



## **U.S. Biathlon Club & Venue Certification - FAQ Page**

*Q: What is the purpose of Club & Venue Certification? And what's the difference?*

A: Club & Venue Certification is intended to help USBA provide a roadmap for club and venue development along with a clear pathway as they grow. Club Certification also provides more clear structure to required elements of USBA Clubs (like SafeSport policies and membership requirements). *Club* podium certification is meant to help clubs pursue excellence in club activity and management, while being more attractive to parents and other stakeholders like donors. *Venue* certification is meant to help venues grow towards being able to hold and host higher level biathlon activities. Venue certification is a stop along the way towards IBU venue licensing.

*Q: What if clubs decide not to pursue podium-level certification?*

A: That's fine! Certification is an optional process that clubs may go through if they feel it would help them and they would like to be highlighted as podium-level clubs on the USBA website. Basic Club membership requires a general check-box survey completion in order to be considered a "club in good standing" and receive insurance benefits. All member clubs must complete this process, but may also choose to pursue podium-level certification.

*Q: What are the requirements for Basic Club membership?*

A: Basic Club membership requires attesting that the [USBA SafeSport MAAPP](#) has been implemented in your club, all applicable members (including but not limited to coaches, adult athletes with regular contact with minor athletes, certain volunteers and Board members) have completed SafeSport training, and that all club members are current USBA members. Additionally, clubs must provide the name of their Rifle Safety Assessor.

*Q: What is the process for Club Certification?*

A: For all levels of club membership and certification, clubs must purchase a USBA Club membership and fill out the associated form/application. For podium-level certification, an interview or follow-up conversation may be required before a club can be officially certified. Certification is good for four years, and then clubs must go through a re-application process.

*Q: What is the process for Venue Certification?*

A: Venues may apply for certification by completing an online form. The USBA Officials Panel will review submitted forms and make recommendations to USBA staff on which venues should be certified. Staff will issue certification that is good for four years, at which point venues must reapply.

*Q: Where can I find all the requirements for the different levels of certification?*

A: Certification requirements can be found in a separate document [on our website](#) entitled "Club & Venue Certification." Any questions can be directed to USBA Director of Operations, Sara Studebaker-Hall ([sara@usbiathlon.org](mailto:sara@usbiathlon.org)).

*Q: What is the timeline for applications for Club and Venue certifications?*

A: Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis, but clubs and organizations may email [clubs@usbiathlon.org](mailto:clubs@usbiathlon.org) if they have any questions or have submitted an application and not heard back.