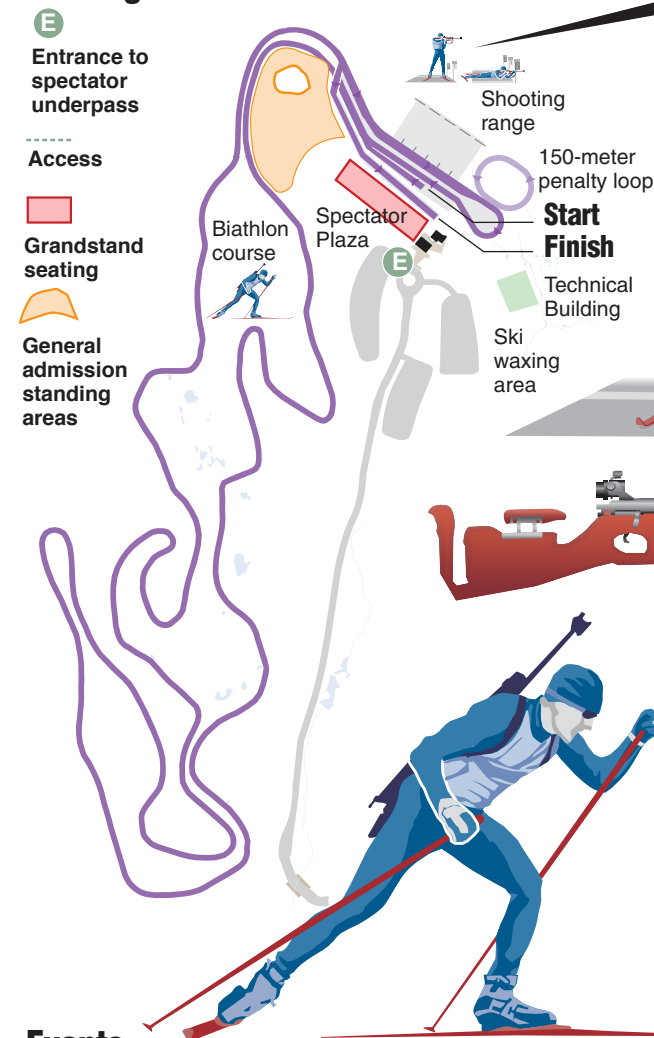


# Biathlon

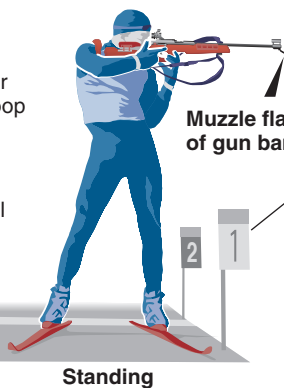
Biathlon combines physically demanding cross-country ski racing with the accuracy, control of rifle marksmanship. Athletes alternate between skiing, shooting while a clock runs even when they stop to shoot. There are five events: individual start, sprint, pursuit, relay and mass start.

## Viewing

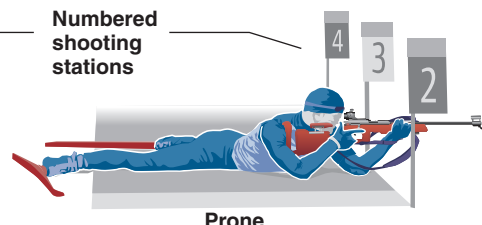


## Shooting

In each stage, athlete has five shots to hit five targets 164 ft. (50 m) away; athletes shoot from two positions, standing and prone, in different sequences depending on the competition; it takes top athletes about 20 to 25 seconds to aim, shoot five bullets



Numbered shooting stations



Standing

Prone

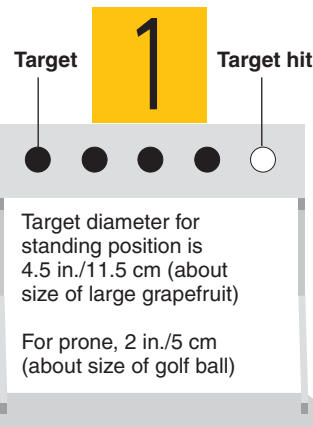


Rifle

Only .22 caliber, straight-pull-bolt action rifles with iron sights are allowed; rifle cannot weigh less than 7.7 lb. (3.5 kg); only five-round magazines can be used, loaded with international standard .22-caliber long-rifle, lead or lead-ally ammunition

## Targets

Each shooting station has five targets; when a black target is hit, it turns white; penalty for missing a shot, depending on event, is either one minute of added time or lap around 150-meter penalty loop



## Events

### Individual Start

Women five times around 3-km loop, men five times around 4-km loop - Feb. 18

- Skiers start one at a time, every 30 seconds, and ski a loop five times; they stop four times (between each loop) at shooting range to take five shots

**Penalty for a missed shot:** One minute added to skier's total time; skier with lowest time wins

### Sprint

Women three laps around 2.5-km loop - Feb. 13  
Men three laps around 3.3-km loop - Feb. 14

- Skiers start every 30 seconds. All skiers must stop twice at shooting range to take five shots

**Penalty:** One lap around penalty loop per missed target; skier with lowest time wins

### Mass start

Women 12.5 km, men 15 km - Feb. 21

- 30 best-ranked skiers start together, stop four times at shooting range to take five shots; skier eliminated if lapped during race. First skier across finish wins

**Penalty:** One penalty lap per missed target

### Pursuit

Women five laps around 2-km loop, men five laps around 2.5-km loop) - Feb. 16

- Top 60 sprint finishers qualify; winner of sprint event starts first, followed by other skiers at intervals equivalent to how far behind each was to sprint winner; all skiers must stop four times at shooting range to take five shots; first skier to cross finish wins

**Penalty:** One lap around penalty loop per missed target

### Relay

Men 4x 7.5-km leg - Feb. 26  
Women 4x 6-km leg - Feb. 23

- Each member of four-person team skis a leg; at end of leg, they tag next teammate; each athlete skis three legs and must stop twice at shooting range; instead of the usual five shots, each skier is allowed an extra three bullets

**Penalty:** Penalty lap for each missed shot