

## **BIATHLON CANADA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND BENEFITS**

To join Biathlon Canada through your division, please contact your Division Office for registration forms and fees. All athletes, coaches, officials as well as those participating in Biathlon Bears or other entry level programs at the club level are required to pay a membership fee.

Biathlon Canada is the national sport governing body for biathlon in Canada. Biathlon is an Olympic winter sport, which combines competitive, free-technique cross-country skiing and small-bore rifle marksmanship. This exciting sport is an ideal one to be involved with throughout the year as either an athlete, coach, official or other volunteer. Biathlon Canada is a registered not-for-profit Association governed by a volunteer Board, elected by the members and representing the provincial and territorial Divisions. The Board is supported for operations by a National office located in Ottawa, ON and by a volunteer Executive elected from across the country.

For some members, Biathlon Canada is a distant and invisible entity. Typically, membership results from joining a Biathlon Canada Division through a local club. The Clubs are the foundation of Biathlon Canada. They attract skiers; they deliver programs for youth, athletes, officials and coaches; and frequently they offer access to trails and a shooting range. When Clubs prosper, the sport flourishes. Clubs can be costly to operate, and their major source of revenue is the fee they charge their members. Thus by paying Club and Division fees, members are paying for both the services they receive locally and are helping to build the sport more universally.

For a club or division to achieve their goals, they need the benefit of provincial and federal funding; they need to build their programs alongside other clubs to attract a critical mass to the sport and at the same time, offer flexible experiences for all levels and programs and sustain and support the competitive biathletes who outgrow the club environment. Most of all, they need access to the properly designed, structured and standardized programs for which they are the delivery vehicle.

Biathlon Canada and its member Divisions, the provincial/territorial biathlon associations, address these needs, as well as many other functions. Biathlon Canada is responsible for establishing national standards and creating programs for achieving these standards in areas such as skill development, coaching, event rules and organization, and officiating. The Divisions interface with provincial governments and provide regional coordination for the delivery of nationally designed programs to the Club level. In essence, Biathlon Canada and its Divisions enable Clubs and their members to leverage the benefits which derive from an organization of national scope and perspective. Biathlon Canada provides connectivity to the broader world of biathlon and makes local activities more relevant and productive.

Biathlon Canada also fulfils roles that may not be as highly visible as others but that are of value to the entire sport and all members. Biathlon Canada works with the media to raise our sport's profile; facilitates the passage of information within the biathlon community; and establishes high profile competitive events to showcase the sport.

Biathlon Canada's vision of seeing consistent medal contenders in international competitions who are lead and supported by an effective and dynamic organization, which also provides a domestic program of rewarding participation opportunities for all members, should entice you to become a member. Your membership will help to contribute to the financial support needed to succeed in this vision thus making biathlon a strong organization all around.

### **Becoming a Member:**

You become member when you join a Biathlon Canada Club Program or a Division (province/territory). Your membership fees will help to defray the costs of running the organization and will contribute to funding Biathlon Canada programs such as the National Team, coaching or officiating certification. Your membership also enhances our critical mass. The size of the Association is one of the factors considered by Sport Canada in computing our annual grant, Biathlon Canada's principal source of income.

### **Biathlon Canada Services Provided to Members:**

- Governs and administers the Association
- Interfaces with external partners (Sport Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee, CODA, CAC, CSC's, CHSNQ) and national sponsors
- Raises funds for Association functions and programs
- Funds and operates the National Teams and the 2 National Training Centres (Senior, Junior and Youth), including selection, equipping, coaching, training and competitions

- Provides liability insurance for Clubs and Members
- Develops and maintains the Athlete Development Model
- Develops coach training programs and documentation, and supervises higher level certification
- Develops and publishes officiating materials and event guidelines
- Trains Technical Delegates and other level officials through the Biathlon Canada Officials Program. Assigns TD's to national and international level events
- Coordinates the domestic competition calendar and subsidizes prize monies
- Runs course conductor training courses and upgrades
- Coordinates National Championships, North American Cups and Canada Cup events and sanctions them to the IBU
- Develops programs and designs, produces and supplies materials for the Biathlon Bears Program for youth skiers, as well as Leader Training courses
- Provides internal communication (Biathlon Canada web-site)
- Manages national level media relations
- Promotes the sport (posters, videos, etc)
- Maintains expertise, monitors status and promotes/encourages initiatives for drug-free competition
- Offers to members special deals on equipment or services as available (e.g. HR monitors, ski equipment, etc.)

For more information, visit us at [www.biathloncanada.ca](http://www.biathloncanada.ca) or contact us at [information@biathloncanada.ca](mailto:information@biathloncanada.ca). You may also contact your local division office