

Para Archery Report for WAE May 2021

Tournaments

In 2020/21 there were a number of para archery events in Europe that had been scheduled to take place but were cancelled or postponed due to the ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic.

These were:

The European Champs, Olbia – originally postponed to 2021 and due to act as continental qualifier (CQT) for Tokyo, was finally cancelled.

Nove Mesto WRE, postponed to July 2021 will be the Final Qualifying Tournament and CQT for Tokyo.

European Representation

The last World Championships was held in 2019 in 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH and out of 297 archers, 145 were from Europe. 30/51 European countries were represented.

It had the highest number of Visually Impaired archers represented at any event, with 17 archers from 9 countries, 7 of which were European nations.

Europeans did well, winning 28 out of a possible 48 medals at this event.

Tokyo 2021

After the postponement of the Tokyo Paralympics, many of the quota places had not been won as at May 2021.

An updated qualification procedure for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games was released by World Archery and the International Paralympic Committee following the cancellation the European Para Championships in Olbia, Italy. These championships were intended to host a continental qualifying event for the Games with 10 quota places available.

The spots will now be distributed at the final qualification tournament, which is scheduled for 4-11 July 2021 in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic. The places will remain reserved for Para-Archers from Europe and be distributed through a separate eliminations bracket.

The full Tokyo quota tracker can be found here:

https://extranet.worldarchery.sport/documents/index.php/Events/Paralympic_Games/2020_Tokyo/Tokyo_2020_Paralympic_Games_Archery_Quota_Tracker.pdf

Para Archery European Cup Final

This event is not due to be held in a Paralympic Year and so because of the postponement of the Tokyo Paralympics, is not scheduled to take place until 2022.

Coaching

European coaches have also faced a difficult year because of the Pandemic, and it has not been possible to run the planned Euro-African Para Archery Development Plan project for Para Archery Coach and Judging Seminars in Kenya and Uganda. Other Judge and Para Coach Seminars in Africa cannot proceed in the timelines originally proposed and the first activity will be the launch of an online training module for National Judges in Africa. Judge and Para Coach Seminars will proceed in Africa when it is safe to do so.

Other news

Visually impaired archery now has a new system in place for classification and understanding is gradually rolling out. The system relies on 2 different ophthalmologists in an archer's home nation to supply a diagnosis which can be compared to a scoring system at World Archery. This is much more efficient and cheaper for tournament organisers who do not have the expense of supplying a classifier at the event. If numbers grow sufficiently, such that significant numbers of archers need to be classified each year, the guidance allows for event based classification as an option in the future.

There is an active Facebook group which is helping to keep the International VI community informed.

General comment

Many thanks to the WAE Executive Board Members for their confidence and constant support for Para Archery in Europe.

Pippa Britton