

# BIATHLON ONTARIO RANGE SAFETY RULES

(This Document must be posted at ALL Biathlon Ontario Ranges and be attached to the Participant Waiver Form)

Remember the **4 A.C.T.S.** of Firearm Safety:

**A**ssume every firearm is loaded,  
**C**ontrol the muzzle direction at all times,  
**T**rigger finger must be kept off the trigger and  
out of the trigger guard until ready to shoot,  
**S**ee that the firearm is unloaded when not shooting

In order to **See** – you must **P.R.O.V.E.**

**P**oint the firearm in the safest possible direction,  
**R**emove all ammunition,  
**O**bserve the chamber,  
**V**erify the feeding path,  
**E**xamine the bore each time you pick up a firearm

In this document, the term “biathlon range” means any range that is in use for biathlon training or competition.

- 1) Each individual athlete is responsible for the safe handling of his/her rifle.
- 2) All users of biathlon ranges in Ontario must be members of a provincial/territorial or national biathlon association.
- 3) All users must be lawfully entitled to possess the rifle in use. The use of a rifle by any other person is subject to direct and immediate supervision by a person lawfully entitled to possess the rifle. This is particularly important for athletes new to the sport and the younger athletes. During a competition, the Chief of Range (or any other Biathlon Official) is **not** responsible for said supervision.
- 4) A biathlon Range Safety Officer (**RSO**), responsible for opening and closing the range and for enforcing all safety rules, must be present for any event when the range is in operation. During biathlon competitions, the Chief of Range, or his/her designate, is the **RSO**. During individual training, one of the people using the range must assume the function of the **RSO**.
- 5) **Red** and **green** safety flags, under the control of the Range Safety Officer, must be used when the range is being operated. The **red flag** indicates that the range is **OPEN** for shooting. The **green flag** indicates that the range is **CLOSED** to shooting. The **RSO** will close the range and the **green flag** must be prominently displayed when it is necessary to step in front of the firing line (under the **RSO**'s direction), to change paper targets, etc. When the range is closed, all rifles must be unloaded. When the range is closed during training, users must step well away from any unloaded rifles on the firing line. Regardless of the flag in place, it is imperative that all users of the range be safety conscious.
- 6) The use of red and green flags or any P.A. announcements **does not** override the verbal commands of the **RSO**.
- 7) When transporting a rifle to and from the firing line, the unloaded rifle must be pointed upward and have the bolt open. When preparing to load and shoot the rifle, the rifle must be pointed down range in the direction of the target. Inserting the magazine into the rifle is considered to be part of the loading procedure.
- 8) Only shoot at the appropriate target, either metal or paper. Do not intentionally shoot at the paddles, target setting indicators, etc. Only air rifles or rifles which use .22 cal LR rim fire ammunition (standard or target, not high velocity) may be used.
- 9) Under no circumstances may a loaded rifle be left unattended. For those biathletes not required to carry a rifle in competition, the bolt must be open and the clip removed before the biathlete leaves the firing line after completing shooting. When not in use, unloaded rifles must be placed in a rifle rack with the bolt open and the clip removed. Rifles may not be left unsupervised.
- 10) In event formats or athlete categories in which competitors do not carry a rifle in competition, the rifle must be picked up from an entrance rack prior to entering the range and placed in an exit rack after shooting. Rifles in these racks must be left with the bolt open and the clip removed. When the rifle is in transit between the entrance rack and the firing point prior to shooting and between the firing point and the exit rack after shooting, the bolt must be open and the clip removed.
- 11) Any unsafe handling of a rifle will not be tolerated. In such a case, the **RSO** has the power to immediately suspend range use privileges for the offender. Any such action is to be reported (by the Range Safety Officer) as soon as possible to the management of the local range and to the executive of Biathlon Ontario for further appropriate action that may result in criminal proceedings.
- 12) These Biathlon Ontario Range Safety Rules include sections from International Biathlon Union (IBU) safety regulations, mostly sections 8.5 and 8.6 of the IBU "Event and Competition Rules, 2006 edition", and Canadian firearm safety regulations. In addition, **all local procedures for the use of ranges in Ontario must be adhered to**, (such things as sign-in / sign-out procedures, reporting of damaged or malfunctioning equipment, etc.) **In the case of conflict of any of these regulations, the more stringent shall apply**. It is the responsibility of all users of biathlon ranges in Ontario to be aware of and adhere to these rules.

I have read and agree to the Biathlon Ontario Range Safety Rules: \_\_\_\_\_