



biathlon
australia

Range Safety Standing Orders

Mount Hotham

Whisky Flat - Rifle Range

DOCUMENT CHANGE CONTROL

Author/s	Description	Date	Version Number
Charles Clarke; Sebastian Hales; Paul Connor; Paul Cullen	New Document Template	11-05-2022	1.00
Paul Cullen	Updated relative to review/feedback	02-06-2022	1.01
Charles Clarke; Sebastian Hales; Paul Connor; Paul Cullen	Moved RSO 19 to be a sub RSO of 18 (18.f)	21-06-2022	1.02

DOCUMENT CONTEXT

These Range Safety Standing Orders are adopted as a By-Law by Biathlon Australia and all previous versions are rescinded.

GENERAL RANGE ORDERS

- A. The Whiskey Flat Rifle Range is approved by Victorian Police for use by Biathlon Australia. Biathlon Australia is the only entity authorised to use this Rifle Range.
- B. All targets, target structures and shooting-related equipment are the property of Biathlon Australia (BA) have been installed for use by its members. The range is not available for general public use.
- C. Use of this Rifle Range for shooting activities is permitted only with the prior approval of BA Board and/or their delegate.
- D. BA must maintain a current public liability insurance policy for the range and associated activities.
- E. All persons using the Hotham Biathlon range are responsible for scanning the QR code located at the 'Moth' day shelter and range and enter their details.
- F. Shooting will generally only occur by BA members and affiliates under the supervision and/or prior agreement of BA. Any member bringing visitors to participate in shooting activities at the Hotham Biathlon Range must have received prior approval. Visitors who are not members, must have prior approval, and must be supervised at all times by a member of BA.
- G. Any shooting activity involving persons under the age of 18 must only occur under the immediate supervision of an adult in possession of Category A firearms license issued in an Australian State or Territory or International license recognized in Victoria.
- H. For shooting activity to take place, a BA endorsed Range Officer (RO) is to be present. A minimum of two people must be present on the range inclusive of the range officer. The range officer can function as a coach but only up to 3 athletes. The RO must be a member of BA, or have been endorsed as an RO by the BA.
- I. An RO must remain present on the range at all times that the range is Open for Shooting.
- J. Night time shooting is permitted under suitable lighting, with range flags visible and prior approval of the BA Board or delegate.
- K. Any shooting activities must be conducted in full compliance with:
 - a. Victorian Firearms Act and Regulations;
 - b. These BA Hotham Biathlon Range Standing Orders; and the
 - c. BA 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 ORDERS APPLYING AT THE HOTHAM BIATHLON 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 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 athlete has ceased moving on the firing point.
3. Firing must only take place when the range has been declared 'Open'.
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**'.
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 or the athlete is in the standing position the rifle must be placed on the athlete's back or rack in the absence of a rifle harness and that athlete must step back from the range firing point. All Athletes in prone position must leave the rifle on the mat and step backwards from the range firing point.
7. 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 athletes over 18 years of age carrying rifles on their backs in training or competition may leave the range with an empty shell in the breech.
8. 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.
9. At no time are rifles to be pointed at personnel or other competitors/spectators.
10. Rifles being removed from the range after the completion of competition are to be checked clear by a Range Officer (or any independent person with a Category A firearms license). Athletes aged under 18 may not remove a rifle from the mat unless checked clear and under the immediate supervision of an adult licensed shooter. The rifle will be moved from the mat to the rack by a range official.
11. Only appointed range officials, athletes and Supervisors authorized by the RO are permitted to be on the range.
12. The use of breech safety flags is expected for rifles not currently in use for competition or training where practical.
13. All rifles must be either on the firing point mat, stored on rifle racks as directed by the RO, or stored securely.
14. Once the training/event has been completed and the range declared 'Closed', rifles should be removed from the range area altogether and stored securely.
15. On race days, the wooden Race Hut is to be primarily used for race officials. Coaches, athletes, and others will be required to use the Pavilion, for shelter. Bib collection will be in the Pavilion.
16. A Supervisor cannot perform any other supervisory roles on the firing point (such as coach or RO).
17. Unlicensed shooters
 - a. All unlicensed shooters must have a supervisor who remains at the mat while they are handling the rifle.
18. Junior licensed shooters (junior athlete)
 - a. A junior athlete may only handle a rifle while stationary on the mat, while under immediate supervision of an adult in possession of a firearms license issued in an Australian State or Territory. A junior athlete may not remove the rifle from the mat.
 - b. A Supervisor must maintain immediate supervision of junior athletes who are shooting in the prone position. The rifle is to be left on the mat for the athlete. Once complete the empty round must be ejected from the rifle and magazine removed. With the bolt open the rifle is to be left on the mat.
 - c. When a junior athlete is shooting Standing, the Supervisor must hand the rifle to the athlete and remain while the junior athlete completes their shootings. Once complete the empty

round must be ejected from the rifle and magazine removed. With the bolt open the rifle is to be handed to the Supervisor while the junior athlete is still stationary.

- d. In a training environment where the junior athletes are stationary the Supervisor may retreat from the firing point and supervise from the back of the firing point, in this situation then the Supervisor must maintain immediate supervision of the junior athlete.
- e. When shooting is completed, the rifle shall be placed on the rifle stand with the bolt open and clear of rounds in the breech. The rifle must be checked clear by the RO (or any person with a firearms license).
- f. In a training environment, a coach 'approved competent' junior athlete, can move a rifle from a stationary position at the shooting point, with the breach open, magazine removed, placed on their back or pointed up, to the rack closest to the lane they have shot on. Once on the rack the rifle is to be checked clear by a Range Officer (or any person with a firearms license). The same applies moving the rifle from the rack to the mat.

19. The attention of athletes is drawn to the IBU Competition rules, Art. 8.5/2021 that relate to safety.

