

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
WASHINGTON BIATHLON ASSOCIATION
December 10, 2007

President Bob Vallor called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. Present were Bob Vallor, Vice President Jay Bender, Treasurer Jack Seabrook, Secretary Marie Garrett and At-large Board Member Sibylle Wilbert. Dave Shaw was not available.

Minutes from the WBA Annual meeting had been circulated and approved earlier via e-mail and posted on the Association website.

Jack Seabrook gave the Treasurer's report. The Association currently has \$2,810.58 in checking and \$18.07 in the savings account. There are no outstanding bills with the exception of the WBA's annual dues for USBA membership.

A new membership application was received from Laurel Canan. A motion was made and seconded to accept the application, and the motion was unanimously approved. A renewal membership application had been received earlier from Joe and Carol Stuhley and was approved at the last board meeting.

Jack noted that he had received promotional information regarding AMB race timing systems. There was a brief discussion about current and future needs for race timing and no formal action was taken.

There was discussion about the biathlon event to be hosted by Methow Valley Biathlon Association at Mazama on December 30. It was clarified that the race will count toward the WBA season points total and that one "throw out" race will be allowed in calculating season points.

There was also a brief discussion about the Official Training day scheduled for January 6 and the need (or lack thereof) for structured training drills. It was agreed that based on last year's experience, most participants prefer to work individually on skills and that the athletes are able to organize informally to take turns on the firing line.

Bob reported that USBA is not able to provide insurance for equipment, so he plans to inquire with local insurance agencies about obtaining coverage for WBA race equipment and rifles.

There was extended discussion about participation by children under the age of 14 in biathlon events and safety issues that have been raised by a number of biathlon organizations in the U.S. Current restrictions on racers under 14 years are: (1) they need the USBA safety certification clinic and (2) they must have additional biathlon training. The scope of the additional training is not specified, leaving it to clubs and national governing bodies (in our case, the USBA) to determine. During the 2006–2007 winter season, there were two instances with young competitors at WBA–sanctioned events where safety was compromised. Therefore, Board agreed that the requirements for under–14 biathletes at all WBA events should be strengthened and must include the following:

- Completion of a USBA Rifle Safety Class
- Completion of a USBA Rifle Safety Class by the child's parent or legal guardian
- Documented additional firearms training or experience. This can be done by parents reporting on the type and hours of additional training received and/or involvement in a WBA "Intro to Biathlon" Training Clinic
- Parent or legal guardian must be in attendance at all races in which their child competes.
- The races for youths will be run separately from races for juniors and Men/Women. The youth race will usually precede all other races.

- Youths will be assigned a shooting station where their rifle will be staged by an official on the shooting block. Racers under 14 will not carry the rifle to and from the shooting station, regardless of the season.
- For each youth racer, the shooting station will have an assigned experienced official (in addition to the Chief of Range and scoring officials) to handle safety, positioning, and rifle loading/unloading. The WBA will draw on experienced biathletes for this function.
- When a youth is competing or zeroing, the parent or legal guardian must be present, but must remain off the firing line. The parent or guardian may be in the spectator/sighting scope area and may spot shots for their child.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to all WBA members explaining the new requirements. Bob will draft a letter and send it to the rest of the Board for review before it is distributed to the membership.

Bob noted that he plans to meet with SPNC Manager Mike Power to discuss a potential WBA-sponsored charity race for the 2008-2009 winter season.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for January 29 at 6:30 p.m.

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.