

# Victorian Biathlon Championships

## Winning Number of Entrants

The Australian Biathlon Association held its Victorian Biathlon Championships on 31 July at Mt Hotham, Vic.

In the sport that combines the arduous demands of cross country skiing with precision target shooting, attendees found weather conditions as much of a challenge as the sport itself. Saturday was windy, but luckily the forecast rain held off. Sunday's weather conditions were more difficult, with little wind but with intermittent fog, which persisted throughout the events.

It was the largest ABA race weekend held for some years, with over 30 participants.

To cope with these numbers, two separate race groups had to be arranged each day. There were ten different categories of racer, ranging from Novice to Veteran, ages from 13 to over 60, and included 11 people taking part in their very first championship weekend.

The largest group was that in the Youth category.

This included five boys born in either 1994 or 1995, who are contending for the one Australian spot at the Inaugural Winter Youth



Olympic Games at Innsbruck, Austria, in January 2011. The successful candidate will be the one with the best results of four races held over last weekend and on 13/14 August.

On 6/7 August, stalwart supporters of Australian Biathlon, the Paul Family, hosted the second Colin and Alice Paul Commemorative Races, family fun events. Saturday's 'patrol' took place in the afternoon, after the Pub to Pub, while Sunday's events started in the morning.

On 13/14 August, the Australian Biathlon Championships were even bigger than the Victorian Championships – with over 40 participants including one international visitor.

A very good sign for the future of this exciting sport!

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