

Hello Biathlon BC Clubs, Members, and Supporters,

Under B.C.'s BILL 4 – 2021 FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT, which comes into effect October 1, 2026, Biathlon BC has consulted with provincial government representatives to ensure compliance with the legislation and confirm the continued operation of biathlon activities across British Columbia. ([BC Laws](#))

There are no significant changes to how biathlon operates in B.C.; however, there are several important clarifications to communicate.

## **1. Transportation of imitation firearms (electronic rifles / EcoAims)**

Electronic biathlon rifles (Eco-Aims) are considered imitation firearms under the legislation. Under the Act, there are new regulations for imitation firearms.

As a result:

- Eco-Aim rifles must be transported in a locked, non-transparent case (i.e. a hard rifle case) or in the locked trunk of a vehicle.
- All Eco-Aim rifles currently come with black hard cases; clubs should ensure those cases have locks for transportation compliance.
- No PAL (Possession and Acquisition Licence) is required to transport or use imitation rifles such as Eco-Aims.

## **2. School activities remain permitted**

Biathlon training, demonstrations, and competitions remain permitted at schools and post-secondary institutions through exemptions established in the regulations related to designated properties.

Biathlon activities are exempted under Section 36 of the Designated Properties Regulations, Part 6: Biathlon and Shooting Competitions.

Important clarifications:

- Restrictions at schools apply to loaded non-restricted firearms.
- No live ammunition is permitted on school property at any time.
- Unloaded .22 biathlon rifles may be brought to schools strictly as demonstration tools.
- No ammunition may accompany the rifle under any circumstances.

## **3. Use of imitation rifles in public spaces**

Electronic biathlon activities remain permitted in public spaces for:

- training sessions,
- competitions,

- demonstrations, and
- community activities.

This can include:

- schools,
- parks,
- sports fields,
- cross-country ski facilities,
- festivals,
- markets,
- town events, and
- community spaces.

When operating in public spaces, Biathlon BC recommends:

- clear signage explaining the camera-based electronic technology,
- visible communication that participants are engaged in a recognized sport activity, and
- electronic range layouts that appear as non-threatening as possible to the public.

Biathlon BC further recommends that electronic biathlon equipment be used for all demonstrations and activities occurring outside of traditional .22 rifle range.

#### **4. No significant operational impacts to sanctioned biathlon activity**

The Provincial Government has stated that the Act includes exemptions for lawful sport shooting, training, and recreational activities.

Based on consultation with government representatives and review of the legislation:

- sanctioned biathlon training and competitions may continue as normal,
- existing .22 biathlon ranges remain operational,
- lawful sport shooting activities remain recognized under the regulations, and
- Biathlon BC clubs can continue delivering programming province-wide while following the updated transportation and public-use requirements.

If you have any questions related to this new legislation, please reach out to Roddy Ward:  
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