

Biathlon Competition Volunteer Information

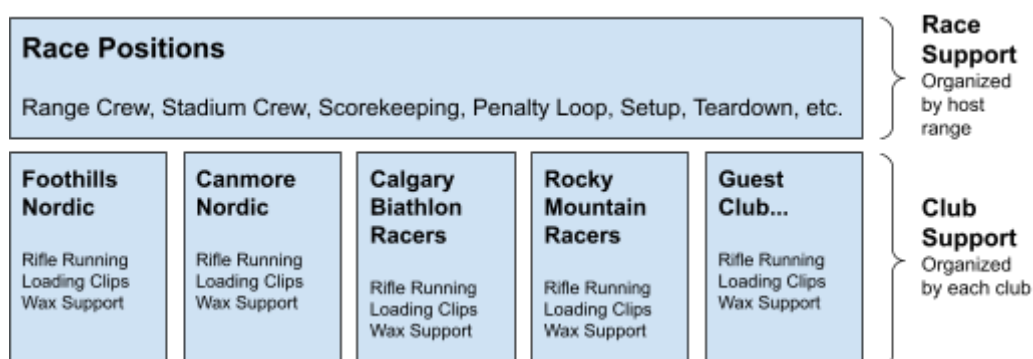


Overview

Biathlon is a multi-aspect sport with both shooting and skiing components. The number of people required to run a race is intensive. Generally, it works out that the ratio for volunteers to athletes at a race is 1:1.

As such, we ask that at least one parent be available to volunteer at every race your athlete participates in. No job is particularly difficult, every job is a great way to learn about the intricacies of the sport, and it is fun being in the midst of it all with the athletes.

There are two levels of support: club level support and race level support. Club support, which includes rifle placement and running, wax support and loading air rifle clips, is ideal for those with young athletes and/or families who are brand new to the sport.



Volunteers are also needed to actually run a race. The host club is expected to provide these volunteers, but often seeks help from other clubs.

Canmore Nordic, Foothills, Rocky Mountain Racers, and Calgary Biathlon Racers jointly host most Calforex/Noram races in Canmore and, as such, we are responsible for volunteering for various race roles. Races cannot run unless these roles are filled.

General Notes

Being Prepared

- If the position you volunteer for is outside, be prepared to be out and standing for long periods in any weather condition. Sunglasses are important, as well. Some roles require physical strength, and/or excellent vision.
- Volunteer tip: if you're outside, you can bring a small square of carpet, or foam pad to stand on. It will help to minimize cold toes.
- Races will generally run if it is warmer than -20C. The race organizers will call the race usually within an hour of the race start unless the forecast is clearly too cold.

Time Commitment

- Most volunteer roles are full-day commitments. If you commit to a day, please be available. Last minute changes do happen but are very challenging for the organizers to manage. Email us as soon as possible to allow us to find a backup.

Cheering on Athletes

- Feel free to cheer and support athletes *unless you are in the range*. This is a quiet zone.
- NOTE: You are not allowed to share any information about an athlete's performance, or the athlete could be disqualified. It's up to the athlete to pay attention to how many misses they had, and whether or not they hit the right targets.
- We support positive reinforcement, respect, and fair play. Negative behaviour will not be tolerated. If you have concerns or witness inappropriate behaviour, please contact your chief or coach to have the situation managed.

Starting your day

- There is a chief for each designated area. Volunteers will meet with "their" chief prior to your shift start. You will be notified as to where to meet after you have signed up.

Volunteer Roles

COMPETITION OFFICE

The Competition office is a sophisticated information centre that supports athletes and teams, fields questions, runs juries, organizes team leader meetings, and manages registrations, bib distribution, radio assignments, wax room assignments, etc. It is where all the results come in to be compiled and distributed. It requires people who are service-minded, highly organized, capable of working in a very hectic environment, and able to keep a cool head.

Roles include:

Office Assistant, Timing room Assistants (assigned), Announcers, Bib Washers, etc.

VOLUNTEER OFFICE

This area is the central meeting place for volunteers to get up-to-date information, directions, refreshments, hand warmers, meals and so on. Volunteers are needed to assist in checking volunteers in and directing them to meeting locations. Volunteers will work with the caterers to ensure food and beverages are available and delivered (a volunteer will need to pick up orders), as needed.

Roles include:

Volunteer Coordinator, Volunteer Room Assistant, Hosts

RANGE AND TARGET CREW

Working at the shooting range is often fast-paced and requires attention, speed, and accuracy, but it allows you to be close to the action. Medals are often won or lost here.

Scorekeeping: Results are recorded both electronically and manually (paper). Results are sent to the Competition office and collated.

