



Report on the Development of the Field and 3D Sectors within World Archery Europe

By the 3D and Field Committee Chairman: Giorgio Botto

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The Field and 3D disciplines represent a strategically important component of the European archery system. In recent years, there has been a clear and measurable improvement in the organisational delivery of events, with higher standards in course setting, competition management, and officiating.

However, this progress has not been matched by a corresponding increase in participation. The current trajectory indicates a structural imbalance between quality of provision and athlete engagement, which should be addressed as a priority at European level.

Field and 3D archery offer distinctive value within the wider archery ecosystem, combining technical complexity with environmental diversity. While Field retains a structured and traditional format, 3D continues to demonstrate strong potential in terms of accessibility and spectator appeal.

Under the coordination of World Archery Europe, regulatory alignment and competition standards have improved. Nonetheless, participation trends suggest that additional policy interventions are required to broaden access and strengthen the athlete base.

Key challenges identified:

- stagnation in participation despite improved event quality;
- inconsistency in organisational standards across national federations;
- insufficient structured development for coaches and judges;
- limited media exposure and commercial visibility.

Strategic opportunities:

- targeted youth engagement and entry pathways;
- enhanced use of digital platforms for promotion and broadcasting;
- positioning Field and 3D within sustainability-driven sport frameworks.

Proposed strategic initiative: European Field & 3D Circuit

It is recommended to establish a structured European circuit dedicated to Field and 3D disciplines. This would consist of a multi-stage annual series hosted across Member Associations, culminating in a final event.

Objectives:

- increase visibility and commercial attractiveness;
- provide consistent high-level competition opportunities;
- facilitate knowledge sharing across federations;
- create a platform for sponsorship and long-term partnerships.

Technical and regulatory recommendations:

Based on extensive experience within international events, the following measures are proposed:

- **Coaching presence during individual finals (particularly 3D):**
Introduce clear, harmonised regulations defining the role, positioning, and conduct of coaches during finals, ensuring competitive fairness and minimising external influence.
- **Time control in qualification rounds:**
Reinstate the 4-minute shooting time per target, supported by stricter and more consistent enforcement protocols to ensure equity and maintain competition flow.
- **Longbow division regulation:**
Introduce a standardised ring gauge control, aligned with existing barebow regulations, to ensure objective and transparent equipment compliance.
- **Course design standards:**
Strengthen guidance and oversight for course setting to ensure that qualification courses reflect the full technical potential of the terrain. Current evidence suggests that courses are, in some cases, set below optimal technical standards. A more demanding approach would improve athlete selection and alignment with finals performance requirements.
- **Inclusion of longbow in European Field Championships:**
Introduce the longbow division within Field events awarding European titles. While this will have cost implications for Member Associations, it represents a necessary step towards inclusivity, discipline parity, and alignment with the broader competitive structure.

A coordinated implementation of the above measures, alongside the proposed European circuit, would support greater standardisation, improve competitive integrity, and strengthen the positioning of Field and 3D within World Archery Europe.

Conclusion

Field and 3D archery in Europe are operating at a high organisational standard but require targeted intervention to address participation growth and technical consistency. A combined

approach—linking governance, competition structure, and regulatory refinement—is necessary to ensure sustainable development.

The focus going forward should be on delivering a balanced model that maintains technical excellence while actively expanding the participation base and increasing the visibility of the disciplines across Europe.