

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL - Rifle Rental and Maintenance Policy

June 2021

Biathlon Saskatchewan is committed to grow the sport of biathlon in Saskatchewan. As the sport requires small-bore rifle marksmanship, the growth of the sport is dependent on the accessibility and safe use of small bore rifles and, as safety is important, this policy should be reviewed with the Biathlon Saskatchewan Range Safety Rules.

This policy will attempt to focus on

- 1) Accessibility
- 2) Availability
- 3) Accountability

## 1. DEFINITIONS

See Definitions Section

## 2. POLICY STATEMENT

- a) Biathlon Saskatchewan has a number of rifles available for rental and includes Fortner rifles, clip loaded bolt action rifles and single shot rifles. The rifle rental criteria must be met for the rental of all rifles. Fortner Rifles will be available to rent for \$300 per season, bolt action rifles for \$150 per season, with rifles suitable only for rests (single load rifles and Savages) \$50. Payment will be made using an online payment and record keeping system to enable better tracking of rifles (e.g., Zone 4 or similar).
- b) Fortner rifles will be assigned to members based on the **Fortner Rifle Selection Criteria** and approved by the High Performance Committee. Biathletes are initially encouraged to rent a bolt action biathlon rifle, if available. Athletes who wish to excel in the sport consistent with the Long Term Athlete Development Model are encouraged to purchase their own biathlon rifles. Fortner rifles are generally for athletes Junior Men/Women-aged and younger. (When an athlete reaches the senior category they may choose to purchase the rifle they have been using, for approximately its fair market value as determined and approved by the High Performance committee.)
- c) All other rifles will be assigned by the Provincial Coach based upon best fit and commitment determined through discussion with the Club or Training Group coach. Commitment may be determined by attendance at practices, participation in races and involvement in the Club or Training Group.
- d) Allocation to youth-aged will take precedent over allocation to master-aged athletes.
- e) It is desirable for the athlete to use a consistent rifle throughout the season to achieve familiarity through practice therefore allocation decisions will take place at the start of the biathlon season in the spring with adjustments, if necessary, in the fall.

**3. RENTAL CRITERIA**

- a) Applicants must be a member in good standing with Biathlon Canada and Biathlon Saskatchewan;
- b) Applicants must demonstrate satisfactory completion of a Saskatchewan Firearms' Safety Course;
- c) Athletes eighteen (18) years of age or older - possess a valid Possession and Acquisition License (PAL);
- d) Athletes twelve (12) years of age but younger than eighteen (18) years of age – are encouraged to possess a minor's license which is required to compete at National competitions;
- e) Athletes less than eighteen (18) years of age - have a parent/legal guardian, over the age of eighteen (18) possess a valid Possession and Acquisition License (PAL), living in the residence of the minor applicant. The parent/legal guardian must be a member in good standing with Biathlon Canada, Biathlon Saskatchewan and the local club or training group;
- f) A volunteer club coach with a valid PAL can transport and store a rental rifle for the athlete however rental preference will be given to athletes with minors permits or PAL's as they will be eligible to compete at national events and require access to practice dryfiring when convenient for the athlete;
- g) Athletes using a Biathlon Saskatchewan .22 caliber rifle must be at least 12 years of age, as of December 31 of the competition season. At the discretion of the High Performance Committee, an athlete age 11 years of age might be eligible to use a rifle;
- h) Athletes must demonstrate a commitment to bettering themselves in the sport of biathlon through participation in Saskatchewan Biathlon races and training camps, and races and training camps sanctioned by Biathlon Saskatchewan;
- i) Biathlon Saskatchewan will set aside \$1500 per season, available to athletes able to demonstrate that support is needed to pay for rental fees. Athletes can apply to be considered for this support with a letter to the HP committee. Applications can be submitted after June 30 of each year and will be reviewed in the order received. The HP committee will decide which applicants are successful.

## 4. FORTNER RIFLE SELECTION CRITERIA

Athlete eligibility to rent a Fortner rifle will be based upon consideration of the following:

- a) Athlete category
  - i. Biathlon Canada or Training Squad Members.
  - ii. International Representation of Saskatchewan
  - iii. Canadian National Biathlon Training Center Athletes
  - iv. Canada Winter Games Training Squad or High Performance Team Member
- b) Qualifying Competitions
  - i. International Representation of Saskatchewan (e.g. World Youth Trails, University Games, IBU races)
  - ii. National (e.g. Canada Winter Games, Nationals)
  - iii. Inter-Provincial (e.g. Westerns, Alberta Biathlon Cups)
  - iv. Provincial (Sask Cups, Provincials)
- c) An athlete's performance will be calculated based on the athlete's time relative to the average of the first, second and third place athletes' times in that category. In addition, the races will be weighted by competition type. Consideration may be given to the number of participants in the applicant's category.
- d) For athletes not in (a) above, the cumulative total number of qualifying competitions and athlete performance from the previous race season will be used to determine rifle selection order.
- e) The High Performance Committee may also give consideration to:
  - i. adherence to approved training plan,
  - ii. athlete conduct compliance,
  - iii. exceptional circumstances.

