

Australian Biathlon Association

Membership Application Procedure

The Australian Biathlon Association (ABA) is an organisation involving the use of firearms, and we have procedures to ensure we comply with firearms legislation. This necessarily takes time, as part of good governance.

The procedure for applying for Australian Biathlon Association membership is as follows:

- 1/ an applicant sends a request for a membership application form in writing to the Executive Officer (the ABA Officer responsible for issuing membership application forms), which the Executive Officer considers on behalf of the Board
- 2/ if a person is a member of a family group where more than one of that family wishes to apply, each applicant completes a separate form, either U18 or 18+
- 3/ an applicant aged under 18 does not require a parent/guardian to join with them, however a parent/guardian must consent to an applicant under 18 applying to join the ABA
- 4/ should two or more in the same family group apply at the one time, each family member will be considered separately for membership, however if the forms are all submitted on the one day as part of a family group, then only one application fee is payable; the application fee amount will be advised by the Executive Officer upon request
- 5/ should more than one member of the family group be accepted, then a Family membership is payable
- 6/ each person aged 17 or older is to submit a Working With Children Check (WWCC) with their application; this is to ensure that all those members participating in events who are aged 18 have a WWCC
- 7/ once the form and application fee have been received by the Executive Officer, any applicant aged 12 or older will attend three shooting sessions on three separate days where they will be directly supervised by an ABA Board Member or their specifically-authorized delegate, at an approved ABA facility (or other facility, should the Executive Officer/their delegate deem it appropriate)
- 8/ for applicants who are recent returning ABA members: where the applicant has overlooked their renewal, or there are other mitigating circumstances, the Board or Executive Officer may make exemptions/reduced shooting session attendances to this requirement, at their discretion
- 9/ once the applicant has completed the required number of ABA-directly supervised shooting sessions, the applicant will be interviewed by a Board Member, who will make a short report to the Board
- 10/ the Board will then consider the application; should the Board accept the application, then the annual membership fee becomes payable; the annual membership fee may be reduced at the discretion of the Executive Officer, depending on the number of months left in the membership year

Laser biathlon

The ABA wishes promote the sport of biathlon at all levels in both its winter and summer programs. This includes laser biathlon, where in the State of Victoria (and possibly other states) persons aged six and older may participate without a firearms licence.

To encourage membership by "laser participants", the following policies apply:

1/ where an applicant is aged under 12, no attendance at a recognised shooting range is required (and no parent is required to join)

2/ should a member turn 12 and wish to begin .22 biathlon at an ABA event/s, the member will be required to obtain a firearms licence and attend training in accordance with supervision as required by firearms legislation

3/ should the parent/guardian of a member who has turned 12 since joining wish to assist with any activity where they will be handling firearms and/or ammunition, they will be required to obtain a firearms licence and show competency in safe firearms handling

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