



## U.S. Biathlon Safety Rules Update IBU Changes to ECR 8.5.1

Earlier this month, IBU announced updates to the Event and Competition Rules effective immediately. Most important for our membership included updates to the rifle safety rules - ECR 8.5.1.

From the 2025-26 season forward, athletes will be required to use a safety indicator/marker inserted in their chamber to indicate the rifle is unloaded whenever the athlete is not actively competing or training.

We've included the exact language and information from IBU in this announcement, but are also outlining some specific scenarios below. In addition, U.S. Biathlon will be hosting a **Zoom Q&A session on Wednesday, July 30 at 11:00am Mountain Time** for any coaches, clubs or members who would like more information. We will also have representatives at **Summer Biathlon Championships in Jericho, VT August 1-3** who will be able to answer questions and discuss the implementation of this important new safety rule.

### Timeline:

**July 30, 2025:** Zoom Q&A session [Join Here](#) (11am Mountain Time)

(<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86105631132?pwd=kBymVEB94Zn92ayPJE2PrhaJ86h12O.1>)

**\*\*This session will be recorded and posted/distributed for anyone unable to attend.**

**August 1-3, 2025:** USBA representatives at U.S. Biathlon Summer National Championships available for questions and discussion.

**October 1, 2025:** Full implementation of this rule for USBA events, including penalties. USBA encourages all clubs to work towards implementation of this rule by this date. *USBA will have safety indicators at USBA events for distribution to all participants.*

### Rule Overview:

Athletes are required to have the safety indicator in their chamber at all times in the biathlon stadium when not training or competing. This includes having the indicator in place when:

- Arriving at the stadium
- Arriving at any material control (including pre-material inspection and rifle control)
- Done zeroing/before competing
- Done competing or training
- Leaving the stadium

Failure to do so will result in DISQUALIFICATION or START PROHIBITION per penalties outlined in the IBU Event and Competition Rules for ECR 8.5.1.

Please see attached IBU outline for more information. We encourage you to reach out to USBA staff with any questions ([tburke@usbiathlon.org](mailto:tburke@usbiathlon.org); [jfarra@usbiathlon.org](mailto:jfarra@usbiathlon.org); [sara@usbiathlon.org](mailto:sara@usbiathlon.org)).