

## USBA Rifle Safety Rules

Understanding how a rifle functions, it is clear that by following three simple and logical rules, an accident cannot occur.

### These rules are:

1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
2. Keep the action open and rifle unloaded until ready to use.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

**These rules for safe gun handling apply to all rifles, pistols, and shotguns.**

**There are additional rules and practices that should be followed by biathlon participants to insure your safety and that of others. They are:**

1. Always treat a rifle as if it were loaded until proven otherwise.
2. Keep your rifle bolt open unless the rifle is on your back or you are in position and ready to shoot.
3. Never race with a loaded rifle.
4. Do not take your rifle off before you are at the shooting point.
5. Don't load your rifle until you are in position with the rifle pointed in the direction of the target.
6. On the command "**Cease Fire**", stop shooting and unload your rifle at once.
7. Never handle a rifle on the firing line when someone is down range.
8. When dry firing only point the muzzle in a safe direction.
9. If you see an unsafe act, bring it to the attention of the individual involved and a range official.
10. Store your rifle and ammunition separately out of reach of children.
11. Check the barrel and action of your rifle before using it.
12. No horseplay on the range.
13. Do not leave your rifle unattended in a public area.
14. **USBA Open Bolt Rule** - It is USBA policy for the rifle bolt to be open (bolt handle completely to the rear) once the rifle is removed from its carrying case or taken off the competitor's back. This includes anytime the rifle is left unattended in a rifle rack or lying on the ground or snow. (USBA strongly encourages the use of a rifle cover at all times other than in competition.) Competitors not abiding by the rule during competitions will be reported to the Chief of Competition.
15. Rifles must be unloaded after each shooting bout - that is, no round may be left in the chamber or in the inserted magazine. At the end of training, athletes must perform a safety check before leaving the shooting range by opening the bolt and removing the inserted magazine. Athletes must also remove all ammunition from both the stock and all the magazines before leaving the shooting range