

SAGA SNIPPETS

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Pyeongchang Winter Olympics 2018 - Biathlon



Biathlon is a sport that combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting, two events that are very different from each other. Athletes strap the guns on their backs, ski for a certain distance, and then stop to shoot at a designated target. For the shooting, there are two types of shooting positions. One of these is shooting while lying face down, and the other is shooting while standing up. The final ranking is decided according to the skiing time and the accuracy of the shooting. In the Winter Olympics, a total of 11 events are contested; 5 for men, 5 for women, and 1 mixed.

Description of the Events

The biathlon competitions can be largely divided into individual, sprint, relay, pursuit, and mass start.

Men: 10km sprint, 20km individual, 4x7.5km relay, 12.5km pursuit, and 15km mass start.

Women: 7.5km sprint, 15km individual, 4x6km relay, 10km pursuit, and 12.5km mass start.

The mixed relay: Women 2x6km + Men 2x7.5km.

Individual

Athletes' starts are staggered by 30 seconds. While skiing, a total of 4 rounds of shooting are carried out prone, standing, prone, standing. Each round has 5 shots per time. For each missed target, a penalty point of 1 minute is added to the skiing time of the athlete.

Sprint

The athletes' departures are staggered at 30 second intervals. During the skiing, a total of 2 rounds of shooting are carried out, one prone and one standing for a total of 10 shots. For each missed target, a penalty loop of 150m must be skied before the athlete can continue the race.

Pursuit

The order of departure is decided from the results of the Sprint. The winners of the Sprint depart first in the Pursuit competition. The other athletes depart according to the amount of time they were behind the Sprint winner.

While skiing, a total of 4 rounds of shooting are carried out with 5 shots each round. Shooting is carried out prone, prone, standing, standing. If a target is missed, the athlete must ski the 150m penalty loop each time and continue the race.

Mass Start

All the athletes depart simultaneously and stop 4 times to shoot. They shoot 2 rounds of 5 shots prone, and then, 2 rounds of 5 shots standing. Every time they miss the target they must ski the 150m penalty loop before they continue the race. The athlete who crosses the finish line first is the winner.

Relay

Each team is organised with 4 athletes. The men's competition is 7.5km long for each athlete and the women's is 6km for each athlete.

The shooting takes place in two intervals, in the men's competition after skiing 2.5km and 5km and in the women's competition after skiing 2km and 4km. In Relay, athletes are given 3 spare bullets for every round of 5 targets but if there is any miss after 5 bullets, then these spare 3 bullets must be hand loaded into the magazine of the rifle adding to the time and pressure of the event. For each target miss after all the 8 bullets, the athlete must ski the 150m penalty loop just like in the Sprint competition.

Continued....Biathlon

The first runner of each team departs simultaneously. There is a 30m long x 8m wide handover zone where the incoming and outgoing skiers make bodily contact and continue on in the race.

Mixed Relay

A mixed team comprises 2 women and 2 men.

The 2 women execute two rounds of shooting at the 6km mark. And the 2 men athletes execute two rounds of shootings at the 7.5km mark.

The first athlete of each team starts simultaneously in the Mixed Relay competitions. The order of the departures of the runners are woman, woman, man, man. The rules of the competitions are the same as Relay.

Extracted from:

<https://www.pyeongchang2018.com/en/sports/biathlon>

Some more interesting extracts of information....

<https://www.cbssports.com/olympics/news/biathlon-at-the-2018-winter-olympics-your-guide-to-guns-targets-and-skis/>

What caliber rifle are the athletes carrying?

Part of what makes the biathlon unique is that it's skiing with a weight on your back. The rifle that athletes are touting is .22 LR. The form of shooting is extremely important. Athletes must shoot quickly and efficiently. Keep in mind that wind can also become a factor, and it's one of the most difficult parts of the Winter Games to hit a target 45mm in diameter for prone shooters and 115mm for standing shooters. They must be efficient and steady, two things that counteract each other by nature.

How heavy is the rifle?

