



# ACTIVITY REPORT

# 2024 | 2025

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# ACTIVITY REPORT 2024 | 2025

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## DEAR BIATHLON STAKEHOLDERS

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and optimism for the future of our sport. At the 16th Ordinary IBU Congress in Belgrade, we not only celebrated the success of Target 26 but also launched the next phase of our strategic journey with the approval of Target 2030 - reaffirming our commitment to serving the priorities of our biathlon family.

Governance, integrity and sustainability remain at the core of our work. The IBU's top score in the Fifth Review of Governance of Winter Olympic Federations by I Trust Sport reflects the transparency and professionalism we have cultivated in recent years.

Our development initiatives focused on education, collaboration and inclusive growth to meet the evolving needs the National Federations. The Closing the Competition Gap project supported emerging nations with tailored resources, while the full rollout of the IBU Coach Education Programme provided comprehensive training and digital learning. Biathlon 4 All, Regional Events and youth camps continued to grow our sport's reach and strengthen international unity.

The IBU Sustainability Report 2024 highlights strong progress, with most organising committees now implementing sustainability strategies. Recognition at the 2024 IOC Climate Action Awards and albert certification for sustainable host broadcasting at the BMW IBU World Championships in Lenzerheide marked further milestones.

Our extended partnership with the EBU through 2030 continues to boost the visibility of the World Cup and World Championships. Free-to-air broadcasting has helped establish biathlon as the leading winter sport in key European markets. In parallel, our digital growth reached new levels - with a 22% increase in followers and a 55% surge in social media engagements.

The 2024/2025 season was a landmark year for Para Biathlon, with the IBU taking full control of the Para Biathlon World Cup and successfully staging the first-ever IBU Para Biathlon World Championships in Pokljuka.

On the competition front, the introduction of a new seeding system for Individual and Sprint formats added new dynamics to the World Cup and World Championships. And what an end to the season we witnessed in Oslo-Holmenkollen! Franziska Preuss won her first-ever Total Score title in the last 500 metres of the last competition of the winter and the legendary Boe brothers waved their goodbye to the adoring sellout crowd, leaving behind a worthy legacy for generations to come.

And where better for biathlon to shine again than in Antholz-Anterselva, the venue for the Olympic Winter Games Milano-Cortina 2026!

Thank you to all of you for your dedication to support and develop our fantastic sport – BIATHLON!



**OLLE DAHLIN**  
IBU President





## STRONGER SPORT, SMARTER FUTURE

As we reflect on the past year, it is with a great sense of accomplishment that we can summarise the strategic advancements and operational milestones of the International Biathlon Union in 2024/2025.

The approval of the Target 2030 strategic plan marks a significant step in our commitment to long-term planning and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Alongside this, the adoption of constitutional reforms - integrating Para Biathlon, promoting gender equity and streamlining governance - demonstrates our dedication to upholding and further building an inclusive and effective organisation.

Focusing on education, collaboration and inclusive growth to meet the changing needs of National Federations shaped the activities of the Development Department. Key initiatives included the Closing the Competition Gap project, providing customised resources to enhance the competitiveness of developing federations. Additionally, the IBU Coach Education Programme was fully implemented, offering comprehensive training and digital learning opportunities. Efforts like Biathlon 4 All activities, Regional Events and youth camps expanded the sport's reach and fostered international engagement and unity.

Working closely with the Technical Committee, Sport & Event Department led significant structural improvements, including the successful introduction of a new seeding system for the World Cup and World Championships and the

initiation of qualifying point assessments in Junior Cups and Regional Events. Informed by athlete welfare and evolving snow conditions patterns, we also presented a reimagined competition calendar for 2026–2030.

A major highlight came during the Ruhpolding week with the unveiling of the Loop One Festival - an innovative two-day event that will redefine the biathlon season opening. Starting in 2025/2026, the season will launch in the iconic Munich Olympic Park, blending elite competition with a vibrant festival setting to engage loyal fans and attract new audiences.

Embedding rights-based governance and sustainability across all activities has been one of our focus areas. The approval of the IBU's first Human Rights Policy and the draft Climate Action Plan demonstrates our commitment to these principles.

By working closely with each Department, the Communications Department developed unique content in partnership with the NFs and athletes. This effort engaged existing fans and attracted new ones - resulting in the biathlon family's digital reach more than tripling over the past two seasons, as confirmed by independent research.

The Finance & Administration Department continues to be a cornerstone of the IBU's operations, ensuring the timely and transparent management of our financial resources. Throughout the year

- and especially during the competition season when many colleagues are on the road - they provide essential stability at Headquarters, keeping the organisation running smoothly behind the scenes.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our dedicated staff, the Executive Board and the broader biathlon community for their unwavering commitment and teamwork. Together, we continue to push boundaries and set new standards as we shape the future of our sport.



**MAX COBB**  
IBU Secretary General



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**IBU  
WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
BIATHLON**



BMW IBU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
LENZERHEIDE 2025

# JT BOE REWRITES HISTORY BOOKS (AGAIN)

JT Boe secured two individual golds and set two new statistical records at the BMW IBU World Championships in Lenzerheide 2025. Franziska Preuss met expectations by claiming her first-ever individual World Championship title, while Elvira Oeberg followed suit - making history alongside her sibling Hanna as the first sisters to win individual golds at the event. Meanwhile, France dominated the medal count among the powerhouse nations.



## JT BOE'S NEW - AND LAST - MIND-BLOWING RECORDS

At the end of the BMW IBU World Championships 2025, the last of his phenomenal career, **Johannes Thingnes Boe** was the only athlete with three individual medals, of which two were gold. Boe shattered two historical records in Lenzerheide. His World Championships gold medal count, including Relays, will forever stand at 23. His World Championships gold medal count in solely individual competitions will forever be 12. Both records are difficult to endanger, but Johannes is the first to acknowledge that sooner rather than later, someone would emerge with an outsized talent and ambition and do better than he did. As for his brother Tarjei - after a win in the Relay - he retired as the only man with seven gold medals in the discipline.

With a bronze medal in the Individual, **Quentin Fillon Maillet** completed his set of medals at the World Championships in all seven disciplines. Fillon Maillet was, of course, aiming for individual gold, but his shooting - as so often this season - proved too erratic for the only trophy of the highest order still missing from his collection.



## PREUSS DELIVERS

**Franziska Preuss** ticked an important box in her long but often troubled career by taking her first-ever individual gold at the World Championships with a win in the Pursuit. She won another silver in the Sprint and bronze medals in the Mixed Relay and Single Mixed Relay. Perhaps equally important, she performed better than Lou Jeanmonnot, her fierce rival in the Total Score battle, who went to Lenzerheide only to win just one individual medal - a bronze in the Individual. Preuss delivered in Lenzerheide - she is forever a World Champion.





ELVIRA OEBERG MAKES HISTORY FOR HERSELF AND THE OEBERG SISTERS

**Justine Braisaz-Bouchet** in the Sprint, **Julia Simon** in the Individual and **Elvira Oeberg** in the Mass Start also celebrated in Lenzerheide. Oeberg won her first-ever individual gold at the World Championships or Olympic Winter Games. With her sister Hanna already owning three World Championship gold medals, the Oeberg sisters became the first sisters to win individual gold medals in biathlon. They are the second sibling duo to achieve this in the individual gold medal category, following the Boe brothers.



**Campbell Wright** in the Sprint and Pursuit, along with **Océane Michelin** and **Maren Kirkeeide** in the Mass Start, each won their first World Championships medals.

**Julia Simon** finished the Championships as the only athlete with four gold medals. She was a key athlete in all three gold medal-winning Relays for France - Mixed, Single Mixed, and Women's Relay.

FRANCE RULES

France won the most medals - 13, the most gold medals - 6 and failed to win at least one medal only in the Men's Mass Start. As JT Boe said: "France is now the leading biathlon nation."



MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. FRANCE	6	2	5	13
2. NORWAY	4	3	2	9
3. SWEDEN	1	2	1	4
4. GERMANY	1	1	3	5
5. USA	-	2	-	2
6. CZECHIA	-	1	-	1
6. ITALY	-	1	-	1
8. FINLAND	-	-	1	1



4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- FRANCE
- CZECHIA
- GERMANY



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- JUSTINE BRAISAZ-BOUCHET FRA
- FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- SUVI MINKKINEN FIN



MEN 10KM SPRINT

- JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- CAMPBELL WRIGHT USA
- QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA



WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
- JUSTINE BRAISAZ-BOUCHET FRA



MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- CAMPBELL WRIGHT USA
- ERIC PERROT FRA



WOMEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

- JULIA SIMON FRA
- ELLA HALVARSSN SWE
- LOU JEANMONNOT FRA



MEN 20KM INDIVIDUAL

- ERIC PERROT FRA
- TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
- QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA



SINGLE MIXED RELAY (M+W)

- FRANCE
- NORWAY
- GERMANY



WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- FRANCE
- NORWAY
- SWEDEN



MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- NORWAY
- FRANCE
- GERMANY



WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

- ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
- OCEANE MICHELON FRA
- MAREN KIRKEEIDE NOR



MEN 15KM MASS START

- ENDRE STROEMSEIM NOR
- STURLA HOLM LAGREID NOR
- JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR



# HALL OF FAME 2025

Three biathlon legends, Norway’s Liv Grete Skjelbreid and Germany’s Martina Beck and Michael Greis, were inducted into the IBU Hall of Fame as the Class of 2025 during the BMW IBU World Championships in Lenzerheide.

*“We are very proud to welcome three highly deserving athletes into the IBU Hall of Fame. Liv, Martina and Michael have all had an enduring impact on our sport, inspiring not just those in their country but people around the world. Their legacy extends beyond the countless medals they won and as inductees of the Hall of Fame their contributions will be celebrated and forever be a part of biathlon history.”*

**IBU President, Olle Dahlin**

The three inductees were selected by the IBU Executive Board based on their incredible contributions to the sport over their decorated careers. Collectively, the three athletes have won more than 10 Olympic medals, 37 World Championships medals and 155 World Cup podium spots.

## LIV GRETE SKJELBREID NOR

Liv Grete Skjelbreid is one of Norway’s most decorated biathletes, winning the IBU World Cup Total Score in the 2003/2004 season and topping the Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start standings that same year.

Her achievements include three Olympic medals, with a silver in the Individual at Salt Lake City in 2002, and 13 World Championships medals, five in individual events. Her peak was at the 2004 IBU World Championships in Oberhof, where she won four gold medals, including in the Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start. Skjelbreid secured 22 World Cup victories in individual competitions.

## MARTINA BECK GER

Martina Beck won the IBU World Cup Total Score title in the 2002/2003 season and had six additional Top 10 finishes in the Total Score standings. In 2002/2003, she also won the Individual and Pursuit Score titles, later capturing the Mass Start Score crown in 2005/2006.

At the Olympic Winter Games Torino 2006, Beck earned two silver medals in the Individual and Mass Start, contributing to her total of four Olympic medals. She also succeeded at the IBU World Championships, winning 12 medals, including gold in the Pursuit in Khanty-Mansiysk in 2003 and two Relay golds. On the IBU World Cup circuit, Beck achieved 15 individual victories and 9 Relay wins.

## MICHAEL GREIS GER

Michael Greis made biathlon history during the 2006/2007 season, becoming the eighth and most recent German man to win the IBU World Cup Total Score. His career was marked by consistency and versatility, highlighted by 15 individual and relay victories and 49 World Cup podium finishes.

His standout moment was at the Olympic Winter Games Torino 2006, where he won three gold medals in the Individual, Mass Start and Men’s Relay. Greis also succeeded at the IBU World Championships, earning 12 medals, including a notable Mass Start gold in Antholz-Anterselva in 2007.





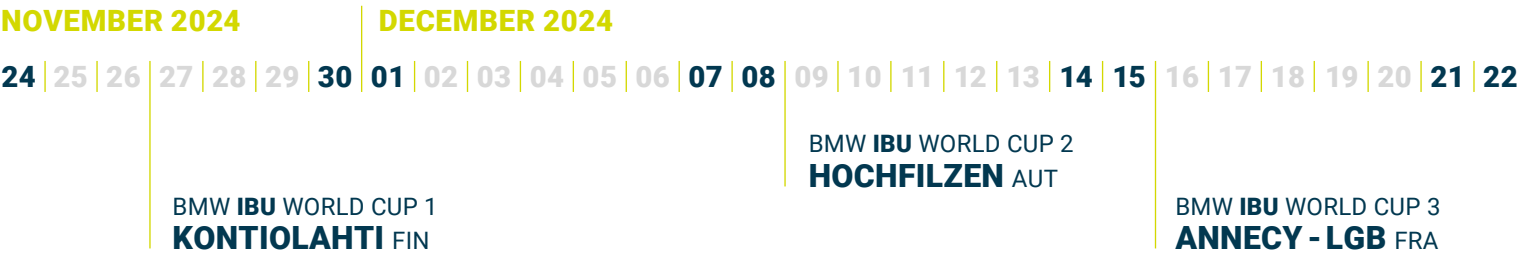


SEASON  
2024 | 2025





TRIMESTER 1



FRANZISKA PREUSS GER  
565 WORLD CUP POINTS



JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR  
569 WORLD CUP POINTS



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 1 KONTIOLAHTI FIN  
SWEDEN AND FRANCE OPEN STRONGLY

The Swedish team burst into the World Cup season in Kontiolahti, with **Elvira Oeberg** leading the charge and clinching a thrilling Mass Start victory. The **French men** had a standout week with **Emilien**

**Jacquelin** and **Eric Perrot** winning in the Sprint and Mass Start, respectively, and the Relay, setting a tone for the season with a convincing win. **Lou Jeanmonnot** claimed the season's first Individual competition,

while **Franziska Preuss** had her strongest start yet, building momentum for even greater achievements. Meanwhile, the **Boe brothers** had a modest week compared to their usual lofty standards.



SINGLE MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- 1. SWEDEN
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. GERMANY

4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- 1. NORWAY
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. SWEDEN

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- 1. FRANCE
- 2. NORWAY
- 3. SWEDEN

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- 1. SWEDEN
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. NORWAY



MEN 15KM SHORT INDIVIDUAL

- 1. ENDRE STROEMSHEIM NOR
- 2. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- 3. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR

MEN 10KM SPRINT

- 1. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA
- 2. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE
- 3. PHILIPP NAWRATH GER

MEN 15KM MASS START

- 1. ERIC PERROT FRA
- 2. QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA
- 3. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR



WOMEN 12.5KM SHORT INDIVIDUAL

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. ELLA HALVARSSON SWE
- 3. ELVIRA OEBERG FRA

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- 1. MARKETA DAVIDOVA CZE
- 2. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
- 3. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

- 1. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
- 2. JULIA SIMON FRA
- 3. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER

**STAT OF THE WEEK** ELVIRA OEBERG Clocked the fastest course time in all three individual competitions.



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 2 HOCHFILZEN AUT  
PREUSS IN YELLOW



**Franziska Preuss** and the German women’s team leveraged the emphatic support of fans in Hochfilzen. After winning the Mass Start in Ruhpolding during

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- 1. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 2. SOPHIE CHAUVEAU FRA
- 3. KAROLINE OFFIGSTAD KNOTTEN NOR

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. VANESSA VOIGT GER
- 3. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- 1. GERMANY
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. SWEDEN



the 2018/2019 season, Preuss claimed her second BMW IBU World Cup victory in the Sprint and anchored the women’s relay to another win in Hochfilzen. The French women also delivered standout performances: **Lou Jeanmonnot** won the Pursuit, while **Sophie Chauveau** finished second in the Sprint. Meanwhile, the French men secured two podium finishes,

MEN 10KM SPRINT

- 1. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- 2. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- 3. FABIEN CLAUDE FRA

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- 1. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- 2. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA
- 3. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- 1. FRANCE
- 2. NORWAY
- 3. SWEDEN

with **Emilien Jacquelin** placing second in the Pursuit and **Fabien Claude** third in the Sprint. Jacquelin also led the French relay to back-to-back victories. The Norwegian men, led by Johannes Thingnes Boe’s Sprint-Pursuit double and Sturla Holm Laegreid’s podium finish, rediscovered their winning form.

**STAT OF THE WEEK** IT TOOK TOTAL SCORE LEADER FRANZISKA PREUSS 2,154 DAYS TO SECURE HER SECOND WORLD CUP VICTORY. THIS GAP BETWEEN HER WINS RANKS AS THE THIRD-LONGEST IN WORLD CUP HISTORY, SURPASSED ONLY BY NATHALIE SANTER (2,226 DAYS) AND MAGDALENA GWIZDON (2,290 DAYS).



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 3 ANNECY - LE GRAND BORNAND FRA  
ULDAL, GROTIAN BREAK THROUGH

After Franziska Preuss’ win in the Pursuit, the Women’s Mass Start brought double joy for Germany in Annecy - Le Grand-Bornand, with **Selina Grotian** taking first



MEN 10KM SPRINT

- 1. MARTIN ULDAL NOR
- 2. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- 3. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- 1. JUSTINE BRAISAZ-BOUCHET FRA
- 2. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 3. ANAMARIJA LAMPIC SLO

**STAT OF THE WEEK** JT BOE’S VICTORY IN THE PURSUIT IN ANNECY - LE GRAND-BORNAND TIED MARTIN FOURCADE’S 79 WORLD CUP WINS. ADDITIONALLY, BOE SET A NEW RECORD FOR VICTORIES IN LE GRAND BORNAND WITH HIS NINTH WIN IN THE FRENCH VENUE.

place and the Total Score leader **Franziska Preuss** coming second. It was the first German one-two finish since March 2020, when Denise Herrmann-Wick won in the Sprint in Kontiolahti and Preuss finished second. Preuss’ consistent excellence in the first three weeks of the winter was based on 99% accuracy in the prone

shooting, missing just one shot. **Martin Uldal** scored his first-ever World Cup triumph, matching **Sturla Holm Laegreid**’s rare feat of winning in just his fifth start. Meanwhile, **Tarjei Boe** proved that age is just a number, becoming the fifth-oldest World Cup winner with his inspired performance in the Mass Start.



MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- 1. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- 2. ERIC PERROT FRA
- 3. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- 1. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 2. JULIA SIMON FRA
- 3. VANESSA VOIGT GER

MEN 15KM MASS START

- 1. TARJEI BOE NOR
- 2. DANILO RIETHMUELLER GER
- 3. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

- 1. SELINA GROTIAN GER
- 2. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 3. PAULINA BATOVSKA-FIALKOVA SVK





TRIMESTER 2

JANUARY 2025

31 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 4  
OBERHOF GER

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 5  
RUHPOLDING GER

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 6  
ANTHOLZ-ANTERSELVA ITA



FRANZISKA PREUSS GER  
879 WORLD CUP POINTS



STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR  
854 WORLD CUP POINTS



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 4 OBERHOF GER  
JEANMONNOT THROWS A GLOVE  
TO PREUSS

In a week of subpar performance for **Franziska Preuss**, **Lou Jeanmonnot** triumphed in the Pursuit, turning the fight for the Total Score into a captivating weekly series. As the IBU Cup Total Score leader, **Paula Botet** secured her place on the

competitive French team. She capitalised on a favourable bib and excellent form to win the Sprint on a rainy day in Oberhof. **Maren Kirkeeide**, from the same region in Norway as the Boe brothers, excelled in wet snow conditions and achieved back-

to-back second places in the Sprint and Pursuit. The French men swept all three podium spots in the Sprint, only to be replaced by three Norwegians in the Pursuit. **Sturla Holm Laegreid** collected his first win of the season.



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- 1. PAULA BOTET FRA
- 2. MAREN KIRKEEIDE NOR
- 3. MILENA TODOROVA BUL

MEN 10KM SPRINT

- 1. QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA
- 2. FABIEN CLAUDE FRA
- 3. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. MAREN KIRKEEIDE NOR
- 3. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- 1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- 2. TARJEI BOE FRA
- 3. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR

SINGLE MIXED RELAY (M+W)

- 1. FINLAND
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. GERMANY

4X6KM MIXED RELAY (M+W)

- 1. SWEDEN
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. NORWAY

**STAT OF THE WEEK**  
IN OBERHOF, ANASTASIA KUZMINA MADE HISTORY BY BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN TO SCORE WORLD CUP POINTS AFTER TURNING 40 - THE SLOVAKIAN FINISHED 31<sup>ST</sup> IN THE SPRINT.



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 5 RUHPOLDING GER

# JT BOE’S BOMBSHELL; PREUSS DELIGHTS HOME FANS



To the delight of numerous fans - more than 80,000 for the week - **Franziska Preuss** anchored Germany to their first Ruhpolding victory in the Women’s Relay after the 2017/2018 season. That was just one of the three highlights the leading woman in the Total Score achieved in Ruhpolding: She finished second in the Individual and Mass Start. Her Total Score

challengers, **Lou Jeanmonnot** of France and **Elvira Oeberg** of Sweden had one win each.

On a very emotional day in Ruhpolding, **JT Boe** announced that he would be retiring at the end of the season. “It takes a lot of you and people around you to be number one in the world,” said an emotional Boe. “Not many people know what it takes to be the best every year. For one, my big rival Martin Fourcade most probably does.”

