

THE USE OF STRING STOPPERS



The recent introduction of the double string stoppers in the recurve shooting style has resulted in various queries about the legality of string stoppers in the various styles that are allowed for in the IFAA rules.

The use of string stoppers is not addressed in the IFAA rules that define the various shooting styles. However there are various other rules that may limit the use of string stoppers, depending of shape, position and weight.

In the **Freestyle Unlimited** and the **Freestyle Limited** styles there are no limits set on the use of string stoppers.

In the **Bowhunter Unlimited** and the **Bowhunter Limited** shooting styles the rules state:

“No forked stabiliser or any counter balance will be legal.”

This means that any string stopper that can be perceived to be a counter balance, because of size and weight and thus is perceived to have a dual function will not be acceptable in those shooting styles. They must be of light weight material and have this specific function.

In the **Bowhunter style** the same rules as for the BL and BU styles apply, be it that in the event of the use of a dual stopper, like with the recurve bows, the top stopper may not result in any form of sight reference. It must be out of the line of vision when the bow is in full draw.

In the **Barebow style** counter weights are allowed, which includes string stoppers, but like in the Bowhunter style no string stoppers may be in the line of vision and may not be used as sighting points.

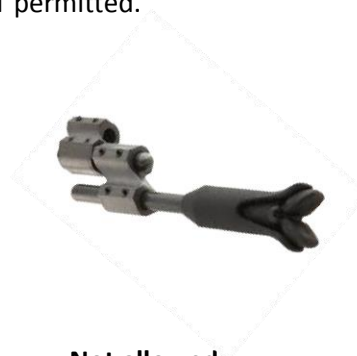
In the **Longbow** and **Historical Bow** shooting styles no string stoppers are allowed at all !

Irrespective of the above consequential rules due to limitations set out in the IFAA rules on the various styles, one general rule applies: In all styles except the Unlimited Freestyle and the Limited Freestyle the **“The string stopper has a specific function; it may not have any other function to assist the archer.”**

Consequently string stoppers must have a flat surface and any string stopper that has a groove or has a “V”-shape, thus allowing for positioning of the bowstring at rest, is NOT permitted.



Allowed



Not allowed

This ruling shall apply until August 2016 when the IFAA World Council will decide on this matter.
IFAA Exec