

Training

COMPETITIVE BIATHLON

Summary. This regulation provides general information pertaining to the National Guard Biathlon Training Program.

Applicability. This regulation applies to all National Guard personnel unless otherwise indicated.

Impact on New Manning System. This regulation does not contain information that affects the New Manning System.

Supplementation. Local supplementation of this regulation is prohibited, except upon approval of the Chief, National Guard Bureau. Requests for exception, with justification, will be sent through command channels to National Guard Bureau, **ATTN: NGB-ARO-M**, Arlington Hall Station, 111 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22204-1382.

Internal Control System. This regulation is not subject to the requirements of AR 11-2. It does not contain internal control provisions.

Interim changes. Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by Executive, NGB. Users will destroy interim changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Suggested improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the National Guard Bureau. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to NGB-ARO-M, Arlington Hall Station, 111 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204-1382.

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1. Purpose

This regulation establishes the National Guard Biathlon Training Program. It is the authority for the conduct of biathlon training at the national and state level. Participation in the Biathlon Training Program is normally limited to those states that have sufficient snow on which to train.

2. References

NGR 190-11 (Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives) is a required publication. (Cited in para 9.)

3. Explanation of abbreviations

- a. BAC* - Biathlon Advisory Council
- b. CISM* - Conseil International du Sport Militaire
- c. NCO* - Noncommissioned Officer
- d. NGB* - National Guard Bureau
- e. SBC* - State Biathlon Coordinator
- f. USBA* - United States Biathlon Association

4. Responsibilities

- a.* The Chief, National Guard (NGB), has supervisory responsibility for the National Guard Biathlon Program.
- b.* The Adjutant General, State of Vermont, has proponentcy for the establishment of policy and procedures for the conduct of the National Guard Biathlon Program.

c. The National Guard Bureau Biathlon Coordinator serves as the day-to-day manager of the NGB Biathlon Program.

d. The Adjutant's General of those states desiring to participate in the NGB Biathlon Training Program will appoint on orders a State Biathlon Coordinator to assist in the conduct of the state program and facilitate liaison between the National Guard Bureau and the state. Two copies of orders will be forwarded to the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Coordinator, Building 5 Camp Johnson, Colchester, VT 05446-3004.

e. The State Biathlon Coordinator (SBC) has specific and direct responsibility for the Biathlon Training Program within the state.

f. Individual participants. Participants in the Biathlon Training Program must be constantly aware that they are representatives of their units, their States, and the National Guard. They will--

- (1) Display proper military bearing and courtesy at all times.
- (2) Conform to all higher headquarters, local post, and competition organizer regulations and policies.
- (3) Attend all required official meetings, conferences, formations and ceremonies.

5. Objectives

Objectives of the National Guard Biathlon Training Program are--

- a.* To improve the winter war-fighting capability of the individual soldier through the mastery of skiing and rifle marksmanship.
- b.* To develop a cadre of soldiers who can instruct others in skiing and rifle marksmanship.
- c.* Within a very limited number of unusually gifted and dedicated Guardsmen, develop the highest levels of skiing and rifle marksmanship necessary to successfully represent the National Guard in national and international competitions.
- d.* Maintain the National Guard in a position of national leadership in biathlon training.
- e.* Provide a broad base of support for the United States Biathlon Association (USBA), the national governing body for biathlon.

6. General policy

a. Biathlon is an extremely demanding discipline, both physically and mentally. Biathletes must

continually train to achieve maximum cardiovascular conditioning, skiing proficiency, and marksmanship ability.

b. Safety will be foremost in all biathlon training. The same weapons safety principles apply to biathlon as competitive marksmanship.

c. Military transportation is authorized for movement to and from competitive biathlon activities.

d. Unit commanders and administrative personnel should be alert for unusually talented and interested unit members and recommend them to the State Biathlon Coordinator for possible additional training and a chance to compete for a position on the state biathlon team.

7. The Competitive Biathlon Program

The National Guard Bureau Biathlon Training Program consists of four basic levels. The size and composition of state, all-guard and national teams; and the selection criteria for all-guard and national teams will be determined annually based on schedules and funds available. These criteria will be announced annually in the NGB Championship Letter of Instruction. National Guard Bureau levels of support are--

a. The State Biathlon Program. Although each state determines the scope of its own program, the basic state program will consist of a series of training and racing events designed to select the best competitors. This program normally culminates in a state championship event which is used to select the State Biathlon Team.

b. The National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships. This event is held annually in February. The location alternates between Vermont and Minnesota. During this competition, the state biathlon teams from participating states compete for a variety of awards as the best biathletes in the National Guard. From this competition, All-Guard Teams are named.

c. All-Guard Teams. The All-Guard Biathlon Team consists of four elements. They are Senior Men, Senior Women, Junior Men, and Junior Women. The "Junior" category applies to individuals under age 20 by 1 January.

d. National Team. Those National Guard biathletes who achieve US National Team status will be provided support while engaged in mandatory, scheduled National Team training or competition. Members of the US National Team are

required to participate in the CISM Ski Week competition unless there is a conflict with the World Championships or Olympics.

8. Funding

The Competitive Biathlon Program is centrally funded by the National Guard Bureau. The NGB Biathlon Office forecasts the annual requirements, receives the funding authority, and administers the program. Funds are received annually in the National Guard Pay and Allowance appropriation. Funding for Air Guard mandays is received through the National Guard Marksmanship Center, in coordination with the NGB Biathlon office.

9. Security and Accountability

Security and accountability of weapons and ammunition during the conduct of biathlon training will be according to NGR 190-11. Particular care should be exercised during the transportation of weapons, especially on aircraft.

10. Biathlon Advisory Council

The Biathlon Advisory Council (BAC) consists of the NGB Biathlon Coordinator, the Biathlon Administrative NCO, the Chiefs of Competition from Vermont and Minnesota, and regional representatives from each of three geographical regions. The BAC meets annually to make recommendations on improving the NGB Biathlon Training Program and the conduct of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships. The regional breakdown for representation on the BAC is--

Western: Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Eastern: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia

11. The National Guard Bureau Biathlon Office

The National Guard Bureau Biathlon Office is located at Camp Johnson in Colchester, VT. It is staffed by the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Coordinator, the Biathlon Administrative NCO, and two Biathlon Trainers. Specific duties of the NGB Biathlon Office are--

a. Advise the Chief, NGB, and The Adjutant General of Vermont as the Executive for Biathlon, on policies, directives, and regulations as they pertain to the Competitive Biathlon Program.

b. Assist State Biathlon Coordinators with training material and equipment to improve the Competitive Biathlon Program.

c. Prepare the annual budget submission and administer the Annual Funding Program for biathlon training.

d. Administer the NGB Competitive Biathlon Program.

e. Develop and implement plans, policies, and programs for training and competition of the All-Guard Biathlon teams.

f. Develop the highest level of biathlon ability possible in a select number of individuals to successfully represent the National Guard and the United States in international competition.

g. Coordinate with other agencies the scheduling and conduct of biathlon competitions.

h. Coordinate with all services to insure the maximum number of qualified participants are afforded an opportunity to participate in the CISM Ski Week trails.

i. Serve as the subject matter expert on all questions regarding biathlon training and related activities within the Army and Air National Guard.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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