**STAT OF THE WEEK** WITH TAKING THE MASS START, THE ITALIAN TOMMASO GIACOMEL BECAME THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ITALIAN TO WIN A WORLD CUP RACE AND ONLY THE THIRD TO DO SO IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY, FOLLOWING LUKAS HOFER AND DOMINIK WINDISCH

MEN 20KM INDIVIDUAL

- 1. VEBJOERN SOERUM NOR
- 2. EMILIEN CLAUDE FRA
- 3. ANDREJS RASTORGUJEVS LAT

WOMEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 3. AMY BASERGA SUI

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- 1. FRANCE
- 2. SWEDEN
- 3. GERMANY

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- 1. GERMANY
- 2. NORWAY
- 3. FRANCE

MEN 15KM MASS START

- 1. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
- 2. STURLA HOLM LAGREID NOR
- 3. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

- 1. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
- 2. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 3. JEANNE RICHARD FRA



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 6 ANTHOLZ-ANTERSELVA ITA

# JEANMONNOT AND LAEGREID STEP UP PRESSURE

**Lou Jeanmonnot** won in the Sprint and Pursuit in Antholz-Anterselva. Her 180-point haul put her closer to **Franziska Preuss** in the Total Score battle. Preuss secured her first-ever double podium in South Tyrol. A week after his brother Johannes Thingnes in Ruhpolding, Tarjei Boe - after winning in the Sprint - announced his retirement at the end of the

season. In the meantime, **Sturla Holm Laegreid** took the lead in the Total Score after the Sprint and made a significant statement by winning the Pursuit. **Tommaso Giacomel** achieved two third-place finishes in Antholz, becoming the first Italian male athlete to secure three consecutive podiums. Meanwhile, French anchor **Emilien Jacquelin** celebrated his team’s

fourth consecutive relay victory in Antholz - counting each win on his fingers as he crossed the finish line.



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. SELINA GROTIAN GER
- 3. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER

MEN 10KM SPRINT

- 1. TARJEI BOE NOR
- 2. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- 3. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. JULIA SIMON FRA
- 3. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- 1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- 2. TARJEI BOE NOR
- 3. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- 1. SWEDEN
- 2. NORWAY
- 3. FRANCE

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- 1. FRANCE
- 2. NORWAY
- 3. SWEDEN

**STAT OF THE WEEK** LOU JEANMONNOT’S SPRINT-PURSUIT DOUBLE WAS HER SECOND AFTER OESTERSUND IN THE 2023/2024 SEASON.





TRIMESTER 3

MARCH 2025

31 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 8  
POKLJUKA SLO

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 7  
NOVE MESTO NM CZE

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 9  
OSLO HOLMENKOLLEN ITA



FRANZISKA PREUSS GER  
1,278 WORLD CUP POINTS



STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR  
1,291 WORLD CUP POINTS



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 7 NOVE MESTO NM CZE  
JT BOE RE-TAKES THE YELLOW BIB  
AND PREUSS HOLDS

JT Boe reclaimed the yellow bib from Sturla Holm Laegreid after securing two third-place finishes in Nove Mesto na Morave. Meanwhile, Lou Jeanmonnot edged closer

to Franziska Preuss in the overall standings, intensifying the competition. After weeks of health struggles, an emotional Ingrid Landmark Tandrevold triumphed in the Sprint, receiving an outpouring of support from fellow athletes. Emilien Jacquelin in the Sprint and Sebastian Samuelsson in the Pursuit secured redemptive

victories, having left Lenzerheide without any individual medals. In the U23 category, the competition heated up as Jeanne Richard, Oceane Michelon, Selina Grotian, and Maren Kirkeeide pushed each other to their limits. As always, the fans brought unmatched enthusiasm and support.



MEN 10KM SPRINT

- 1. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA
- 2. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
- 3. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- 1. INGRID L TANDREVOLD NOR
- 2. JUSTINE BRAISAZ-BOUCHET FRA
- 3. JULIA SIMON FRA

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- 1. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE
- 2. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
- 3. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- 1. JULIA SIMON FRA
- 2. HANNA OEBERG SWE
- 3. OCEANE MICHELON FRA

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- 1. FRANCE
- 2. NORWAY
- 3. UKRAINE

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- 1. FRANCE
- 2. NORWAY
- 3. GERMANY

**STAT OF THE WEEK** OCEANE MICHELON SECURED A THIRD-PLACE FINISH IN THE PURSUIT, MARKING HER CAREER-FIRST PODIUM IN THE BMW IBU WORLD CUP. EARLIER IN THE SEASON, FELLOW U23 CONTENTENDERS JEANNE RICHARD, SELINA GROTIAN AND MAREN KIRKEEIDE HAD ALSO ACHIEVED THIS MILESTONE.



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 8 POKLJUKA SLO

# FAK AND LAMPIČ MAKE SLOVENIA PROUD



**Lou Jeanmonnot** emerged victorious in another weekly contest against **Franziska Preuss**, but by the week's end, the yellow bib remained firmly on the shoulders of

WOMEN 12.5KM SHORT INDIVIDUAL

- 1. JULIA SIMON FRA
- 2. HANNA OEBERG SWE
- 3. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. MILENA TODOROVA BUL
- 3. ANAMARIJA LAMPIC SLO

SINGLE MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- 1. SWITZERLAND
- 2. SWEDEN
- 3. FINLAND



the German champion, unchanged since 8 December 2024. **JT Boe** fell ill and missed the Mass Start, allowing **Sturla Holm Laegreid** to reclaim the yellow bib and gain an advantage heading into the final week in Oslo Holmenkollen. Slovenia had its day in the spotlight with **Jakov Fak** winning in the Individual and **Anamarija Lampič** finishing third in the Mass Start.

MEN 15KM SHORT INDIVIDUAL

- 1. JAKOV FAK SLO
- 2. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- 3. MARTIN PONSILUOMA SWE

MEN 15KM MASS START

- 1. ERIC PERROT FRA
- 2. QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA
- 3. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR

4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- 1. SWEDEN
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. NORWAY

At 38, Fak became the second oldest men's World Cup winner after Ole Einar Bjoerndalen took the Individual in Oester-sund in December 2015 at 41. Motivated by his success, **Anamarija Lampič** shot 19/20 in the Mass Start - her previous career-best score in the 20-shots competitions was 16/20 in the Oberhof Pursuit.

**STAT OF THE WEEK**

NIKLAS HARTWEG AND AITA GASPARIN WON IN THE SINGLE MIXED RELAY FOR SWITZERLAND'S FIRST-EVER RELAY WIN OF ANY KIND.



BMW IBU WORLD CUP 9 OSLO HOLMENKOLLEN NOR

# PREUSS AND LAEGREID TRIUMPH

In a dramatic three-day biathlon spectacle filled with unprecedented twists, **Franziska Preuss** emerged victorious in the intense Total Score battle against **Lou**



**Jeanmonnot**. The French star stumbled just as both athletes entered the stadium for the final sprint in the Mass Start. With this win, Preuss became the sixth German woman to secure the BMW IBU World Cup Total Score title since 1993, following in the footsteps of Laura Dahlmeier, Magdalena Neuner, Andrea Henkel, Kati Wilhelm, and Martina Beck.

**Sturla Holm Laegreid** also achieved a significant milestone by clinching his first Total Score title after winning a direct duel with the retiring JT Boe. Laegreid became the sixth Norwegian man to win the Total Score title since 1993. And The Boe brothers received a well-deserved, king-like farewell in their final show in Oslo.



MEN 10KM SPRINT

- 1. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- 2. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- 3. JOHANNES DALE-SKJEVDAL NOR

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- 1. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 2. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 3. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- 1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- 2. JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- 3. QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- 1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- 2. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
- 3. LENA HAECKI-GROSS SWE

MEN 15KM MASS START

- 1. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE
- 2. ERIC PERROT FRA
- 3. ENDRE STROEMSHEIM NOR

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

- 1. FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
- 2. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
- 3. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA

**STAT OF THE SEASON** LOU JEANMONNOT AND JT BOE COLLECTED THE MOST INDIVIDUAL WINS IN THE 2024/2025 SEASON, WITH JEANMONNOT SECURING EIGHT VICTORIES AND BOE WINNING FOUR TIMES.



CUP SCORE WINNERS  
SEASON 2024/2025



TOTAL, SPRINT & MASS START SCORE WINNER  
**FRANZISKA PREUSS** GER



TOTAL, PURSUIT, INDIVIDUAL & MASS START SCORE WINNER  
**STURLA HOLM LAEGREID** NOR



PURSUIT & INDIVIDUAL SCORE WINNER  
**LOU JEANMONNOT** FRA



SPRINT SCORE WINNER  
**JOHANNES THINGNES BOE** NOR



U25 WINNER  
**OCEANE MICHELON** FRA



U25 WINNER  
**CAMPBELL WRIGHT** USA



RELAY MEN & MEN'S NATIONS CUP SCORE WINNER  
**FRANCE**



MIXED RELAY CUP SCORE WINNER  
**SWEDEN**



RELAY WOMEN & WOMEN'S NATIONS CUP SCORE WINNER  
**FRANCE**



RETIREMENTS  
2024/2025

- CHLOE CHEVALIER FRA
- ELISA GASPARIN SUI
- MARION WIESENSARTER GER
- TILDA JOHANSSON SWE
- JOHANNES THINGNES BOE NOR
- TARJEI BOE NOR



THANK YOU  
AND FAREWELL



IBU OPEN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025  
MARTELL - VAL MARTELLO ITA

HEIJDENBERG SHINES WITH THREE MEDALS

Norway, with three gold medals and six medals overall, finished the IBU Open European Championships in Martell-Val Martello as the most decorated nation. Anna-Karin Heijdenberg of Sweden was the most successful athlete, winning a medal in each of the three individual competitions.

SPRINT: HEIJDENBERG AND BAKKEN

Anna-Karin Heijdenberg of Sweden and Sivert Guttorm Bakken of Norway won in the Sprint with flawless shooting performances. In the women's race, France's Amandine Mengin took second place and Latvia's Baiba Bendika finished third. In the men's race, Bakken's Norwegian teammate Vetle Sjaastad Christiansen won silver and Austria's Felix Muehlbacher took bronze.

PURSUIT: BENDIKA AND BRAUNHOFER

Baiba Bendika of Latvia and the sensational Patrick Braunhofer of Italy won the highly entertaining Pursuit. Bendika improved upon her bronze medal from the Sprint.

Braunhofer, who was 16th after the Sprint, excelled with a perfect 20/20 shooting score. In the women's race, Sweden's Anna-Karin Heijdenberg finished second. Italy's Linda Zingerle delighted the home crowd with a third-place finish. In the men's race, Norway's Isak Frey secured second place, while another Norwegian, Sverre Dahlen Aspenes, took third.

INDIVIDUAL: PUFF AND FREY

Johanna Puff of Germany and Isak Frey of Norway won the Individual events. In the women's race, Puff's fellow German Marlene Fichtner claimed second place, while Sweden's Anna-Karin Heijdenberg

took third. In the men's race, Austria's Fredrik Muehlbacher secured second place, and Sweden's Emil Nykvist finished third, marking a career-best achievement.

RELAYS: GERMANY AND NORWAY

The German women's team, after a close competition with France, and the Norwegian men's team, with only one reload, emerged as the Relay winners. In the women's race, France finished second and Italy third. In the men's race, Germany finished second and France third.



WOMEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

- JOHANNA PUFF GER
- MARLENE FICHTNER GER
- ANNA-KARIN HEIJDENBERG SWE



MEN 20KM INDIVIDUAL

- ISAK FREY NOR
- FREDRIK MUEHLBACHER AUT
- EMIL NYKVIST SWE



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- ANNA-KARIN HEIJDENBERG SWE
- AMANDINE MENGIN FRA
- BAIBA BENDIKA LAT



MEN 10KM SPRINT

- SIEVERT GUTTORM BAKKEN NOR
- VETLE S. CHRISTIANSEN NOR
- FREDRIK MUEHLBACHER AUT



WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- BAIBA BENDIKA LAT
- ANNA-KARIN HEIJDENBERG SWE
- LINDA ZINGERLE ITA



MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- PATRICK BRAUNHOFER ITA
- ISAK FREY NOR
- SVERRE DAHLEN ASPENES NOR



MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. NORWAY	3	2	1	6
2. GERMANY	2	2	-	4
3. SWEDEN	1	1	2	4
4. ITALY	1	-	2	3
5. LATVIA	1	-	1	2
6. FRANCE	-	2	1	3
7. AUSTRIA	-	1	1	2



WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- GERMANY
- FRANCE
- ITALY



MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- NORWAY
- GERMANY
- FRANCE







IBU CUP 1 IDRE FJÄLL SWE



IBU CUP 2 GEILO NOR



IBU CUP 3 OBERTILLIACH AUT



IBU CUP 4 ARBER GER



IBU CUP 5 BREZNO-OSRBLIE SVK



IBU CUP 6 RIDNAUN ITA



IBU CUP 7&8 OTEPÄÄ EST

IBU CUP 2024/2025

BENED AND FREY TRIUMPH IN IBU CUP

Camille Bened of France and Isak Frey of Norway secured the IBU Cup Total Score titles in a season marked by intense competition within the powerful French women's and Norwegian men's teams. The battle was not only for IBU Cup glory but also for coveted spots in their respective World Cup squads.

Frey capped off his exceptional season with the IBU Cup Total Score win in Otepää, Estonia, a week before the season concluded. This victory earned Frey a spot in the World Cup squad. He made his BMW IBU World Cup debut with a 17th-place finish in the Individual event in Pokljuka. Frey made significant progress towards securing his World Cup position in the Norwegian team for the 2025/2026 season by finishing fourth, fifth, and ninth at the Finals in Oslo Holmenkollen.

A week later, Bened joined Frey as the IBU Cup Total Score title winner, clinching the title ahead of her junior teammate Pauline Voldiya Galmace. Like Frey within the Norwegian team, Bened was the most consistent athlete in the formidable French women's team. Her triumph in Otepää earned Bened a start for the Oslo Holmenkollen week, marking her debut in the BMW IBU World Cup.



WOMEN'S IBU CUP TOTAL, MASS START & PURSUIT SCORE WINNER

**CAMILLE BENED** FRA

WOMEN'S IBU CUP SPRINT SCORE WINNER

**PAULA BOTET** NOR

WOMEN'S IBU CUP INDIVIDUAL SCORE WINNER

**VOLDIYA GALMACE PAULIN** FRA

WOMEN'S IBU CUP RELAY SCORE WINNER  
**NORWAY**

WOMEN'S IBU CUP NATIONS SCORE WINNER  
**FRANCE**

WOMEN'S IBU CUP MOST INDIVIDUAL WINS  
**3 x VOLDIYA GALMACE PAULIN** FRA



MEN'S IBU CUP TOTAL, SPRINT, PURSUIT & INDIVIDUAL SCORE WINNER

**ISAK FREY** NOR

MEN'S IBU CUP MASS START SCORE WINNER

**JOHAN OLAV BOTN** NOR

MEN'S IBU CUP RELAY SCORE WINNER

**NORWAY**

MEN'S IBU CUP NATIONS SCORE WINNER

**NORWAY**

MEN'S IBU CUP MOST INDIVIDUAL WINS

**6 x ISAK FREY** NOR





IBU YOUTH & JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025  
OESTERSUND SWE

FRANCE TOPS THE MEDAL TABLE  
IN OESTERSUND



NORWAY WINS IN JUNIOR COUNT

The IBU Junior World Championships in Oestersund, Sweden concluded with Norway leading the junior medal table. Norway secured a total of six medals, including four golds, one silver and one bronze. France followed closely in second place, also with six medals: two golds, three silvers and one bronze. Germany claimed the third position with three medals: one gold and two silvers. Sweden also achieved notable success with two bronze medals.

**Amandine Mengin** and **Kasper Kalkenberg** were the most successful junior athletes in Oestersund. **Mengin** became world champion in the Junior Relay, won two silver medals in the Individual and Mixed Relay, and came third in the Sprint. In the Mass Start 60, she narrowly missed out on another medal, finishing in fourth place. **Kalkenberg** took home two gold medals from the IBU Junior World Championships in Oestersund. He triumphed in the Mass Start 60 and the Relay with his teammates. Additionally, he won a silver medal in the Individual event.

MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. FRANCE	6	6	4	16
2. NORWAY	6	2	2	10
3. GERMANY	3	5	-	8
4. SWEDEN	1	1	-	2
5. CZECHIA	1	-	5	6
6. AUSTRIA	1	-	1	2
7. ITALY	-	1	2	3
8. POLAND	-	1	1	2
9. FINLAND	-	1	-	1
9. SLOVAKIA	-	1	-	1
11. SLOVENIA	-	-	1	1
11. SWITZERLAND	-	-	1	1
11. UKRAINE	-	-	1	1

FRANCE DOMINATES THE YOUTH COMPETITIONS

In the Youth competitions at the IBU Junior World Championships in Oestersund, France led the medal table with a remarkable total of 10 medals: four golds, three silvers and three bronzes. Germany followed in second place with five medals: two golds and three silvers. Norway ranked third with four medals, consisting of two golds, one silver and one bronze. Switzerland also made a notable contribution, securing two bronze medals.

**Ilona Plechacova** from Czechia and **Leo Carlier** from France stood out as the most decorated athletes in the Youth competitions in Oestersund. Plechacova claimed a gold medal in the Individual event and secured third place in both the Sprint and Mass Start 60. Carlier triumphed in the Mass Start 60 and the Men's Relay, earned a silver medal in the Sprint, and achieved third place in both the Individual and Mixed Relay events.



YOUTH WOMEN 10KM INDIVIDUAL

- ILONA PLECHACOVA CZE
- CARLOTTA CAUTERO ITA
- MANCA CASERMAN SLO

YOUTH MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL

- ANTONIN GUY FRA
- GRZEGORZ GALICA POL
- LEO CARLIER FRA

JUNIOR WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL

- CELIA HENAFF FRA
- AMANDINE MENGIN FRA
- FABIANA CARPELLA ITA

JUNIOR MEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

- SIEVERT GERHARDSSEN NOR
- KASPAR KALKENBERG NOR
- JAMES PACAL SUI

YOUTH 4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- NORWAY
- GERMANY
- FRANCE

JUNIOR 4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- GERMANY
- FRANCE
- AUSTRIA



YOUTH WOMEN 6KM SPRINT

- MARTINE SKOG NOR
- LOUISE ROGUET FRA
- ILONA PLECHACOVA CZE

YOUTH MEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- LUKAS TANNHEIMER GER
- LEO CARLIER FRA
- TOV ROEYSLAND NOR

JUNIOR WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- ANNA ANDEXER AUT
- SARA ANDERSSON SWE
- AMANDINE MENGIN FRA

JUNIOR MEN 10KM SPRINT

- HAAVARD TOSTERUD NOR
- JAKUB BORGULA SVK
- PETR HAK CZE

YOUTH WOMEN 9KM MASS START 60

- LOUISE ROGUET FRA
- LENA SIEGMUND GER
- ILONA PLECHACOVA CZE

YOUTH MEN 12KM MASS START 60

- LEO CARLIER FRA
- FLAVIO GUY FRA
- CAMILLE GRATALOUP-M. FRA



JUNIOR WOMEN 9KM MASS START 60

- SARA ANDERSSON SWE
- ANAELLE BONDOUX FRA
- OLEKSANDRA MERKUSHYNA UKR

JUNIOR MEN 12KM MASS START 60

- KASPAR KALKENBERG NOR
- JIMI KLEMETTINEN FIN
- PETR HAK CZE

YOUTH WOMEN 3 X 6KM RELAY

- GERMANY
- NORWAY
- ITALY

YOUTH MEN 3 X 7.5KM RELAY

- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- CZECHIA

JUNIOR WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- NORWAY

JUNIOR MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- NORWAY
- GERMANY
- POLAND





IBU JUNIOR CUP 1 RIDNAUN ITA



IBU JUNIOR CUP 2 GOMS SUI



IBU JUNIOR 3 JAKUSZYCE POL



IBU JOECH 2025 ALTENBERG GER

IBU JUNIOR CUP 2024/2025  
CARPELLA AND LEGOVIC  
WIN THE TOTAL SCORE



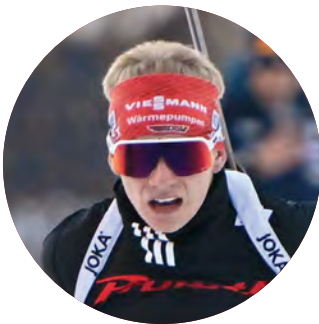
In the 2024/2025 season of the IBU Junior Cup, **Matija Legovic** from Croatia secured the top position in the men's category with a total score of 578 points. He won one competition out of his 12 starts. **Grzegorz Galica** from Poland followed in second place with 499 points, achieving two victories in his 10 starts. **Linus Kesper** from Germany rounded out the top three with a total score of 464 points, winning two races in his 12 participations.

