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Crossbow Position Statement Committee – Background and FAQ

BACKGROUND

During the April 2018 ATA annual meeting, the ATA Board of Directors formed a committee to consider the Crossbow Position Statement. The current statement, adopted in June 2008, had been in place for nearly ten years. The Board felt that the industry and sport had changed a lot in that time, so it was a good opportunity to consider this position. Several Board members felt that while things had changed, we needed new research to help make any new recommendations.

The Board formed the committee with five manufacturers. Three of those manufacture crossbows and crossbow accessories. Four retailers/distributors joined the committee as well. Of those nine committee members, eight hold seats on the Board of Directors. Blake Shelby accepted the role of Chair representing the ATA Board. Dan Forster accepted the role of ATA Staff Lead. Scott Einsmann acts as Staff Liaison, and Matt Kormann joined the committee as a staff representative.

During meetings, the committee chose a consultant to draft and implement a survey of membership. We received more than 600 responses from more than 2,300 survey invitations. During their discussions, the committee agreed that they must act in the interest of the larger membership based on the survey results.

The ATA bylaws state that no committee may act on behalf of the ATA. So the Crossbow Position Statement committee's goal is to make a recommendation to the ATA Board. The committee could recommend no action be taken, some change to the Position Statement could be considered, or a complete dismissal of the Position Statement. But the Board would have to take action before any change would occur.

No time frame was placed on the work of the committee. Committee members want to ensure they take time to gather feedback and make informed decisions based on that information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why did the ATA choose to reconsider the crossbow position?

Crossbows have become an important part of hunting, with the potential to increase participation in our sport and industry. Given significant changes to the market, to hunting and target shooting demographics, and to the archery and bowhunting industry in general, this issue was brought before the Board in April. The Crossbow Position Statement has been in place for ten years without change, so the Board felt it was time to take a fresh look at its position.

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What does the ATA want to happen to the Position Statement?

The focus of this effort has been to gather experts, hear the opinion of members, and use that opinion to inform a thoughtful recommendation to the Board. The ATA Board and this committee didn't begin this effort with any specific result in mind. It is healthy for organizations to periodically review existing positions, policies, and practices.

Why did the ATA choose to form a committee on this topic?

In short, the Board did not want to react quickly to something they knew was important to many members. The Board felt it was appropriate to study the topic over the course of several months. This allows them to bring an informed recommendation back to the Board for consideration. The appointment of a committee and the choice of its members was made in the spirit of collaboration and thoughtful deliberation before any official action was considered by the Board on this important issue.

Why was a consultant used to facilitate a member survey?

The committee wanted member opinions to be used as the primary information for shaping any recommendation. In order to get the most useful and unbiased survey results from our members, the committee opted to use a consultant with no ties to the archery and bowhunting industry. Bell Leadership is an expert in designing, delivering, and analyzing social science-based surveys.

When will this evaluation process be completed?

Because committee members have committed to take the time to evaluate all input, there is no specific time frame placed on the work of the committee. Any recommendation resulting from the committee's work must first be made to the Board and then acted on in an official capacity prior to adoption. The Board is scheduled to meet next at the 2019 Trade Show, but a special meeting can be called at any time.

Who can I reach out to if I have questions or want to know more?

- 1) Wendy Lang: wendylang@archerytrade.org
- 2) Matt Kormann: mattkormann@archerytrade.org
- 3) Dan Forster: danforster@archerytrade.org
- 4) Call our office:
 - a. Toll Free: 866-266-2776
 - b. Direct: 507-233-8130
- 5) [Visit our website](#)

OVERVIEW OF SURVEY DATA:

- 1) 2,330 survey invitations were sent
- 2) 626 members responded, or 26.8% of those invited
- 3) What do those numbers tell us?
 - a. We have 99% confidence in the results of the survey, and the margin of error is 4.5%
 - b. We surveyed all active members, broken down into the usual groups between manufacturers, retailers, industry partners, international, etc.
 - c. Retailers represented the largest number of responses, generating 54.6% of all responses
 - d. Exhibiting manufacturers were the second-largest response group, at 17.9% of all responses

SURVEY QUESTIONS

- 1) We asked, on a scale of 1-10, to rate how much the ATA's position on crossbows aligns with/reflects your personal position on crossbows. (1 being "Not at all in line with my views," 10 being "Reflects my views perfectly.")
 - a. 55.6% of all respondents rated this a 9 or 10
 - b. Another 22.1 % rated this a 7 or 8
 - c. The remaining 22.3% rated this between 1 and 6
 - d. Overall, our membership feels that the current position statement reflects their personal positions.
- 2) We asked whether the ATA should reconsider the position statement or not.
 - a. 78.7% of all respondents said the current position doesn't need to be revisited.
 - b. The remaining 21.3% thought the ATA should reconsider the position.
- 3) We asked who should be permitted to hunt game using a crossbow in archery season.
 - a. 62.9% of all respondents felt that all licensed hunters should be able to use a crossbow.
 - b. 15.2% felt that only elderly, junior, and physically challenged or disabled hunters should be able to use a crossbow.
 - c. 12.5% felt that only elderly and physically challenged or disabled hunters should be able to use a crossbow.
 - d. The remaining 9.4% of respondents were spread across smaller groups of hunters.
- 4) We asked which hunting season you think crossbows should be permitted to hunt game.
 - a. 64.2% of all respondents thought crossbows should be used in all hunting seasons in which archery is permitted.
 - b. 18.6% felt crossbows need their own hunting season.
 - c. 16.8% felt crossbows should be used during rifle/gun season only.
 - d. 0.5% felt that crossbows should not be used in any hunting season.
- 5) We asked, on a scale of 1-10, how aware are you of the ATA's efforts in helping state governments determine their policies related to hunting? (1 being "I am not aware at all," and 10 being "I follow this very closely.")
 - a. 68.5% of all respondents rated this from 1 to 6.
 - b. 20.0% of all respondents rated this a 7 or 8.
 - c. 11.5% rated this a 9 or 10.

- 6) We asked whether the ATA should refrain from making recommendations to states as they determine or review their crossbow-related policies, or should the ATA take an active role to recommend and assist states to come to terms on crossbow-related policies.
- a. 80.0% of all respondents believe the ATA should take an active role to recommend and assist states to come to terms on crossbow-related policies.
 - b. The remaining 20.0% felt the ATA should continue to refrain from making recommendations to states as they determine or review their crossbow-related policies.