



U.S. Biathlon Club Certification

U.S. Biathlon (USBA) Club Certification is a process by which all clubs who are USBA members may become “certified.” Any club can undertake club certification. All Clubs who wish to be covered by USBA insurance should complete USBA **Basic Club Membership**. This process is a simple series of checkboxes after paying membership fees.

Podium-level certification is for clubs who wish to pursue a higher level of activity and show stakeholders their commitment to biathlon. Podium-certified clubs are more attractive and legitimate to parents, athletes and donors. They are more connected to USBA resources and information, and have more opportunities for hosting events and organizing National and Regional activities.

For podium-level Club Certification, clubs must fill out an application and submit all materials to USBA Director of Operations, Sara Studebaker-Hall (sara@usbiathlon.org). Once the club has gathered all materials and is ready to submit for certification, the USBA Club Certification Panel (USBA Sport Development Director, USBA Director of Operations, an USBA Athlete Representative, and an at-large community representative) will review materials and award certifications. The panel will reach out to any clubs they feel need more information or need to complete more items in order to be approved. The application period will be open twice annually, and will be good for four (4) years.

Clubs should apply for whichever level is closest to their situation. All applications for Bronze level and above will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure clubs are awarded the appropriate level of certification.

All member clubs will be highlighted by certification level on the USBA website. Clubs receiving Bronze, Silver or Gold level certification will receive an official certification banner, and may use Club Certification seals that will be distributed upon completion of the certification process.

Basic Club Membership:

- USBA Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) implemented by Club, and SafeSport training must be offered to all minor athletes (with parental consent). Training can be found at The US Center for SafeSport’s [website](#), or via link from

USBA's [website](#). All USBA members are entitled to training at no charge - contact USBA for a link;

- All coaches/officials/applicable club employees and Board members/applicable volunteers must be SafeSport trained and have a current background check;
- All Club members (athletes and coaches) are current USBA members;
- Have at least one Rifle Safety Assessor associated with the club (multiple clubs may share one assessor).

PODIUM LEVELS:

Bronze:

Basic plus:

- Regular activities (training, try-it clinics, camps, races, time trials, etc) for athletes;
- Minimum 1 USBA Member Coach who has completed the USBA Foundations of Biathlon Coaching Course;
- Have at least one USBA Certified Range Safety Officer (RSO) associated with the club;
- Laser-only biathlon programs may be considered here.

Silver:

Bronze plus:

- Designated coach for program¹ – A paid coach is standard, but commitment level will be evaluated for unpaid positions;
- Program has at least one Coach with a current USBA Level 1 (or above) Coach Certificate;
- Dedicated club website or other digital media presence with contact info and how to get involved;
- Offers multiple Biathlon Try-It events (live fire and/or Laser) to introduce new participants to the sport.

Gold:

Silver plus:

- Dedicated Biathlon Range available for regular club use;
- Scholarships and/or other reduced cost programming provided for in-need athletes;
- Some diversity, equity, and inclusion policies/plans/efforts;²
- At least one Coach with a current USBA Level 2 (or above) Coach Certificate;
- Full-time, paid coach for the program.

¹ The coach should be an USBA Coach Member in good standing.

² DEI policies can include outreach to local schools, programs focusing on women and girls, scholarships for underserved communities or those of lower economic status. For more information, please contact sara@usbiathlon.org.

U.S. Biathlon Venue Certification

U.S. Biathlon Venue Certification is intended to certify venues for the purposes of being able to host Regional and National level events. USBA Venue Certification is a prerequisite for application for IBU certification. Venue certification is NOT required. USBA recognizes that not all venues currently utilized by athletes and clubs will fall into one of the three venue certification levels, and this does not affect their ability to hold training and events for local clubs and athletes. Venue certification is meant to help those venues who wish to host regional and national level events understand the requirements, and provide those venues who wish to grow in the future with a roadmap of standards.

All standards are guidelines. Venues will be awarded certification on a case-by-case basis, and not all standards must be met 100% for USBA certification to be awarded.

BENEFITS:

All U.S. Biathlon Certified Venues will be highlighted by level on the USBA website. Venues will be issued certificates, and certification must be renewed every four (4) years.

USBA Level 1 Venue Certification:

Level 1 venues can apply to host regional level camps and events and may be eligible for USBA support at those events.

USBA Level 2 Venue Certification:

Level 2 venues can bid for national championship and international team trials level events in addition to all events Level 1 venues are eligible for. Level 2 venues and above may be able to host IBU Regional Events and be eligible for IBU funding.

IBU Venue Certification (A and B license venues):

IBU licensed venues are given priority in hosting events, including National-level races and camps, especially in years when they will host IBU events in order to ensure international readiness.

LEVELS:

USBA Level 1

- Minimum 10-point range;
- Rifle racks, wind flags, and standard biathlon mats in regular use;
- Minimum 2 certified Level 2 officials³ affiliated with venue;

³ While USBA works to get the updated level 2 officials training online, individuals with prior experience and/or in the process of level 2 completion will be considered.

- At least one certified RSO;
- At least one Rifle Safety Assessor;
- Regular training and/or local events utilizing the venue.

USBA Level 2

- Minimum 15-point range;
- Rifle racks, wind flags, lane dividers, T-posts, and standard biathlon mats in regular use;
- Paved roller loops attached to paved range/stadium area;
- Minimum 3 certified Level 2 officials⁴ affiliated with venue;
- Minimum 1 IBU International Referee level certified official associated with venue (this must be someone who is familiar with the venue, but may not necessarily be local);
- Venue must be able to create a dedicated coaches box on the range;
- At least two certified RSOs;
- At least one Rifle Safety Assessor;
- Regular training and local competitions utilizing the venue;
- We recommend that Level 2 Venues include para and laser biathlon.

IBU A & B Licensing

- See IBU regulations for Stadium Licensing (<https://www.biathlonworld.com/inside-ibu/downloads/downloads-documents-sport-and-event>)

⁴ While USBA works to get the updated level 2 officials training online, individuals with prior experience and/or in the process of level 2 completion will be considered.