



**AUSTRALIAN BIATHLON**

**SELECTION RACE CANCELLATION GUIDELINES**

Adopted as a By-Law by AB

June 2015

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Australian Biathlon (**AB**) understands the commitment in time and money that all athletes, coaches, race officials and their supporters make in arranging to attend a scheduled Selection Race.

Cancellation of a Selection Race is a very serious matter and will only be done in extraordinary circumstances and in accordance with these guidelines.

Historically, cancellation has occurred most frequently as a result of insufficient snow however it should be noted that is not the only factor that may cause cancellation and indeed too much snow may cause cancellation if there are insufficient grooming resources to groom an acceptable course in time or if it causes the mountain roads to be closed so that many athletes and personnel cannot access Whiskey Flat.

## **2. AUTHORITY FOR CANCELLATION**

The authority for cancellation of any competition event is given to the Chief of Race (or his delegate) under section 7 of the AB Competition Rules for the time being in force.

While the Chief of Race may consult with persons with Direct Knowledge of the relevant information at the time of inspection, a cancellation decision is made at the sole discretion of the Chief of Race.

The Chief of Race may delegate the authority for a cancellation decision to the Chief of Course, the Technical Delegate or the Jury. In the absence of the Chief of Race, the following race officials are authorised by the Committee to exercise the authority for a cancellation decision:

1. the Chief of Course; or in his absence,
2. the Technical Delegate.

## **3. TIMING OF A CANCELLATION DECISION**

A cancellation decision will generally be made as late as possible in order for snow and grooming conditions to be inspected as close to the scheduled race time as possible. Balanced against this is recognition that some attendees will be travelling from interstate and notice in sufficient time permits those attendees to decide to not undertake the journey.

Accordingly, for a race time of Saturday morning, the target time of an announcement and communication of a cancellation decision is 12:00 noon on the Thursday prior to the scheduled race being considered for cancellation.

A cancellation decision may still occur later than this target time if relevant circumstances change and may occur at any time up until the scheduled Selection Race start time.

#### **4. BASIS FOR A DECISION**

A cancellation decision may be reached if, in the opinion of the Chief of Race, at the time of inspection of the course:

- (a) Key resources will be unavailable to conduct the event; OR
- (b) It would be unsafe to conduct the Selection Race.

#### **5. RELEVANT INFORMATION TO BE CONSIDERED**

The following information is to be considered:

The **Key Resources** available at the time of inspection, which may include:

- (a) Actual Snow and grooming conditions at the time of inspection.
- (b) Estimates of the numbers and skills of personnel available to conduct the race based on actual responses received;
- (c) Current information on the availability and capability of grooming resources between the time of inspection and the scheduled race start time
- (d) Weather forecasts including but not limited to forecast extreme low temperatures or forecasts of heavy rain may be taken into account.

Forecasts of fresh snow shall not be relied on when, at the time of inspection, the snow conditions are insufficient to support an acceptable groomed track. Forecasts of heavy falls of snow may be relevant to a cancellation decision if, at time of inspection, it is judged that the volume of snow is likely to exceed grooming resources.

#### **6. INTERPRETRATION**

- (a) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (b) a gender includes all genders;
- (c) a document (including this Guidelines) is a reference to that document (including any annexures or schedules) as amended, supplemented, or replaced;

#### **7. DEFINITIONS**

**Australian Biathlon** means the Australian/Victorian Biathlon Association Incorporated.

**Competition Rules** means the Competition Rules of Australian Biathlon for the time being in force.

**Direct Knowledge** means knowledge informed by personal observation at Whiskey Flat at the time of inspection.

**Key Resources** means the following:

- (a) Sufficient personnel with the required skills willing to perform essential race official roles;
- (b) Sufficient snow to allow an acceptable course to be groomed;
- (c) Grooming resources that are available and capable of grooming the course to an acceptable standard prior to the scheduled race day; and
- (d) The absence of safety hazards, including due to extreme Weather conditions.

**Race** means Selection Race.

**Selection Race** means a championship or other event organised by Australian Biathlon that have been explicitly nominated by AB as an event from which the event results shall be included as an input in determining athlete eligibility for inclusion in the Australian National Team, Australian Olympic Team or Australian Youth Olympic Team.