

PARA Archery ID – Rules and Guidelines

Developed by Mario Oehme

In cooperation with Regenbogenschule Altenburg (State Regional Support Center Special focus: Intellectual Disabilities) and the Thuringian Disabled and Rehabilitation Sports Association



PARA Archery for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Core Principles

All organizations and organizers providing training and competition opportunities for athletes should adhere to the following principles:

1. Every athlete should experience a dignified and meaningful competition.
2. The integrity of the sport must be preserved.
3. The health and safety of all athletes, coaches, and officials must be ensured.

1) TRAINING

Minimum Training Standards and Guiding Principles

1.1 Athletes have the right to training that:

- Is led by competent coaches familiar with the sport and the specific impairments, capable of working effectively with athletes with disabilities.
- Develops their sporting skills and physical fitness.
- Prepares them adequately for competition.

1.2 Minimum training standards are defined and applied as follows:

Each organization or organizer sets their own training standards which athletes must meet before progressing to their first official competition level within that organization.

Athletes may only participate in official competitions once they have achieved the necessary skills and fitness level to compete safely and meaningfully.

This does not prevent athletes from taking part in other competitions as part of their training (e.g., able-bodied tournaments).

1.3 Participation Commitment

Clubs and teams must field all registered and eligible team members for each match or competition, except if:

- A player is injured or has been removed for disciplinary reasons.
- Coaches must inform competition officials before the event if any player will not participate due to injury or disciplinary action.

1.4 Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Participants who refuse to follow officials' instructions, behave unsportingly, or act aggressively towards officials, spectators, or other competitors may be disqualified by officials.

2) COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

All organizations and organizers (state associations, clubs, and departments) must regularly create opportunities for competition.

2.1 Responsibilities of Organizations and Organizers

2.1.1 Organizations ensure that training and competitions take place in a safe environment, take all necessary measures to protect the health and safety of athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators, and comply with sport-specific medical and safety regulations.

2.1.2 Supervision of Athletes

Organizations provide appropriate supervision and support for all athletes.

2.1.3 Support for Individual Competitors

From state championships onward, a 1:1 coach-to-athlete ratio is mandatory for individual competitions.

2.1.4 Team Support

During competitions, the coach-to-athlete ratio must not exceed 1:3 for team participants.

This 3:1 ratio applies only within the team context.

Team members must be capable of acting independently and following competition procedures and officials' instructions fully.

2.2 Support staff for ID athletes count as team members regardless of club or association membership.

Support staff must wear the sending club's team clothing on the competition field.

To improve recognition by officials, support staff are requested to display the label: PARA-ID-Team + Surname.

3) Classification System

The classification system forms the foundation of PARA Archery ID and represents a fundamental difference from other sports organizations. It guarantees fair and exciting competitions for all athletes.

Athletes are grouped into homogeneous performance classes based on defined criteria (performance ability, age, gender). Only athletes of similar performance levels compete against each other, ensuring everyone has a fair chance to win a medal.

There are no disability classes — only performance classes, defined by a scoring norm (points & target size).

Performance classes also allow older athletes with age-related impairments (e.g., poor vision or reduced mobility) to compete fairly.

Eligible impairments must be sport-specific, such as:

- Loss of strength (medical certificate required)
- Visual impairment (certificate from an ophthalmologist)
- Intellectual disability (official documents from social services or proof of special education support)

Assistive device classifications recognized by the German Disabled Sports Federation (DBS), a qualified classifier, or a sports physician are accepted.

4) Promotion Principle

Participation in events requires meeting certain prerequisites regulated by the promotion principle.

Regular training is mandatory to participate in regional competitions.

Athletes should gain sufficient competition experience before being nominated for national or international events.

All prerequisites must be met in the same sport.

This sport-specific continuity helps athletes adapt, improve through regular training and competition, and promotes inclusion.

Performance Classifications and Competition Participation

The following scoring thresholds determine performance classes for state championships.

The assigned class at state championships applies also for national championships. Class changes are only possible between seasons.

Proof of eligibility for a performance class must be provided by the sending club, coach, or support staff upon request by competition officials.

Proof may include a result list or scorecard from district championships signed by the competition official.

The Future classes serve as introductory levels focused on learning the sport and are only permitted at club level or tournaments shooting at the student D-class level.