This varies from rifle to rifle, of course., one of the most popular sprint rifles weighs slightly over 8 pounds. While not particularly heavy, it still approximates to a large newborn baby riding your back for up to 20km.

What countries/individuals are favored?

Johannes Thingnes of Norway is the men's favorite in sprints, and Norway is expected to take the relay gold. Another name to watch out for is Martin Fourcade of France, who cleaned up at Sochi.

On the women's side, it's a little less top-heavy. Anastasiya Kuzmina of Slovakia is a big face, as is Laura Dahlmeier from Germany. Another name to look out for is Darya Domracheva from Belarus, not to mention Kaisa Mäkäräinen from Finland. Germany is also favored in both the women's relay and the mixed relay.

General SAGA Matters

Emails

SAGA's email service provider has changed from MailerMailer to Campaigner. We have been experiencing some teething issues whereby text sent out has been corrupted with words joined together. We are doing some further testing and hope to have the problem sorted out soon. Our sincere apology for any inconvenience.

Please note that emails sent to members with notifications and legislative information are also placed on our website so if in any doubt please check our website!

Snippets Content

We have received a few comments about the articles featured in Snippets and the fact that almost all of them are from American sources.

SAGA is very aware of this and is making every effort to include more local content whenever possible.

Firearm-Free Zones

By John Welch
February 2018

There has recently been yet another tragic school shooting in the USA where 14 pupils and 3 staff members were killed. It appears that a disgruntled expelled scholar decided to settle his grievances with the school by taking it out on innocent children and staff. The anti-gun lobby once again blame the shooting on the free availability of firearms. This incident, together with all others, do not go unnoticed by our police department, and already there are rumours, yet again, that the Minister is considering declaring firearm-free zones.

Let me first make SAGA's standpoint very clear:

We are vehemently opposed to any area or zone being declared gun-free, however, we fully support all efforts to promote crime-free zones. In fact, we believe that the whole country ought to be crime-free. The immediate benefit of a crime-free zone, crime-free city and crime-free country, is that people will really be and feel safe and automatically there will be little, or no, need for self-defence firearms. However, because this is most unrealistic, we as free men and women must have the right to take informed decisions about our safety and the protection of ourselves and our liberty. We know that government cannot do that. We know that the average reaction time of the police to a crime scene is about 19 minutes. The reaction time of private security, for which many citizens are paying a lot (and which is not even tax deductible) is not much better. In both cases you do not know whether you could trust either and further, there is no guarantee that the police or security official is able and competent to address the problem. The result is that you, Mr and Mrs Citizen, remain the first responder to crime. In the



event of an unlawful act of serious violence or such imminent act, you have the inalienable right to defend yourself and others against such violence. However, this remains your decision. It's not a matter of taking the law into your own hands, this merely means thwarting the unlawful and violent attack and then leaving it to the police to do their work. You have no right chasing criminals and trying to arrest them, unless your actions fall within the rather limited parameters of executing a citizen's arrest and using the concomitant force reasonably necessary to subdue an arrestee who violently resists arrest or flees and who still constitutes a serious danger to you or others.

The rationale behind firearm-free zones, so the thinking goes, is that if government prohibits the possession of firearms, violent crime would be prevented, since there are no firearms. The truth, however, is that only law-abiding citizens would be disarmed since criminals generally do not abide by the law. And, after all, in firearm-free zones government has made it much easier for them to commit crime since there would be no armed resistance.

Section 140 (1) of the Firearms Control Act provides that the Minister of Police may, after consultation with the National Commissioner and the Secretary for the Police Service, by notice in the Gazette declare any premises or categories of premises to be firearm-free zones, if it is (a) in the

public interest; and (b) in accordance with the objects of this Act. The meaning of "after consultation with", above, is that he first must consult with the two officials but he exercises the discretion to declare the firearm-free zone, they do not have to agree nor does majority rules. The effect of the declaration of a firearm-free zone is that, unless otherwise authorised to do so, no person may (a) allow any firearm or ammunition to be in a firearm-free zone; (b) carry any firearm or ammunition in a firearm-free zone; or (c) store any firearm or ammunition in a firearm-free zone. The fact that it is a licensed firearm is not a defence for a contravention of possessing a firearm within a firearm-free zone. A police official on duty may, for instance, have a firearm in his possession. And an armed security guard doing official duties will probably specifically have to be exempted from the prohibition.

