

Candidate Statement

I seek the position of Judge Director as I believe my background will be of benefit to the USA Board of Directors. My experience as a judge and the many levels of experience from state through international give me the ability to understand and bring to the table the whys and wherefores of the judge program in the United States.

USA Archery is improving their judge program and promoting education. As a member of the Officials and Rules Committee, we hear quite a bit about what our judges need and we strive to improve the program. A stronger judge program means a stronger USA Archery program.

Having served on other boards outside of archery is also of benefit for this position as I understand how the board must work together as a whole for the benefit of USA Archery.

When I began working as a judge in archery, I felt particularly lucky to have the timing be what it was. My USA mentors were Nancy Myrick, Jane Johnson and Tom Green to name a few. The experience of the judges I trained under, worked with and their willingness to share their knowledge is immeasurable. They have great attitudes and a fabulous sense of humor – which always makes the worst circumstances better. I treasure the experiences of working with other judges, learning and enjoying at each competition.

I look forward to serving on the board and look forward to hearing from all of you when tournaments are successful and when problems arise. These provide USA Archery with opportunities to improve. Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Cockrell

Linda R. Cockrell

I started my interest in archery as a spectator. (At that time my husband shot competitive archery – now he is a coach.) As a result, I became the Secretary to the Minnesota Chapter of USA Archery. I enjoyed learning more about archery and the wonderful people involved in the sport. One day there was an article in an archery magazine describing what a judge is involved in and that there was a real need for judges.

Always one to enjoy a challenge, I felt the opportunity to become a judge was not one I could pass up. Every time I officiate I learn something new and many times these new learned skills or knowledge is something I can apply or use in the non-archery world.

As an archery official, the first tournament I participated in was at one of our National Target Championships. What a great beginning, I was and still am impressed with the quality of the judges, their depth of understanding and their willingness to share their knowledge with me – the rookie – or anyone else.

I have never looked back and have enjoyed every minute. I haven't done this on my own – every official, senior or junior (in length of service) has been there to help with any questions, procedures, etc. I am thrilled to be an International Judge and I encourage anyone who is interested to become an official. It is such an exciting opportunity to assist our athletes to reach their dreams.

Minnesota Chapter of USA Archery

1996 was the year I actively became involved in the formation of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Archery Association which was renamed Minnesota Chapter of USA Archery when the national organization changed its name. 2015 is the 17th year of the Minnesota Star Fita and Voyageurs Cup Tournament. Additionally, we put on other events in Minnesota – a 25Meter Indoor event, an 18 Meter Indoor Shoot, as well as the North Regional Indoor. We also provide both Indoor and Outdoor Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) state tournaments. I am the JOAD Coordinator at the Coon Rapids Archery Center where we run a youth program where it has grown substantially.

Archery Experience

In 1998 I read an article about the need for judges and that is how my passion for archery started. 1998 was also my first year as an archery official at USA Archery's National event.

As I continued to learn more, I became a State Judge, then Regional Judge and then National Judge. In 2004 I attended my first Continental Judge Seminar in San Salvador, El Salvador. Again, as I learned more, I became a Continental Judge, an International Judge Candidate and then in November of 2008 I became an International Judge. In 2012, I officiated at the Olympics.

2006 was the year I travelled to Puerto Rico as a Technical Delegate and over the years I have been Chairman of the Judges and Director of Shooting at many archery events. I am also an IPC National Technical Delegate. Currently, in addition to judging, I am on the Officials & Rules Committee with USA Archery.