

Jane Johnson

# Special Feature

## Judging in the NAA

# You Be the Judge (Really!)

*Do you still enjoy archery but find yourself not shooting? Consider becoming a judge, one of those people on the tournament field wearing red shirts and khaki pants. These are the folks who keep the tournament moving along in a timely manner; use a magnifying glass to determine the value of an arrow and get to watch the archers shooting from up close.*

I've been an National Archery Association (NAA) Judge since 1983 after meeting Ann Clark, NAA National Champion in 1955 and 1960, at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Colorado Springs. She said, "Jane, you ought to be a judge." (Thanks, Ann, for getting me involved!) So I wrote to Allan Martin who sent me an open book test. I read the FITA Rule Book, completed and returned the test and became a Judge Candidate. Experience came with judging at several tournaments and understudying other judges, while continuing

to keep up with rule changes every two years.

It's even easier now to become a Judge Candidate.

You must have been a member of the NAA for at least one year immediately preceding your application and be 18 years of age or older. The application form can be found on the USA Archery web page ([www.usarchery.org](http://www.usarchery.org)). Complete it and send it to:

Tom Green, Officials and Rules Committee  
Chairman

9830 Tavernor Rd.

Wilton, CA 95693

Phone/Fax 916.687.8541

E-mail [tgarchery@frontiernet.net](mailto:tgarchery@frontiernet.net)

When you return the application (and a check for \$35), you will receive a voucher for the Judge Guidelines Manual and one Judge's shirt. You mail the voucher to the NAA and the Judge Guidelines Manual and Judge's shirt will be mailed to you from the NAA office. A



name badge will be mailed to you later. Your training will consist primarily of being involved at local, state, and regional tournaments. You will also need to purchase the current FITA Constitution and Rules Book from the NAA or download it (free!) online from the FITA web site ([www.archery.org](http://www.archery.org)). You'll be expected to answer correspondence in a timely manner and meet any and all deadlines. You will need to study the rules in the FITA Constitution and Rules Book and the Judge's Guidelines and then learn how to apply them.

Come join me—you'll find you have the best seat on the range!



*The author is at the left, doing what judges do best, enhancing the experience of the tournament participants. Ed.*

*Editors Note—*

*I am still looking for an NFAA Judge to write about what it takes to be a NFAA Judge. If you are a NFAA Judge and would like to write such an article, please contact me at [steve@archeryfocus.com](mailto:steve@archeryfocus.com).*

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A JUDGE (NAA)

As a judge you'll receive a form from the NAA Officials and Rules Committee late in the fall to sign up to judge your choice of NAA tournaments (National Indoor, National Outdoor, Field Championships). For these tournaments, judges receive a *per diem* payment which helps defray travel costs. After being notified of your assignments, the Chairman of Judges for each tournament will e-mail the judges details of their assignments.

For other tournaments, the tournament director will recruit judges for their tournaments. Sometimes the tournament organizers will provide lodging and meals for the judges.

Judges are expected to arrive early on the practice day before a tournament to measure the field and make sure it is "FITA legal" according to the Range Layout section of the FITA Rule Book.

On each day of competition judges will usually:

- arrive at the range about a half hour before practice starts to make sure targets are lined up and staked properly.
- attend a meeting held by the Chairman of Judges during official practice, to assign judges their targets and discuss the conduct of the tournament, rule changes, etc.
- time a trip to the "facility" so as to get to assigned area on time for start of competition.
- walk to and from the targets, calling arrows as needed, checking targets to prevent future pass-throughs, answering archers' questions, diplomatically correcting archers who are not complying with the rules.
- take breaks periodically as arranged by the Chairman of Judges.

At the Outdoor National Championships there are two shooting sessions, so judges are usually on the range from 7:30 in the morning until about 6:00 in the evening.