Section 140 (3) provides that a police official may, without warrant (a) search any building or premises in a firearm-free zone if he or she has a suspicion on reasonable grounds that a firearm or ammunition may be present in the firearm-free zone in contravention of a notice issued in terms of subsection (1); (b) search any person present in a firearm-free zone; and (c) seize any firearm or ammunition present in the firearm-free zone or on the person in contravention of a notice issued in terms of subsection (1). The amendment of this section also provides for muzzle-loading firearms, however, this amendment has not as yet come into operation. It is important to note that the police cannot just do a random search without a search warrant, they must have formed a suspicion based on reasonable grounds that there were firearms or ammunition inside of firearm-free zone.

Firearm-Free Zones

The Minister may prescribe measures to be taken regarding the demarcation of, and placing of signposts on, premises constituting a firearm-free zone in order to notify the public that the premises are declared a firearm-free zone. I would have expected this duty to be peremptory since there are serious consequences for non-compliance. People may be searched and firearms seized only within the firearm-free zone. Searches outside the firearm-free zones are covered by the regular criminal procedure provisions and unless a person is found in possession of an unlicensed firearm, or it is otherwise suspected (on reasonable grounds) that the person was involved in the commission of another crime, the firearm may not be seized.

Contrary to expectations, the Firearm Control Act Regulations do not contain any operational prescripts regarding firearm-free zones. Regulation 109, however, provides that the owner or the lawful occupier of premises or category of premises may submit a duly completed prescribed application form together with any required supporting documents, to have the said premises declared a firearm-free zone. What is significant is that there is no corresponding provision in the Firearms Control Act allowing the making of regulations upon the request of an owner or occupier of premises. In such a case the regulations would usually be regarded as invalid.

In a failed attempt to declare school premises firearm-free zones, the Minister proposed that all schools be declared firearm-free zones and for this purpose a school was defined as to include an area 500 meters adjacent the actual school premises on all sides. Such a definition could include private parking areas,

public roads, private homes, shops, restaurants, cafes. Not only would such a description of a school premises become totally impractical, it would also be a serious infringement into privacy and the enjoyment of individual rights. Not only will you not be able to drop off your children at school while you carry your licensed firearm (either for self-defence or while you are on your way to a game farm to hunt or to a shooting range to participate in a competition), you may be guilty by merely driving on a public road adjacent to the school or even living in a house within 500 meters from the school.

All public (and in many instances, even private) universities and schools and churches in the USA are firearm-free zones. Most, if not all, massacres have taken place at these places. Although one needs to ask why these firearm-free zones did not prevent the massacres, even for the most liberal politician the reason should not be too obscure. In case you are wondering, the reason is more or less the same as to why the banning of firearms from lawful private possession will not prevent crime. Firearm-free zones and societies will suit criminals just fine as it will reduce their risk in committing crime and make victims easier targets (pun intended).

Firearm-free zones must be distinguished from shopping malls, movie theatres, sport stadiums and similar places where the possession of firearms is disallowed. In the latter instance, access to a shopping mall is conditional in that one may not enter or be on the premises with your dog or while in possession of a firearm or that you are not allowed to smoke, excepting in a designated smoking area (which, coincidentally, they do not have to provide). The mall owner (or

security personnel working for him) may not have you arrested, however, they may bar your access to the mall. Regarding smoking, it is a different thing, since there is in fact a national law that you will be contravening if you do smoke in a public area. Very seldom, in my experience, do these owners make provision for the safeguarding of private firearms in prescribed safes.

