



Australian Biathlon Safety Manual

2020 edition

Updated to include COVID-19 considerations

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General

The aim of this safety manual is to assist the Australian Biathlon Association Inc. (ABA) training and event organisers plan and conduct biathlon events.

While primarily aimed at training and events held at the Hotham Biathlon Arena at Mount Hotham, Victoria, its principles are applicable to all ABA training and events.

The Australian Biathlon Association Inc. is the only organisation permitted by Victoria Police and Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Management (MHARM) to operate the Hotham Biathlon Arena (HBA). No other organisation, group or person may book the range or run training or events of any kind at the HBA.

This manual should be read in conjunction with the HBA Range Safety Orders currently in effect, as well as the relevant race rules for ABA Selection and other races. Both of those documents, along with this document, are subject to change at any time.

This manual has been updated to take into account COVID-19 considerations following the World Health Organisation declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic in January 2020.

Training at the Hotham Biathlon Arena

Training is run at the HBA exclusively by the ABA. Members interested in camps, general programs and/or personal training should make enquiries with the Executive Officer.

As of May 2020, there are limits on the number of members who may access the HBA, in accordance with Directions issued by the Victorian Chief Health Officer (VCHO).

The specific COVID-19 protocols are listed AT ANNEX XXXXX.

In sum:

- A COVID-19 officer will take a list of names and mobile telephone numbers and go through a COVID-19 questionnaire with each attender, before they may attend at the HBA
- anyone with COVID-19 symptoms must not attend the range
- strict personal hygiene
- cleaning of biathlon mats before and after usage
- at least every second lane must be kept unused
- no more than eight shooters at any one time
- social distancing of 1.5 metres
- where safety requires a person to come within 1.5 metres of a shooter, both parties may be required to wear face masks
- total number of persons on the range is ten, plus the minimum extra for safety
- no spectators
- no access to the dome tent, range hut or any other on-site shelter, shelter will be solely in personal vehicles
- access will be only to the firing point and the drop toilet
- training time will likely be shorter than usual
- there is to be no form of competition during training at the HBA the only "competition" permitted in 2020 is under the Victorian Government Category 3 Return to Play (High Performance), ie the Australian Championships 2020 as per the VCHO Directions in force; there is to be no "fun" or "friendly" competition whatsoever

Training outdoors, away from the immediate Hotham Biathlon Arena area

ABA may conduct cross country skiing and other training, as long as it meets the requirements of any VCHO Directions and MHAR Safe Operating Plan/s currently in force.

The specific COVID-19 protocols are at ANNEX XXXXXX and include:

- A COVID-19 officer will take a list of names and mobile telephone numbers and go through a COVID-19 questionnaire with each attender, before they may participate in ABA training
- anyone with COVID-19 symptoms must not attend the training
- there is no “competition” element whatsoever (including no “friendly” or “fun” competitions)
- social distancing of a minimum of 1.5 metres is maintained
- strict personal hygiene
- no sharing of equipment, unless unavoidable, in which case scrupulous cleaning will be required

Training indoors: at or away from the Hotham Biathlon Arena area

ABA may conduct events at or away from the HBA, in an indoor environment. These will be subject to the requirements of any VCHO’s Directions and MHARM Safe Operating Plan/s and/or any other venue’s Safe Operating Plan/s currently in force.

No indoor events will be conducted at the HBA in 2020 unless the VCHO lifts all Directions.

Race administration – in 2020, racing will occur for the Australian Biathlon Championships only

Race Committee including Race Secretary

The Race Committee is a volunteer subcommittee which includes those responsible for various tasks, as listed below. It will consider the formats for Selection and any other events. The usual Selection events each year are the Victorian Biathlon Championships held on either the last or second last weekend in July, plus the Australian Biathlon Championships, held on the third weekend in August.

Participation in the Championships weekends are subject to the current Race rules; to participate in a Selection event, a person must be a financial member of the ABA and meet other requirements, as per the current Selection and Race rules.

Race Secretary

The Race Secretary is appointed at the ABA’s Annual General Meeting and is responsible for the general administration of the race calendar, which may include:

Before events:

- Proposing a draft calendar for at least the following year

- Maintaining a supply of Championship medals (from Lifetime Trophies, t: 9888 6155 e: lifetime@specialtyawards.com)
- Ensuring that MHRM has been notified of the timings of ABA events
- Managing the race entry system including cut off times for “regular” entry and late entry
- Preparing start lists, including seeding, if required

After events:

- Managing and publishing the race results, including sending a copy to the Selection Committee

Race Personnel

Chief of Race

The Chief of Race (CoR) is responsible for the supervision, coordination and safe conduct of the event. This includes supervising set-up, confirming the course/s to be skied, posting of course information, posting the draw including zeroing lanes, conducting race safety briefing before zeroing and/or race start, calling jury meeting if required, posting provisional and final results, arranging presentations, supervising closing down

Chief of Course

The Chief of Course is responsible for the selection of the race course, in accordance with the Race Rules, and with guidelines from the CoR.

