

British Blind Sport Archery Section

VI Archery Shooting Category Definitions

This document describes the relationship between sight classifications, equipment and Shooting Category as recognised by the British Blind Sport (BBS) Archery Section.

These definitions apply to rounds shot under Archery GB rules. Rounds shot under World Archery Rules may use the World Archery division definitions instead but note that World Archery definitions do not include the equivalent of VI Open.

These definitions will be used by BBS Archery Section for their events and records. To provide continuity for Visually Impaired archers, other organisations are encouraged to also use these definitions for their own events.

Term Definitions

Sight Classification

- The official sight classification of the individual archer as provided by IBSA (International Blind Sport Federation) or British Blind Sport (BBS).
- The sight classification should be based on acuity only, NOT both acuity plus field of view as used for some other sports.
- The sight classification used must be a classification explicitly for archery.
- The sight classification must be valid and within the "retest period".

Shooting Category

- The Shooting Category which the archer competes in. This is related to sight classification but only if the archer meets the other requirements of the Shooting Category. Known as the division by World Archery.

Non-tactile Method of Aiming/Sighting

- Any method of aiming that does not use a tactile sight including the use of no aiming/sighting device ("bare-bow") and optical sights.

Blackouts

"Blackouts" for VI Archery can be a sleep mask, wraparound glasses, goggles or any similar device that has been modified, if necessary, to meet the following requirements:

- The archer/judge must not be able to see through any part of the "blackouts".
 - This is to ensure that the item properly functions as a "blackout".
- The judge must not be able to see the archer's eyes from any angle when the archer is wearing the "blackouts".
 - This is so that the archer can't see round the "blackouts".

Shooting Category Definitions

All archers must have a current, valid sight classification from BBS or IBSA. A sight classification for acuity (not field of view) is required.

Please note that ALL archers in ALL shooting categories are expected to shoot with their heads turned to face their target.

If used, a tactile sighting device must not provide any support.

Any archer using a non-tactile method of aiming/sighting will shoot in the VI Open Shooting Category regardless of their sight classification.

In order to qualify for awards and records, archers must also comply fully with one of the following four shooting categories, as recognised by BBS Archery Section:

VI 1 Shooting Category

- Includes all archers with a B1 sight classification (except those using a non-tactile method of aiming/sighting who will be included in the VI Open Shooting Category).
- Archers in the VI 1 Shooting Category will shoot wearing "blackouts".
 - See last paragraph of Term Definitions (page 1) for the definition of blackouts.
 - Blackouts shall be checked by the Judges during equipment inspection and may be re-checked at any time during the competition.
 - Blackouts must be worn from setting up any equipment until the end of the competition. They can only be removed during natural breaks as decided by the judge(s).
- Archers in the VI 1 Shooting Category will aim using a tactile sighting device that complies with the relevant rules.

VI 2 Shooting Category

- Includes all archers with a B2 sight classification (except those using a non-tactile method of aiming/sighting who will be included in the VI Open Shooting Category).
- Archers in the VI 2 Shooting Category are not required to shoot wearing "blackouts".
- Archers in the VI 2 Shooting Category will aim/sight using a tactile sighting device complying with the relevant rules.

VI 3 Shooting Category

- Includes all archers with a B3 sight classification (except those using a non-tactile method of aiming/sighting who will be included in the VI Open Shooting Category).
- Archers in the VI 3 Shooting Category are not required to shoot wearing "blackouts".
- Archers in the VI 3 Shooting Category will aim/sight using a tactile sighting device complying with the relevant rules.

VI Open Shooting Category

- Includes all archers with a B4 or B4+/B5 sight classification and all archers with other sight classifications who wish to use non-tactile method of aiming/sighting.
- Archers in the VI Open Shooting Category are not required to shoot wearing "blackouts".
- Archers in the VI Open category will aim/sight using either:
 - an optical device as allowed in the Archery GB Rules of Shooting
 - or without any aiming/sighting device, i.e. bare-bow

Category Sub-Categories and Mergers

Bow types and Gender

The tournament organiser has the discretion as to whether they combine or keep separate bow types and genders within a particular Shooting Category.

The two extremes will be that, using the VI 1 Shooting Category as an example,

- all in the VI 1 Shooting Category compete directly
- or, the VI 1 Shooting Category is split into VI 1 Ladies Recurve, VI 1 Gents Recurve, VI 1 Ladies Compound etc.

It is expected that the VI Open Shooting Category is more likely to be split than the other Shooting Categories.

Combining Categories

The tournament organiser has the discretion as to whether they combine or keep separate Shooting Categories. For example, entry numbers may mean that the Tournament Organiser combines the VI 2 and VI 3 Shooting Categories.

Another example is when handicaps are used to calculate results where all Shooting Categories could be combined.

When combining Shooting Categories for award purposes, all archers are still expected to shoot according to their individual Shooting Category definition as described above.