In the women's category, **Fabiana Carpella** from Italy topped the standings with a total score of 477 points, securing one win in her 11 starts. **Anaëlle Bondoux** from France secured the second position with 464 points and captured three wins in her eight starts. She was closely followed by her compatriot **Amandine Mengin**, who finished third with 463 points. Mengin participated six times and staged a major breakthrough in the IBU Cup during Tri-mesters 2 and 3.



MEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP TOTAL & SPRINT  
SCORE WINNER  
**MATIJA LEGOVIC** CRO

WOMEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP TOTAL AND SPRINT  
SCORE WINNER  
**FABIANA CARPELLA** ITA



MEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP INDIVIDUAL SCORE WINNER  
**LINUS KESPER** GER

MEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP MASS START SCORE WINNER  
**SONDRE SLETTEMARK** GRL

MEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP RELAY SCORE WINNER  
**FRANCE**

MEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP NATIONS SCORE WINNER  
**FRANCE**

MEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP MOST INDIVIDUAL WINS  
**2 x GRZEGORZ GALICA** POL  
**2 x LINUS KESPER** GER

WOMEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP INDIVIDUAL SCORE WINNER  
**ANAELLE BONDOUX** FRA

WOMEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP MASS START SCORE WINNER  
**AMANDINE MEGIN** FRA

WOMEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP RELAY SCORE WINNER  
**FRANCE**

WOMEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP NATIONS SCORE WINNER  
**FRANCE**

WOMEN'S IBU JUNIOR CUP MOST INDIVIDUAL WINS  
**3 x ANAELLE BONDOUX** FRA



IBU SUMMER BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 OTEPAA EST

# ZAHKNA CREATED A DREAM END IN OTEPAA

The Tehvandi Sports Centre hosted the IBU Summer Biathlon World Championships, attracting over 300 men and women competing for titles in the Super Sprint, Sprint, Junior Pursuits, and Gala Mass Start. The year 2024 marked the third time the Estonian venue welcomed the SBWCH, following events in 2007 and 2016. Over three days, the Senior Super Sprints, sprints, and Gala Mass Start were live-streamed on Biathlonworld.com and Eurovision Sports.



Czechia’s **David Elias** and Bulgaria’s **Lora Hristova** secured the first gold medals in the Junior Super Sprint. Elias, with a single penalty, finished in 19:32.8, Hristova defended her title in the women’s competition, finishing in 22:41.9 despite a missed shot.

Ukraine’s **Dmytro Pidruchnyi** won the Men’s Super Sprint with a time of 19:19.5, securing gold with minimal penalties. Slovakia’s **Paulina Batovska Fialkova** claimed the women’s title, finishing in 21:11.5 with one penalty.

In the Men’s Sprint, Czechia’s **Jakub Stvrtecky** won gold in 18:15.1 with a single penalty. **Tereza Vobornikova** secured the Women’s Sprint title, shooting clean and finishing in 16:48.5.

The Junior Men’s Sprint highlighted the importance of precise shooting. Ukraine’s **Vitalii Mandzyn**, who shot clean, won Gold in 18:28.9. In the Junior Women’s Sprint, Bulgaria’s **Valentina Dimitrova** won Gold with two penalties in 1:03.9.

Estonia’s **Rene Zahkna** dominated the Men’s Gala Mass Start, winning gold in 32:28.6 despite three penalties. Latvia’s **Baiba Bendika** concluded the Championships with a gold medal in the Women’s Gala Mass Start, finishing in 29:45.1 with four penalties.

**Vitalii Mandzyn** of Ukraine, the Sprint World Champion, won the IBU SBWCH Junior Men’s Pursuit in 26:44.8 with four penalties. In the women’s event, Bulgarians **Valentina Dimitrova** and **Lora Hristova** won Gold and Silver with four and five penalties.



MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. UKRAINE	3	2	1	6
2. CZECHIA	3	1	4	8
3. BULGARIA	3	1	-	4
4. LATVIA	1	-	1	2
4. SLOVAKIA	1	-	1	2
6. ESTONIA	1	-	-	1
7. FINLAND	-	3	-	3
8. NORWAY	-	2	3	5
9. BELGIUM	-	1	1	2
10. CROATIA	-	1	-	1
10. FRANCE	-	1	-	1
12. SWEDEN	-	-	1	1



JUNIOR MEN 7.5KM SUPER SPRINT

- DAVID ELIAS CZE
- MATIJA LEGOVIC CRO
- VICTOR BERGLUND SWE

JUNIOR WOMEN 7.5KM SUPER SPRINT

- LORA HISTROVA BUL
- INKA HAMALAINEN FIN
- RAGNA FODSTAD NOR

MEN 7.5KM SUPER SPRINT

- DMYTRO PIDRUCHNYI UKR
- ARTEM TYSHCHENKO UKR
- TOMAS MIKYSKA CZE

WOMEN 7.5KM SUPER SPRINT

- PAULINA BATOVSKA FIALKOVA SVK
- SUVI MINKKINEN FIN
- LUCIE CHARVATOVA CZE

JUNIOR MEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- VITALII MANDZYN UKR
- HAAVARD TOSTERUD NOR
- SIVERT GERHARDSEN NOR

JUNIOR WOMEN 6KM SPRINT

- VALENTINA DIMITROVA BUL
- VIKTORIYA KHVOSTENKO UKR
- OLENA HORODNA UKR

MEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- JAKUB STVRTECKE CZE
- EMILIEN CLAUDE FRA
- THIERRY LANGER BEL

WOMEN 6KM SPRINT

- TEREZA VOBORNIKOVA CZE
- LOTTE LIE BEL
- PAULINA BATOVSKA FIALKOVA SVK

JUNIOR MEN 10KM PURSUIT

- VITALII MANDZYN UKR
- SIVERT GERHARDSEN NOR
- KASPER KALKENBERG NOR

JUNIOR WOMEN 7.5KM PURSUIT

- VALENTINA DIMITROVA BUL
- LORA HISTROVA BUL
- ILONA PLECHACOVA CZE

MEN GALA MASS START

- RENE ZAHKNA EST
- JONAS MARECEK CZE
- ANDREJS RASTORGUJEVS LAT

WOMEN GALA MASS START

- TEREZA VOBORNIKOVA CZE
- LOTTE LIE BEL
- PAULINA BATOVSKA FIALKOVA SVK





**IBU** PARA  
BIATHLON



# A HISTORICAL WINTER

The 2024/2025 Para Biathlon season marked a strategic milestone in the evolution of the sport, as the IBU fully took over its governance. This transition was underscored by key initiatives aimed at strengthening the global development and professionalisation of Para Biathlon, both on and off the field of play.



Spearheading the development, the Para Biathlon Development Forum in Lenzerheide, Switzerland in June 2024 gathered together stakeholders to shape a unified vision for the future and design a pathway to the first IBU-governed biathlon events of the Paralympic Winter Games at Milano-Cortina 2026.

To nurture emerging talent, the inaugural IBU-IPC Development Camp in Hochfilzen, Austria, brought together 27 participants from eight nations in September 2024. Despite challenging weather, the camp laid a strong foundation for future inclusion and growth.

The new Para Biathlon Working Group also took up its work to strategically support the growth, visibility, and evolution of Para Biathlon on the international stage. Comprised of seven appointed members and chaired by John Jaques (CAN) with the support of Jayne Kavanagh (GBR) as Vice-Chair, the Working Group brings together significant global expertise in Para Biathlon, adaptive sport, and inclusive sport development.

Collectively, the 2024/2025 season showcased both the sport’s rapid progress and the IBU’s strategic commitment to a more integrated, athlete-focused Para Biathlon ecosystem. The groundwork laid through advances in governance, development and elite competition signals a promising trajectory ahead of the current four-year cycle’s culmination event at the Paralympic Winter Games in March 2026.

## PARA BIATHLON WORLD CUP SEASON 2024/2025 FIRST-EVER IBU PARA BIATHLON SEASON

The first-ever IBU Para Biathlon World Cup season, fully governed by the IBU, comprised four key events. Athletes from 16 national teams (9 European, 4 Asian and 3 Pan-American) competed in Vuokatti, the Paralympic Winter Games 2026 official test event in Val di Fiemme, the World Championships in Pokljuka and the season finale in Torsby.

A total of 99 athletes participated, marking a nearly 40% increase from the previous year when the competition was co-organised by the IBU and the International Ski Federation (FIS). Notable changes to the season included a comprehensive update to the Para Biathlon Event and Competition Rules, establishing a new framework for the discipline. Some competition formats were abandoned, focusing instead on those included in the Paralympic Winter Games programme for 2026: **Sprint, Sprint Pursuit and Individual**.

The season saw remarkable performances and intense drama. In the sitting category, **Kendall Gretsch**, with a streak of eight consecutive victories, ultimately fell short in her bid for the Crystal Globe. Despite Gretsch skipping two events, **Anja Wicker** demonstrated exceptional consistency, securing the title. In the men’s division, **Yerbol Khamitov** made IBU history by becoming the first Kazakhstani athlete ever to win the overall title. Khamitov triumphed over second-place finisher Oleksandr Aleksyuk of Ukraine by nearly 200 points, despite securing his first victory in only his eighth race of the season.

**Mark Arendz** delivered another outstanding performance in the standing category. The 35-year-old Canadian athlete dominated the competition, winning 7 out of 11 starts and finishing more than 150 points ahead of **Marco Maier** in the final standings. Canada nearly swept the standing category, with **Nathalie Wilkie** finishing in second place. Although Wilkie



secured six victories, **Oleksandra Kononova** of Ukraine claimed the overall title with her consistent performance throughout the season, earning more points despite winning only three races.

In the Vision Impaired category, athletes from Germany and Ukraine again demonstrated their dominance. **Leonie Maria Walter** and **Iaroslav Reshetynskyi** captured the Crystal Globes in their respective categories. In the men’s division, Ukrainian athletes swept the top six spots in the final standings.

The outstanding performance of the **Ukrainian team** also led to their historic victory in the inaugural Para Biathlon Nations Cup, where Ukraine triumphed over Germany by a mere 35 points. The battle for the title remained tightly contested until the final day of the season.

- TOTAL SCORE WINNER – SITTING MEN  
**YERBOL KHAMITOV** KAZ
- TOTAL SCORE WINNER – SITTING WOMEN  
**ANJA WICKER** GER
- TOTAL SCORE WINNER – STANDING MEN  
**MARK ARENDZ** CAN
- TOTAL SCORE WINNER – STANDING WOMEN  
**OLEKSANDRA KONONOVA** UKR
- TOTAL SCORE WINNER – VI MEN  
**IAROSLAV RESCHETYSKYI** UKR
- TOTAL SCORE WINNER – VI WOMEN  
**LEONIE MARIA WALTER** GER
- PARA BIATHLON NATIONS CUP SCORE WINNER  
**UKRAINE**
- MOST INDIVIDUAL WINS - MEN  
**7 x MARK ARENDZ** CAN
- MOST INDIVIDUAL WINS - WOMEN  
**8 x KENDALL GRETSCH** USA



PARA BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 POKLJUKA SLO

SETTING NEW STANDARDS: THE SUCCESS OF THE INAUGURAL IBU PARA BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural IBU Para Biathlon World Championships held in Pokljuka set a new benchmark for Para Biathlon competitions, showcasing the dedication and collaboration of organisers, athletes, and the entire biathlon community. This historic event not only met the rigorous standards of the IBU World Cup but also highlighted the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in sport. From meticulous track preparation to seamless logistics, every aspect of the Championships was designed to ensure fair and competitive racing for all athletes.

The biggest challenge in the lead-up to the Championships was finding a suitable time slot within an already complex international competition calendar. Balancing multiple criteria simultaneously - availability of a capable organising committee, snow reliability and the suitability of courses and facilities - required thoughtful coordination and flexibility.

Pokljuka proved to be the right choice on all fronts. As a legacy venue with a highly experienced and responsive OC, they brought not only professionalism but also a genuine openness to adapt. Their prior involvement in the FIS Para Nordic World Championships four years ago provided a strong foundation. Adaptation of the venue was smooth and efficient, from accessible hotel selections to the ease of movement between athlete accommodation, the shooting range and the competition tracks.



Importantly, the athletes were welcomed and respected on the same level as all world-class competitors who come to Pokljuka. This spirit of inclusion was visible at every touchpoint, reinforcing the IBU's vision for an equitable and unified biathlon family.

The success of this event was not only in what happened on the snow but also in what we built for the future. The knowledge gained - from operational logistics to accessibility standards - will now serve as the framework for all organising committees going forward. We are committed to sharing this know-how widely and developing comprehensive guidelines that will ensure consistency and quality across all future IBU Para Biathlon events.

This season also confirmed the crucial role of digital infrastructure. The involvement of Siwidata proved essential in ensuring timely scheduling, transparent communication and the smooth delivery of information to teams and stakeholders. It will remain a pillar of future Para Biathlon operations.

The inaugural IBU Para Biathlon World Championships in Pokljuka marked a historic milestone – not only for the IBU but for the entire Para Biathlon community. I feel immense pride in what we achieved together. This event set a benchmark for all future Para Biathlon competitions and demonstrated what is possible when expertise, commitment and collaboration come together.

TOMI-PEKKA RIIHIVUORI, PARA BIATHLON MANAGER



As the Chief of Competition, I can confidently say that every operational aspect of the inaugural IBU-organised Para Biathlon World Championships in Pokljuka met the IBU World Cup standards. Adjusting the course and the shooting range to accommodate the needs of Para Biathlon athletes was crucial for ensuring fair and competitive racing. Our team worked diligently to maintain the highest standards in venue preparation, logistics and athlete support.

MATEJ KORDEŽ, CHIEF OF COMPETITION



COURSE PREPARATION

For the IBU Para Biathlon World Championships, the preparation of tracks requires attention to detail. The key challenge lies in designing two separate courses: one for sitting athletes and one for standing competitors.

An ideal course composition for Para Biathlon consists of three equal parts: one-third flat, one-third uphill and one-third downhill sections. The overall flow of the tracks should be designed with the athletes who require the most support in mind.

For sitting athletes, the tracks must be groomed with precision, requiring specialised equipment to maintain the necessary depth and support for the sleigh. The most complex aspect is shaping the downhill turns where banked curves, similar to those in bobsleigh tracks, help guide the athletes safely. A simple yet effective test is used: rolling a basketball down the turn to ensure it follows the intended path without veering off. If the ball navigates the curve smoothly, the course is well-prepared for sitting athletes. This test should be standard practice for course groomers preparing tracks for Para Biathlon competitions.

Visually Impaired athletes require additional safety measures, as crashes can be particularly dangerous when they are unable to anticipate obstacles. In Pokljuka, organisers installed 25 protective mats around trees and other potentially hazardous areas to mitigate risks. While falling on skis is always a possibility, providing additional protection ensures that visually impaired athletes can compete with greater confidence.

For standing athletes, course flow is crucial. Although they have the physical ability to ski any track, the design should allow them to glide rather than struggle up steep inclines. Simply modifying a standard IBU World Cup track is not an option - this is why organisers are encouraged to prepare courses designed for youth athletes, as these layouts provide the ideal conditions for Para biathletes.

HANS-PETER NESSER, IBU COURSE REFEREE



IBU PARA BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 POKLJUKA SLO  
MEDAL WINNERS



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT SITTING

- AARON PIKE **USA**
- TAO WANG **CHN**
- YERBOL KHAMITOV **KAZ**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT SITTING

- ZIXU LIU **CHN**
- MENGTAO LIU **CHN**
- OLEKSANDR ALEKSYK **URK**



MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL SITTING

- YERBOL KHAMITOV **KAZ**
- DEREK ZAPLOTINSKY **CAN**
- AARON PIKE **USA**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT SITTING

- KENDALL GRETSCH **USA**
- ANJA WICKER **GER**
- YUNJI KIM **KOR**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT SITTING

- KENDALL GRETSCH **USA**
- YUXIN ZHAI **CHN**
- ANJA WICKER **GER**



WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL SITTING

- KENDALL GRETSCH **USA**
- ANJA WICKER **GER**
- SHIYU WANG **CHN**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT STANDING

- MARK ARENDZ **CAN**
- MARCO MAIER **GER**
- XIAOBIN LIU **CHN**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT STANDING

- GRYGORII VOVCHYNSKYI **UKR**
- MARCO MAIER **GER**
- MARK ARENDZ **CAN**



MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL STANDING

- MARK ARENDZ **CAN**
- BENJAMIN DAVIET **FRA**
- GRYGORII VOVCHYNSKYI **UKR**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT STANDING

- NATALIE WILKIE **CAN**
- ZHIQING ZHAO **CHN**
- OLEKSANDRA KONONOVA **UKR**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT STANDING

- OLEKSANDRA KONONOVA **UKR**
- IRYNA BUI **UKR**
- ZHIQING ZHAO **CHN**



WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL STANDING

- NATALIE WILKIE **CAN**
- ZHIQING ZHAO **CHN**
- OLEKSANDRA KONONOVA **UKR**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT VI

- OLEKSANDR KAZIK **UKR**
- ANTHONY CHALENCON **FRA**
- SHUANG YU **CHN**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT VI

- OLEKSANDR KAZIK **UKR**
- IAROSLAV RESHETYSKYI **UKR**
- ANATOLII KOVALEVSKYI **UKR**



MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL VI

- OLEKSANDR KAZIK **UKR**
- IAROSLAV RESHETYSKYI **UKR**
- ANATOLII KOVALEVSKYI **UKR**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT VI

- LEONIE MARIA WALTER **GER**
- JOHANNA RECKTENWALD **GER**
- YUE WANG **CHN**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT VI

- LEONIE MARIA WALTER **GER**
- JOHANNA RECKTENWALD **GER**
- CARINA EDLINGER **AUT**



WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL VI

- JOHANNA RECKTENWALD **GER**
- LEONIE MARIA WALTER **GER**
- CARINA EDLINGER **AUT**





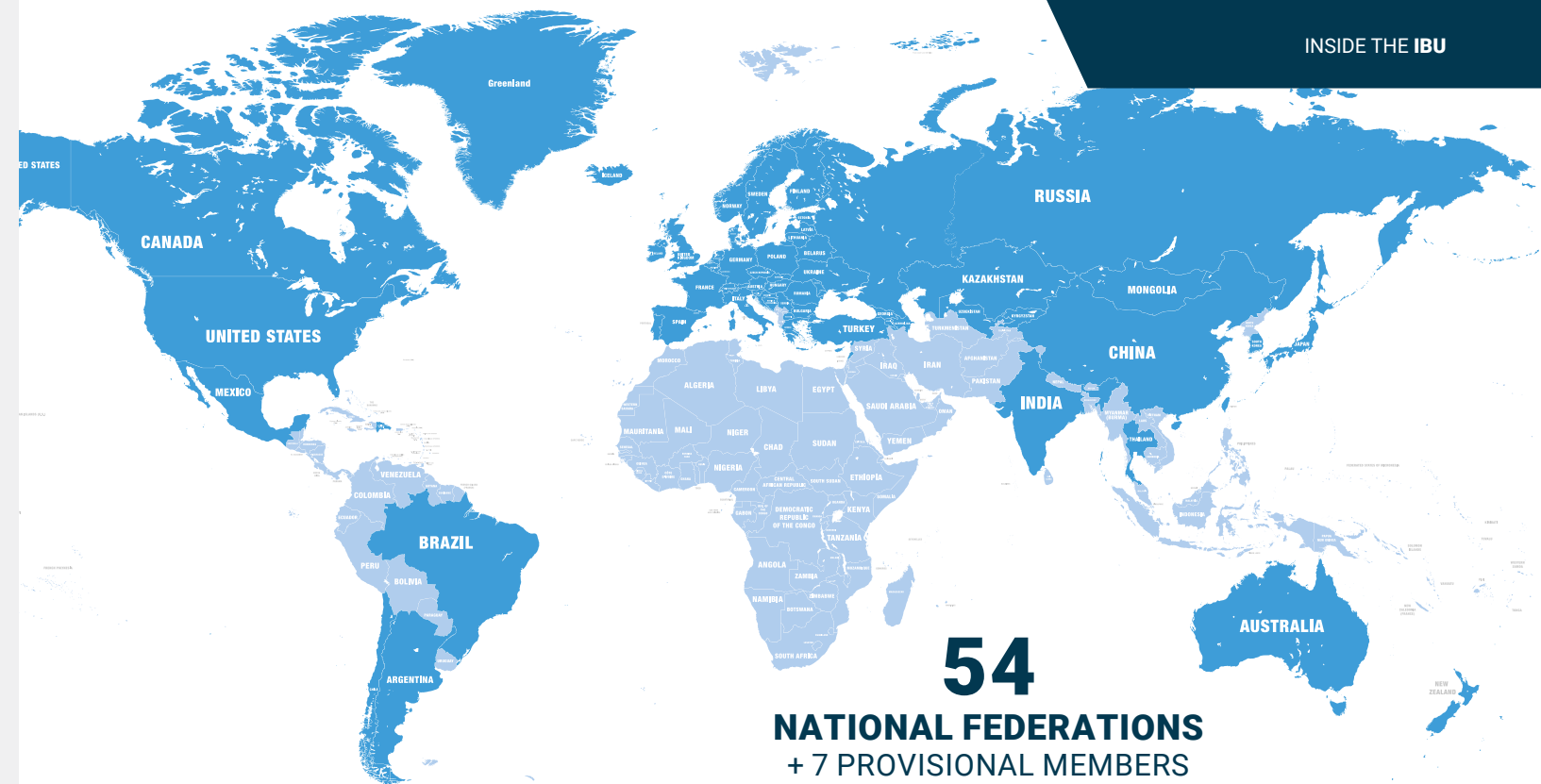
INSIDE  
THE **IBU**



**HEADQUARTERS** International Biathlon Union  
Sonystraße 20, 5081 Anif b.Salzburg, Austria

**PRESIDENT** Olle Dahlin  
**SECRETARY GENERAL** Max Cobb

**IBU CONGRESS** The Congress is the general meeting of the National Federation members, represented by their respective delegates. The Congress holds ultimate and supreme authority in relation to the affairs of the IBU. It has the right to exercise all the powers given to the IBU in its Constitution when it considers it necessary or appropriate to do so to further the purposes of the federation. Ordinary Congress meetings are held every two years (in even years), between June and September where possible.



