

Range Rules

Treat all rifles as if they are loaded. Whenever you handle a rifle:

- Point it in a safe direction,
- Open the action to determine, for yourself, that it is not loaded,
- Only put your finger on the trigger when you are ready to fire.

1. Each individual athlete is responsible for the safe handling of his/her rifle.
2. All users of biathlon ranges must be members of a provincial/territorial or national biathlon association.
3. All users must be lawfully entitled to possess the rifle in use. The use of a rifle by any other person is subject to direct and immediate supervision by a person lawfully entitled to possess the rifle. This is particularly important for athletes new to the sport and the younger athletes. During a competition, the Chief of Range (or any other Biathlon Official) is not responsible for said supervision.
4. A biathlon range safety officer, responsible for opening and closing the range and for enforcing all safety rules, must be present when the range is in operation. During biathlon competitions, the Chief of Range, or his/her designate is the range safety officer. During training periods, one of the people using the range (with the appropriate credentials) must be appointed the range safety officer.
5. Red and green safety flags, under the control of the range safety officer, must be used when the range is being operated. The red flag indicates that the range is open for shooting. The green flag indicate that the range is closed to shooting. The green flag must be prominently displayed when it is necessary to step in front of the firing line to change paper targets, etc. When the range is closed, all rifles must be unloaded. When the range is closed during training, users must step well away from any unloaded rifles on the firing line. Regardless of the flag in place, it is imperative that all users of the range be safety conscious.
6. The use of red and green flags or any public address announcements does not override the verbal commands of the range safety officer.
7. When transporting a rifle to and from the firing line the unloaded rifle must be pointed upward and have the bolt open. When preparing to load and shoot the rifle, the rifle must be pointed down range in the direction of the target. Inserting the magazine into the rifle is considered to be part of the loading procedure.
8. Only shoot at the appropriate target, either metal or paper. Do not intentionally shoot at the paddles, target setting indicators, etc. Only air rifles or rifles which use .22 cal LR rim fire ammunition (standard or target, not high velocity) may be used.
9. Under no circumstances may a loaded rifle be left unattended. For those biathletes not required to carry a rifle in competition, the bolt must be open before the biathlete leaves the firing line after completing shooting. The coach may remove the magazine instead of the athlete. When not in use, unloaded rifles must be placed in a rifle rack with the bolt open and the magazine removed. Rifles may not be left unsupervised.
10. For Senior Boy and Senior Girl competitors who do not carry a rifle in competition, the rifle must be picked up from an entrance rack prior to entering the range and placed in an exit rack after shooting. Rifles in these racks must be left with the bolt open. The coach may remove the magazine. When the rifle is in transit between the entrance rack and the firing point prior to shooting and between the firing point and the exit rack after shooting, the bolt must be open and the magazine removed.
11. Any unsafe handling of a rifle will not be tolerated. In such a case the range safety officer has the power to immediately suspend range use privileges for the offender. Any such action is to be reported (by the range safety officer) as soon as possible to the management of the local range for further appropriate action that may result in criminal proceedings.

The Vancouver Island Club range safety rules include all International Biathlon Union (IBU) safety regulations, including sections 8.5 and 8.6 of the IBU 'Event and Competition Rules, 2019 edition', and all Canadian firearm safety regulations (currently summarized in the 'Canadian Firearm Safety Course Handbook'). In addition, all local procedures (including sign-in/sign-out procedures, reporting of

damaged or malfunctioning equipment etc.) must be adhered to. (In the case of conflict of any of these regulations the more stringent shall apply) It is the responsibility of all users of biathlon ranges to be aware of and adhere to these rules.