



Briefing: Archery GB and Grand Western Archery Society Affiliations

In July 2024 Archery GB made changes to the affiliation system ready for the annual renewal in September/October. This included the move to annualized membership whereby members renew on the anniversary that they join and the removal of Pro-Rating where fees can be reduced for new members part way through the year. Archery GB also changed the age groups to fall more in line with World Archery.

Archery GB also allowed members to renew their Archery GB membership themselves through Sport:80, the membership portal. However they did not take into account or fully consult how members should deal with Regional and County fees.

GWAS recommended to Counties and Clubs that members do not renew through this route as it would mean additional administration for the Regional Affiliations Secretary and Treasurer as well as the equivalent roles at a County level having to check bank accounts to deal with individual payments. It also raised the question from some members as to "what does the County and Region do for me?" which meant additional work for volunteers at all levels having to justify these fees. Although, on the whole most Clubs and individuals did comply with our request.

GWAS met with Archery GB over the process and have also discussed what we do going forward. Ultimately we would like a system whereby Archery GB collect and distribute Regional and County Fees at the same time.

We have no choice but to accept the change to annualized membership, removal of Pro Rata fees and age groups. GWAS have agreed to adopt the annualized membership immediately with the regional renewal date matching the date set by Archery GB.

But for the Pro Rating and age groups we need to change our constitution to reflect those changes. Counties and Clubs may also need to do the same.

For GWAS we need to agree these changes at an EGM which will be held immediately before our normal AGM where they can be adopted in March 2025. Further formal detail will be issued nearer the time.

- GWAS will drop the pro-rating of affiliations from 1st April 2025 (having already adopted the annualized membership structure above)
- GWAS change the age groups to match the new Archery GB structure:
 - Remove Juniors under 18
 - Remove 18's to 24's
 - Retain Under 21's
 - Leave Seniors as being anyone 21 or over
 - Disabled and University undergrad/postgrad categories need no alteration

In the meantime GWAS strongly urge Clubs and members to continue batching up Archery GB, Regional and County fees and process them as we have always done. Individuals should be encouraged to continue to pay their Archery GB fees through the Club rather than direct in Sport:80. This will reduce the amount of administrative work on Affiliation Officers and Treasurers at all levels. (Certainly at regional level, both the current postholders have indicated they would resign if they have to manage and reconcile thousands of individual payments into our bank account and with Sport:80). As many organisations are finding, most banks are also moving their "Treasurer's" accounts to accounts that charge fees for transactions. This will have an impact on our bank accounts, certainly if we have to deal with thousands of small transactions rather than a smaller number of batched payments.

If you have any questions they can be directed to the Affiliations Secretary or Treasurer through our Secretary, Denise at secretary@gwas.org.uk

Thankyou for your understanding.

The Grand Western Council, November 2024