01	<b>ARG</b>	Argentina	24	<b>GRL</b>	Greenland	47	<b>SUI</b>	Switzerland
02	<b>ARM</b>	Armenia	25	<b>HUN</b>	Hungary	48	<b>SVK</b>	Slovakia
03	<b>AUS</b>	Australia	26	<b>IND</b>	India	49	<b>SWE</b>	Sweden
04	<b>AUT</b>	Austria	27	<b>IRL</b>	Ireland	50	<b>TPE</b>	Chinese Taipei
05	<b>BEL</b>	Belgium	28	<b>ITA</b>	Italy	51	<b>TUR</b>	Turkey
06	<b>BIH</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	29	<b>JPN</b>	Japan	52	<b>UKR</b>	Ukraine
07	<b>BRA</b>	Brazil	30	<b>KAZ</b>	Kazakhstan	53	<b>USA</b>	USA
08	<b>BUL</b>	Bulgaria	31	<b>KGZ</b>	Kyrgyzstan	54	<b>UZB</b>	Uzbekistan
09	<b>CAN</b>	Canada	32	<b>KOR</b>	Korea			
10	<b>CHI</b>	Chile	33	<b>LAT</b>	Latvia			PROVISIONAL MEMBERS
11	<b>CHN</b>	China	34	<b>LEB</b>	Lebanon		<b>AND</b>	Andorra
12	<b>CRO</b>	Croatia	35	<b>LIE</b>	Liechtenstein		<b>DOM</b>	Dominican Republic
13	<b>CYP</b>	Cyprus	36	<b>LTU</b>	Lithuania		<b>LUX</b>	Luxembourg
14	<b>CZE</b>	Czechia	37	<b>MDA</b>	Moldova		<b>ISL</b>	Iceland
15	<b>DEN</b>	Denmark	38	<b>MGL</b>	Mongolia		<b>MEX</b>	Mexico
16	<b>ESP</b>	Spain	39	<b>MKD</b>	North Macedonia		<b>PRT</b>	Portugal
17	<b>EST</b>	Estonia	40	<b>NED</b>	Netherlands		<b>THA</b>	Thailand
18	<b>FIN</b>	Finland	41	<b>NOR</b>	Norway			
19	<b>FRA</b>	France	42	<b>NZL</b>	New Zealand			SUSPENDED MEMBERS
20	<b>GBR</b>	Great Britain	43	<b>POL</b>	Poland		<b>BLR</b>	Belarus
21	<b>GEO</b>	Georgia	44	<b>ROU</b>	Romania		<b>RUS</b>	Russia
22	<b>GER</b>	Germany	45	<b>SLO</b>	Slovenia			
23	<b>GRE</b>	Greece	46	<b>SRB</b>	Serbia			





# 16<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY **IBU** CONGRESS

26 SEP – 29 SEP 2024 | **BELGRADE**, SERBIA



## IBU CONGRESS APPROVES TARGET 2030

The 16<sup>TH</sup> Ordinary IBU Congress convened in Belgrade, Serbia from 26-29 September 2024. Key decisions included approving the Target 2030 strategic plan, selecting hosts for the World Championships and amending the IBU Constitution.



The final report of Target 26 was received, marking its successful five-year implementation. **Target 2030**, the new strategic plan developed collaboratively with the biathlon community to align with the priorities of National Federations and stakeholders, was presented and approved. This plan builds on Target 26's success and sets ambitious objectives.

The Congress approved the Executive Board's proposal for the award of the right to host the 2028 and 2029 World Championships from three candidate venues: Hochfilzen (Austria), Kontiolahti (Finland), and Oslo-Holmenkollen (Norway), which presented their bids to the Congress. Ultimately, the IBU Congress awarded **Hochfilzen**, Austria, and **Oslo Holmenkollen**, Norway the rights to host

the IBU World Championships in 2028 and 2029, respectively.

The updated budget for 2024/2025 and budget frameworks for 2025/2026 were presented and confirmed. Constitutional changes were discussed and approved to include **Para Biathlon** and **Esports** in IBU governance. Additionally, rule changes proposed by the Technical Committee were approved, with key updates for the upcoming season available. Independent members of the BIU Board were appointed.

Prior to the Congress, **workshops** were held with three parallel sessions. The Congress began with keynotes and panel discussions on critical topics in biathlon and sport.





# KEY DECISIONS

## OPENING AND WELCOME

IBU President Olle Dahlin emphasised the Congress was a milestone marking both the end of a significant era, Target 26, two years ahead of plan, and the beginning of a new strategic chapter, Target 2030. A video message from then IOC President Thomas Bach was included.

## ORGANISATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Congress was duly called and confirmed with 47 voting full members and 1 non-voting provisional member present. NF Lebanon was unanimously approved as a full member.



## REPORTS AND STRATEGIC PLANS

- **Activity Reports** for **2022/2023** and **2023/2024** and the **Target 26 Final Report** were presented and unanimously approved.
- **Annual reports** from the **Executive Board**, **Vetting Panel**, and **BIU Board** were approved.
- **Audited financial statements** for **2022/2023** and **2023/2024** were unanimously accepted.
- The new **Target 2030** strategy - focusing on sustainability, inclusion and innovation - was approved as the next strategic phase.



## BUDGET AND FINANCE

- The **2024/2025 budget** and 2025/2026 frameworks were presented and unanimously confirmed.
- **Financial support to federations and events** has increased by 113% since 2016.

## MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

### Key motions passed included:

1. Integration of Para Biathlon.
2. IBU governance over Esports.
3. Establishment of a Biathlon Refugee Team.
4. Hybrid Congress formats, revised gender representation rules and simplified processes for data collection.
5. Motion for weighted voting was rejected (needed a two-thirds majority, received ~55%).
6. Revisions were made to the Event and Competition Rules, Integrity Code, and Anti-Doping Rules.
7. Vetting Panel functions were merged into the BIU Board.



## ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- **Emőke Szőcs** (HUN) was elected to the vacant position in the Technical Committee.
- **Dr Tanja Haug's** appointment to the BIU Board was ratified.
- The Executive Board was authorised to appoint a **new auditing firm**.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS HOSTS

The Congress approved the Executive Board's proposal for the award of the right to host World Championships:

- **Hochfilzen** (AUT) as host for 2028.
- **Oslo Holmenkollen** (NOR) as host for 2029.

## HONOURS AND CLOSING

IBU Certificates of Honour were awarded to **Aleksandre Budzishvili** (GEO) and **Ilmo Kurvinen** (FIN).

The Congress concluded with appreciation from member federations and closing remarks from President Dahlin.





# IBU EXECUTIVE BOARD



ABOUT THE IBU EXECUTIVE BOARD

The International Biathlon Union (IBU) Executive Board convened five times throughout 2024 and early 2025 to address strategic, governance, and operational decisions critical to the future of biathlon. These meetings focused on advancing the Target 2030 strategic plan, strengthening governance structures, and preparing for major events, including the World Championships and the 2026 Milano-Cortina Olympics. Between formal meetings, informal virtual “EB gatherings” were held for information exchange, briefings, and updates.

- 171<sup>ST</sup> IBU EB MEETING**  
11-12 JUNE 2024; LENZERHEIDE, SWITZERLAND
- 172<sup>ND</sup> IBU EB MEETING**  
20 AUGUST 2024; VIRTUAL
- 173<sup>RD</sup> IBU EB MEETING**  
25-26 SEPTEMBER 2024; BELGRADE, SERBIA
- 174<sup>TH</sup> IBU EB MEETING**  
21 NOVEMBER 2024; MUNICH, GERMANY
- 175<sup>TH</sup> IBU EB MEETING**  
20-21 FEBRUARY 2025; LENZERHEIDE, SWITZERLAND

OLLE DAHLIN  
PRESIDENT

JIRI HAMZA  
VICE PRESIDENT

TORE BOYGARD  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

TIM FARNIK  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

FRANZ STEINLE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

MAX COBB \*\*  
SECRETARY GENERAL

CHRISTIAN SCHERER  
TREASURER

EKATERINA DAFOVSKA  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

FABIEN SAGUEZ  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

LENA HAECKI-GROSS \*  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

NATHALIE SANTER  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

\* IBU Athletes’ Committee Representative with voting rights  
\*\* IBU Secretary General with no voting rights

STRATEGIC VISION, ENHANCING GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

The International Biathlon Union (IBU) Executive Board convened five times throughout 2024 and early 2025 to address strategic, governance and operational decisions critical to the future of biathlon. These meetings focused on advancing the Target 2030 strategic plan, enhancing governance structures and preparing for major events, including the World Championships and the 2026 Milano-Cortina Olympic Winter Games.





# KEY TAKEAWAYS AND DECISIONS

## 171<sup>ST</sup> IBU EB MEETING

11-12 JUNE 2024; LENZERHEIDE, SWITZERLAND

### Strategic Development and Governance

- The Board reviewed progress on the Target 26 action plan. A draft of Target 2030 , the new strategic plan was reviewed by the NFs with overwhelmingly positive feedback and received strong endorsement during the consultation process from stakeholders. A comprehensive series of motions for constitutional reform were approved for submission to the 16th IBU Congress, covering Para Biathlon integration, voting reform, gender equity, athlete representation and governance streamlining.

### Human Rights and Risk Management

- A first draft of the IBU Human Rights Policy was presented..

### Finance and Administration

- The EB approved the Annual Report 2023/2024, with a surplus of over €2 million.
- The budget for 2024/2025 was adopted, forecasting a €1.6 million surplus.

### Sport and Event

- Significant updates included adoption of revised prize money structures through 2027 and event allocation procedures for the 2026–2030 World Cup seasons.
- The EB approved the concept for a Champions’ House for Milano-Cortina 2026 and confirmed Para Biathlon World Cup integration.
- An initial concept for a Biathlon Festival in a major European city was endorsed for further planning.

### Integrity and Collaboration

- In a joint session with the Biathlon Integrity Unit, the EB engaged in a collaborative workshop on fostering integrity, culture and governance support for NFs.

### Media and Marketing Highlights

- The EBU media rights agreement was extended through 2030.
- A digital reach bonus scheme was approved.
- The IBU reported leading engagement among winter IFs and increased revenue from digital content services.

### Development and Youth Engagement

- €1.6 million was allocated to NF projects, with an additional € 87,900 approved for Summer Regional Events.
- Planning advanced on Biathlon 4 All, a Kids & Youth Recruitment Forum and the International Biathlon Day (set for May 2025).
- Olympic Solidarity funding was confirmed, including support for Ukrainian athletes’ Olympic Winter Games preparations.

### Communication and Staffing

- Plans for a dedicated institutional Instagram account were shared. Staff planning for 2024–26 was reviewed, including new roles for event coordination and junior digital communications.

## 172<sup>ND</sup> IBU EB MEETING

20 AUGUST 2024; VIRTUAL

### Congress Planning and Governance

The Board reviewed and approved motions for inclusion in the 16th Ordinary Congress Handbook, including provisions on:

- Esports governance - a constitutional amendment recognising esports as part of the IBU ecosystem.
- Election rules - clarifying voting for all open positions.
- IBU Honours - certificates of honour awarded to Aleksandre Budzishvili (GEO) and Ilmo Kurvinen (FIN). The Honours Working Group was tasked to review Hall of Fame eligibility criteria.

The Board also supported the proposal for full membership of the Lebanese Biathlon Federation and discussed governance refinements regarding multiple EB memberships.

### Sport Decisions and Event Planning

- The Board tabled the WC/WCH seeding system decision to EB 173 to allow for broader stakeholder input.
- It acknowledged the City Biathlon Opener Munich 2025 set for 19 October and postponed decision on the event concept until financial details are available.
- Approved extraordinary support for ammunition storage safety measures at IBU competition venues.

### Stockholm Winter Biathlon Gala

The Board approved, after EB 171 by circular decision the Swedish Federation’s application to host this event. A liaison group was appointed to coordinate future approvals and clarify marketing/media arrangements.

### Other Matters

Updates were also shared on the pending agreement between MiCo 2026 and the Antholz OC. The Board Executive finalised preparations for the Congress.

## 173<sup>RD</sup> IBU EB MEETING

25-26 SEPTEMBER 2024; BELGRADE, SERBIA

### Strategic Direction and Governance

The Board approved the IBU’s first Human Rights Policy, embedding rights-based governance principles across all activities. The draft IBU Climate Action Plan was reviewed, with final approval scheduled for the next meeting. The Executive Board also confirmed funding for strategic initiatives under the Reach 26 programme and green-lit hiring a Marketing Project Manager.

Luxembourg was accepted as a provisional IBU member.

### Development Highlights

- €279,800 was allocated to fund 24 winter Regional Events in 2024/25.
- Continued progress was reported on Closing the Competition Gap, including NF consultations and strategic needs assessments.
- Olympic Solidarity support now totals €500,000 annually for IBU development efforts.

### Integrity and Athlete Welfare

The Board approved the formation of a Mental Health Working Group, led by the BIU, to develop athlete wellness support systems. CAS rulings on Russian athletes Ustyugov and Sleptsova were noted, upholding earlier sanctions.

### Sport and Event

Key decisions included:

- Approval of the new World Cup/World Championships seeding system, subject to review after the first trimester.
- Confirmation of the Biathlon Festival Munich 2025, pending final agreements with media and marketing partners.
- Updates to prize money for the 2024/25 season, with new categories for relay performance and pursuit timing.
- Approval of revised Event and Competition Rules language on gender terminology.

A special highlight was the presentation of candidate hosts for the 2028 and 2029 World Championships, with Board members recusing themselves where conflicts existed.

### Media and Marketing

The Board endorsed the Partner Summit set for March 2025 in Oslo and reviewed growth plans under Reach 26, including Esports testing and digital engagement strategies.

### Sustainability and Innovation

The IBU Snow Network presented early findings from a major study on snow security of IBU venues through 2050, with data-driven planning expected to play a greater role in future event design.





**174<sup>TH</sup> IBU EB MEETING**  
21 NOVEMBER 2024; MUNICH, GERMANY

**Strategic and Governance Initiatives**

The Board reviewed next steps for implementing the Target 2030 plan, prioritising projects like Closing the Competition Gap, event concepts and commercial model analysis. EB members committed to supporting individual initiatives as liaisons.

**Integrity and Athlete Welfare**

The Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU) reported on doping controls, ongoing investigations and preparations for a new Mental Health Working Group.

Based on the proposal for the utilisation of IBU sanction payments (i.e. money sourced from fines and sanction payments received by the IBU) for a type of “Athlete Solidarity Fund” designed to promote athlete welfare and enhance athlete safety, the EB decided to entrust the management of the Fund to the SG and the Head of BIU, under the supervision of the BIU Board.

**Sport and Event**

The EB approved several competition decisions:

- Mass Start regulations for WC1 2024/25
- 2025/26 World Cup and WCH schedule
- Final event budget and participation criteria for the Biathlon Festival Munich 2025
- New Event and Competition Rules for Para Biathlon

Discussions continued on the long-term 2026–2030 World Cup calendar structure.



**Development Activities**

The Development Department celebrated record participation in Summer Regional Events (26 NFs) and enhanced digital integration of event results. Updates were given on the Biathlon 4 All programme, 2025 department plans and pending membership applications. An application fee of €5,000 for new IBU members was introduced.

**Finance and Administration**

The Board approved updated IBU Travel Rules, a budget increase for Para Biathlon support and affirmed the creation of a GmbH for strategic projects. Forecasts for FY 2024/25 remained positive.

**Media, Marketing and Communication**

Strong progress was reported on broadcast technology, including new shooting range cameras and an English commentary service. Project Reach 26 got underway, supported by the Biathlon Content Hub app and new gamification partnerships. The first Biathlon Partner Summit was announced for March 2025 in Oslo.

**Miscellaneous and Representation**

Duties of EB representatives at events were clarified. The meeting also included a virtual session with IOC officials discussing criteria for neutral athlete participation at Paris 2024.

**175<sup>TH</sup> IBU EB MEETING**  
20-21 FEBRUARY 2025; LENZERHEIDE, SWITZERLAND

**Governance and Strategy**

Updates were shared on the Target 2030 strategic plan around the involvement of EB members in the main projects and the work with a detailed implementation plan. The Board approved the 2024 Sustainability Report and the first Climate Transition Action Plan.

**Development**

The Board approved the 2025/26 Development Support Programme budget, launched a new DEI Working Group, and noted successful ongoing regional and youth initiatives, participation in the Erasmus+ DC4Biathletes project and strong progress in the Biathlon 4 All and IBU Academy platforms.

**Sport and Event**

Operational updates focused on Milano Cortina 2026 preparations, successful Para Biathlon World Championships in Pokljuka and the test event in Val di Fiemme. The Board approved the 2026-2030 World Cup calendar following a broad consultation process. Planning continued for the inaugural Loop One Festival in Munich (October 2025).

**Marketing and Media**

The IBU reported steady TV audience growth, strong social media performance, and more than 200,000 downloads of the official app. The digital expansion included a successful pilot of the Biathlon eCup and increased revenue from digital rights. The Board discussed preparations for the Biathlon Partner Summit in Holmenkollen and ongoing work on the documentation of TV production standards.

**Finance**

Financial stability was confirmed, with approved spending adjustments for 2024/25 and a budget framework for 2025/26. A new audit firm will be selected and IBU will set up a GmbH.

**Integrity and Safeguarding**

The BIU presented its latest report, highlighting increased testing, athlete safeguarding measures (especially for Para athletes) and the formation of a Mental Health Working Group. Initial recommendations from the group are expected in October 2025.





# AIOWF GOVERNANCE REPORT

## IBU TOPS TABLE IN WINTER SPORTS GOVERNANCE REPORT

The International Biathlon Union achieved significant recognition for its governance improvements, securing the highest score among winter sports in the Fifth Review of Governance of the Winter Olympic Federations conducted by I Trust Sport.

- 1

**Comprehensive Review:** The Fifth Review of Governance evaluated winter sports across 60 indicators, covering the five key principles.
- 2

**Top Scoring Winter Federation:** The IBU achieved the highest score among winter sports and was also the top-scoring International Federation (IF) among 13 winter and summer sports with 20-49 staff.
- 3

**High Performance Across Principles:** The federation excelled across all five core principles of the report: Transparency, Integrity, Democracy, Development and Sustainability, and Control Mechanisms, nearly achieving a perfect score in Transparency.
- 4

**Significant Improvements Since 2022:** The report highlighted the IBU's progress since the last review, including the transition to the strategic plan Target 2030, implementation of its safeguarding programme and annual reporting on sustainability and the Biathlon 4 All programme.
- 5

**Score Increase:** The IBU's score significantly increased from 159 in the 2021-2022 review to 203 in the current review. Even when excluding the 10 new indicators introduced this year, the IBU's score rose to 172.

*"We are very proud to have received the highest score in the Fifth Review of Governance of the Winter Olympic Federations. Integrity, governance and sustainability are the three underlying principles that underpin everything we do at the IBU and it is rewarding to see this is being recognised. We have come a long way since we initiated a comprehensive governance reform process in 2018. We have demonstrated substantial progress reflecting our unwavering commitment to transparency, integrity and excellence in sports administration in the last seven years."*

IBU PRESIDENT OLLE DAHLIN





# BIATHLON PARTNER SUMMIT

## THE INAUGURAL BIATHLON PARTNER SUMMIT

The inaugural Biathlon Partner Summit 2025 in Oslo marked a significant moment in the sport's journey towards enhanced collaboration and innovation. Aligned with the strategic plan, Target 2030, the Summit brought together sports and marketing experts, National Federations and commercial partners for a dynamic exchange of knowledge and ideas.

**Collaborative Platform:** The Summit served as a robust platform for sharing industry-leading knowledge, insights, and networking opportunities among leading experts and stakeholders in biathlon.

**Partnerships for Growth:** The event kicked off with a focus on the importance of partnerships, featuring a presentation by Anders Linden of Tango and a panel discussion with IBU's main sponsor, Bauhaus, and several National Federation partners.

