



U.S. Biathlon Safety Update

IBU ECR 8.5.1 Changes
July 30, 2025

ECR Update: Why

- Safety!
- Supports the USBA open bolt rule
- Welcome update, implementation and communication is key



ECR Update: What

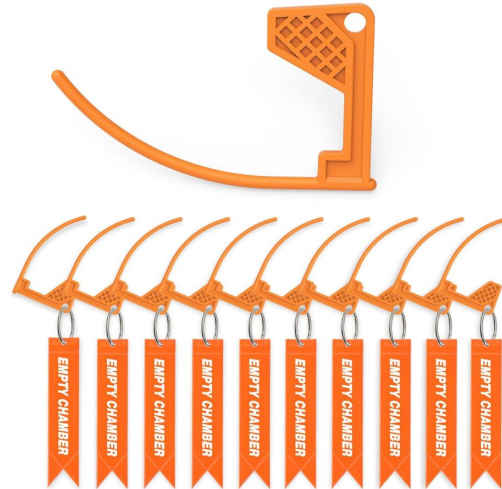
- 8.5.1: When a rifle is brought into or is taken out of the stadium area, it must be in a case or a cover bag. *As a visible sign that there is no cartridge in the chamber, an additional safety marker (colored flag or lock) must be attached. The marker may only be removed as of Art. 8.5.1.1*
- 8.5.1.1: Outlines when marker must be inserted:
 - Leaving the range after training is ended
 - Leaving the range after zero - heading to the start
 - Leaving the finish area after racing

This includes arrival at all material control points (before races, before events, etc).

IMPORTANT! Penalties for violations of 8.5.1 are DSQ and start prohibition.

Examples

- The intended safety marker consists of a plastic cartridge attached to a brightly colored strip or flag, ensuring it remains clearly visible to everyone at all times





ECR Update: How - Implementation

- October 1, 2025 - Full implementation, including penalties, at USBA events.
- USBA will provide safety markers to all registered athletes at USBA events during 2025-26 season (eg. Utah trials, YJWCH team trials, Nationals, etc)
- USBA staff, Technical Delegates and competition Jury will handle procedures at all events and communicate any updates to event participants.
- USBA recommends immediate implementation by clubs and athletes to begin practicing with updated procedures.
- IBU will distribute safety markers to athletes upon arrival at their first IBU event for the season, and handle international implementation.

