



USAA High Draw Procedures

What is considered a High Draw?

High Draw as defined by World Archery Rule Book 3, art. 12.9:

An athlete, when drawing back the string of his bow uses any technique which, in the opinion of the Judges, could allow the arrow, if accidentally released, to fly beyond a safety zone or safety arrangements (overshoot area, net, wall etc.).

Notes from the WA Judge Guidelines: The Judge must consider the position of the bow arm and the direction of the arrow at the moment the string is pulled back. Besides, it is a fact that there is more reason to be concerned about compound athletes than recurve, as the latter has more control vis-à-vis an unintentional release.

During the last couple of years, we have also seen that several athletes are pulling their bow sidewise, which especially in a Finals field means that the pull in fact is directed towards the spectators. This is of course not acceptable, and have to be picked up by the judges as early as possible.

Considering these parameters, there will always be wise to have more Judges to study the athlete in question, also involving the Chairperson.

Taking a picture at the critical point in the draw or a video of the archer in action can be helpful to show the archer what the judge is seeing.

When is High Draw enforced?

Archers determined to be using/utilizing a high draw shall be notified at any USA Archery sanctioned event.

What is the procedure for notifying the archer?

- The judge who identifies an archer with a high draw shall observe the archer shoot several times.
- The same judge will ask the opinion of other judges on the field.
- Having a consensus with other judges, the issue is then discussed with the Chair of Judges (COJ)
- IF the COJ upholds the high draw assessment, he/she will speak to the coach or parent of the archer. If no coach or parent is present, then the COJ will talk directly with the archer. The COJ will ask the archer to adjust their draw process. If this cannot be done, the COJ may ask the archer to stop shooting.
- It is important for the line judge to keep checking back during the event
- The line judge may even take photos of the archer to support their assessment.

What are the consequences for the archer who fails to act on a high draw call?

As outlined in WA Rule Book 3, art. 12.9: If an athlete persists in using such a technique, he shall, in the interest of safety, be asked by the Chairperson of the Tournament Judge Commission (COJ) or the Director of Shooting (DOS) to stop shooting immediately and to leave the field.

Additionally, WA Rule Book 3, art. 15.1.8 An athlete who persists in using a dangerous method of drawing the string in the opinion of the Judges, shall be asked by the chairperson of the Tournament Judge Commission (COJ) or the Director of Shooting (DOS) to stop shooting immediately and shall be disqualified (see Article 12.9).