

NWT BIATHLON ASSOCIATION

Cold Weather Policy

General

Temperatures below -20 Celsius can cause hypothermia, severe frostbite and or lung damage due to breathing in large and rapid quantities of the very cold air. Biathlon Canada has a low temp cut off for racing of -20°C AMBIANT; *Rule 6.6.1*; and wind chills must be considered before starting the race and during the competition; *Rule 6.6.2. IBU Event and Competition rules.*

Wind chill needs to be more than just considered. It is the policy of the NWT Biathlon Association that the race will not start and, or, will be terminated immediately if the wind chill factor exceeds -23°C.

Definitions:

Ambient Temperature:

Is the air temperature recorded in Celsius.

Wind Chill:

Wind chill describes a sensation, the way we feel as a result of the combined cooling effect of temperature and wind. This feeling can't be measured using an instrument, so scientists have developed a mathematical formula that relates air temperature and wind speed to the cooling sensation we feel on our skin.

On a calm day, our bodies insulate us somewhat from the outside temperature by warming up a thin layer of air close to our skin, known as the boundary layer. When the wind blows, it takes this protective layer away-exposing our skin to the outside air. It takes energy for our bodies to warm up a new layer, and if each one keeps getting blown away, our skin temperature will drop, and we will feel colder.

Procedure for determining race temperatures.

Course temperatures and wind chill temperatures are to be recorded every 30 minutes for two hours prior to the race start. The temperature must be recorded in a variety of locations on the course to ensure that all areas of the course have been tested. Measurements are done at 1.5 m above ground and must include the coldest part of the site (range or course)

These temperature recordings are posted in an area accessible to the coaches as this information will be important for race waxing and dressing of the athletes. If the temperatures are below -20°C ambient air or below -23°C wind chill, the race is postponed or canceled. The jury cannot overrule on these temperature limits.

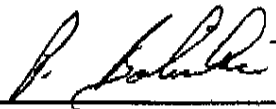
References:

Environment Canada Website

Biathlon Canada Rule Book

Cross Country Canada Website

Ratified by Teleconference on Feb. 08, 2008



Pat Bobinski

President