## 5. RENTAL CONDITIONS - MAINTENANCE

When renting a rifle, athletes and parents/guardians will agree to the following rental conditions including maintenance as follows:

- a) The rifle rental period is an eleven (11) month period from June 1 to April 30 of the next year. Fees will not be pro-rated;
- b) Biathlon Saskatchewan reserves the right to adjust fees/costs within a given year;
- c) Biathlon Saskatchewan reserves the right to levy replacement or repair costs resulting from loss, damage or theft;
- d) Applicants must:

- i. Meet the rental criteria;
- ii. Adhere to the Biathlon Saskatchewan Range Safety Rules;
- iii. Attend a rifle cleaning course provided by your club coach and/or club range safety officer;
- iv. Maintain the rented rifle and accessories in the condition received when rented;
- v. Clean the rifle at least monthly; or when required due to weather;
- vi. Only use target grade ammunition (no high velocity or hollow point);
- vii. Use the rifle for biathlon target shooting or dry fire training;
- viii. Do not adjust the firing mechanism in any way unless permission is provided by the Provincial Coach as representative from the High Performance Committee;
- ix. Do not affix or attach logos, stickers or any other materials or accessories on any part of the rifle including the stock unless authorization is received by the Provincial Coach as a representative from the High Performance Committee.

e) Replacement costs

- i. Anschutz Fortner - \$5000
- ii. Anschutz Bolt - \$3500
- iii. Izhmash Bolt - \$2500
- iv. Savage Bolt - \$1000
- v. Single Shot - \$500
- vi. CZ Pellet Rifle - \$700
- vii. Daisy Pellet Rifle - \$100

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES

As rifles are required in the sport of biathlon, coaches, clubs and training groups must provide a safe environment. Coaches should ensure compliance by athletes renting rifles of all the terms and conditions in this policy. Where a coach is made aware of misuse of the rifle or noncompliance of this policy, the coach can seize the rifle.

a) Provincial Coach

- i. Ensure equitable distribution of athlete rifles and club spare rifles amongst clubs.
- ii. Maintain provincial rifle inventory and work with club coaches to ensure adequate working condition and/or replacement as required.
- iii. Safely dispose of decommissioned rifles
- iv. Purchase new rifles as per Biathlon Saskatchewan annual budget and expenditure approval processes.

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- v. Ensure rental fees are paid for Junior and/or Senior athletes training out of province.
- vi. Ensure club rifle rental fees are paid and reported annually.

### **b) Clubs or Coach acting as Club Representative**

- i. Ensure registered athletes have paid their rifle rental within 2 months of allocation to an athlete.
- ii. Ensure rental and maintenance criteria are followed.
- iii. Provide nominations for Fortner rifles to the Provincial Coach and High Performance Committee.
- iv. Report annual rifle rentals and condition to Provincial coach for inventory update and reconciliation
- v. Communicate athlete rifle rental assistance program

### **c) High Performance Committee**

- i. Fortner disbursement and purchase approval
- ii. Approve Athlete rifle rental assistance program applications and disbursements

## **7. REFUSAL OF RIFLE RENTAL**

Biathlon Saskatchewan may terminate the rental of a rifle if the applicant breaches Biathlon Saskatchewan Range Safety Rules, found guilty of a criminal offence, and/or breaches the Rifle Rental and Maintenance Policy specifically the Rental Criteria and/or Rental Conditions. No refunds will be made.

## **8. RENTAL AGREEMENT WORDING**

I have read the Biathlon Saskatchewan rifle rental policy at (<http://www.biathlonsask.ca/biathlon-sask-policies> ) and agree to safely transport and store the rifle as well as to properly maintain the rifle in my care. I understand that I shall have my PAL in my possession while the rifle is being transported, stored or used.

Prior to receiving my (our) own PAL, I (we) understand that a coach with his/her PAL will be in possession of the rifle including transportation and storage and that I (we) will follow all use, care and safety instructions when using the rifle under the supervision of the coach or another person with their PAL. I (we) will complete a firearm safety course and apply for a PAL in a timely manner.