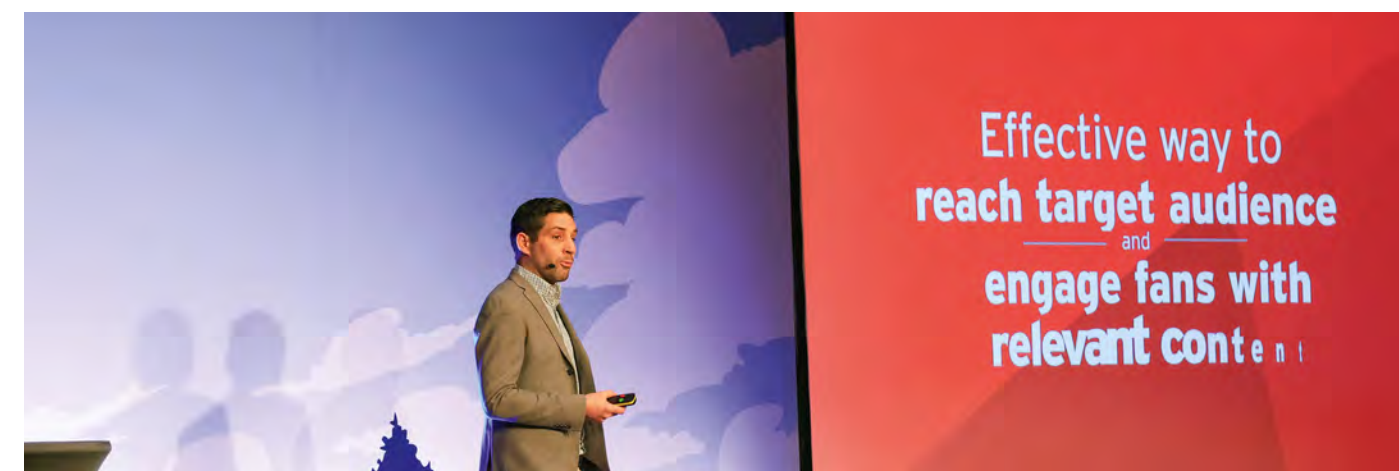
**Best Practices and Insights:** National Federations from Sweden, Norway and Germany, along with athletes Regina Ermits and Campbell Wright, shared best practices and insights on effective partnership activation.

**Understanding Fans:** Presentations from Two Circles and General Sports Worldwide provided valuable, data-driven insights into Gen Z biathlon fans and global fan interactions, highlighting the sport's marketing potential.

**Industry Expert Sessions:** Day 1 featured a keynote from the IBU's media partner Glen Killiane, Executive Director of Eurovision Sport, alongside inspiring sessions from industry leaders in esports, golf, and Formula 1, as well as rich insights on global media and broadcasting innovations from FIFA and the European Broadcasting Union.

**Technological Innovations:** The day concluded with a presentation on virtual advertising technology by IBU marketing partner Infront, showcasing the latest advancements in sports marketing.

**Focus on Biathlon Developments:** The second day emphasised developments within biathlon, including discussions on the IBU's digital strategy, sustainability efforts and advancements in Para Biathlon.







# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



## IBU STRENGTHENS INTERNATIONAL TIES AND PROMOTES BIATHLON AT GLOBAL SPORTING GATHERINGS

The IBU has actively engaged in numerous international events and conferences throughout 2024 and 2025, reinforcing its commitment to the growth and development of biathlon worldwide.

MAY 2024

### ANNUAL BALKAN BIATHLON CONFERENCE

An IBU delegation attended the Annual Balkan Biathlon Conference in Bansko, hosted by the Bulgarian Biathlon Federation. They joined the National Biathlon Federations of the Balkan and neighbouring countries to discuss the state of biathlon and growth prospects in the region. In connection with the conference, IBU President Olle Dahlin was invited to meet with the Bulgarian Republic President and the Minister of Youth and Sport to hear about the plans for sport in Bulgaria.

JUNE 2024

### PARIS 2024: OLYMPIC TORCH HONOUR

Encapsulating the spirit of the Olympic Games, the Olympic Torch Relay is a special honour for the torchbearers. French biathletes Vincent Jay, Vincent Defrasne, Martin Fourcade, Anaïs Bescond and Quentin Fillon Maillet were among the Paris 2024 torchbearers in June.

### TANNHEIMER AND GUY EOC PRIZE FINALISTS

IBU Junior Women athlete Julia Tannheimer (GER) and IBU Youth Athlete Antonin Guy (FRA) were among five finalists for the European Olympic Committees Prize for Best European Young Athlete for winter sports, presented during the Gala Dinner at the EOC General Assembly in Bucharest, Romania. Tannheimer and Guy received a trophy and a scholarship.

JULY/AUGUST 2024

### LEADERSHIP AT THE 142<sup>ND</sup> IOC SESSION AND PARIS 2024

IBU President Olle Dahlin and the federation's Secretary General Max Cobb attended the IOC Session in the wake of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. They also met with the leadership of other International Federations and representatives of the Olympic Movement. The IBU President attended the "Paris Summit, Sport for Sustainable Development" under the patronage of French President Emmanuel Macron. The IBU was also recognised at a seminar for the IOC Climate Action Awards announcement.

### OLYMPIC FAMILY ATTENDS RECEPTION FOR MODERN PENTATHLON PRESIDENT

IBU President Olle Dahlin was among the speakers at a special reception held during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in appreciation of the leadership of Klaus Schormann, the UIPM President of 31 years, who is stepping down in November 2024. Schormann has held this position since 1993, the year the IBU was founded as an independent association under the umbrella of the UIPMB alongside the UIPM.



OCTOBER 2024

### IF FORUM LAUSANNE

The IBU participated in the IF Forum 2024 in Lausanne, Switzerland with over 480 delegates focusing on making International Federations future-ready. Key topics included anti-doping, athlete mental health and sustainability. The IBU received the IOC Climate Action Awards certificate and participated in discussions on EU funding for sustainability and gender equality.

### WINTER OLYMPIC FEDERATIONS (WOF) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In connection with the IF Forum, IBU President Olle Dahlin and Secretary General Max Cobb attended the General Assembly of the Winter Sports Federations where common topics with the IOC were addressed.

### PRESIDENT DAHLIN JOINS FFS'S 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

IBU President Olle Dahlin attended the centennial celebration of the French Ski Federation (FFS). This milestone event took place in October in Poisy, Haute-Savoie, honouring a century of commitment to winter sports excellence.

### ANOC CASCADES/POR

IBU President Olle Dahlin attended the ANOC General Assembly in Cascais, Portugal, where delegates from 195 National Olympic Committees met, alongside representatives from the IOC, International Federations, OCOGs and other Olympic stakeholders.

DECEMBER 2024

### MONA BRORSSON ELECTED TO WADA ATHLETE COUNCIL

Olympic gold medallist Mona Brorsson has been elected to WADA's Athlete Council for 2025–2027. With International Federation Athlete Commissions casting votes, the Swede was among eight members chosen in a virtual election.

### WADA FOUNDATION BOARD APPROVES NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The World Anti-Doping Agency's Foundation Board convened in Saudi Arabia to address key matters for strengthening the global anti-doping system. President Olle Dahlin attended as a Foundation Board member representing the Winter Olympic Federations, approving WADA's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, themed "Going further together", developed through stakeholder consultation to set future priorities.

FEBRUARY 2025

### ASIAN WINTER GAMES

IBU President Olle Dahlin visited the Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China. He met with key representatives of the Chinese sport ministry, including the Vice Minister of Sport, as well as the Asian IBU members taking part in the Games. All the candidates for IOC President attended, and the IBU President had an opportunity to speak about biathlon with them.

### EOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN FRANKFURT

At the EOC General Assembly in Frankfurt at the end of February 2025, IBU President Olle Dahlin had the opportunity to meet with the leadership of the European Olympic Committees, National Olympic Committee presidents and secretaries general, and once again meet the candidates for IOC President. This gathering provided a unique platform for important discussions on the future, including key issues affecting biathlon and the broader sports community.

### IBU AND FISU STRENGTHEN TIES

At the Lenzerheide 2025 World Championships, the IBU and FISU signed a convention to foster collaboration and promote inclusive sports for all university students.

MARCH 2025

### KIRSTY COVENTRY BECOMES FIRST-EVER FEMALE IOC PRESIDENT

Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe (Sport Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation and multiple Olympic medallist in swimming) was elected as the IOC's 10th president and the first female President in IOC history at the 144th IOC Session in Greece.

### WADA SYMPOSIUM 2025

The 2025 WADA Symposium, held in Lausanne, Switzerland brought together key figures from the world of sport, including IBU President Olle Dahlin and former athlete Mona Brorsson, who currently serves on the WADA's Athlete Council Group 2. The event provided a platform for important discussions on anti-doping policies.

### IBU AND CISM STRENGTHEN TIES

At the end of March, CISM President Colonel Nilton Rolim and IBU President Olle Dahlin signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the CISM Military World Winter Games in Goms, Switzerland marking a new era of cooperation. The partnership aims to foster mutual development, enhance technical cooperation and promote biathlon.

APRIL 2025

### IBU AT THE EU SPORT FORUM

The annual EU Sport Forum in Krakow, attended by IBU President Olle Dahlin, discussed the future of the European sports model. Featuring European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport Glenn Micallef, it united key players to defining EU sport policy, from institutions and federations to athletes and grassroots organisations.





# IBU ATHLETES' COMMITTEE



ABOUT THE IBU ATHLETES' COMMITTEE

The Athletes' Committee (AC) is composed of six members. Five of the members are elected by the IBU World Cup athletes. Every two years, two or three members are elected for four years and confirmed by the IBU Executive Board

(EB). The sixth member is appointed by the Athletes' Committee and also sits on the Technical Committee (TC). The Athletes' Committee is intended to act as a link between the active athletes and the IBU bodies, and acts in full autonomy.



Sebastian Samuelsson

SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON  
CHAIR

SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON  
CHAIR, ATHLETES' COMMITTEE

SIMON EDER  
ATHLETES' COMMITTEE MEMBER

LENA HAECKI-GROSS  
ATHLETES' COMMITTEE MEMBER

JOHANNES KUEHN  
ATHLETES' COMMITTEE MEMBER

INGRID LANDMARK TANDREVOLD  
ATHLETES' COMMITTEE MEMBER

CONTINUOUS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The AC worked on various initiatives and proposals, with the initiative taking up most of the time being about a new start group system for the World Cup proposed by the IBU. With Clare Egan stepping down, the remaining members of the Committee were Sebastian Samuelsson (Chair), Ingrid Landmark Tandrevold and Johannes Kuehn. Joining them for their first year in the AC were Simon Eder and Lena Haecki-Gross, who also serves as the AC representative on the EB. The AC also provided input on planning a new IBU season-opening event, Loop One.

SPORT-TECHNICAL  
ENGAGEMENT

During spring and summer 2024, the AC worked closely with their TC representative, Kaisa Makarainen, to develop competition formats and regulations. This collaboration resulted in three formal proposals to the TC, two of which were approved: adjusting the age limit for the Under-25 competition category in the World Cup to Under-23 and modifying the point allocation system across all race series.

ENHANCING ATHLETE  
COMMUNICATION

To improve communication and engagement, the AC, with administrative support from a dedicated IBU staff member, launched a redesigned newsletter. Moving from a traditional email format to a visually engaging design, the newsletter is now distributed bi-monthly. It provides updates on the AC's work and relevant news from the IBU and the BIU. Additionally, an "Athlete Corner" was introduced on the IBU website, serving as a centralised platform for athletes to access key documents, data and information on engagement opportunities and ongoing projects.

ATHLETE VOICE IN  
DECISION-MAKING

Throughout summer and autumn, the AC discussed a newly proposed start group system with IBU representatives and the Executive Board (EB). They gathered athlete perspectives and submitted a letter signed by over 100 athletes to the IBU EB, outlining collective feedback and concerns. AC member Simon Eder also contributed to the Constitution Working Group, leading to a revision of AC eligibility criteria. This revision allows for a maximum of two retired athletes to be elected to the Committee, extending eligibility to those who have retired within the previous six years.

CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT  
AND OUTREACH

Lena Häcki-Gross represented the AC in several EB meetings, while other members participated in IOC Global Athlete Network calls, reinforcing the IBU's active engagement within the international sports community.

CONSISTENT LIAISON WITH  
IBU DEPARTMENTS

The AC maintained ongoing communication with the IBU Sport & Event Department to ensure athlete feedback and concerns were continuously addressed.

ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

The Athletes' Committee held its annual Open Meeting in Kontiolahti, the first in-person edition since the COVID-19 pandemic. This face-to-face engagement provided valuable input from athletes, with IBU representatives attending to present updates and receive feedback.

PARA ATHLETE  
REPRESENTATIVES

During the IBU Para Biathlon World Cup Finals in Torsby, Sweden, from 8 to 12 March, three athletes were elected as Para Athlete Representatives:

- Mark Arendz (CAN)
- Florian Michelon (FRA)
- Anja Wicker (GER)

Voting was open to all Para Biathletes participating in the IBU Para Biathlon World Cup and/or the IBU Para Biathlon World Championships 2025 in Pokljuka. The election criteria required at least one female representative and representation from all three sport classes: sitting, standing and visually impaired. The elected Para Athlete Representatives will work independently while collaborating closely with the Athletes' Committee to ensure the perspectives and interests of Para athletes are effectively communicated within the IBU.





# IBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



ABOUT THE IBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

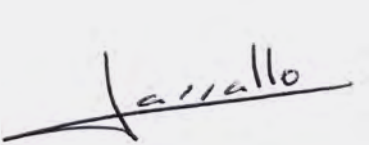
Since the 2022 IBU Congress, the IBU Technical Committee (TC) has consisted of 12 members. After each full member NF nominates its candidate, 10 are elected for four years by the Congress. Athletes' Committee and World Cup coaches nominate one member each. The Technical Committee is led by a Chair, elected among its members.

The role of the Technical Committee is clearly defined in the IBU Constitution and is fully integrated with the strategic plan Target 26.

By working in close contact with the IBU race directors and with the IBU Sport & Event Department, it mainly acts on

technical topics closely linked to the sport of biathlon. Its main areas of expertise and management are Event and Competition Rules, competition series, approval of new equipment, venue licensing, referees, coaches and athletes liaisons.

In order to provide the most efficient workflow in all those designated areas, the Committee establishes working groups. And for each of them, the Chair nominates one leader. The year of 2022 was when a new Technical Committee was elected for the next four years. The Technical Committee congregates twice a year for three to four days of meetings and remains in permanent contact throughout the year.



CHRISTOPHE VASSALLO  
CHAIR

CHRISTOPHE VASSALLO  
CHAIR, TC

FELIX BITTERLING  
TC MEMBER

PER ARNE BOTNAN  
TC MEMBER

DEJAN BRAJDIC  
TC MEMBER

FABRIZIO CURTAZ  
TC MEMBER

SANDRA FLUNGER \*\*  
TC MEMBER

KAISA MAKARAINEN \*  
TC MEMBER

ULRIKA ÖBERG  
TC MEMBER

SARA STUDEBAKER-HALL  
TC MEMBER

EMÖKE SZÖCS  
TC MEMBER

HILLAR ZAHKNA  
TC MEMBER

MICHAL ZICHACEK  
TC MEMBER

\* nominated by the Athletes' Committee

\*\* nominated by the World Cup coaches

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

During the 2024/2025 season, the Technical Committee (TC) focused on implementing structural improvements across the World Cup and IBU development events. Key highlights included the successful introduction of a new seeding system for the World Cup and the initiation of qualifying point assessments within Junior Cups and Regional Events. These steps represent essential progress in establishing a more holistic and future-oriented race series structure.

TC MEETING 64  
23–24 MAY 2024; IBU HEADQUARTERS, SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

The TC spring meeting addressed regular operational items, including the review of rule amendments and the finalisation of the IBU calendar for upcoming seasons. Notably, Tomi Pekka Riihivuori stepped down from the TC due to his full-time assignment as Race Director for Para Biathlon. Emöke Szöcs (HUN) was elected as his successor during the IBU Congress in September 2024.

A key decision was the approval of participation pathways for refugee athletes, allowing for competition independent of nationality status - an important step towards inclusive and accessible biathlon participation. The Committee also endorsed a concept review for a future race series structure. This includes follow-up work on aligning event formats and progression systems across all levels of the IBU competition pyramid.

To support long-term athlete development, the TC approved updated age class definitions. The Junior category was shortened by one year, and the age groups were renamed to U17, U19, and U21 for greater clarity and alignment with other sports.

SUMMER 2024

During the summer of 2024, the TC and relevant departments focused on refining technical aspects discussed in Salzburg, progressing with system integration for regional event management, and collecting data from initial qualifying point assessments.

TC MEETING 65  
27–28 OCTOBER 2024; MUNICH, GERMANY

The TC's autumn meeting concentrated on finalising operational details for the upcoming season and implementing several strategic developments. The updated fluor test and the common waxing protocol were reviewed based on the first-season experience and confirmed for continued application.

The appointment of International Technical Officials (ITOs) for the Olympic Winter Games Milano-Cortina 2026 was confirmed.

The TC also approved the core principles for calculating qualifying points in Junior Cups and Regional Events. Initial shadow calculations had already been conducted during the 2024/25 season and will serve as the basis for refining the future system.

Another major outcome was the sport-technical approval of the World Cup calendar from 2026 to 2030, which includes structural changes. A new competition was added to the New Year period, offering more consistent exposure and better scheduling from a sport-technical perspective.

The Committee further endorsed the integration of regional competitions into the IBU Membercenter, allowing for basic participant registration and future data tracking.

WINTER 2024/2025

Winter 2024/2025 marked the successful first season of the revised World Cup seeding system. The new approach aimed to improve the quality and drama of Sprint and Individual competitions. Feedback from different stakeholders indicated a generally positive reception, with deeper analysis to continue over the next cycle. Simultaneously, qualifying point frameworks were piloted through shadow calculations at Junior and regional level events. These trials provided initial insights into the development potential and integrity of the proposed system. The updated fluor testing and waxing procedures were applied throughout the season without major incidents.





**IBU** SPORT &  
EVENT



ABOUT IBU SPORT & EVENT

The Sport & Event Department has its focal point on an expanded scope of activities and responsibilities with the focus on enhancing the IBU events and extending biathlon’s reach through the implementation of the objectives set in Target 26. It manages and supervises the BMW IBU World Cup, IBU Cup, IBU Junior Cup, IBU World Championships, IBU Open European Championships, IBU Youth & Junior World Championships and the IBU Summer Biathlon World Championships.

Its general tasks include venue allocation and schedule planning for the working calendar; ordering and distribution of medals and certificates; communication with the OCs; travel and accommodation for the staff; management of supplying partners’ contracts and relations with partners; licensing of the venues; managing the Technical Committee; co-managing production and starting times with the media rights holders; and resolving marketing issues if and when they occur.



*Daniel Böhm*  
**DANIEL BÖHM**  
SPORT & EVENT DIRECTOR

**DANIEL BÖHM**  
SPORT & EVENT  
DIRECTOR

**MARTIN STRICKER**  
SPORT & EVENT  
MANAGER

**BORUT NUNAR**  
RACE DIRECTOR  
WORLD CUP

**KRISTJAN OJA**  
RACE DIRECTOR  
IBU CUP

**TOMASZ BERNAT**  
SPORT DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER

**JANIS BERZINS**  
EVENT  
COORDINATOR

**EKATERINA BOYARSIKH**  
PROJECT COORDINATOR  
S & E ADMINISTRATION

**TINA BALAZIČ & SARAH KOHL**  
PROJECT COORDINATOR  
EVENT SERVICES

FINE-TUNING FOR CONTINUOUS SUCCESS

Behind the seamless execution of the BMW IBU World Championships in Lenzerheide and each BMW IBU World Cup week lies a year of meticulous planning, evidence-based decision-making, and cross-departmental collaboration. The Sport & Event Department worked in close partnership with the Technical Committee, Athletes’ Committee, Medical Advisory Group, Organising Committees and other IBU departments to ensure that every initiative - whether focused on safety, event enhancement, or athlete development – was implemented with precision, foresight and an unwavering commitment to athlete well-being.







MAY 2024  
**NEW MEMBERS OF THE TD GROUP**

The IBU Technical Delegates (TDs) constitute the leading group of biathlon referees. To strengthen this group and address the growing need for TDs in the coming years, an examination was held in May 2024. After a rigorous selection process and successful completion of the exam, nine new TDs were approved to join the group.

MAY 2024  
**NEW EVENT COORDINATOR**

**Janis Berzins** was appointed as Event Coordinator, supporting the Sport & Event Department primarily with event-related matters that are not purely sport-technical. This role reflects the IBU's strategic objective of "Enhancing Our Events," with an increased focus on these areas in the coming years.

JUNE 2024  
**NEW SPORT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**Tomasz Bernat** has been appointed Sport Development Manager. In addition to serving as Race Director for the IBU Junior Cup series, he will oversee the alignment and advancement of all youth and junior events in line with relevant development activities.

JULY 2024  
**INTRODUCTION OF AMMUNITION STORAGE**

The IBU has introduced mandatory ammunition storage facilities at all its events. Under this new requirement, all teams must store their ammunition on-site, further enhancing safety standards across IBU competitions.



