

Nov. 2, 2005 –  
Disabled Archers

NABC Organizational Reps,

With the continued thrust to inject crossbows into bowhunting seasons, the NABC steering committee feels that it is appropriate to further address the issue as it relates to crossbows and the physically challenged. In our To Whom It May Concern letter/statement (attached) we intentionally did not include the disabled aspect at that time because the intent of the TWIMC letter was to solely address the crossbow from an equipment standpoint and how it is not a bow and thus should not be permitted in bow seasons or archery only areas.

The press release from the April 17-18 National Bowhunting Summit states in part,

*“The organizational representatives at the Bowhunting Summit were unanimous in their opposition to crossbows being allowed in bow seasons. The position taken is that crossbows are not bows and therefore they should not be allowed in bowhunting only seasons, except where the states already have exemptions for qualified physical disabilities”.*

The above position has not changed at all – the NABC will not stand in the way of present laws/regulations that allow disabled archers the use of crossbows in archery seasons. We will soon suggest available alternatives, however, so that disabled archers can enjoy themselves with modern conventional bows, adapted to their particular disability.

This adaptive equipment approach was presented in detail at our August 6-7 meeting. New York, Montana and Kansas have already taken it upon themselves to challenge the idea that a crossbow is always the answer to the disabled archer question. These states have active programs that promote the use of adapted conventional bows, instead of crossbows, for disabled archers. It is the NABC’s intention to establish a program that helps disabled archers realize there are additional choices and if they would like, to help them get properly fitted to an adapted conventional bow. Providing state and provincial bowhunting organizations with information and a blue print on how to set up this type of program is an action item from our August meeting.

Denny Ballard  
NABC Chairman