



THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION

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Members and member archers of the International Field Archery Association (IFAA)

Concerning: My official withdrawal from the nomination for President of the IFAA

Dear IFAA archers,

This is the year that an IFAA President is elected.

The nominations for the President are done by those associations that are Full Members of the IFAA. Associate members are not allowed to nominate a candidate; neither can individuals nominate themselves or other individuals as a candidate for an IFAA elected position.

It is no secret that I have asked the IFAA World Council to find a replacement for me since 2010, which would allow me to retire from my function from 1 January 2012.

That did not materialise and I am still the President of the IFAA.

This means that I have held a function within the IFAA for 30 years: 4 years as Delegate for the South African member association, 10 years as Secretary and 16 years as President of the IFAA.

Against my wishes I was again asked to be nominated for President and it was under duress that I accepted as there were no other nominations at that stage of the election process.

Over the last few years I have not been healthy and I suffer from severe osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis as a part of an autoimmune syndrome that is very difficult to cure. I can no longer walk unaided or write and the use of a keyboard is very difficult and painful. I cannot sit for an extended period of time and thus I will not be able to travel or attend future IFAA Council Meetings. I will eventually lose whatever personal contact I had with you.

The last two years have been a severe strain on Colette and I and we need to take it easier. The Covid-19 virus and the resulting cancellation or postponement of important IFAA sanctioned tournaments in Europe really added a further strain and many sleepless nights and my health has deteriorated further.

I am 71 years old now and it is time for me to retire from the IFAA Executive and let "young blood" with other and most probably more modern ideas take over. The IFAA is now over 50 years old and it needs to be upgraded to suit the modern approach to sport and the after effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, for it is almost certain that we have not seen the end of this virus.

Fortunately there are at this stage two other nominees for the IFAA Presidency. They are both persons who have experience in running an association and I believe that they can manage the IFAA as is required, be it different to the way I managed the IFAA.

I therefore will not run against these nominees and have decided to withdraw my nomination for IFAA President.

I shall offer my service and experience to the new President as an "Advisor" under certain conditions. He has the authority to do so. This should allow for a smooth handover and continuation of the IFAA administration.

I wish the IFAA and all its members and archers the best. I had hoped to be present at my last tournament for a more fitting retirement announcement, but this unfortunately is not possible.

Kind regards,

Loet Smit

President

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