in the trunk and 20 in lower limbs.

2. ARW1-C

Within ARW1 archers with a higher handicap could be allocated to a sub-class ARW1-C allowed to compete in facilitate rounds.

1. Minimum disability in each arm: 20 points

associated with

Minimum disability of 15 points in the trunk or of 35 points in lower limbs or of 8 points in the trunk and 20 in lower limbs.

3. ARW2

Defined as paraplegic archer in a wheelchair or comparable disability.

1. Practical Profile:

Arms: No limitations in functional range of movement, strength or control

Trunk: from good to very poor or non-existing control and balance, static and with the bow aimed to the target

Lower Limbs: considered non-functional due to amputation, limitation in range of movement, strength and/or control (almost non-functional for ambulation over long distances)

2. Disability Profile:

Paraplegia

severe diplegia without limitation in control of upper extremities

moderate disorder in trunk balance

Moderate spasticity in lower extremities (Spasticity grade scale:3)

Double amputation below knee

4. ARST

Defined as Standing archers or shooting from a chair

1. Practical Profile:

Lower Limbs: functional for ambulation over long distances

2. They require to reach minimum handicap in functional evaluation.

Minimum disability of 10 points in one leg or 15 points in two legs or 25 points in the total or a difference of lower limbs length of 7 cm.

5. ARST-C

Within ARST archers with severe disabilities of upper extremities may be allocated to a sub-class ARST-C allowed to compete in facilitate rounds

1. Minimum disability in each arm: 20 points or 40 points in the string arm.

7. EQUIPMENT

1. Personal equipment must Comply with FITA Rules.

2. Some assistive devices are allowed if authorised by an official IPC Archery Classifier.

Classifiers must compile the assistive device form and mark on the classification report the allowed equipment.

1. Wheelchair

A wheelchair can be used with a minimum disability of 50 points in lower limbs and/or trunk.

A wheelchair of any type may be used provided it subscribes to the accepted principle and meaning of the word wheelchair.

No part of the wheelchair may support the bow arm while shooting. The bow may not contact the wheelchair when releasing the arrow.

For ARW2 archers, no part of the chair back or its vertical support may protrude in front of the half of the trunk.

No part of the chair may be less than 110 mm. below the armpit while shooting at any distance.

The wheelchair must not exceed the shooting space on the line, allowed by FITA

2. Chair

A chair may be used with a minimum disability of 38 points in the lower limbs and/or trunk.

A chair of any type may be used provided it subscribes to the accepted principal and meaning of the word chair.

No part of the chair may support the bow arm while shooting. The bow may not have contact with the chair when releasing the arrow.

No part of the chair may be in contact with the trunk of the archer at less than 220 mm. below the armpit while shooting at any distance.

The area of contact with the ground, framed by the legs of the chair and the foot of the archer must not exceed the size of 60 cm x 80 cm.

3. Permitted Body support.

It can be used when the standing balance (static and dynamic) is poor.

When authorized by an official IPC Archery Classifier a body support or strapping system may be used by individuals with a disability of T-5 or higher

This protrusion, forward from the front of the main vertical support of the chair back no longer than 100 mm, with an inward radius of no less than 230 mm, shall be no less than 110 mm. below the armpit.

This body support can be substituted by a strapping around the chest 50 mm wide and with 10 mm of slackness when the body is relaxed. The limit of 110 mm. from the armpit still remain.

Only ARW1 archers are allowed to use simultaneously protrusion and strapping. They may use any wheelchair and amount of body support/strapping to maintain body stability as long as no support is given to the bow arm while shooting.

4. Release aid

Archers with disabilities in the finger of both hands are allowed, when authorised by an official IPC Archery Classifier, to use a mechanical release aid.

5. Compound bow

Archers belonging to class ARW1 with upper limbs disabilities are allowed to use a compound bow but only with the equipment allowed by FITA for the Recurve Bow Division. This means no peep sight and no optic lenses.

ARW1 archers may compete in the Open Class of Compound Division with full Compound equipment as described in FITA Handbook

6. Bow bandaged

Archers with bow arm disability may use the bow tied or bandaged to the hand when authorised by an official IPC Archery Classifier.

7. Bow arm splint

Archers with bow arm disability may use an elbow or wrist splint when authorised by an official IPC Archery Classifier.

8. String arm wrist splint

Archers with bow arm disability may use a wrist splint when authorised by an official IPC Archery Classifier

9. Assistant

ARW1 and ARST-C Archers unable to nock arrows may have a person to load their arrows into the bow. Such person must not give the archer any verbal or other assistance, especially regarding the spotting of arrows, and are not allowed to use binocular or scope and to adjust the bow sight until the end of shooting signal. Such person must not be a disturbance to other archers.

8. USE OF CLASSIFICATION CARDS

1. At the end of Archer examination it will be released a classification card that will be replaced later with a credit card size one.

2. The archer must take with him the classification card to exhibit it if requested during competitions by IPC Technical Delegates or FITA Judges (also in FITA tournaments).

3. IPC Athletes must compete with only authorized equipment also in FITA Tournaments.