The shopping mall scenario also needs to be distinguished from the prohibitions in terms of the Access to Public Transport and Public Buildings Act, which provide that the owner or person in charge of such public vehicle or building could prescribe conditions of entry and presence on such vehicles and in such buildings. The Registrar of the High Court or the Chief Magistrate of a magistrates' court building, the Director-General of Internal Revenue and those in charge of all state (inclusive of national, provincial and municipal government) buildings may declare that their buildings are firearm-free areas. In most such cases provision is made for safes at the entrance where one may safeguard one's firearm. If not, a firearm owner ought to know not to leave a firearm in the vehicle.

The right to possess a firearm for self-defence, coupled with the correct mind set, is a very strong right, (similarly strong are the rights of hunters, sport shooters and firearm collectors) but it has serious correlative obligations, not the least of which is the responsible and safe use and storage thereof. The greater role we, as responsible firearm owners, play in ensuring a safe and crime-free society, the less reasons government will have to interfere with our rights.

How to Carry a Handgun Afield

by Shane Jahn
Monday, February 5, 2018

The reasons for carrying a handgun afield can range from hunting, to self-protection from animals, humans...or a combination of the three. Whatever the reasons, here are a few carry options for taking your favorite handgun along with you in the great outdoors.

Gunbelt

For me, the most comfortable way to carry a handgun, especially one with some heft, is on a gunbelt. A sturdy leather belt, 2½ to 3 inches in width, with a good holster distributes the weight of the gun, (for me, usually a big bore revolver), evenly around the waist. Cartridge loops are a matter of personal preference. I have found that I prefer them more forward of my hip bone. Reasons being, with loops on the back of the belt, cartridges tend to be pushed up and out from the loops, or bullets get marred when I'm sitting against rocks while glassing for game. This method doesn't tug at my pants and makes for effortless carrying of a handgun. Barrel length does make a difference; the more sitting or riding in a vehicle you do, the shorter the barrel I suggest you use.....

Belt Holster

Belt holsters are another good way of packing a handgun. Like all holsters, you get what you pay for. Buy quality gear that will

protect your gun, fits it properly and will last for years. One time I was carrying a 4-inch S&W .44 Magnum in a "cheapo" belt holster while hunting feral hogs. I had to jump from rock to rock while crossing a small creek and in doing so heard a "splash." Yep, my sixgun went for a swim. This is a good time to mention straps, hammer thongs and other retention devices. Pick what you like, and use it to avoid having your expensive handgun hit the rocks, dirt or water! Matching the belt size to the holster's belt slot size, (example: 1¼-inch belt width and 1¾-inch holster belt slot) is also a good idea to create a tight fit of belt and holster, and to avoid your holstered gun sliding around on your waist. You may desire a cross-draw holster, especially for a longer-barreled handgun or to avoid gun-to-gun contact while carrying a slung rifle.

Shoulder Holster/Chest Holster

Wearing a shoulder holster or chest holster is an excellent way to carry a handgun. While I don't normally carry these ways, I had a good friend who swore by his homemade shoulder holsters for ease of carrying his single actions while hiking, hunting and riding horseback. Another amigo of mine has abandoned his belt holsters for a shoulder rig made by a local saddle maker. He too sings the praises of wearing his pistol under his arm. These methods are particularly easy to conceal if need be with a shirt, vest or jacket, which can also be a good way of protecting your fire-



arm from inclement weather. ... Either are good, the difference is that the gun is worn on your chest, as the name implies, or under your support-side arm with the shoulder holster.

Concealed Carry Afield

Depending on your particular needs, wearing your handgun in a concealed holster can still be a viable option for field carry.

In the end, find the holster method that fits your needs. Make sure it's comfortable, practical and securely holds your handgun. And one final bit of advice, try it out before you take to the field. You don't want to get 5 miles up the trail or on the far side of the mountain and find out that your holster rubs your side, tires your shoulder muscles, flops annoyingly on your belt or pulls your pants down.

Extracted from:

https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2018/2/5/how-to-carry-a-handgun-afield/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0218

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets