

# Vancouver Island Biathlon Club



## January 2019 Newsletter



### New Year Offers New Opportunities in Biathlon!

Winter has commenced and Mt. Washington is officially open! Many of you will have already been up to the mountain to enjoy fresh adventures in the snow. This year, Vancouver Island Biathlon Club is excited to once again offer many opportunities to enjoy the best sport on earth. Whether you are a novice or an experienced biathlete, VIBC has something for everyone.

For a complete schedule of events and program descriptions check out our website at [www.vibiathlon.ca](http://www.vibiathlon.ca), and read on to find out about the latest news.

## Interest in Biathlon Drives Increase in Program Participation

Thanks to great coaching and a really fun atmosphere, all of our programs are growing by leaps and bounds. We are grateful that all three of our skilled and enthusiastic head coaches are back this year.

Kai Sonnenberg will be leading 22 [Bears](#) – up 10 from last season. Nine more [Masters](#) athletes have joined Phil Douglas to bring the total group to 19 in all. Under Don Johnston, four [Competitive Youth](#) biathletes will be honing their skills and looking for solid results at the upcoming BC Cup races.

If you are anyone you know would like to join the participants or help the coaches, send an email to [vibcprogrammer@gmail.com](mailto:vibcprogrammer@gmail.com).

## First Give it a Shot Event a Big Success

Every year the Vancouver Island Biathlon Club hosts an inclusive event to introduce people from all walks of life to the unique sport of Biathlon. This year we had over 40 participants join the Club's "Give it a Shot" event on December 30. Among these were young children as well as older folks trying the sport for the first time. They had one important thing in common – huge smiles. Also included were a number of [Strathcona Nordic](#) members looking to check out another facet of Nordic sports available at the Mt. Washington Alpine Resort.

If you missed the fun but still want to find out what Biathlon is all about, VIBC is hosting a second [Give It A Shot!](#) event this season on **Sunday, February 17th** from 1pm-3pm. This is a great opportunity for anyone 9 years and up to have an introduction to the sport of Biathlon. Strathcona Nordic members receive a discount on their registration for this event – just \$15 for insurance, equipment and instruction. Registration through Zone 4 is available by [clicking here](#).

## VIBC hosts first ever Biathlon BC Range Safety Officials Course

Congratulations to the eight Vancouver Island Biathlon Club coaches and volunteers who attended the first ever Biathlon BC Range Safety Officer Course at Mount Washington on Dec 29, 2018.

The range safety officer course demonstrates Biathlon BC's continuing commitment to provide professional development to the Biathlon Range Safety Officers and to enhance the safety standard of all Biathlon ranges across BC.

## Operation V Board: Fundraiser Through Strathcona Nordic Ski Club

Cross Country BC has organised a fundraiser and sent out the challenge for BC clubs to join in! Our sister club, Strathcona Nordics has chosen to raise funds for V-boards.

V Boards are important because they are used to mark race courses. As the current V Boards have fallen into disrepair, we are asking members of our Nordic family to contribute to purchasing new V Boards.

### Details to note:

1. SNSC is asking members to step up and donate \$25 - the cost of a V-board. You donate that amount and you can sign your V-board at our "signing ceremony"!
2. Donors have the option of receiving a tax receipt for donations of \$50 or greater (and, at \$50 can sign 2 boards).
3. Donations made by December 31, 2018 will get 2018 tax receipts and after that date the tax receipts will be for 2019.
4. Our goal is \$5000 which would give us 200 V-boards.
5. While the challenge is open until February 28, 2019 by contributing early in the challenge you can help the club get V-boards in time for our Teck Cup and Loppet 2019 races in March 2019

Three anonymous provincial donors have stepped up and will be contributing up to a total of \$15,000 in matching funds. The \$15,000 will be handed out as follows, until it's gone:

- an initial \$100 to every club that raises \$200 on their own
- a further \$200 to every club that raises \$600 on their own
- a further \$500 to every club that raises \$1600 on their own

(If you're doing the math, that's a total contribution of \$800 on the first \$1,600 that the club raises... a 50% match!).

To find out more and to donate visit [this page](#).

Thank you for your interest and generosity.



## Biathlon Races – Not Just for the Pros

Biathlon is not just a combination of skiing and shooting. It all comes together when participants attempt to master a tired body and distracted mind to successfully hit targets 50 metres away. The result can be immensely rewarding. Biathlon races aren't just for the professionals. VIBC strives to make the sport accessible by running events everyone can participate in.

Are *you* interested in competing in a Biathlon race this season?

The Vancouver Island Biathlon Club will be holding two races at Mt. Washington – the first will be on **February 23** and the second will be on **March 16**. Find out more [here](#).

To find out about the BC Cup competitions, visit the [Biathlon BC web page](#).

## Officials Courses – Your Chance to Get Involved

The Vancouver Island Biathlon Club offers an incredible range facility, while Mt Washington tempts the outdoor enthusiast with trails winding past a breathtaking backdrop of mountains and ocean. In short, Mt. Washington seems like the perfect place to host our very own BC Cup competition! To host such an event takes planning and commitment to meet with success, and that's why we're once again sending out a call for interest in the entry level and advanced officials courses.

Officials and volunteers form the foundation of any Biathlon competition. If you are keen to contribute to a future BC Cup competition at Mt Washington and want to help athletes of all ages be their best, consider signing up for one of these courses.

Sound interesting? Send an email to [vibiathlon@gmail.com](mailto:vibiathlon@gmail.com). Learn more about the [officials](#) courses offered through [Biathlon Canada](#).

## Watch the Pros!

Biathlon is the most popular winter sport in many parts of Europe, with viewers numbering in the millions! The Biathlon season is now in full swing and almost all of the competitions are televised. Watching these competitions will give you a sense of just how massive these events are, and also demonstrates Biathlon at the highest level.

Check out the Biathlon competitions on the International Biathlon Union website [here](#).