Duties include cutting the track, liaison with MHARM grooming staff, marking of the tracks, ensuring that the start, finish and crossover points are flagged, nominating track positions for course marshals, inspecting the course with the Technical Delegate (TD), collecting all flags and markers after the race(s)

Course Assistants

Course Assistants support the CoC by marshalling athletes to the correct start position, directing athletes at designated positions along the course, flagging the course and assisting with collecting the flags after the race(s)

Chief of Start / Finish / Results

The Chief of Start / Finish / Results (CoS/F/R) is responsible for the preparation and control of the race area under the general direction of the CoC, including the direction and coordination of officials in the race area.

Duties include identifying an area for trigger pressure testing and ski marking (if required) prior to the race, ensuring rifles are empty prior to the start and that skis are marked, if required, observing the relay changeover area, observe for skating in the non-skating zone, checking that rifles are empty at the finish, bib collection, notification to the CoR when last competitor finishes, calculating the results of the race in conjunction with the finish recorder, Chief Lane Recorder, Penalty Loop Recorder

Timekeeper

The Timekeeper assists the Chief of Start/Finish, including use of the ABA's Webscorer timing system

Starter/Finish Recorder

The Starter/Finish Recorder assists the Chief of Start/Finish

Duties include setting up race headquarters, ensuring each competitor starts in the correct position, starting athletes, observing for skating in the non-skate zone, assisting with calculation of results

Chief of Range

The Chief of Range (CoR) directs all activities on the range and maintains safety. The CoR must possess a current firearms licence and be a current member of the ABA.

Duties include setting up, supervision and safe conduct of the range, managing paper targets for zeroing, briefing of range officials including lane resetters, chief lane recorder, rifle controller, rifle retriever/s, armourer, penalty loop recorders conducting a safety briefing ten to fifteen minutes prior to the start of zeroing, allocating lanes to prone/standing, allocating lanes to athletes if required, give time out to lane recorder as required

Armourer (if appointed)

The Armourer reports to the Chief of Range and must have a current firearms licence

Duties include setting up the equipment station, checking trigger pressures, zeroing a spare rifle (if available), checking all malfunctions as required by the CoR, managing spare ammunition if required, having tools for clearing jammed rifles, etc, giving time out information to the Lane Recorder

Target Resetter

The Target Resetter is responsible for targets and resetting under the direction of the CoR

Duties include assisting with paper targets, painting targets, setting out wind flags, checking metal targets are operating correctly, unwinding target ropes, etc, reporting malfunctions to the CoR

Rifle Controller

The Rifle Controller is responsible for management of the rifles left on the range area and allocation of ABA rifles, they must possess a current firearms licence

Duties include setting up rifle racks, allocation of ABA rifles, handing rifle to participants or coach, as required

Rifle Retriever

The Rifle Retriever is responsible for retrieving rifles on the firing point and putting onto racks as directed by the Rifle Controller, along with setting up and cleaning up after the race

Chief of Penalties

The Chief of Penalties (CoP) is responsible for setting up the lane recording parts of the shooting platform and supervising Lane Recording of shooting

Duties include setting up the shooting platform with mats, firing point numbers, allocating Penalty Counters to lanes, instructing Penalty Counters in how to record information; during the race, recording

results for each participant as they shoot, record time out information as advised by the CoR, record any violations seen or called by the CoR / Armourer / other official; collect all range score sheets and ensure any disputes

Target Penalty Counters

Lane officials are responsible to the CLR they assist with the tasks of setting up the firing point, recording penalties shot on targets before resetting, recording any time outs or violations, cleaning the area and putting equipment away

Penalty Loop Recorders

The Penalty Loop Recorders are responsible to the CoR for setting up penalty loops and recording loops skied.

Duties include preparing the 150m and 75m penalty loops, marking the entry and exit points, installing inside flags/markers to designate the 150m and 75m penalty loops, be stationed at least 10m apart during the race, note the number of penalty loops competed by each racer, hand the results sheets to the CoS/F/R, remove flags/markers

Technical Delegate

The ABA has several members who obtained an official International Biathlon Union (IBU) International Referee (IR) qualification in 2019. These are the first ever Australians to hold this qualification. These IR will be the first to be considered for the role of Technical Delegate. Should none be available, the ABA may have a cross country Technical Delegate assist with this role.

The TD works as adviser to the CoR and is responsible for the safe and correct conduct of the competition. They oversee preparation and intervene as necessary.

