

# Nostalgia Corner

30 Years Ago ... by Paul Davison

## The T-system – not a very popular idea



1974 was a year of “trial and error” for the NFAA. The most enduring change was the addition of a Cub Division for those aged 11 and under. The Youth Division spanned four years, 12 through 15 (now 12-14), while the Young Adult Division was for ages 16 and 17 (now 15-17). Any one of these NFAA Juniors, however, could, as they can today, elect to compete in a higher division with written parental consent. Some “sure winners” in the Junior divisions found it much more prestigious to compete as Amateur Adults. Although

the Youth and Young Adult age spans remained unchanged for a few more years, the other, new, “Divisions of Competition” rule — the T-system — lasted through 1974 only.

The compound bow essentially created the T-system (aka “T-bone”). In 1974, the NFAA had no separate styles for the recurve or longbow as they do today, and since strength was not an issue in shooting a compound bow, the argument became that females should be able to compete with males. Moreover, those having similar handicaps should be able to compete together regardless of style. The NFAA Directors, however, balked at unisex competition. Instead, they agreed that the Outdoor National and Sectional Championship awards would be left “as is,” but that those below Champion would be flighted according to their pre-tournament NFAA Handicaps. The handicap/flight groupings were divided into four, non-pro, “Divisions of Competition” for males and females. Confused? So was every-

body else in 1974. That’s why the T-system never survived. The table below may help describe where the “T” in T-system came from.

Championship bows were to be awarded to each style across the top of the “T” for male and female — making a total of 26. Pressure from the NFAA members, however, added eight more bows: (1) Amateur Adult and Young Adult were separated, and (2) the Bowhunter style was restored to the Amateur Adult Division. Medals through three places were then awarded in each Flight below the “T” without regard to shooting style.

The T-system didn’t last because of three, somewhat misconstrued, reasons:

1. No one likes to compete against someone shooting a different style.
2. The Handicap System was subject to sandbagging.
3. Being “first runner-up” to the National Champion was better than being first in Flight 1.

### 1974 DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION FOR NATIONAL AND SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

OPEN ADULT		AMATEUR ADULT & YOUNG ADULT		YOUTH		CUB	
STYLES: FS, FSL, BB & BH		STYLES: FS, FSL & BB		STYLES: FS, FSL & BB		STYLES: FS, FSL & BB	
Flight 1	0-24 Hdcp	Flight 1	0-24 Hdcp	Flight 1	0-24 Hdcp	Flight 1	0-48 Hdcp
Flight 2	25-48 Hdcp	Flight 2	25-48 Hdcp	Flight 2	25-48 Hdcp	Flight 2	49-128
Flight 3	49-88 Hdcp	Flight 3	49-88 Hdcp	Flight 3	49-88 Hdcp	Flight 3	129-208
Flight 4	89-148	Flight 4	89-148	Flight 4	89-148	Flight 4	209-288
Flight 5	149-228	Flight 5	149-228	Flight 5	149-228	Flight 5	289-368
Flight 6	229 & up	Flight 6	229 & up	Flight 6	229 & up	Flight 6	369 & up