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WA - World Archery Federation

Archery is one of the oldest human skills. The use of the bow dates back to the Stone Age. It was the most common weapon for many centuries.
Its use as a sports device began in England during the reign of Henry VIII, who was a good archer himself. The monarch supported the founding of the first "archery club", the Fraternity of St. George in 1537. Another English king George IV introduced the "Prince distances" (targets in a distance of 60, 80 and 100 yards) and the "Prince counting" (values for the various target rings with 9, 7, 5, 3 and 1 point), when he was still the Prince of Wales.
The first recorded competition took place in Finsbury (England) in 1583 with 3,000 participants. The first international competitions began around the turn of the 19th/20th century with the Anglo-French competitions both on targets and in long-distance shooting. For the first time in 1900, archery was part of the Olympic Games. After 1920 archery was removed from the program, however, as it was not represented by any international association and there were therefore no uniform rules.
The international body **Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc (FITA)** was founded on 04.09.1931 during the first World Championship in Lwów, Poland[1]. After the World Championship in August 1939, there was a war-related break before the FITA resumed its activities with the congress on 06.08.1946.
However, another 26 years passed before the resumption of the Olympic program. Archery has only been Olympic again since Munich 1972. In 1968, FITA organized the first continental championship with the 1st European Championship. In 1969, the 1st World Field Archery Championship followed and rules for the clout archery and for flight archery (long distance shooting) set up. At the congress on September 4th, 1972, binding rules for indoor archery were passed, but it was not until 1989 that the introduction of a World Indoor Championship was decided.
At the 1993 congress, continental associations, some of which already existed, officially became sub-organizations of FITA. At the congress on 01.07.2011 it was decided to replace the French name Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc (FITA) with the English name World Archery Federation (WA) (officially in effect from 01.04.2012).

Member associations

1931	FRA, GBR, ITA, POL, SWE, TCH, HUN (1937 deleted), USA
1932	BEL
1933	EGY, NED (1939 both deleted)
1938	NOR
1946	DEN, FIN
1948	ESP
1950	MEX, NED, POR, RSA
1952	AUS, NZL
1953	SUI
1955	CAN, CUB, LUX, TUR, IND
1956	FRG
1957	HUN
1958	JPN, MAR, ROM
1959	INA
1960	31 national federations
1972	50 national federations
1980	63 national federations
1992	83 national federations
1997	114 national federations and 5 continental federations
2008	139 national federations
2021	179 national federations

[1] today L'viv, Ukraine

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Presidents

04.09. - 31.10.1931	Mieczysław Fularski POL
01.11.1931 - 12.08.1946	Dr. Bronisław Pierzchała POL
12.08.1946 - 12.08.1949	Paul Demare FRA
12.08.1949 - 22.07.1957	Henry Kjellson SWE
22.07.1957 - 14.08.1961	Oscar Kessels BEL
14.08.1961 - 13.02.1977	Inger K. Frith GBR
13.02.1977 - 09.07.1989	Francesco Gnecchi-Ruscone ITA
09.07.1989 - 16.06.2005	James L. Easton USA
16.06.2005 - 03.09.2025	Dr. Uğur Erdener TUR
03.09.2025 -	Greg Easton USA

Secretaries General

04.09.1931 - 26.03.1937	Julian Leśniewski POL
26.03. - 15.08.1937	-----
15.08.1937 - 12.08.1946	Stanisław Mazanowski POL
12.08.1946 - 18.08.1947	Pierre Lambeau BEL
18.09.1947 - 12.08.1949	-----
12.08.1949 - 14.08.1961	Lars Ekegren SWE
14.08.1961 - ??.08.1962	Sylvan Mansell GBR
??.??.1962 - 23.07.1963	A. Richard Harvey GBR, acting
23.07.1963 - 24.07.1965	A. Richard Harvey GBR
24.07.1965 - 13.02.1977	Douglas M. Thompson GBR
13.02.1977 - 21.07.1979	Bernard Boulens SUI
21.07.1979 - 14.06.1981	Nino Oddo ITA
14.06.1981 - 01.08.2005	Giuseppe Cinnirella ITA
01.08.2005 -	Tom Dielen SUI

Athlete of the Year

	Men	Women
2011	Brady ELLISON USA	only one „Athlete of the Year“
2012	Mariana AVITIA MEX	only one „Athlete of the Year“
2013	Martin DAMSBO DEN	Erika JONES USA
Recurve		
2014	Brady ELLISON USA	Aida ROMÁN MEX
2015	KIM Woojin KOR	KI Bo Bae KOR
2016	Brady ELLISON USA	Lisa UNRUH GER
2017	Steve WIJLER NED	Lisa UNRUH GER
2018	Mete GAZOZ TUR	Yasemin Ecem ANAGÖZ TUR
2019	Brady ELLISON USA	KANG Chae Young KOR
2020	*not awarded*	*not awarded*
2021	Mete GAZOZ TUR	AN San KOR
2022	KIM Woojin KOR	AN San KOR
2023	Mete GAZOZ TUR	LIM Sihyeon KOR
Compound		
2014	Pierre-Julien DELOCHE FRA	Erika JONES USA
2015	Stephan HANSEN DEN	Sara LÓPEZ COL
2016	Mike SCHLOSSER NED	Sara LÓPEZ COL
2017	Stephan HANSEN DEN	Sara LÓPEZ COL
2018	Mike SCHLOSSER NED	Sara LÓPEZ COL
2019	Mike SCHLOSSER NED	Sara LÓPEZ COL
2020	*not awarded*	*not awarded*
2021	Mike SCHLOSSER NED	Sara LÓPEZ COL
2022	Mike SCHLOSSER NED	Ella GIBSON GBR
2023	Jozef BOŠANSKÝ SVK	Sara LÓPEZ COL
Overall		
2022	Ella GIBSON GBR	
2023	Marcus D'ALMEIDA BRA	
2024	Matt STUTZMANN USA	
2025	Emircan HANEY TUR	

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