

Mr President
Members of the Executive Committee
Council Members
Delegates at the "WORLD ARCHERY" Congress

I believe that my presence here at the "WORLD ARCHERY" Congress is a sure sign that our sport and our attitudes towards each other are changing. Rather than hanging onto old values and traditions that are no longer welcomed by today's archers, we started to explore ways to fulfil the expectations of the new generation of archers who live in our fast changing world.

To my knowledge, within that process of change, "WORLD ARCHERY" has become a more dynamic organisation that has managed to create a strong interest in target archery with great TV coverage and full stadiums and you have changed target archery from what was considered by many to be a boring event to a competition that draws and excites spectators and in doing so you have hopefully assured a continued presence of target archers at Olympic level.

In parallel, IFAA over the last six years has also gone through a process of change, starting with the acceptance of a total re-write of the Statutes and By-Laws in 2006. Tournaments were re-defined and rules were clarified. There was also greater emphasis placed on equipment and tournament control to make Field Archery a little more "serious".

However, in IFAA's recent review of Field Archery possibly there was too little consideration given as to other changes that were happening in the sporting world.

Within the IFAA there is still the opinion that it is the original representative of International Field Archery and that other associations have drawn upon our creation.

From the day of its inception IFAA has had very specific ideas on how their tournaments should be run, who could attend and who was defined as an amateur or as a professional and it did not give much thought to its recognition at International level.

Many of our members, especially the newer ones, do not concern themselves over these issues and are seeking a change in direction for IFAA, which in my vision may result in a future in which "WORLD ARCHERY" and IFAA can not only co-exist but also a future where both associations can augment each other rather than compete for archers.

To succeed in this co-existence and to expand the sport of archery, liaison between the two associations is necessary. Tom Dielen and I have been in regular contact and we have had various meetings, something that seemed quite impossible only a few years ago.

Arising from those meetings I believe that there are about eight broad topics that we should address:

1. Field and 3D Archery as a recreational but competitive sport.

Some people, both in IFAA and "WORLD ARCHERY", are of the opinion that the IFAA wants to control all aspects of Field archery worldwide. This is simply a misconception. What IFAA wishes is to increase interest in Field Archery in all of its forms and to allow our Member National Associations to organise events under our rules at various international levels for those who wish to attend, regardless of gender, age or expertise.

It was around 1988 that the IFAA adopted the "Family of Archers" statue which still stands in Darrington, USA, (and is still used by the club and town folk as their emblem), and used the term "World Family of Archers" to promote the sport of archery as a recreational family sport outdoors in the natural world.

In short: we seek to represent a recreational sport at international level.

2. A more common definition between the associations of similar shooting styles

As is inevitable when two almost parallel paths are carved there will be differences in the products created at the end of those paths. Such is the case with the archery shooting styles recognised by each association.

IFAA believes that steps can be taken to consider a rationalisation of these differences in definition and title, without losing an IFAA style or adding to the "WORLD ARCHERY" styles, so as to encourage archers to shoot their bow under IFAA and "WORLD ARCHERY" rules without changing their equipment.

3. Co-operation in the development of our International coaches and instructors to pass on their knowledge to National coaches and instructors. Expansion of event management skills.

Although our tournaments have improved in quality and attendance, we have remained an organisation that is run by volunteers and therefore we lack stability. We need to improve on our International and National management, which will cost money which is costly and therefore the IFAA unfortunately cannot sustain for an unlimited period.

This year IFAA will start a drive to get better understanding of its sport under the TAFISA banner, in the hope of obtaining sustainable sponsorship and funding to drive these events and to support our national and international training events. A lot of money is needed to create such education and both associations should consider to share support of the sport of archery.

With the help of the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) of USA, the IFAA has started their "Archery Academy" in Yankton USA to train our first 20 level 3 Instructors and 10 Master Instructors later this year. In conjunction with this development IFAA has established a Director of Instruction and Coaching to manage the project and its promulgation within Member Associations.

In addition we intend to start management courses from club level to national level to organise events, manage risks, publicity, logistics etc.

As "WORLD ARCHERY" has similar programs it is my suggestion that such a process can be combined to the benefit of all archers at reduced cost to the two associations

4. Combining our approach to transportation bodies and customs to permit the carriage of archery equipment between countries and to grant a sporting weight exemption or concession.

Some airlines prohibit the carriage of archery equipment classing it as a weapon and that some customs authorities have difficulty in permitting such equipment into their country. In addition some archers have had to pay additional fees as archery equipment may not be classified as sporting goods and thus be exempt from airline weight restrictions, like golf clubs, bikes etc.

These constraints impact upon archers in both organisations and surely it would be to the common good if these constraints can be addressed in a common approach to the relevant authorities.

5. To discuss where possible: common events, ranges, rounds and safety considerations.

In common with the consideration of marginal differences in shooting styles between the associations, there have been relatively minor differences in the development of field ranges, the rounds shot and the safety associated with those rounds.

If indeed "WORLD ARCHERY" and IFAA are looking to become closer in shooting styles so as to encourage transition and participation in each other's competitions then it may make sense to develop a more common approach in the Field and 3D rounds that are set out on the ranges.

With respect to safety, I am sure that neither association would wish to compromise such, as the prevention of any accident is the best arrangement for any economic insurance. Once again if our archers are to participate in each association's competitions then there must be the potential for significant economies in the provision of insurances if common safety rules can be established.

6. To discuss a linkage between IFAA and "WORLD ARCHERY" to facilitate recognition of recreational archery by SportAccord and the IMGGA.

Until the realisation of TAFISA the only way of acceptance for a recreational sport was to consider merging or affiliating with a member association that represented an elite sport of a similar nature.

Some consider this affiliation still to be the way for IFAA to get recreational archery recognised by organisations such as "SportAccord" and IMGGA.