Safety: It is critical that all volunteers help to ensure the range is safe, that firearms are handled appropriately, and that the range can be navigated safely by athletes, officials and volunteers by keeping it free from unnecessary activity and equipment. If you notice a safety concern, inform your designated chief.

Target Maintenance: A target crew will be responsible for the maintenance of the targets when the range is closed. Targets must be painted to ensure high contrast and visibility. Paper targets and zeroing/training boards must be put into place or removed, as needed. Zeroing boards are sometimes prepared off-site. As well, those working with the targets

should ensure that all electronic targets are functioning and that prone/standing indicators are working and can be seen from the mats.

Roles include:

Electronic Recorders, Paper Recorders (stickers), 3rd Line Recorders, Ramp Supervisors (RSO certified), Sweepers, Target painters/setup

STADIUM CREW

This crew is responsible for the setting up of the stadium, which includes start, finish, penalty loop, equipment check, clothing transportation and podium positioning. The Stadium Crew ensures the proper functioning and safety of everything around these areas. Assignments will involve setting up fences, banners, whiskers, v-boards and reconfiguring the Stadium throughout the week for the different types of competitions. This setup work takes place early in the mornings and maintenance throughout the day. Stadium Crew also includes doing equipment checks before and after competitions.

Roles include:

Equipment Check, Stadium Setup/Maintenance and Stadium Access Control

COURSE CREW

Course volunteers are responsible for ensuring the ski trails are well maintained and safe for both training and competitions. A member of the course team may assist with one or more of the following tasks: course security, air and snow temperature measurements, course marking, and fencing.

These roles are outdoors with exposure to the elements for lengthy periods. While in these roles, you get to watch the skiers on course, while being mindful of the activities of spectators and support crews.

Roles include:

Snow and Air Temperature Recorder, Course Controller, Setup & Maintenance

TIMING CREW

A variety of duties may be assigned to this group from marshaling athletes in the start area, pre-calling and recording the order of finishes, etc. Good vision (to read bib numbers from a distance) and attention to detail is required for most tasks. One should be comfortable with electronic data recording.

Roles include:

Setup, Timing, Starter, Manual Start, Manual Finish, Manual Data Entry, Transponders

(distribution and collection), Kurvinen (targets), Manual Backup Into Range, Manual Course (back up course timer), Sticker Supervisor, Sticker Official, Sticker Runner

PENALTY LOOP CREW

The Penalty Loop is where athletes do penance for missed shots. Volunteers here will be witness to the heartbreak and excitement as athletes struggle to maintain position. Volunteers will be responsible for recording loops completed. Those results are then delivered to the competition office to be collated and cross-checked with the results coming in from the range to ensure athletes have completed the required loops for missed shots.

NOTE: It's not up to the volunteers to tell the athletes how many penalty loops they need to ski. You won't know. At least one athlete will ask, guaranteed, but you're not allowed to tell them, even if you did know.

Roles include:

Setup, PL Recording, PL Collating, PL Runners

MEDICAL

Volunteers for this position must be medical professionals or have current First-Aid and/or Wilderness First Aid certifications. Medical personnel will be housed in the lower level of the biathlon building and/or in the range area and must be prepared to be dispatched to any location within the race venue. Medics will stay with athletes or volunteers in need until emergency services arrive. There are always two medics onsite from warm-up until the end of the medal ceremony.

Roles include: Medical personnel

SETUP CREWS

People are needed early in the morning of race days to get the venue set up for competition. Sometimes, volunteers are needed the day before an event.

Setup is typically very physical work involving setting up fencing, grooming, installing electronic equipment, course prep, etc. for all the various areas.

The work is usually done before warm-up and allows volunteers to take on other volunteer positions or be available to support "their" athletes.

Roles include:

Stadium setup, Course setup, Range maintenance, Penalty Loop setup, etc.

RACE FORMATS

The formats below mention prone (lying down) and standing shooting positions. Athletes don't shoot standing until the T2 age level. At the Racing Bears and T1 level all shooting is in the prone position.

Sprint

1 lap with prone shooting, 1 lap with standing shooting. Each miss results in one Penalty Loop.

Fast race, often used to seat start positions for Pursuit races. 30 second start intervals.

Pursuit

2 prone laps, 2 standing laps, with Penalty Loops for missed shots. Fox and hound style where athletes try to catch the leaders. In Calforex races, athletes usually depart at 5 second intervals.

Individual

1 prone lap, 1 standing lap, 1 prone lap, 1 standing lap with NO penalty loops. Time penalties for missed targets. 30 second start intervals.

Mass Start

2 prone, 2 standing with Penalty Loops. 30 or less athletes begin at the same time but are staged according to previous race results. This format isn't used at Calforex races.

Relays

2-4 athletes each doing 1 prone, 1 standing with penalty loops. Athletes are allowed to use 3 extra bullets to complete five targets. Mass start style.