



**Handboogsport  
Nederland**

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Lid van **World Archery, IFAA** en

**NOC\*NSF**

To: president World Archery, President World Archery Europe, Secretary General World Archery, Secretary General World Archery Europe

Arnhem, 29 June 2019

Dear Prof. Dr. Erdener, Mr. Scarzella, Mr. Dielen and Mrs. Colasante,

What this week happened at the venue of the European Games in Minsk was not the best promotion of archery. This was not a case of fair play, what should be the base of archery. "This situation cast a shadow on our sport", like Mr. Scarzella wrote in an email. We have waited for two days before sending this letter. We wanted to have all information, including the report of the chair of Judge Commission. Now this information is still not available we have decided to send you this letter. Also because of media attention in The Netherlands. We know, because of an informal email of Mr. Dielen that World Archery is "very concerned about what happened". Because of this we urgently ask you to act as soon as possible on this issue.

In the 1/8th final of the European Games in Minsk the match between Sjef van den Berg from The Netherlands and Dan Olaru from Moldova was shot. It was a tie score after four sets. After finishing the fifth set the judges decided that Sjef van den Berg was the winner of the match as the score in the final set was confirmed at 25-24 in favour of Sjef. The scorecards were signed by both agents and archers. You have the pictures. After finishing the match both archers and their coaches left the field of play.

When Sjef van den Berg and his coach came back to the venue to shoot the quarter finals they received the message that the Moldovan team had appealed against the result of the match. The jury of appeal ruled in favour of this appeal, without contacting or inquiring information from the Dutch team (Rulebook 2, art. 3.13.5). This is against the rules.

We have questions. First of all, after removing the arrows from the target face, signing the scorecards and appointing the winner by the judge an appeal was approved with the result: changing a score of one arrow. Does it mean that every archer can appeal against a mistake on a signed scorecard after a match? Also when this was e.g. the second arrow of the match? We don't think so. We kindly ask you to make this fully clear.

Secondly, when the jury of appeal has to make a decision they have to ensure that all relevant information is available before making a decision. Without contacting the other team this is impossible. Furthermore, can you add statements to a file after the decision? For us, this can not be the way this should work in a fair competition. The Dutch team was not informed of the appeal and was not involved in the discussion about the appeal before the decision of the JoA.

After this the Dutch delegation has appealed against the ruling on the basis that the outcome of the match was already decided by the target judge. This appeal was rejected, because "the situation was already investigated". The JoA did not even give the Dutch team the possibility to give their opinion. And a full investigation had not been done as we underlined before.

The outcome was: shoot off. Dan Olaru from Moldova has won this shoot off: 10 - 9. The



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disadvantage for the Dutch archer, Sjef van den Berg, was huge. He was fully prepared for the quarter finals. Instead of entering the venue to shoot the quarter finals he heard about an approved appeal of which he and the Dutch delegation were not informed. Is this the way we take care of archers? Archery is in normal circumstances a mentally difficult sport. But in these circumstances? This is not fair play at all. We urge you to change the existing procedures to create a situation of fair play for archers and coaches. When these procedures doesn't exist we call on you to create these procedures.

The damage is done. Sjef van den Berg was out of competition after prior being appointed to be the winner. Losing is a part of a game, but losing by ignoring the rules by the responsible jury is not a part of the game. Also Dutch media ask questions to Sjef. How can you support him?

For the Dutch Archery Federation two major questions must be answered. As we have seen in Minsk, the result is not final after appointing the winner by the judge. But when is the result of a match final? Secondly, it is obvious that the appeal procedure did not work efficiently. How are you going to change the appeal procedure, including the position and tasks of the jury of appeal?

Therefore I ask you kindly the following things:

1. Investigate this awkward situation and present the results in public;
2. Make the responsible judges and the members of the jury of appeal accountable, based on your investigation;
3. Put this situation on the agenda of the next meetings of the judges committee, coaches committee and athletes committee of World Archery and World Archery Europe as an example; and
4. Get in touch with Sjef van den Berg, member of the athletes committee of World Archery, the coaches of the Dutch delegation Jacqueline van Rozendaal and Marcel van Apeldoorn, member of the coaches committee of World Archery, and the Dutch Archery Federation to explain about the investigation that is going on, the results of your research and the outcome.

Can you please inform us formally about the steps you have taken since Thursday 1u08 PM (Minsk time) and the steps you will take the upcoming period?

The Dutch federation fights for fair play. In the case that Sjef van den Berg would have won the shoot-off against Dan Olaru we still would have written this letter to you. People can make mistakes, but making mistakes due to not following the confirmed rules of the congress of World Archery and World Archery Europe is not acceptable.

If you need anymore information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Arnoud Strijbis  
Secretary General Dutch Archery Federation