SEPTEMBER 2024  
**SNOW NETWORK MEETING**

The annual Snow Network Meeting was held in September at the headquarters of IBU Snowtech partner Prinoth. The meeting included a review of the past season, featuring an in-depth analysis of weather and snow conditions, showcasing best practice examples, and presentations on the latest advancements in snow management. It also served as a platform for the direct exchange of experiences between snow and course operators from event organisers.

SEPTEMBER 2024  
**ALLOCATION OF WCH 2028 + 2029**

At the 16th Ordinary Congress in Belgrade, the course was set for the next four-year event period. With the awarding of the 2028 World Championships to Hochfilzen and the 2029 edition to Oslo-Holmenkollen, a solid foundation has been laid for event planning through to 2030.



SEPTEMBER 2024  
**NEW SERIES SETUP**

Also, at the Congress in Belgrade, fundamental changes to the structure of the event series were approved. These adjustments aim to foster the sport's long-term development and provide better competition opportunities for a growing number of athletes.

SEPTEMBER 2024  
**MEDICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING: ECR CHANGES (COLD CONDITIONS)**

The Medical Advisory Group (MAG) provides the IBU with expert guidance on medical services at events, athlete health care, and prevention measures. Its primary role is to define relevant requirements and guidelines. A key outcome of the 2024 meeting was the decision to raise the temperature limit for youth and junior competitions, ensuring better protection for young athletes.

OCTOBER 2024  
**TARGET 2030 NEXT STEPS RETREAT**

The approval of Target 2030 at the recent IBU Congress also laid the foundations for a number of projects that will keep the Sport & Event Department involved in the coming years. Right after the Congress, the entire department took part in a two-day retreat to discuss the tasks ahead and draw up a roadmap for the next steps, with the main focus on projects allied to the "Closing the Competition Gap" programme and event enhancement initiatives.







**OCTOBER 2024**  
**TD SEMINAR IN MUNICH**

The biannual Technical Delegates Seminar took place in Munich, bringing together around 55 TDs for two days of rule updates, case discussions, and the introduction of new members.

**NOVEMBER 2024**  
**CERTIFIED FLUOR CONTROLLERS**

In a two-day workshop, 13 people from the IBU and external staff were certified as IBU fluor controllers. The workshop included a thorough theoretical introduction followed by practical training sessions. These experts will serve at IBU events to conduct the fluor tests.

**NOVEMBER 2024**  
**NEW ALPINE PRO COLLECTION**

The new collection from IBU's clothing supplier, Alpine Pro, arrived just before the season and was distributed to all staff and eligible external partners.

**NOVEMBER 2024**  
**REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR REGIONAL EVENTS**

A significant change was introduced for the Regional Events series: all participating athletes are now required to have a basic registration in the IBU Membercenter. This enables the IBU to better monitor and support the development of young athletes.

**APRIL 2025**  
**FINALISATION OF ACTION PLAN TARGET 2030**

The Sport & Event Department met to consolidate and finalise all initiatives related to the Target 2030 strategy. A comprehensive action plan has been prepared for the focus areas "Enhancing Our Events" and "Innovating Our Future."



# RACE DIRECTORS' ANALYSIS



## A SEASON OF WEATHER SWINGS, COMMITMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The season could not have ended more emotionally and spectacularly than it did in Oslo-Holmenkollen. With Johannes Thingnes Boe and Tarjei Boe waving goodbye one final time, and Franziska Preuss winning the Total Score title in the last few hundred metres of the season, the curtain fell on nine World Cup weeks and two World Championships. During this time, we witnessed the successful introduction of a new seeding system, experienced almost all four seasons as the weather swung between

proper winter and nearly summer-like conditions, and everything in between. We enjoyed packed stadiums, historical achievements, monumental personal breakthroughs and incredible dedication from the Organising Committees and hundreds of volunteers. Without them, there would be no show and no often last-minute, borderline magical solutions.

**BORUT NUNAR**  
BMW IBU WORLD CUP RACE DIRECTOR



## COMMITTEES EXCELL, ATHLETES SHINE BRIGHT

The 2024/2025 IBU Cup season saw a rollercoaster of weather conditions, but every situation was managed with great dedication and skill by all the Organising Committees. It was also packed with expected and unexpected breakthroughs. Following the success in the 2023/2024 season, Isak Frey was expected to shine within the extremely strong Norwegian team. Frey qualified for the last World Cup weeks of the season and showed his potential there. On the women's side, the French team showcased two exciting new prospects in Amandine Mengin and Voldiya Galmace Paulin.

However, it was the more experienced, yet still young, Camille Bened and Paula Botet who left the biggest mark. Bened won the IBU Cup Total Score, while Botet won her first World Cup competition in the Sprint in Oberhof, demonstrating how competitive the IBU Cup is. I would hail the Open European Championships as a great success. A great host, proper winter days and drama-packed competitions made for an unforgettable week.

**KRISTJAN OJA**  
IBU CUP RACE DIRECTOR



## A SEASON OF SUCCESS AND COLLABORATION IN THE IBU JUNIOR CUP

The 2024/2025 IBU Junior Cup season was highly successful, particularly in terms of snow management and consequently snow conditions. Organisers professionally prepared courses and venues for young biathletes. From beautiful Ridnaun and the new venue in Goms, Switzerland, to sunny Jakuszyce, challenging Altenberg, and finally the Youth/Junior World Championships in Oestersund, athletes experienced top-tier competition. There was outstanding cooperation among teams, the IBU, and organisers. Throughout the season, numerous

constructive actions and changes were implemented to enhance competition and advance projects like common waxing. The season saw many strong individual results and clear dominance by France in the overall standings, highlighting the emergence of new talents and offering every young athlete the opportunity to develop towards senior-level biathlon.

**TOMASZ BERNAT**  
IBU SPORT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,  
IBU JUNIOR CUP RACE DIRECTOR



# LOOP ONE FESTIVAL – A NEW WAY TO OPEN THE BIATHLON SEASON IN MUNICH

During the BMW IBU World Cup Ruhpolding week, the International Biathlon Union (IBU) unveiled the Loop One Festival, a groundbreaking two-day event designed to redefine the opening of the biathlon season.

For the first time, the biathlon season will kick off in an urban setting, with the iconic Munich Olympic Park hosting the inaugural Loop One Festival from 18-19 October 2025. The event will combine high-performance sport with a vibrant festival atmosphere, engaging both dedicated fans and newcomers.

Fans can look forward to world-class biathlon action in a historic summer venue, along with family-friendly activities, entertainment, and culinary and cultural experiences. The festival zone will offer interactive activities for all ages, including opportunities to try biathlon through the IBU’s Biathlon 4 All program.



**OLLE DAHLIN**, IBU President said:

*“The Loop One Festival aligns with our Strategic Plan Target 2030, showcasing how innovation and sustainability can expand biathlon’s reach. By embracing urban spaces and inclusive initiatives, we’re connecting with diverse audiences in new ways.”*

**MAX COBB**, IBU Secretary General, said:

*“The Loop One Festival is a groundbreaking step for biathlon. By bringing our sport to an iconic urban venue like Munich’s Olympic Park, we’re not just launching a new season - we’re reimagining how we connect with fans, especially young people.”*

**DANIEL BÖHM**, IBU Sport & Events Director said:

*“This event is a fresh take on summer biathlon, blending urban accessibility with a festival atmosphere. By moving beyond traditional formats, we’re making biathlon more inclusive and exciting for children and young people worldwide. Bringing biathlon into the city is a powerful way to inspire the next generation.”*

**JIRI HAMZA**, IBU Vice President said:

*“The Loop One Festival is a golden opportunity to redefine summer biathlon and position our sport for the future. Combining elite competition with urban engagement creates exciting potential to attract new fans and partners.”*

# LOOP ONE

IBU

## BIATHLON OPENING FESTIVAL



**18<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
Olympiapark Munich

**SPORTS. CULTURE. MUNICH.**





**IBU**  
DEVELOPMENT



ABOUT IBU DEVELOPMENT

The IBU Development Department aims to strengthen biathlon’s foundations and ensure its global growth, guided by IBU strategies Target 26 and Target 2030. It assists National Federations in creating sustainable athlete development systems, improving coach education and boosting participation at all levels.

The department manages funding for national projects, including initiatives to close competition gaps, provides equipment to emerging NFs and builds regional capacity through strategic partnerships. It also offers mentoring for personal and professional growth

within the biathlon community. Through the IBU Academy, it provides educational programmes like coach courses, webinars, dual career initiatives and online resources via LearningSuite.

Additionally, the department focuses on gender equality and youth recruitment, oversees Regional Events and IBU-IOC Camps to support athlete development, and runs outreach programmes like Biathlon 4 All and International Biathlon Day to promote the sport worldwide. Emphasising inclusion, innovation and collaboration, the department is key to shaping biathlon’s future.



*Dagmara G.*  
**DAGMARA GERASIMUK**  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**DAGMARA GERASIMUK**  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**GEROLD SATTLECKER**  
HEAD OF THE IBU ACADEMY

**ILARIO MADDALIN**  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
COORDINATOR

**ANNA KITZBICHLER**  
EDUCATION MANAGER

**CHRISTOPH GRESSENBAUER**  
EDUCATION MANAGER

**MAIJA SAVOLAINEN**  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
COORDINATOR

**STEFAN SPORRER**  
CONTENT CREATOR

FORWARD MOMENTUM

The 2024/2025 season continued the department’s mission to strengthen the foundations of biathlon development through education, collaboration and inclusive growth. Across all areas, progress was shaped by the shared efforts of our community and the evolving needs of National Federations (NFs).



At the heart of the IBU’s strategic plan is the ambition to expand biathlon’s reach and elevate the competitive level across member federations. That is why the Closing the Competition Gap project, launched in autumn 2024, directly supports this by identifying the needs of developing NFs and providing tailored resources and opportunities.

The full roll-out of the IBU Coach Education Programme marked a key milestone, with coaches engaging in training across all levels – from Basic Course to Third Level Course. At the same time, digital learning opportunities and new resources

supported continuous development in an increasingly accessible and inclusive environment.

Biathlon 4 All activities and events further expanded the sport’s reach, connecting local communities and encouraging wider participation. Regional Events and IBU-IOC Camps (youth and junior) created valuable platforms for young athletes to develop their skills, compete internationally and build friendships across borders.

Support for long-term engagement in the sport grew through initiatives promoting partnerships, mentorship, leadership and

gender equality. These efforts contributed to a more balanced and representative biathlon environment.

Development projects once again played a vital role in advancing national strategies. With increased investment and strong collaboration, NFs were empowered to deliver impactful initiatives tailored to their needs.

Together, these achievements reflect a continued commitment to building biathlon’s future - stronger, broader and more connected than ever before.





MAY 2024

## KIDS AND YOUTH RECRUITMENT FORUM

The International Biathlon Union organised the **Kids & Youth Recruitment Forum** in **Oestersund (SWE)** as part of the IBU's Biathlon 4 All project. This important event aims to increase the growth and participation of biathlon among young athletes. Mid Sweden University and the Swedish Biathlon Federation hosted the forum, which welcomed 50 participants from 34 NFs.



Scan the QR code to open the new Biathlon 4 All website.

NOVEMBER 2024

## BIATHLON 4 ALL - IT KEEPS GROWING

The IBU has announced the expansion of its Biathlon 4 All project, extending support to 15 NFs for the 2024/2025 season. This includes two new participating nations, Kazakhstan and Slovenia, increasing the total number of countries involved in the programme to 44. This growth reflects the IBU's ongoing commitment to global development.

JANUARY 2025

## BIATHLON 4 ALL AT MARCIALONGA

The Development Department represented Biathlon 4 All at the prestigious **Marcialonga Ski Classics** in **Italy**. Over two days, the team explored opportunities to enhance biathlon's visibility alongside cross-country skiing, engaging with a diverse audience and fostering interest in the sport.



APRIL 2025

## INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON DAY AND BIATHLON 4 ALL EVENTS GUIDE

The **Biathlon 4 All Coordinators Meeting** addressed key project goals, achievements, event formats and communication tools. A special focus was given to the first International Biathlon Day on 24 May 2025 and the creation of a Biathlon 4 All Events Guide. All coordinators can access materials and templates on the IBU Academy e-learning platform Learning-Suite or the dedicated website Biathlon 4 All to support local activities and grow the movement.



# IBU ACADEMY – COACH EDUCATION

## FIRST LEVEL COURSE

MAY 2024

The IBU Academy launched its **First Level Course 2024/2025** in **Hochfilzen**, Austria bringing together coaches from 21 different NFs. The course offered a well-rounded programme, concentrating on essential areas of biathlon coaching: skiing technique, shooting technique and equipment management.

OCTOBER 2024

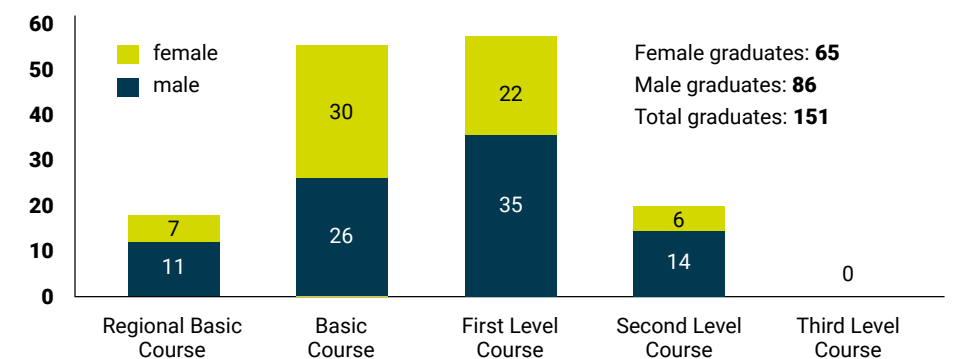
The IBU Academy's **First Level Course 2024/2025**, held in **Pokljuka**, Slovenia continued with its second week of intensive training. Coaches from 19 NFs engaged in sessions covering strength and agility training, shooting intensity, endurance training methods and practical preparations for youth biathlon competitions.

APRIL 2025

The final week of the IBU Academy **First Level Course**, from 1-7 April 2025, concluded in **Ramsau**, Austria. Nineteen participants completed the three-week journey and received their IBU First Level Coaching Certificates.



## GRADUATES PER COURSE UNTIL APRIL 2025



## SECOND LEVEL COURSE

JULY 2024

The IBU Academy successfully concluded its **Pilot Second Level Course 2023/2024**, which brought together 20 dedicated coaches from 19 different NFs. The course was held in **Oberhof**, Germany, **Lillehammer**, Norway and **Ruhpolding**, Germany providing the perfect environment for advanced coaching education and practical training.

SEPTEMBER 2024

The IBU Academy's **Second Level Course 2024/2025** - featuring a mix of classroom learning and practical training - took place in **Oberhof**, Germany on 14-18 September. 16 dedicated coaches representing 13 different National Federations came together for a week of intensive learning and collaboration.

APRIL 2025

The IBU Academy's **Second Level Course** held its second education week in **Lillehammer**, Norway from 12-16 April 2025. Sixteen dedicated coaches from 15 National Federations gathered for an intensive and enriching programme, marking the midpoint of the three-week course.

## THIRD LEVEL COURSE

NOVEMBER 2024

The IBU Academy successfully launched its **Pilot Third Level Course 2024/2025** - the final stage of the IBU Coach Education Programme - at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in **Oslo**, Norway. The three-day programme brought together ten participants from nine NFs, equipping them with advanced knowledge and skills to elevate the sport globally.

With the support of



OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY





### OTHER COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

JULY 2024

With the support of the IOC's Olympic Solidarity, the IBU completed its first-ever **Regional Basic Course** in **Shchuchinsk, Kazakhstan** gathering 26 dedicated coaches from Kazakhstan, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan. This intensive 4.5-day training program presents a significant step in enhancing biathlon coaching skills in the region.

AUGUST 2024

The IBU Academy held two online workshops to prepare future educators for the **Coach Education Programme**. The sessions focused on course structure, methodology, and practical implementation across all levels, fostering alignment and sharing insights from experienced educators to ensure high-quality, consistent coach education.

SEPTEMBER 2024

On 6 September, the existing and new mentors - including some of the most successful names in biathlon's recent history - for the IBU Coach Education programme together for an online meeting to address challenges, give recommendations and create an advanced mentoring structure for a robust and dynamic learning environment.

Current mentors: Siegfried Mazet (NF NOR), Jonne Kähkönen (NF ITA), Roger Grubben (NOR), Uros Velepec (SLO), Wolfgang Pichler (GER), Jonas Johansson (NF SWE), Jean-Marc Chabloz (NF SWE), Johannes Lukas (NF SWE), Matthias Ahrens (GER), Alexander Inderst (NF ITA)

APRIL 2025:

The IBU Academy **Basic Course** took place from 24–30 April 2025 across **Salzburg-Rif (AUT), Ruhpolding (GER),** and the **IBU Headquarters**. Nineteen aspiring coaches from 17 National Federations participated in a week of intensive theoretical and practical training, gaining essential knowledge and skills for their future roles in biathlon coaching.



## IBU ACADEMY – WEBINARS

MAY 2024

### IBU COACH WEBINAR - THE FEMALE BIATHLETE

The IBU hosted the **Coach Webinar - The Female Biathlete**, with 245 participants from 44 different NFs joining the online event. The presented topics included female-specific physiology factors, psychological aspects, nurturing talent, and career sustainability.

JUNE 2024

### IBU COACH WEBINAR - MASTERING SKIING TECHNIQUE

IBU hosted a **Mastering Skiing Technique** webinar that attracted 260 registered professionals from the world of skiing, including coaches, athletes, and sports directors. The event provided a platform for sharing knowledge and strategies - aimed at advancing the competitive edge of athletes and coaches alike.



DC4  
BIATHLETES

## IBU ACADEMY – DUAL CAREER

2024/2025

### INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

A team of six international biathletes from Finland, Norway, Switzerland, and Latvia trained and studied in **Oestersund, Sweden** as part of a new dual career initiative. The athletes received regular coaching support from the Swedish Biathlon Federation and benefitted from academic facilities at Mid Sweden University. The project was supported through the IBU's backing of customised development projects.

SEPTEMBER 2024

### IBU COACH WEBINAR - STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE

The IBU Academy webinar **Strength and Endurance** featured four well-known experts and attracted over 200 international biathlon coaches. The experts summarised the key topics in strength and endurance training, providing valuable insights to help coaches integrate scientific findings into their daily training routines.

SEPTEMBER 2024

### IBU ATHLETES WEBINAR - MENTAL WELL-BEING FOR ATHLETES

The IBU Academy hosted a **Mental Well-being for Athletes** webinar, highlighting the holistic needs of athletes at all levels. The webinar, which featured experts' insights, attracted a strong response, with 266 registrants from 47 different National Federations. It emphasised the critical importance of mental health for overall well-being and peak performance.



MARCH 2025

### DC4BIATHLETES PROJECT IN OESTERSUND

From 1–3 March 2025, the **DC4Biathletes** project was showcased at the **Youth & Junior World Championships** in **Oestersund, Sweden** engaging over 100 athletes from 31 countries. Through workshops, direct outreach and a dedicated stand, the initiative raised awareness about dual careers in biathlon and encouraged athletes to participate in a survey on balancing sport with academic or professional pursuits.



# IBU-IOC CAMPS



## AUGUST 2024 IBU-IOC SUMMER CAMP OTEPAA

**Participants:** 48 athletes from 13 NFs  
**Coaches:** Matthias Ahrens (GER), Martina Seidl (GER), Kristiina Kresmer (EST), and Lukas Jakeliunas (LTU)  
**Focus:** Biathlon preparation, endurance, coordination, anti-doping, and safety  
**Highlight:** Regina Ermits as a role model, talking about her life as a professional World Cup athlete

## OCTOBER 2024 IBU-IOC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CAMP NOVE MESTO

**Participants:** 76 young athletes from 21 NFs  
**Support:** Olympic Solidarity  
**Key Contributors:** Ondrej Rybar (Sport Director of the Czech Biathlon Union) and Olympic medallist Ondrej Moravec (CZE)  
**Activities:** Intensive training sessions and fun activities under ideal autumn conditions



## NOVEMBER 2024 IBU-IOC WINTER CAMP MARTELL - VAL MARTELLO

**Participants:** 54 athletes and 14 coaches from 14 NFs  
**Coaches:** Armin Kasslatter, Karin Oberhofer, Edoardo Mezzaro, and Thomas Bormolini (all ITA)  
**Focus:** Training and education in shooting, nutrition, and anti-doping  
**Highlight:** Inspirational talk by Thomas Bormolini on career reflections and encouraging growth and learning

With the support of



# IBU ACADEMY SCIENCE

## JULY 2024 RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME (RGP)

Three new projects were selected for the 2024/25 cycle of the RGP. The funds were granted to:

- **Physiologic and biomechanical effects of manipulating rifle carriage position and harness tightness** – Montana State University
- **Symptoms of REDs in young elite biathlon athletes** – Østfold University College
- **Managing menstrual cycle symptoms in high-performing female biathletes** – Mid Sweden University.

