



THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION

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Dear Delegates and Officers,

Traditionally, with the start of a new calendar year, we express our hope for a good year, for health and for success. This time, however, it is much more than the usual standardized phrase. Over the last 20-30 years, there has not been a New Year's Day that I can remember, which was welcomed with greater expectations than this one for the upcoming Year 2021. In this context, my very first message to you is that I sincerely wish all of you and your families a good 2021. May you stay safe from troubles and most importantly healthy!

For the IFAA, this will be a very important year too:

- We need to have our World Council agree on the direction the Association shall proceed for the next two years.
- We all are hoping for the European Bowhunter and the World Field Championships to be hosted and it is essential that we prepare for possible scenarios.
- Our Instructors are looking forward to the renewal of their Certificates / to improve their knowledge and we must provide them with opportunities to do so.
- We all are looking forward to return to the fields and forests again to enjoy the greatest sport of all. For this to happen we must define structures, conditions etc that are acceptable to Archers and Authorities alike.

2021 is also the year we need to show that we have learned our lessons – to keep our day-to-day business running regardless the restrictions imposed and demonstrating to our archers that Associations can be flexible to provide them with alternative opportunities to practise the sport. For this we need your support to promote the World Mail Match formats and the challenges we are going to put forward in the next couple of weeks.

The current global situation requires that we make use of more modern ways of communication. Being it for executives together with the appointed officers to run the association; you as delegates to join online workgroups or assist individually to prepare for the World Council; our Instructor Forum to further develop the successful format of online training courses or our Archers to help spreading the news and to demonstrate their appreciation.

Since the World Council Meeting did not take place as planned, we have urgent matters pending to address. Amongst them, the approval of the budget for the Association. We will approach you in the next two weeks with two (2) postal votes i.e., to approve a temporary budget to keep the Association functioning and the second is to agree to host the World Council Meeting as a Web-Based Conference.

You might ask yourselves, why I am not praising our past President, Loet F. Smit in this letter for all the great work he has done over 25 years which went far beyond of what one would believe being an obligation associated to the function / office he was in charge with. Loet has asked me not to do so and who am I to disrespect such wish? So, I am not mentioning how exceptional the facts are, that he guided the development of the Association for almost half of its existence; that it was he who had a previously informally operating organisation duly registered and recognised as an International Association by one of the global governing Makro-Sports Organisations sanctioned by the United Nations! I only would like to express my deepest gratitude to him for accepting the role of an Advisor / Consultant to the President to allow me to benefit from his wisdom.

Yours in Archery,

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IFAA PRESIDENT

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