

**AUSTRALIAN BIATHLON  
HOTHAM BIATHON ARENA  
WHISKEY FLAT RIFLE RANGE  
RANGE SAFETY STANDING ORDERS**



These Range Safety Standing Orders are adopted as a By-Law by the Australian Biathlon Association and all previous versions are rescinded.

**GENERAL**

- A. The Whiskey Flat Rifle Range is licenced by the Victorian Police to the Australian Biathlon Association. The Australian Biathlon Association is the only entity authorised to use this Rifle Range.
- B. All targets, target structures and shooting-related equipment are the property of the Australian Biathlon Association (ABA), have been installed for the benefit of ABA members and are not for public use.
- C. Use of this Rifle Range for shooting activities is forbidden excepting only with the prior approval of the Executive Officer (EO) of the ABA (australianbiathlon@gmail.com).
- D. All persons using the range shall have their details entered into the Whiskey Flat Range register by the EO with their full name and date. Race Entries to Selection Races and other Races administered by the National Race Secretary (NRS) shall also be entered into the Whiskey Flat Range register once those Race Entries have been accepted by the NRS.
- E. Shooting will generally only occur by ABA members and affiliates and must be under the supervision and/or prior agreement of the ABA. Any member bringing visitors to shooting activities at the Whiskey Flat Range must have received prior EO approval to do so. Visitors who are not members, must have prior approval by the EO, provide their name and address to the EO for recording in the register and they must be accompanied at all times by a member of the ABA. Any shooting activity involving persons under the age of 18 must only occur under the supervision of an adult in possession of a full Class A firearms licence issued in an Australian State or Territory.
- F. Biathlon coaches coaching athletes at the Whiskey Flat Range must be members (in good standing) of the ABA with the following exceptions which only apply with the prior written approval of the Executive Officer:
  - a. A qualified international Coach who is not an Australian resident; or
  - b. An Australian resident not a member of Australian Biathlon.
- G. For each shooting activity involving four (4) or more persons shooting a Range Officer (RO) or Chief of Range (CoR) is to be nominated by the event organiser or by persons present. The RO or CoR must be a member of Australian Biathlon. An RO or CoR must remain present on the firing point at all times that the Range is Open for Shooting.
- H. Any shooting activities must be conducted in full compliance with:
  - a. Victorian Firearms Act and Regulations;
  - b. These ABA Whiskey Flat Rifle Range - Range Safety Standing Orders; and the
  - c. ABA Safety Management Plan; in particular, the four range safety flags are to be raised at the flagpoles provided at: the entrance from the car park; adjacent the Great Divide trail; at the coaches' mound and at the stop butt.

**SPECIFIC RANGE RULES APPLYING AT THE WHISKEY FLAT RIFLE RANGE**

- 1. At all times when rifles are not being carried on the athlete's back they must be pointed in a safe direction either down range toward the stop butt, or straight up in the air. Rifles are not to be pointed toward the ground in case of any misfire and subsequent ricochet.
- 2. Loaded magazines and single shots can only be loaded into the rifle whilst the rifle is pointing toward the stop butt and the skier has ceased moving on the firing point.
- 3. Firing must only take place when the range has been declared 'Open' by the Range Officer.