Duties include overseeing preparation, checking the course with the CoR / CoC, checking the range with the CoR, being a Jury member (usually Chairperson), supervising the draw, checking eligibility as necessary, ruling on late entry, supervising any other referees, recording penalties against competitors, overseeing the conduct of the race and intervening as necessary

Referees

Referees are the TD, IR, CoR, CoC, CoS, CoR

The duties of each referee is to arbitrate on any matter arising during the course of the event to ensure a fair and proper competition for all competitors

Coaches

Coaches are responsible for assisting and zeroing athletes, they must have a current firearms licence and should not be involved with race management during a race

Coaches are required to be with shooters when they are unlicensed or novices, assist athletes with zeroing their rifles, advise/assist their athletes as required, may be required for jury duty

Jury

The jury is appointed prior to the race in accordance with current race rules, there are generally three persons including the TD

The duties of the jury include making decisions regarding change of race conditions, postponement and considering protests

Range Safety, Setting Up and Closure

The Australian Biathlon Association is the only organisation permitted to operate the Hotham Biathlon Arena Range at Whiskey Flat, Mount Hotham; no third party/parties may be permitted to run camps/training/races or any other event of any kind

Range Safety is covered in detail under the current Whiskey Flat Range Standing Orders and ABA Race Rules, which include four red range flag requirement, requirement for Range Officer, etc

Annex A: Risk assessment and mitigation methods at Hotham Biathlon Arena

	Risk	Mitigation	Mechanism	requires
All general	From contamination from another person	Social distancing Screening of all others No observers Minimal staff	Remove high risk individuals, isolate	Questionnaire, Temp sensor
Officials	High or at risk population eg other health conditions, age over 70	Advised no one over 70 should officiate and all others should carefully consider if they need to help this year	Limit potential exposure of at risk Officials, Minimal number of officials	General statement to all Officials, consider the risk
	Unwell Person infects others	Screening temperature over 37.5	Identifies high risk individuals	Infrared temp sensor
	From contamination	Eye protection and mask/gloves ideally disposable Clean hands before and after use	Reduce cross contamination	Eye protection Training on removal of PPE Handwash Masks Disposable gloves
Coaches	High or at risk population eg other health conditions, age over 70	Advised to consider need to participate this year	Limit potential exposure of at risk athletes	General statement to all , consider the risk
	From contamination	Clean scope before and after use, no sharing	Reduce viral load	Purchase of cleaner & sprayer Sufficient Scopes
	From contamination	Social distancing	Reduce viral load	Separation on mound
	Unwell Coach infects others	All Coaches fill out questionnaire if positive, they go home	Identifies high risk individuals	Questionnaire to be created
	Unwell Coach infects others	Screening temperature over 37.5	Identifies and excludes high risk individuals	Infrared temperature sensor
Athlete	High or at risk population eg other health conditions, age over 70	Advised to consider need to participate this year	Limit potential exposure of at risk athletes	General statement to all athletes, consider the risk
	From athlete contamination	Clean before and after use	Reduce viral load	Purchase of cleaner & sprayer
	Start finish zone	No corralling	No cross contamination	

	Sharing of athletes on a lane	One dedicated lane for each athlete	No cross contamination	
	Droplet spread on range	Spare lane between athletes, education regarding safe practice	Increases distancing (rubber mats are about 30-60cm apart)	Only odd lanes being used, education sheet
	Multiple athletes using same lane for zeroing	Zeroing for limited time with one athlete only	No cross contamination	10 min zero for individual athlete before each event
	Unwell Athlete infects others	All athletes fill out questionnaire if positive, they do not race	Identifies high risk individuals	Questionnaire to be created
	Unwell Athlete infects others	Screening temperature over 37.5	Identifies and excludes high risk individuals	Infrared temperature sensor
Bibs and Tags	Bibs	Bibs individual,	Bibs put out and separated athlete to put on and remove, straight into rubbish bag at finish line, then washed	Bibs to be put out Bag, washing to be done
	Cross contamination from tags	No electronic Tags	No cross contamination	
Range Mats	From athlete contamination	Clean before and after use	Reduce viral load	Purchase of cleaner & sprayer
		One dedicated lane for each athlete	No Cross contamination	
Shooting lane pullers	From contamination of rope/pull	Place rope on empty lane next to athlete,	Increased space, less likelihood of direct contamination	
		Either athlete to reset after shooting, or dedicated lanes to rope pullers	No cross contamination	
		Clean rope/frame with spray cleaner before and after use		Purchase of cleaner & sprayer
Rifle racks	Rifle racks	Rifle racks not to be shared or not used	No cross contamination	Ammunition either on dedicated rack, or rifle/ammunition

				left on dedicated mat
	Multiple athletes using same lane for zeroing	Zeroing for limited time with one athlete only	No cross contamination	10 min zero for individual athlete before each event
Zeroing paper	contamination	One person puts up zeroing paper	No cross contamination	
Painting	contamination	Gloves worn while painting One person for each colour	No cross contamination	Disposable gloves