



## NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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CHRISTOPHER DOLNACK  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

February 22, 2010

Mr. Andy Rooney  
60 Minutes  
CBS Studios  
24 West 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019

### Re. Biathletes and firearms

Dear Mr. Rooney:

As Senior Vice President of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) – the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry – I was dismayed to hear your commentary concerning biathletes and firearms in the Winter Olympics (“60 Minutes,” Feb. 21, 2010).

The Biathlon, an Olympic event requiring athletes to be highly trained in two distinct disciplines, rifle shooting and cross-country skiing, is a highly competitive sport that dates back to the 1700s (Norway) and demands our respect. It has been an Olympic sport since 1924, and in some European countries it consistently ranks as their third highest spectator sport.

Your remark questioning why we give rifles to skiers when we don’t give them to hockey players was no doubt meant as a joke; yet, to many of us involved in the shooting sports, it came off as insensitive. Firearms, while used everyday for home protection and hunting, are also legitimate sporting equipment, used in a number of summer Olympic events as well.

In a time where the only sport America’s youth seems interested in is the race home to play a video game or talk online, it’s refreshing to see the shooting sports taking hold and getting youth outside. Let’s not discourage that, Andy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher Dolnack