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4. Once the range has begun operating it will be declared a hot range format meaning that all rifles will be assumed loaded and fingers are to remain clear of the trigger until the rifle is pointing down range toward the stop butt.
5. Firing must cease at any time when the range is declared closed by the Range Officer.
6. On the order 'CEASE FIRE' or 'STOP STOP STOP' all rifles being used are to be unloaded and the magazines removed. Where a rifle is carried the rifle must be placed on the athlete's back and that athlete must step back from the range firing point.
7. An athlete aged under 18 may, under supervision of a suitably licenced person/s, be permitted to carry the rifle on their back from a designated area at/close to the entrance to the firing point to a shooting mat, and after shooting, carry the rifle from the mat to a designated place at/close to the exit out of the firing point. This normally applies to those athletes aged under 18, who are seeking overseas selection. In these circumstances, the athlete shall come to a complete stop at the rifle collection/return area, prior to donning/removing the rifle. The rifle shall be placed on the rifle stand and checked clear by the Range Officer with the bolt open and clear of rounds in the breech.
8. During competition, in the event of rifle malfunction, the competitor is to raise their hand to seek assistance of the Range staff. 'Time Out' may be allowed depending on the decision of the jury at completion of the race. The time out period is to be noted by the penalty counters. If a spare rifle is available, it may be substituted for the defect one.
9. All rifles must be cleared of Live Ammunition in the breech prior to leaving the range on all occasions. In an event after the 5th shot is fired the athletes carrying rifles on their backs in training or competition may leave the range with an empty shell in the breech.
10. Athletes who have been instructed to leave their rifle on the mat after shooting must open the bolt, remove the magazine and leave the rifle on the mat pointing down range.
11. At no time are rifles to be pointed at personnel or other competitors/spectators.
12. Rifles must be checked clear both prior to the start and after the finish of a race by Start/Finish personnel.
13. Rifles being removed from the range after the completion of training or competition are to be checked clear by a Range Officer (or any independent person with a Category A firearms licence).
14. Only appointed Range Officials, Athletes and firearms supervisors authorised by the Chief of Range (where the athlete does not hold a firearms licence or permit issued by an Australian State or Territory) are permitted to be on the firing point.
15. The use of breech safety flags is expected for rifles not currently in use for competition or training.
16. All rifles must be either on the firing point mat, or stored on rifle racks as directed by the training event coach/race event Chief of Race, or secured in personal vehicles.
17. Once the training/event has been completed, rifles should be removed from the Range area altogether and stored in a vehicle.
18. On race days, the wooden Race Hut is to be primarily used for race officials. Rifle assembly may be done in the wooden Race Hut. Coaches, athletes and others will be required to use the Australian Biathlon dome tent/other temporary structure/s, for shelter. Bib collection will be in the dome tent/other temporary structure.
19. No skis, smoking, personal heating or food preparation are permitted in the Australian Biathlon dome tent, or any other temporary tent/shelter, however food may be consumed.
20. The attention of athletes is drawn to the following excerpts from Art. 8.5 of the IBU Competition Rules that relate to safety on the Range and are hereby incorporated into these Range Standing Orders. The penalty for breach of any of these rules is disqualification.

8.4.2 Use of Magazine

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The five rounds required in each bout of shooting may be loaded with the use of a magazine. If rounds are lost from the magazine or fail to fire, a new magazine may not be inserted into the rifle. Such rounds must be loaded individually. However, if a magazine is lost or defective, it may be replaced with another magazine.

## 8.5 SAFETY REGULATIONS

### 8.5.1 General

Shooting shall be permitted only on the shooting range, during officially authorized times. It is forbidden to make movements with a rifle which might endanger persons, or which may be perceived by others as dangerous.

The rifle muzzle must be over the forward edge of the shooting ramp (= firing line) from the beginning to the end of the shooting stage.

When the range is open for shooting, no one shall be permitted to be forward of this line. TV crew members and photographers shall take responsibility for their own safety if they enter this area. At all times, the competitor shall be responsible for the safety of his actions and rifle.

### 8.5.2 Loading and Unloading

The rifle may be loaded and unloaded only with the barrel pointing in the direction of the targets or up. To insert a magazine containing bullets into the rifle is also part of the loading procedure. When moving from one shooting lane to another, the competitor must first unload his rifle and place the rifle on his back in the normal carrying position.

#### 8.5.2.1 Safety Check on the Range after Shooting

After each shooting bout the rifle must be unloaded – that is, no round may be left in the chamber or in the inserted magazine. However, it is permitted to leave the cartridge case in the chamber and the empty magazine in the rifle after the last shot. At the end of training and/or zeroing sessions, the competitor must perform a safety check before leaving the shooting range by opening the bolt and removing the inserted magazine, with the barrel pointed toward the target or upward.

### 8.5.3 Aimed Shots

All shots must be aimed and fired only at the targets.

### 8.5.4 Removal of Rifle on the Range

A competitor may not remove a strap of his rifle carrying harness from his shoulder before he has reached the firing lane from which he will shoot. He must cross the lane marking line with both feet and lay both ski poles on the ground prior to removing his rifle from the carrying position.

### 8.5.5 Safety at the Finish

At all IBU competitions there must be one or more official(s) at the end of the finish area who will open the rifle action of every competitor. This check may only be performed when the rifle is pointing upwards. At the same time, the official will inspect the cartridge case ejected from the chamber. If this safety check is not done, the competitor must do it himself.

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