

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Section 10 – Range Safety Rules Policy

Effective: September 2015

Biathlon Saskatchewan

Range Safety Rules must be posted at ALL Biathlon Saskatchewan shooting activities.

<i>Remember the 4 A.C.T.S. of Firearm Safety:</i>	<i>In order to See – you must P.R.O.V.E.</i>
A ssume every firearm is loaded,	P oint the firearm in the safest possible direction,
C ontrol the muzzle direction at all times,	R emove all ammunition,
T rigger finger must be kept off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until ready to shoot	O bserve the chamber,
S ee that the firearm is unloaded when not shooting	V erify the feeding path,
	E xamine the bore each time you pick up a firearm

1. DEFINITIONS

See Definitions Section

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- a. Each individual athlete shall be responsible for the safe handling of his/her rifle. (See the **Possession and Acquisition License** section following).
- b. All users of biathlon ranges in Saskatchewan shall be members of a provincial and national biathlon association.
- c. All users shall 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.
- d. A biathlon **Range Safety Officer (RSO)**, responsible for opening and closing the range and for enforcing all safety rules, shall be present for any event when the range is in operation. During biathlon competitions, the Chief of Range, or his/her designate, shall be the **RSO**. During individual training, one of the people using the range must assume the function of the **RSO**.
- e. When there is a safety issue during a practice or competition the RSO or anyone who sees a safety issue can give a “cease fire” command. When the command is given all participants must cease firing, open the bolt, remove the magazine and step away from the rifle.
- f. **Red** and **green** safety flags, under the control of the **Range Safety Officer**, shall be used when the range is being operated. The **red flag** indicates that the range

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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 made safe by opening the bolt and removing the magazine. 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.

- g. The use of red and green flags or any public address announcements **does not** override the verbal commands of the **RSO**.
- h. When transporting a rifle to and from the firing line, the unloaded rifle shall be carried with the barrel pointed upward, have the bolt open and magazine removed. When preparing to load and shoot the rifle, the rifle shall 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.
- i. 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, not hollow point or not full metal jacket) may be used.
- j. 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 shall be placed in a rifle rack with the bolt open and the magazine removed. Rifles shall **not** be left unsupervised.
- k. In event formats or athlete categories in which competitors do not carry a rifle in competition, the rifle shall be picked up from an entrance rack with the rifle pointed upward prior to entering the range and placed in an exit rack after shooting with the rifle pointed upward. Rifles in these racks shall be left with the bolt open and the magazine 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 shall be open, the magazine removed and the rifle pointed upward.
- l. 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 local club executive of the range and to the executive of Biathlon Saskatchewan for further appropriate action which may result in criminal proceedings.

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- m. These Biathlon Saskatchewan 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 Saskatchewan must be adhered to. 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 Saskatchewan to be aware of and adhere to these rules.

3. FIREARMS LICENCES FOR BIATHLON

All athletes using a .22 caliber rifle for the sport of biathlon in Saskatchewan, shall complete and pass the [Canadian Firearms Safety Course](#) during the first year of involvement in the sport. It is encouraged that parents also take the course as a pre-requisite to obtain a Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) to ensure the legal and safe transportation and storage of the biathlon rifle. As part of training, athletes are encouraged to use their rifles to dry-fire on a daily basis.

- a. **For Individuals aged 18 and older** – A PAL is your authorization to possess a firearm and to obtain ammunition. Your license must be kept current for as long as you possess firearms in Canada. Once a person turns 18, they are no longer eligible for a minor's license. Instead, they must apply for a Possession and Acquisition License and pay the applicable fee.
- b. **For Individuals aged 12 to 17** - A Minors' License will enable young people to borrow a non-restricted rifle for approved purposes such as target shooting. Generally, the minimum age is 12 years. Applicants must have taken the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and passed the test.
- c. **To participate outside of Saskatchewan including national events, a Minor's Licence or a Possession and Acquisition License is required.**

4. MINOR'S LICENCE

A minor's license permits the borrowing of non-restricted firearms (ordinary rifles and shotguns) for the following activities:

- target practice
- organized shooting competitions
- hunting
- being instructed in the use of firearms

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A minor's license also permits the **possession of ammunition**, unless there is an age restriction under provincial or territorial law. Most Saskatchewan ammunition sellers require the buyer to be at least 18 years of age.

As a general rule, the following requirements must be met:

- The applicant must be at **least 12 years old**.
- As per section 7 of the [Firearms Act](#), individuals under 18 **must** complete the [Canadian Firearms Safety Course](#) and pass the test in order to get a license. They are not eligible to challenge and attempt to pass the test without taking the course.
- Individuals younger than 18 years of age are not eligible to hold a license authorizing them to possess prohibited or restricted firearms.

A license application (form RCMP 5485) can be obtained by contacting the relevant Chief Firearms Officer:

Chief Firearms Officer
Room 310, 1783 Hamilton Street
Regina, SK S4P 2B6
Tel: (306) 780-5912
Fax: (306) 780-7400

A Firearms Officer may interview the applicant or their parent or guardian, who must first agree and consent to the conditions under which the minor may use firearms, before a Minor's License will be issued.

Conditions may be placed on the license. For example, supervision may be required when the minor uses a firearm.

The minor's license will expire on the holder's 18th birthday or the expiry date shown on their license, whichever comes first.

5. USING FIREARMS WITHOUT A MINOR'S LICENCE

Without a minor's license, the minor may still use firearms providing they are under the direct and immediate supervision of someone who is licensed to possess that class of firearm. This generally means that the licensed person must be close enough to them to take immediate action to prevent any unsafe or illegal use of the firearm.

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A biathlon coach may retain possession of the rifle for storage and transportation however the athlete will only be able to compete in Saskatchewan as a recreational athlete. Biathlon Saskatchewan promotes dry firing practice which is not possible on a consistent and routine basis if not in possession of a rifle. The athlete is still required to satisfactorily complete the firearms safety course within the first year of participating in biathlon.

For more information for Parents and Adults older than 18, Please see the following link: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/information/lic-per-eng.htm>