

WAE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report 2021

The Youth Development Committee (YDC) was elected during the 17th WAE Congress in Antalya (TUR) 30 May 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic WAE congress was not held in 2020 and all the terms were prolonged for one additional year. There was also a change decided at the last congress about elections and terms and therefore two members (Ms Irena Rosa, SLO and Mr Wolfgang Halvax, AUT) were elected for three years term (instead of four) and one member (Ms Maria Kyrillopolou, GRE) was elected for one year term (instead of two). Ms Irena Rosa was appointed by WAE Executive Board as chairperson of the Committee.

The primary objective of the YDC is to oversee the European Youth Cup and Youth Championships in such a way as to encourage youth archers to prepare for international competitions. Fortunately there are two members of the present committee also trained and experienced technical delegates and as such at least one of them is usually appointed to the Youth events, which makes the work of the committee easier and more rational. Members of the Committee are connected by e-mail and beside mentioned we always try to be present on all Youth Championships and European Youth Cup competitions – as coaches, team managers, judges or technical delegates and collaborate with coaches and team managers of WAE Member Associations, which is very important role of the committee. The European Youth Cup is increasing more and more the number of entries. Youth Cup can now be considered one of the most valid test of a competition at the maximum level of European Youth Archery for our young athletes. Now we have to guarantee to the Youth competitions the same level, visibility and importance of the Senior competitions, said few years ago Mr Mario Scarzella, WAE president. We must mention that the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact regarding the number of competitors at the Youth Cup events. A lot of countries were affected by the confinement and as the team managers mentioned they almost lost one generation of young athletes. We hope that this year, after the end of restrictions, Youth Cup events will come up stronger and that we will see again a strong number of competitors of all divisions.

According the rules, we should have two Youth Cup events organized in the year when there is no European Youth Championships and only one in the year when the European Youth Championships is organized; however, this one is also counting in the final ranking of the Youth Cup.

In 2021 we had two Youth Cup events: Čatež (SLO) and Bucharest (ROU). TD for Čatež was Ms Maria Kyrillopoulou and for Bucharest Ms Irena Rosa. YDC again prepared during these competitions the partial and final results of Youth Cup 2021 and prepared the results for final awarding. We also updated the list of participating countries on Youth Cup events and among the candidates we selected the coach/team manager of the year. The title coach/team manager of the year 2021 was won again as in 2018 by the team of coaches and team managers from Turkey as they obviously had among them the best coach of 2021 – the coach of the Olympic champion. They were awarded with the photo and name plate. The Youth Cup Rules for the following year were revised by e-mail and also names of categories were changed following the WA rules.

Irena Rosa, Wolfgang Halvax and Maria Kirillopoulou