Thus IFAA would have to consider merging in some form with "WORLD ARCHERY", a step that would, in my opinion, be to the detriment of both associations as we serve different interests but to a common Family of Archers.

IFAA recognises and accepts "WORLD ARCHERY"'s main role is as the Olympic sporting body worldwide as well as representing Field and 3D archery as a sport of "Elite" archers.

The IFAA however seeks recognition by "WORLD ARCHERY" to be the main international archery association for Field and 3D archery as a Sport for all under the TAFISA banner.

The IFAA of old did not promote "Going for GOLD" and although elite archers have always been welcome to our tournaments, we never promoted elite archery. IFAA has always promoted the enjoyment of the sport rather than winning and has allowed for eleven shooting styles in three different classes over four age groups, not including the Professional Archers to provide a chance for more to succeed.

Even though the IFAA has been accepted by TAFISA, I still believe that recreational sport has a place in Organisations like "SportAccord" and "IMGGA", without having to get involved with rules and regulations laid down by organisations such as WADA.

Indeed if strict anti-doping rules prevailed at IFAA events we would be in danger of losing most of our elderly archers, as many need medication, some of which may possibly contain banned substances, just to get through their day.

Next week I will have an orientation discussion with Mr. Wim Florijn, a member of the TAFISA Board, where this subject will be discussed and the IFAA will comply with their rules and requirements.

7. Funding and publicity for Field & 3D archery events.

Both associations will recognise that sponsorship for Field and 3D events is difficult to obtain and significant funding is not easy as Field and 3D Archery just does not lend itself to spectator sports. Consequently most of our archers and national teams lack sponsorship and have to pay out of their own pockets. As a result not all associations can afford to participate as teams.

From a financial aspect these events are often not successful, and getting a host may not be easy unless such a tournament is attended by many archers

The IFAA Field and 3D events work exactly on that principle. They last up to five days, giving our participants exercise and enjoyment for the full period of the tournament in the outdoors at a fair cost, and allowing each participant to compete against other archers who shoot similar scores by applying a daily seeding process.

Our Field archery events draw 500 or more participants and our 3D events in Europe draw over 1000 participants run over 6-7 ranges of 28 targets. The IFAA has set the limit of entries at about 1200 for safety reasons.

Member associations are lined up to host these events.

The principle is simple: The large majority, being the recreational archers, meet the major costs to host the event and allow our best archers to go for Gold.

I hope that the "WORLD ARCHERY" members will come to realise the importance of this dual concept and come to accept that by working towards a combined or even joint tournament, 3D and Field archery can be assured of a future and will fulfil the aspirations of all who wish to shoot in such international events under the banner of TAFISA.

8. World Championship status

I realise that "WORLD ARCHERY", or at least some of your members, have a problem with the title "IFAA World Championships". We have often been told that because we do not follow a selection or qualification procedure and some shooting styles are ill represented at our events, such title would be misleading and a gold medallist would not be a genuine World Champion.

With the realisation of the TAFISA Membership the IFAA may be looking at renaming their world events from "Championships" to "Games", but we will still have a champion in each shooting style. The transition may not be popular amongst our members and is not assured, but with reason and common sense this may happen by 2014 or 2015. I believe such a change in terminology may be more realistic in terms of the type of event that IFAA offers. I do ask however that the "Games" be seen as an integral part of International Field Calendar and that we sit together and work out a scheme of events and fix dates in a combined calendar.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The approach towards recreational sport has changed dramatically over the past ten years and is likely to continue in the years ahead. The existence of "The Association for International Sport for ALL" (TAFISA) is proof of that.

Many National Departments of Sport and Recreation have started to appreciate that both facets of sport, the elite and recreational levels, are required for a healthier lifestyle in today's stressful society and many of these departments, at various levels, and have now also joined TAFISA.

When the IFAA started many "WORLD ARCHERY" congress members at the time thought we would be a flash in the pan. We would never survive. Despite tremendous odds we have survived now for almost 42 years and I am sure that we will continue to survive. We are stronger than ever before and will continue to grow.

3D targets, so closely associated with bow hunting, are now also adopted by "WORLD ARCHERY", even though in some minds it may oppose the ethics of the Olympic Spirit and may be perceived by those opposed to any form of sport that can be related to hunting, as tarnishing your name. I know several "WORLD ARCHERY" archers who some years ago refused to shoot target faces that depict animals. The bottom line is that you had to accept these additions as there was a growing demand.

Realistically we both have to listen to our archers for if we do not, new associations will start up, pretending to be world associations, which they in effect are not as they represent individuals in a few nations only, and we will have a further division of the Archery fraternity and even more confusion.

In conclusion I would like the "WORLD ARCHERY" Congress to understand that we, the IFAA, are not the opposition, we simply serve a different interest at international level.

Let the two associations work more closely together and allow each association to run the event in which they are strongest.

Tomorrow three IFAA archers, including myself, will be meeting with "WORLD ARCHERY" officials to start open discussions, as an introduction to hopefully further correspondence and meetings, which, I trust, will encompass the matters above and other matters as they may arise out of or in connection with these matters.

I have chosen the two IFAA representatives with care:

Mr. Urmas Kukk is the representative of Estonia to the IFAA. He represents a young and new member of the IFAA but a country with a long wooden bow history.

Mr. Alessandro Salvanti is our Italian Representative. FIARC and WORLD FITARCO have already been in discussions for some time now to see how their 3D national championships can be combined.

It is now up to "WORLD ARCHERY" and IFAA to determine if and how we want to co-exist and augment each other to the benefit of the sport of archery, or if we wish to keep our separate ways, probably to the detriment of our archers and our sport.

Mr. President I thank you for your kind invitation to address Congress and the courtesy afforded me during this presentation.