## SEPTEMBER 2024

The 2023/24 Research Grant Programme concluded successfully on **5 September 2024** with final presentations of six outstanding projects by international researchers. Topics included:

- **Visual requirements of elite biathletes** – AECC University College
- **Trigger control and recoil simulation in shooting** – University of Salzburg
- **Effects of caffeine on biathlon performance** – TU Munich
- **Pacing behaviour with and without shooting** – Northumbria University
- **Environmental impacts of spectator transport** – Texas A&M University
- **National team athletes' experiences of the menstrual cycle** – University of Alberta.

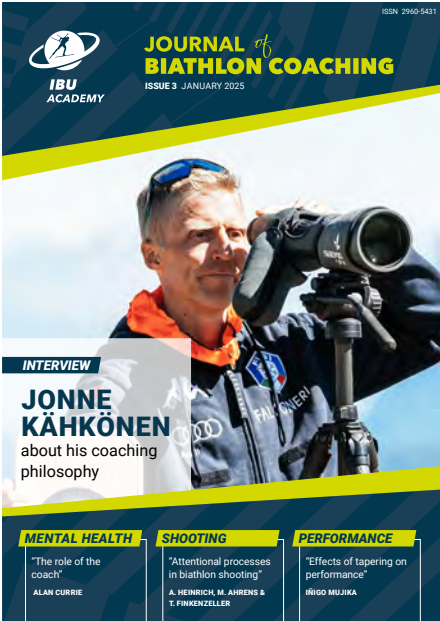


## JULY 2024 JOURNAL OF BIATHLON COACHING: ISSUE 2

The IBU Academy published the second issue of the **Journal of Biathlon Coaching** in **July 2024**, focusing on scientific insights and innovative methods in biathlon coaching. This edition addressed gender-specific training strategies, athlete monitoring and preparation for high-altitude competitions. It also featured practical input on skiing technique and biathlon shooting, alongside an interview with Sandra Flunger on team building and long-term athlete development.



Scan here to get an insight into the Journal of Biathlon Coaching



## JANUARY 2025 JOURNAL OF BIATHLON COACHING: ISSUE 3

The IBU Academy published the third issue of the **Journal of Biathlon Coaching** in **January 2025**. This edition covers underperformance in endurance sports, tapering and peaking strategies, mental health approaches for teams and techniques to improve focus in biathlon shooting. It also features an in-depth interview with Italian Head Coach Jonne Kähkönen on his Olympic preparation and coaching philosophy.

## IBU ACADEMY AT THE ICSS CONGRESS

The **ICSS Congress**, in partnership with the IBU Academy, hosted sports science experts in **Cavelese (ITA)**. A team of the IBU Academy introduced the Academy's projects and initiatives, which aimed to expand the Academy's network and foster experts' cooperation.



# REGIONAL EVENTS

## 2024/2025 ATHLETE REGISTRATION AND RESULTS MANAGEMENT

The development of Regional Events took a new step in the winter season 2024/2025 as IBU initiated basic athlete registration on the IBU Membercenter, resulting in the registration of 1,447 new athletes. The results of Winter Regional Events were also tracked in the IBU Datacenter.



36 NATIONAL  
FEDERATIONS FROM  
6 REGIONS

OVER  
4,100  
PARTICIPANTS

38 EVENTS  
(24 WINTER AND  
14 SUMMER)

1,447 BASIC ATHLETE  
REGISTRATIONS IN THE  
IBU MEMBERCENTER

# GENDER EQUALITY

## APRIL 2024 UNCONSCIOUS BIAS WORKSHOP

The IBU proudly hosted its second Unconscious Bias Workshop, once again shining a spotlight on its commitment to gender equality as outlined in its strategic plan, Target 26. The online workshops were held on 9 and 18 April 2024, in collaboration with the **ESCP Business School Berlin**, under the guidance of Prof. Marion Festing. A total of 50 individuals participated in the workshops, with a notable 70% male attendance at the NF-focused sessions.

## JUNE 2024 DEVELOPING FEMALE BIATHLON LEADERS

The IBU advanced gender equality and professional growth through the 2023/2024 **IBU Mentorship Programme** in **Lenzerheide**, Switzerland with former champions Kaisa Makarainen (FIN), Anaïs Bescond (FRA), and Susan Dunklee (USA) among the 12 mentees.

## AUGUST 2024 IBU ATHLETE SURVEY: GENDER PORTRAYAL

An IBU survey on the portrayal of male and female biathletes — a key focus of the **IBU Gender Equality Strategy** — found most athletes believe coverage is equal across IBU platforms. Developed with IBU Athlete Ambassadors, the survey in line with the **IOC's Portrayal Guidelines**.

## APRIL 2025 DEI WORKING GROUP

As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) across the sport, the IBU established a DEI Working Group. The group play a central role in guiding the transition from the current Gender Equality Strategy 2026 toward a broader and more comprehensive DEI Strategy 2030, in line with the IBU's long-term sustainability vision outlined in its Target 2030 strategy. Following a call for applications earlier this year, the IBU is pleased to announce the members of the DEI Working Group:



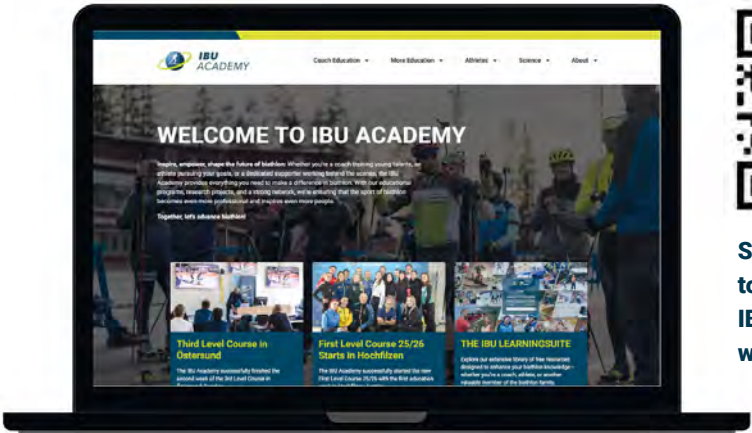
Scan the QR code to open the members of the DEI Working Group

# IBU ACADEMY – NEW COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

## IBU ACADEMY WEBSITE

The new IBU Academy website provides clear information and easy access to educational and scientific offers, such as:

- **Coach education courses**
- **Seminars and webinars**
- **Educational courses for other stakeholders**
- **Dual career offers**
- **Journal of Biathlon Coaching**
- **Research Grant Programme and other scientific projects.**



Scan the QR code to open the new IBU Academy website.

## IBU ACADEMY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

The new **IBU Academy email newsletter** delivers regular updates on upcoming courses and webinars, along with key information on applications, registrations, and other Academy news. It's a valuable resource for keeping coaches, officials, athletes and other NF stakeholders informed, connected, and engaged.



## E-LEARNING PLATFORM LEARNINGSUITE

With over **3,300 members**, the platform offers a rich variety of courses for the entire biathlon community, including coaches, athletes, technicians, physicians, referees, officials, organizing committees, and more. Over the past year, new courses and dedicated hubs for referees, Para Biathlon, development support, the

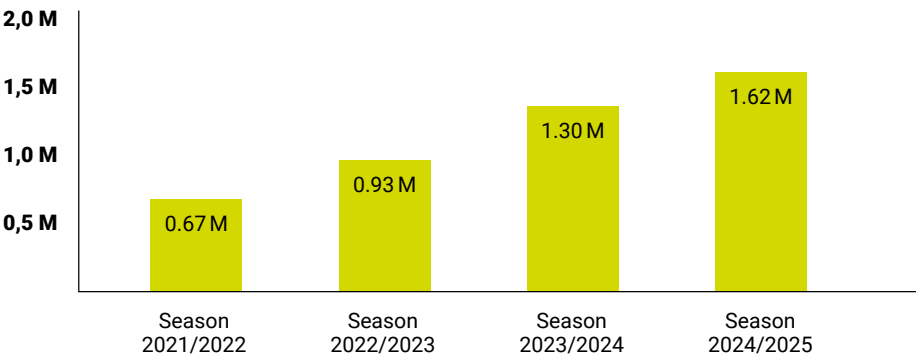
mentorship program, and rifle safety have expanded opportunities for professional learning and the sharing of best practices. Regular updates have also enhanced the usability and accessibility of the platform.



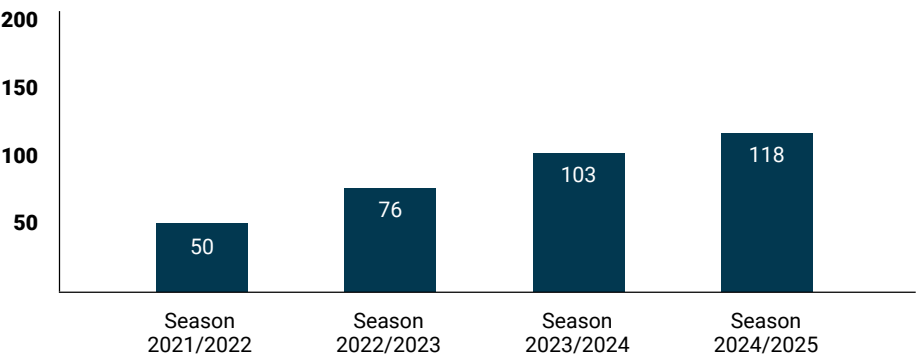


# NATIONAL FEDERATIONS SUPPORT

NFs DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – BUDGET APPROVED



NFs DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – NUMBER OF PROJECTS APPROVED



## JUNE 2024 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING

From 28–29 June, the **Development Commission** met in **Jaca**, Spain for the yearly in-person meeting to discuss the most pressing topics: development projects, the Biathlon 4 All project, Regional Events, Closing the Competition Gap initiative, education of executives, licensing of coaches, and the NFs’ project support for 2024/25.

## JUNE 2024 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUPPORT

The EB allocated Insert euro sign 1.62 million EUR to support 118 development projects to be distributed among 39 NFs. The most requested projects were NF Partnership’s projects, followed by the Identification and Training of Youth and Juniors, Popularisation of Biathlon among Kids, Gender Equality and Diversity, and Athlete Career Transition Support.

## SEPTEMBER 2024 CLOSING THE COMPETITION GAP PROGRAMME

The project began with in-depth interviews with selected NFs that have the potential to achieve IBU goals—including countries frequently on the podium at the Olympic Games, World Championships, and World Cups. The goal was to identify their specific needs and challenges, followed by targeted financial support and expert guidance to accelerate their development pathways.

## DECEMBER 2024 MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION HOCHFILZEN

From 11–12 December 2024, the IBU held its annual **Material Distribution in Hochfilzen**, Austria supporting 38 National Federations across development categories B, C, D, and E. With contributions from 28 Supplying Partners, equipment worth 960,000 EUR was distributed based on requests and athlete participation, reinforcing the IBU’s commitment to developing biathlon globally.

## MARCH 2025 DEVELOPMENT INFO DAY

On 26 March 2025, the IBU hosted its annual **Development Info Day** in two online sessions for National Federations. During the meeting, all the key projects for the 2025/26 season were presented to help the NFs understand the latest updates, the support available and the application deadlines.

## APRIL 2025 LIATOPPEN BIATHLON FESTIVAL

As part of the IBU Development Project, young athletes from eight nations joined the **Liatoppen Biathlon Festival**, Norway - the world’s largest youth biathlon event, with over 1,100 participants. The camp combined competition, education and cultural exchange. The project was led by the National Federation of Norway as part of the IBU’s customised development projects initiative.





# IBU STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY



ABOUT IBU STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Target 2030 is the new strategic framework for the future of biathlon, approved by the 16th Ordinary Congress in September 2024. Built on the foundations of the IBU’s first strategic plan Target26, it leverages the progress realised between 2019-2024 to propel the sport to new heights in 2030 and beyond. The initial focus of implementation has centered on the four strategic priorities: Closing the competition gap; development of a modern, sustainable sport and event concept;

analysis of the IBU’s commercial model; and full integration of the IBU’s underlying principles (integrity, governance and sustainability).

Within sustainability, the IBU’s goal is to remain a leader in the sport industry through cooperative partnerships and concrete impact to ensure the resilience of the sport of biathlon for decades to come.



*Riiikka Rakic*

**RIIKKA RAKIC**  
HEAD OF STRATEGY,  
SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

**RIIKKA RAKIC**  
HEAD OF STRATEGY, SUSTAINABILITY  
AND GOVERNANCE

**THERESA HEINSINGER**  
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

**BARBARA RETTENBACHER**  
SUSTAINABILITY ASSISTANT

**TOMI-PEKKA RIIHIVUORI**  
PARA BIATHLON MANAGER

**MAIJA SAVOLAINEN**  
PARA BIATHLON COORDINATOR

TARGET2030

REMAINING A LEADER IN SPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Over the last year, the IBU has reinforced its position as a leader in sport and sustainability through a series of impactful initiatives and recognitions.



As a highlight, the IBU earned a “Highly Commended” mention in the IOC Climate Action Awards for pioneering work with the European Broadcasting Union to reduce emissions in TV production, which resulted in the World Championships Lenzerheide 2025 earning an albert certification for sustainable production, a first for major world championships in winter sport.

Collaborations and cooperations remain a key for biathlon to deliver impact outside its immediate sphere. Through Erasmus+ EU-funded projects SIEPPUR, BENCHES

and GAMES, the IBU promoted sustainable snow management and advanced biodiversity monitoring, and spread event decarbonisation practices far beyond its own community.

We have used partnerships, such as the one with Protect Our Winters, to deliver workshops to empower athletes to advocate for climate action, and continue to support the IBU Athlete Ambassadors, enabling them to pursue awareness-raising activities with their peers and followers.

Major IBU events are also increasingly delivering exciting examples of sustainable event provision. This is why the IBU’s Sustainability Awards were expanded to include National Federations in addition to organising committees, spotlighting practical innovations in renewable energy and CO<sub>2</sub>-saving infrastructure.

Our commitment to realising our ambitious climate targets remains steadfast. We invite you to read more in our Sustainability Report 2024 and the first edition of the IBU Climate Transition Action Plan.



**MAY 2024**  
**IBU FEATURED WITH  
THREE SUSTAINABILITY CASE  
STUDIES BY IOC**

The IBU was well-represented when the IOC published its 2023 Olympic Movement Sustainability Case Studies. For the past eight years, the IOC has been selecting impressive sustainability efforts by the Olympic Movement. In addition to the three previous case studies from 2020-2022, a total of three IBU sustainability projects were chosen in 2023 for IOC case studies, the most out of anyone in the Olympic Movement.

**Global  
Sustainable  
Sport**



**Ukaleq Slettemark, OLY**  
Olympian and Biathlete



**JULY 2024**  
**IBU AMBASSADORS' REAL  
IMPACT VOICE**

Ukaleq Slettemark and Jacques Jefferies, both IBU Sustainability Athlete Ambassadors, spoke about the important role athletes play in promoting and advancing sustainability within sport. Slettemark participated in a panel discussion at the GSSport24 Online Conference and Jefferies attended the 44th European Olympic Committees (EOC) Seminar in October in Montenegro. They emphasised the unique position of athletes to influence change, both within their sport and beyond.

**SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**IOC CLIMATE ACTION  
AWARDS 2024: IBU HIGHLY  
COMMENDED**

The IBU has been recognised in the "Highly Commended" category of the IOC Climate Action Awards 2024 for working with TV broadcasters, in collaboration with the EBU, to measure their carbon footprint during the 2023/24 World Cup season and identify initiatives they can implement to reduce emissions. The IBU emerged as the first International Federation that has looked at systematically reducing its major events' broadcasting emissions – an area that is often deemed difficult to address.



**SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**NF GERMANY AND OC OSLO  
WIN 2024 SUSTAINABILITY  
AWARDS**

At the 2024 IBU Congress in Belgrade, the IBU Awards for the 2023/2024 season were presented. The IBU Sustainability Award, launched in 2022, was expanded to include National Federations. The German Ski Federation (DSV) won the NF Award for replacing diesel generators with pellet-based heating at World Cup events. The OC Award went to Oslo-Holmenkollen for CO2-saving measures, including foldable waxing cabins and renewable power for tent infrastructure.

**OCTOBER 2024**  
**SIEPPUR SNOW-HOW  
WEBINAR SERIES**

After the midterm conference, the Sustainable Snow Summit in April 2024, the SIEPPUR project, funded by Erasmus+, completed its Snow-How webinar series, designed to equip IBU stakeholders with practical know-how on sustainable snow management. This three-part series offered valuable insights into snow production, storage, transport, grooming and handling.



**DECEMBER 2024**  
**BENCHES ON-SITE VISIT  
IN KONTIOLAHTI**

As part of the Erasmus+ programme, Project BENCHES, the project group gathered in Kontiolahti to conduct an onsite visit to the World Cup venue to evaluate the biodiversity management of the event.





**FEBRUARY 2025**  
**GAMES: FOR A GREENER FUTURE**

The Erasmus+-funded GAMES project (Green Approaches in Management for Enhancing Sports) concluded in February 2025 after 30 months of dedicated work to promote environmental sustainability in sport. By assessing its governance and management, the IBU introduced new practices to help decarbonise biathlon. The findings were presented at the final conference in Malmö, Sweden in December 2024.



**SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024**  
**BECOMING A LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY IN SPORT**

**MARCH 2025**  
**SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024**

The IBU has published its Sustainability Report 2024 and Climate Transition Action Plan as the federation continues to receive international recognition – including the prestigious albert certification – as a leader in sustainability in sport.



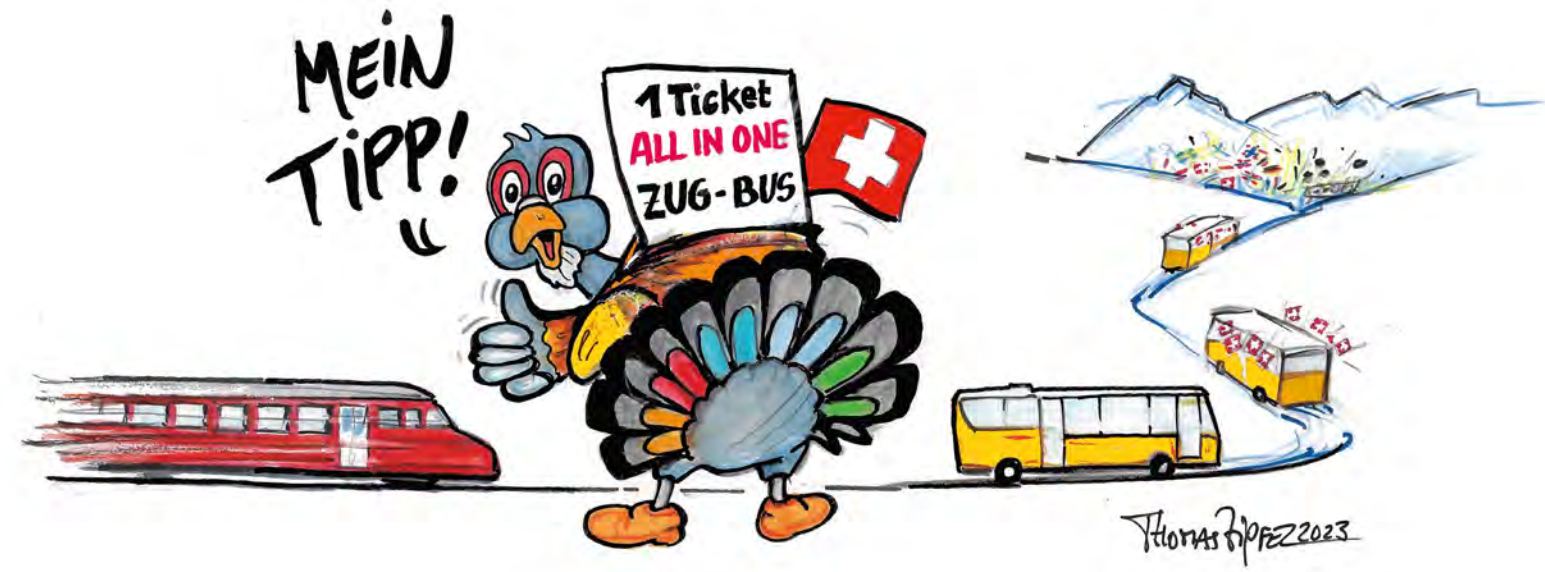
Scan the QR code to open the Sustainability Report 2024.



Scan the QR code to open the Climate Transition Action Plan.

**MARCH 2025**  
**ATHLETE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS**

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability, the IBU partnered with Protect Our Winters (POW) to host a series of Athlete Sustainability Workshops during the 2024/2025 season. These workshops offered athletes insights into climate change and their potential to drive positive change within their communities.



