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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### VICTORIAN BIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINNING NUMBER OF ENTRANTS

The Australian Biathlon Association held its Victorian Biathlon Championships last weekend 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, will host the second Colin and Alice Paul Commemorative Races, family fun events. Saturday's 'patrol' will take place in the afternoon, after the Pub to Pub, while Sunday's events will start in the morning.

On 13/14 August, the Australian Biathlon Championships will be even bigger than the Victorian Championships - there are over 40 expected to take part, including at least one international visitor.

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

*Attached photo: Victorian Biathlon Championship Sprint event 31 July 2011.*

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