



# Archery FITA

## **What may be considered allowed or not allowed on unmarked FITA Field rounds.**

Please be reminded that you may shoot FITA field unmarked only, marked only or a combination of both. We also remind you that in national competitions you may shoot with fans and walk ups as well. Please make sure that if you use walk ups, that you shoot the correct number of arrows at the correct distance for each face size as laid down in the rulebook.

However – in FITA Championships the round will be one marked and one unmarked in the Qualification Rounds and a combination of marked and unmarked in the Elimination Rounds. This is partly so because the majority of FITA field archers want to shoot their rounds this way, whilst we also know that locally in some places of the world some fancy shooting like in ‘the good old days’ with walk ups and fans and elsewhere they prefer to shoot marked distances only.

Since the majority like to shoot unmarked distances we need rules to keep the distance ‘unmarked’, which is why we do not allow range finders of any kind, however simple or amateurish they may seem. Fact is that if you allow one, there will soon be another a little more advanced – and so on.

On the other side we do know that archers may ‘measure’ the distance by using a technique called ‘framing’ or ‘comparing’, and we even encourage archers to learn how to do this by telling them how it is done – on FITA’s Internet site! We do this because we want to keep the competitions fair and equal.

So generally speaking the intention behind the rules is to shoot unmarked rounds without having more or less sophisticated equipment for measuring the distances. However, those of you that can learn how to use your equipment to measure the distance by practice and experience without adding extra functions to the same equipment may do so, because it is equal to everybody, it may be learned by everybody – and it is considered a ‘skill’ rather than ‘cheating’.

Basically, the difference being that if you can read the distance off a ‘scale’ it is considered a ‘range finder’ – if you can tell the distance by comparing your (standard normal) equipment against the butt or the face, it is considered skill.

Having said that, if you use a ‘framing’ technique you should use this out of skill based on practice and experience and not by bending the rules and adding extras to your equipment or having notes in your pocket showing the size of target faces relative to your sight etc. This is considered CHEATING and not acceptable.

So what do we consider rule bending? Well, sometimes the rule benders are cleverer than us trying to enforce the rules, so the following may (for sure) not be complete but will have to serve as examples for Judges and archers:

### **The following may be considered ILLEGAL (not acceptable in use) on UNMARKED rounds:**

Having more than one sight scale on your sight bar, your bow or your notes – will indicate that you may be using your sight as a ranging device and that you measure the distance and read the distance by means of a scale – which is not the proper way of doing it. If you have scale(s) on your sight bar in a place that disagree with the sight setting you will have when shooting, you may be ‘accused of’ having made an extra scale for ranging. Judges and competitors may look for that! If you have sight marks used for a different set-up on your sight, something you want to keep for the future, just cover it with a piece of tape – and you are safe!

#### **Note:**

**A recent interpretation state that you may have one sight marks scale in addition to the manufacturer’s original scale on your bow sight or you equipment.**

It is also a very good indication that you measure the distance if you constantly lift your bow and aim and take down again more than once or maybe twice before you shoot. If you do – you are also out of line – maybe using much too much time and thus probably being a nuisance to the competitors you are shooting with.

Having added (glued or screwed) a piece of plastic vane or similar on your equipment with which you can compare the size of the face with the size of that extra piece.

It is too obvious – use some part of your standard equipment instead.

Generally speaking having altered your equipment with something that is meant to be used for measuring.

Having a scope with a cross and one or more lines on that cross – having a scope with more than one circle or more than one line in either direction, or a combination of a circle and a cross in which the cross passes through the circle.

Having anything on your sight or in the window region of your bow with several lines or dots that is not a natural part of your equipment. (The above is examples of a 'scale')

Holding anything up in front of you measuring with your thumb or ruler etc. will not be acceptable.

Having notes with drawings pictures or sketches showing the relationship between your sight or arrow etc. and the target faces are not acceptable. You may use this for practice but not bring it with you to the competition area.

Likewise the barebow archer is not allowed to have a picture or drawing of his tab with his marks on, or a list of how his marks are related to the tab. You may have one for your own practice – but not bring it on to the competition area.

The barebow archers will have to be prepared to 'tape' his bow window if there is any marks within the bow window area that could be used for aiming or ranging, i.e., distinct clear marks of any kind. Blurred marks like a camo pattern is normally not considered a problem.

Having notes or scales telling the relationship between up hill or down hill angle and your sight marks is not allowed – likewise any device for measuring that angle.

Using radio / mobile phones whilst on the course.

Also, just to mention it – binoculars or optical devices cannot have scales of any kind or built in ranging functions.

It is also against the intention of the rules to have any electronic storage devices for your use – in the field course.

## **What would be considered LEGAL (allowed to use):**

Any sight with ONE sighting point, ring or cross. A dot with a circle is on the 'edge' but considered similar to a normal sight ring with a bar/ball and has been allowed.

Any standard sighting device made by a serious manufacturer within the limitations mentioned above. So in fairness to other archers and in order to save money think a little when purchasing new equipment!

Any notes, which are a copy or extract from the rulebook, like distances for the various target faces etc.

Any notes which contain your sight marks considering the limitations mentioned above.

Example:

5m = 2.30

10m = 2.10

15m = 2.30

20m = 2.55

25m = 2.90

and so on.....

### **Statement**

**Anybody bending the rules will probably know he is doing or may be doing so. In our opinion there is no excuse for doing that – because if you are in doubt, you can always ask**

**In order to keep FITA competitions fair, archers are requested to report to the Judges things they observe or feel is not acceptable in regards to equipment, timing and bending the rules. The Judges are there to help us all have a better and more fair competition and it is neither friendly, polite or sportsman like not to report what one observe.**

**FAC  
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