



To
World Archery
Executive Committee

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Protest

World Archery Denmark hereby lodges a protest to the decision made by the Executive Committee regarding the award of an additional gold medal in the 3D World Championships 2017 in Men's Instinctive Class.

On September 28, World Archery Denmark received an email from World Archery's Secretary General regarding a request World Archery had received from the Hungarian Federation: In their letter, The Hungarian federation suggested that instead of adapting to the judge's decision, the TV commentator's comments/judgement should be the one that applies. The Hungarian federation also mentioned that they believe that the Danish archer is willing to hand over his gold medal.

However, it is a completely unjustified assumption, as the Hungarian Federation has never been in contact with the Danish or World Archery Denmark in this matter. So - How the Hungarian federation can come up with such an assertion must stand in the uncertain.

In response to the Secretary General's mail, on October 4th World Archery Denmark wrote as followed:

In response to your inquiry regarding the gold finals in instinctive bow men, World Archery Denmark does not agree with the Hungarian federation.

At no point Zibrandt Christensen has said he was ready to return his gold medal.

As a matter of fact, Zibrandt Christensen has not even received any inquiries concerning this matter until Helle Jakobsen forwarded your mail to him.

There is no doubt in Zibrandt Christensen or his coach Jacob Steffensen's minds that Zibrandt Christensen, on the first arrow, shot an 11 and thus achieves a total score of 34 points, as also shown at the scorecard. If you listen to the commentators on the video, they judge the arrows before the referee has been down marking the arrows. The points also appear on the video/screen before the referee has marked the arrows.

That is, the people standing just behind the shooters, spotting the arrows, find that it's 11 to Zibrandt Christensen and 8 to Molnar, after which the referee comes down to the target and finds the same.

That is, two independent people/instances find the same score for the archers - 11 to Zibrandt Christensen and 8 to Molnar.



If Zibrandt Christensen and Jacob Steffensen had found that Zibrandt's first arrow was an 8, they would immediately have pointed out the mistake, as Zibrandt Christensen is obviously not interested in winning on a misspelling.

World Archery Denmark therefore does not agree that the score between the two archers has been swapped around/switched.

If the case is to be further elaborated, I will suggest that we discuss it when we meet at the World Archery Congress.

On the same day, World Archery Denmark received the following response from the World Archery Secretary General:

We for sure can take this matter further for discussion in Mexico next week and until then no further discussion should take place

On Friday, October 13 prior to the Congress, the WA Secretary General, the Hungarian President, the Danish President and Cenneth Åhlund had a brief conversation about the Hungarian protest. Since no agreement could be reached during this conversation, the conclusion was that an image of the animal in question should be obtained from the organizers in France.

A picture was sent from the French organizers on October 16th but it does not provide any clarification, *as it was not the correct target/animal.*

On Friday, October 20, I am contacted by one of the Danish 3D national team archers who on Facebook had read that World Archery had awarded an extra gold medal to the Hungarian archer. I immediately contacted Cenneth Åhlund by Messenger to hear if a decision had been made. Cenneth claimed that the decision was taken on Wednesday, October 18, by the Executive Board.

On Friday, the 20st I therefore sent what is written below to the WA Secretary General:

Friday a rumor started on Facebook that World Archery had given out two gold medals in the Men's Instinctive Class. I have had a quick update from Cenneth Åhlund who updated me that a decision was published on Thursday and that it had been made by the Executive Board.

If this is true, which I find highly unlikely, I do not understand why the Danish association has not been heard before the case was submitted to the Executive Board.

If a decision has been made I would appreciate if you could send it to me, so we immediately can file an official protest from the Danish association against the decision, as it is completely unacceptable to us.

The same day The WA Secretary General replied:

You were involved in the discussion in the Congress where we all agreed we would look at the image of the animal and based on that World Archery would take a decision. First, the decision is that the results stand as they are and will not be modified so there is only from a results point of view one world champion which is the Danish Archer. However, since there exists enough doubt that a mistake might have been made a 2nd gold medal will be given since it is impossible to know what could have happened with a different score after the 1st target. This was a proposal made unanimously by the Field and 3D Committee approved by the executive committee. There will be procedures put in place that such possible situation cannot occur in the future.

On October 21, I wrote to the WA Secretary General:

When will the official decision be published? Or can I consider our correspondence to be World Archery's official decision and publish it to the members of the Danish Archery Association as such? We would then base our official protest on this correspondence as well.

I have not yet received an answer to that inquiry.

Therefore, on behalf of World Archery Denmark, I hereby file a protest to the Executive Committee's decision and demand that the decision is immediately withdrawn.

Since the Executive Committee has heard neither Zibrandt Christensen nor World Archery Denmark before making the decision of handing out a second gold medal and thus actually depriving Zibrandt Christensen of his World championship, WA Denmark would therefore like to be informed of following:

1. How can the Executive Committee process a protest submitted too late?
2. How can the Executive Committee make a case on two TV commentators comments and not on a judge's decision?
3. What is the consequence of the decision to the judge who judged the value of the arrows? By making that decision the Executive Committee has put the judge in disrepute.
4. When will the Executive Committee publish their decision, in which they actually deprive Zibrandt Christensen of his World Championship?
5. For what reason, did the Executive Committee find that neither the Danish federation nor Zibrandt Christensen should be heard as a party in this case before the Executive Committee made their decision?

We look forward to a reply from the Executive Committee as soon as possible, as this case brings Zibrandt Christensen and thus Danish archery in disrepute.

On behalf of the World Archery Denmark

Morten Holm-Nielsen
President