**MARCH 2025**  
**LENZERHEIDE 2025: GREEN PATH FORWARD**

More than 85,000 biathlon fans gathered in Lenzerheide for the spectacular BMW IBU World Championships. Beyond the thrilling action on the tracks and shooting range, Lenzerheide 2025 set new standards in sustainability, focusing on three key areas: sustainability basics, local impact and national legacies - paving the way for greener World Championships in the future.

**MARCH 2025**  
**INAUGURAL UN WORLD GLACIERS DAY**

On 21 March 2025, the world marked the inaugural UN World Glaciers Day, highlighting the urgent need to protect glaciers from climate change. The IBU has joined the Task Force for the International Year of Glaciers 2025, emphasising the link between snow sports and preserving frozen landscapes.

**APRIL 2025**  
**SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT BEST PRACTICES**

The IBU's Best Practice Sharing webinar on 1 April offered National Federations insights and inspiration for their Development Support Call applications. The event highlighted successful projects and initiatives in sustainability, partnerships, athlete development and gender equality.







# IBU COMMUNICATIONS



ABOUT IBU COMMUNICATIONS

This season delivered historic moments, from the Boe brothers’ farewell to Franziska Press’s Total Score triumph, showcasing biathlon’s thrilling drama to global fans.

To expand our international reach, we launched the “REACH 26” initiative, focusing on content creation, syndication, and promotion around the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympics. As the first Central European Games in 20 years, this is a prime opportunity to grow biathlon’s audience. The IBU Communications team is driving 25 projects to elevate athlete profiles, create content for multipliers, and build strategic partnerships.

Aligned with Target 2030, we’re developing an IBU Media House to produce tailored content and support stakeholders. New hires, like an Athletes’ Content Creator, have already generated 8 million+ views, boosting fan engagement.

We’re also collaborating with National Federations: we created a Webinar Series and hosted Content Creator Workshop in Hochfilzen with 30+ participants from 20 countries. Our EBU and broadcaster partnerships remain central to delivering high-quality content.

These joint efforts of the biathlon family already yield impressive results: Over the past two years, we have tripled our global fanbase – one of the Target 2030 objectives. On its Social Media Channels alone, the IBU reached almost 280 million users, quadrupling its reach in the last 3 years. Additionally, app downloads have continued to grow, with a 27% year-on-year increase, demonstrating our increasing digital footprint.

The 2024/25 season tested key initiatives, setting the stage for Milano-Cortina 2026, where we’ll showcase biathlon on the world stage and leverage iconic moments from Antholz-Anterselva.



*Winkler*  
**CHRISTIAN WINKLER**  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

**CHRISTIAN WINKLER**  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

**RENÉ DENFELD**  
HEAD OF DIGITAL

**LORENZO GIOVACCHINI**  
DIGITAL MARKETING MANAGER

**LAURA FRITZENWENGER**  
IBU JUNIOR DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

**MARIYA OSOLODKINA**  
WC MEDIA MANAGER

**CHRISTIAN MANZONI**  
PHOTO MANAGER

**JAKA LUCU**  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER

**CONTENT CREATORS**  
SOCIAL, PHOTO, VIDEO, EDITORS

BIATHLON’S DRAMA AND COLLABORATION  
DRIVE GROWTH

The appeal of any sport hinges on its drama, authenticity, and the strength of its community. Biathlon, with its intense blend of skill and suspense - as seen in the unforgettable season finale in Oslo Holmenkollen, where Franziska Preuss and Lou Jeanmonnot fought to the last meters before sharing a bittersweet yet genuinely friendly embrace - continues to captivate and grow its global fanbase. This season, the IBU Communications Department worked hand-in-hand with all departments and stakeholders to extend biathlon’s reach - and the numbers speak for themselves.

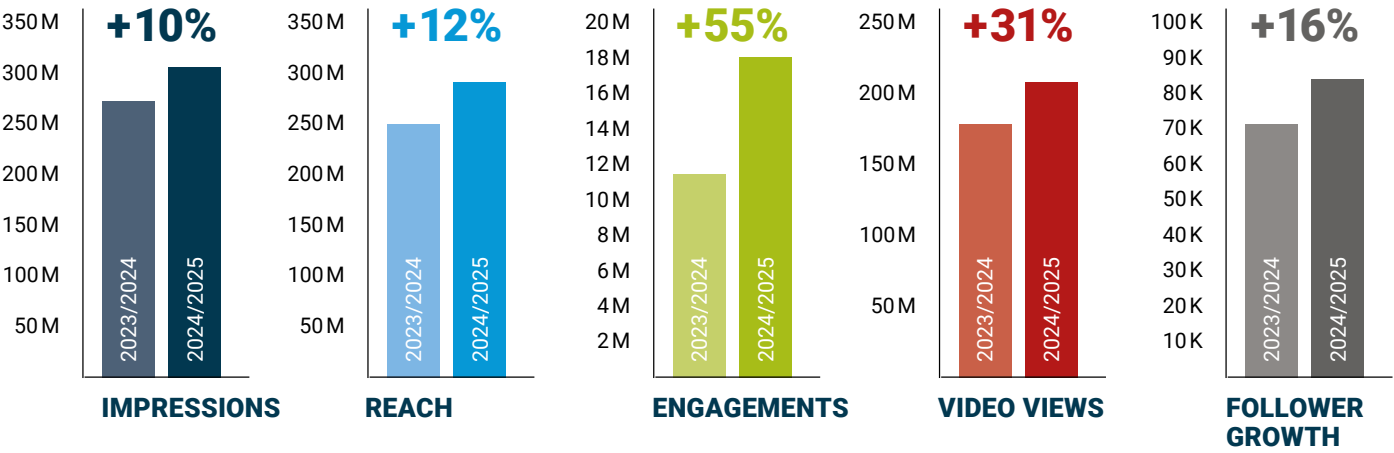




SOCIAL MEDIA

FANS ARE WATCHING MORE, INTERACTING MORE, AND SHOWING MORE LOVE THAN EVER!

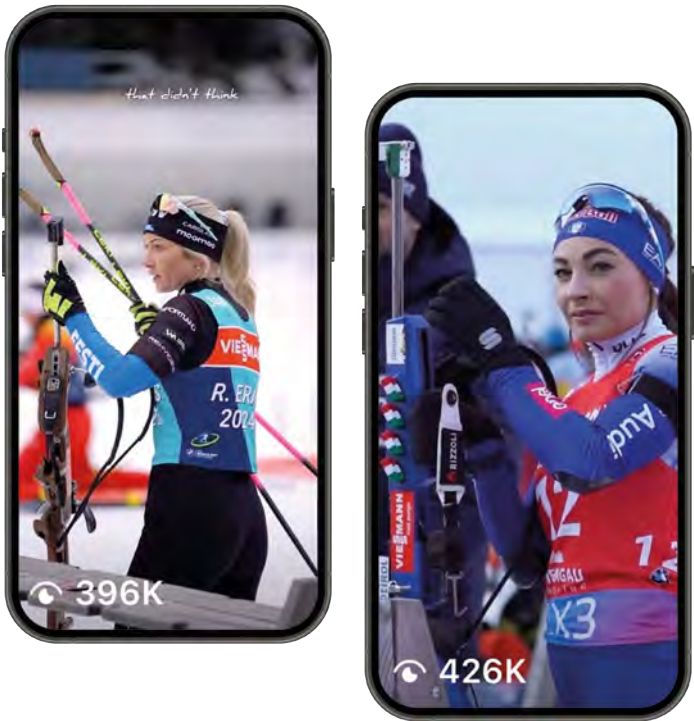
The IBU’s social media impact soared to new heights—reaching nearly **280 M users and quadrupling its audience** in just three years, while growing its digital community to over 650,000 followers, a 16% increase, and boosting engagements by 55% through surging video views, reach, and impressions.



ATHLETE CONTENT CREATOR  
A GAME-CHANGER

Our Athlete Content Creator worked hand-in-hand with athletes, giving fans an authentic, behind-the-scenes look at their journeys - deepening connections and bringing the sport to life from a fresh perspective.

With over **150 content pieces** (including **81 from Top 20 athletes**), the biathlon stars helped generate **8.6 M views** and **720,000 interactions** – bringing fans closer than ever to the action, the personalities, and the passion behind the sport.

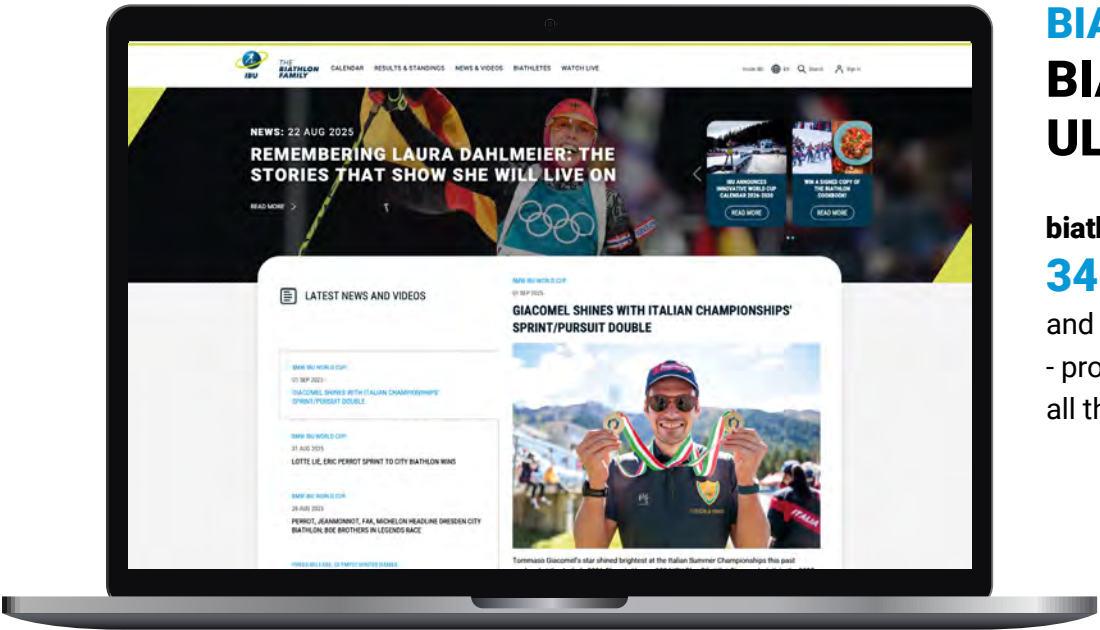


IBU APP

UNSTOPPABLE

In 2024/2025, the IBU App achieved substantial growth, with downloads and user engagement reaching new heights - demonstrating biathlon’s expanding digital presence and impact.

- The **IBU App** downloads keep climbing - now with **340,000 installs** (+27% compared to 2023/2024)
- Fans are staying longer too, with average stay **over 700 seconds** (+32% per session compared to 2023/2024)



BIATHLONWORLD.COM  
BIATHLON’S  
ULTIMATE HUB

biathlonworld.com saw **34 M page views** and welcomed **over 9 M visitors** - proving it’s the place to be for all things biathlon.



BMW IBU WORLD CUP

**CAPTIVATING THE GLOBE**

Nearly **26 M** hearts racing together for each World Cup showdown!

BMW IBU WORLD CUP

**ROUND-THE-CLOCK THRILLS**

Over **2,300 hours** of non-stop coverage brought every moment to life!

BMW IBU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**EXTENSIVE COVERAGE**

Lenzerheide 2025 showcased biathlon with **582 hours** of live action, keeping fans engaged throughout the competition.

BMW IBU WORLD CUP

**LIVE AND BREATHING THE ACTION**

Almost **400 M hours** of live viewing kept fans on the edge of their seats!

BMW IBU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**STRONG VIEWER ENGAGEMENT**

**124.9 million hours** viewed: The world couldn't look away as Lenzerheide 2025 set the stage for biathlon's most thrilling moments!

BMW IBU WORLD CUP

**UNITING FANS WORLDWIDE**

An average of **6.2 M viewers** tuned in for every thrilling World Cup week!

BMW IBU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BROAD AUDIENCE REACH**

A total of **45.4 million fans** worldwide followed Lenzerheide 2025, reflecting biathlon's steady growth and appeal.

## TV AUDIENCE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

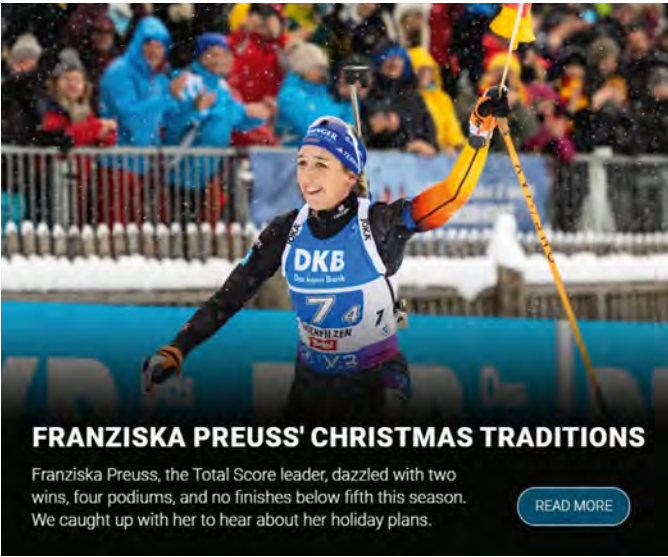
Explore the impact and reach of the EBU Sport Report, showcasing data from 19 countries and spanning all transmission types from November 30, 2024, to March 23, 2025.



THE NEW  
**X3**  
PLUG-IN-HYBRID

HOLMENKOLLEN





FRANZISKA PREUSS' CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Franziska Preuss, the Total Score leader, dazzled with two wins, four podiums, and no finishes below fifth this season. We caught up with her to hear about her holiday plans.

READ MORE

PREDICTOR CHALLENGE  
FANS IN THE GAME

- With **14 M total plays** and **4,490 daily active users** (+43% compared to 2023/2024), fans showed up in force for the **Predictor Challenge** during the **IBU World Championships in Lenzerheide**. The challenge boosted our database by **45%** (now **33,000 users**) and generated **1.8 M website views** – proving fans love to predict as much as they love to watch!



eCUP TOURNAMENTS  
LEVELLING UP BIATHLON

In partnership with industry leader **PowerPlay Studio**, we launched the **first-ever biathlon eGame** – and fans jumped in! The **IBU eCup Tournament** generated over **400,000 impressions** in just 3 months. **149,000 new players** joined Winter Sports Mania in Q1, with **115,000+ active users** in January alone – marking a strong step into the gaming world.

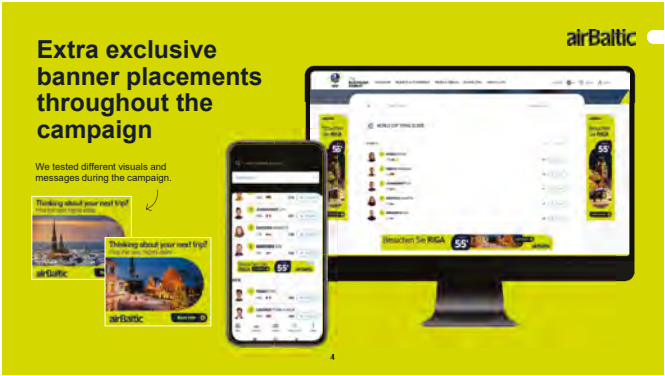


BIATHLON INSIDER  
DIRECT TO THE FANS' INBOX

- The **Biathlon Insider newsletter** now counts **53,000 subscribers** - and with a remarkable **62% average open rate** it's clear fans want the inside scoop!
- With **300,000 monthly active endpoints** across push notifications and emails, our messages are reaching the Biathlon Family like never before.

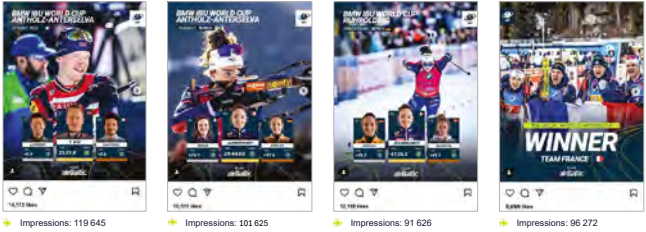
PERFORMANCE MARKETING  
MARKETING THAT DELIVERS

Through **5 targeted campaigns** across the full marketing funnel, our performance marketing strategy made a major impact. We reached a massive **79.5 M total impressions**, driving **96,000 IBU App downloads** (+27%, 25% conversion rate). To support visibility, **19.3 M impressions** boosted our broadcasters, while **12.6 M** targeted casual fans - achieving a standout **5.18% CTR** on Meta Ads.



Social media post examples

Over 35 social media post were made during the campaign.



Scan the QR code to dive into the full Digital Marketing & Advertising Opportunities

DIGITAL SPONSORSHIP  
AIRBALTIC: TAKING OFF WITH DIGITAL SPONSORSHIP

In a first for biathlon, the IBU partnered with AirBaltic in a digital-only sponsorship agreement during the 2024/2025 season. The Latvian airline chose to associate with biathlon to connect with a premium, gender-balanced, and sport-enthusiastic Central-European audience - and the results spoke for themselves.

The campaign delivered a strong boost in reach and brand awareness, including:

- **10.1 M impressions** via the Biathlonworld website and app
- **2.7 M impressions** and **over 350,000 engagements** on social media (Meta)
- **160,000 targeted emails** sent with an outstanding **64% open rate**





# IBU FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



ABOUT IBU FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Finance & Administration Department is responsible for all financial, administrative, and IT-related processes, ensuring that financial stability, operational efficiency, technological performance, and legal compliance go hand in hand – laying the foundation for the sustainable success of the IBU.

Its scope ranges from day-to-day accounting to the preparation of annual financial statements, payment transactions, cash management, and the investment of securities in accordance with defined guidelines. Other core tasks include payroll, travel expense and credit card accounting, the management of suppliers, members, and partners, as well as collaboration with banks, auditors, tax advisors, and lawyers. The department is also responsible for budgeting and forecasting, and for conducting financial planning and analysis to provide a solid foundation for sound management decisions. It addresses tax matters and, to ensure compliance and well-structured operations, maintains internal policies and produces the IBU Staff Handbook.

In addition, the department is responsible for HR-related matters, including time recording, contract creation with employees, consultants, and freelancers, insurance management, office administration, and the purchase process. It ensures compliance with EU General Data Protection Regulations, oversees risk management, and safeguards the organisation’s trademarks.

In the IT and technical domain, the department ensures the smooth operation of the IT environment - from hardware and software support to IT infrastructure. Continuous improvement concepts are developed to enhance efficiency, and training sessions are organized to ensure that employees are well-prepared in a fast-paced environment. Security is a top priority, with ongoing enhancements to cyber security measures and the maintenance of an emergency manual. Ongoing user support ensures that the team can maintain seamless communication across the organisation.



*Hannes Kleineisen*  
**HANNES KLEINEISEN**  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
AND ADMINISTRATION

**HANNES KLEINEISEN**  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
AND ADMINISTRATION

**NICOLE DENKSTEIN**  
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF  
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**CAROLA WOJAK**  
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

**BEATRIX KRUMBÖCK**  
ACCOUNTING AND PAYROLL

**ANDREA DANIEL**  
ACCOUNTING

**CHRISTINE SALVATORE**  
ACCOUNTING

FINANCIAL REPORT

ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT  
OVERVIEW

The IBU is a registered tax-exempt non-profit association and holds the status of an International Non-Governmental Organisation. Pursuant to the Austrian Law of Associations, the IBU qualifies as a major association and is therefore subject to the accounting and financial reporting requirements set out in the Austrian Commercial Code (UGB).

The financial statements for the period from 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025 were prepared in compliance with Austrian law, applicable accounting standards, and the provisions of the IBU’s constitution. In their preparation, the principle of prudence was strictly observed: assets and liabilities were measured conservatively, foreseeable risks and potential losses were taken into account, and profits were only recognised when they had been realized by the balance sheet date.

The audit was conducted by Crowe SOT GmbH, Vienna, in accordance with applicable legal and statutory requirements and the International Standards on Auditing. The financial statements received were confirmed without qualification.

To enhance transparency and facilitate analysis, the release of the EUR 4.3 million IOC temporarily restricted reserve is presented in the Income section for the subsequent text in this accountability report.

INCOME STATEMENT 2024/25 – YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON

	REVENUES / COSTS	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025	FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024
	<b>Total Income</b> (incl. IOC revenue)	<b>€ 56,236,547</b>	<b>€ 52,394,924</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>- € 54,344,702</b>	<b>- € 50,432,502</b>
30 Apr 25	<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>€ 1,891,845</b>	<b>€ 1,962,422</b>
30 Apr 25	Financial Result	€ 2,556,182	€ 4,351,830
	Income Taxes	- € 281,481	-€ 302,233
30 Apr 24	<b>Annual Surplus</b>	<b>€ 4,166,547</b>	<b>€ 6,012,018</b>
	Allocation to Restricted Reserves	- € 2,725,000	-€ 1,000,000
	Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	€ 2,656,137	-€ 2,355,882
30 Apr 24	<b>Balance Sheet Surplus</b>	<b>€ 4,097,683</b>	<b>€ 2,656,137</b>

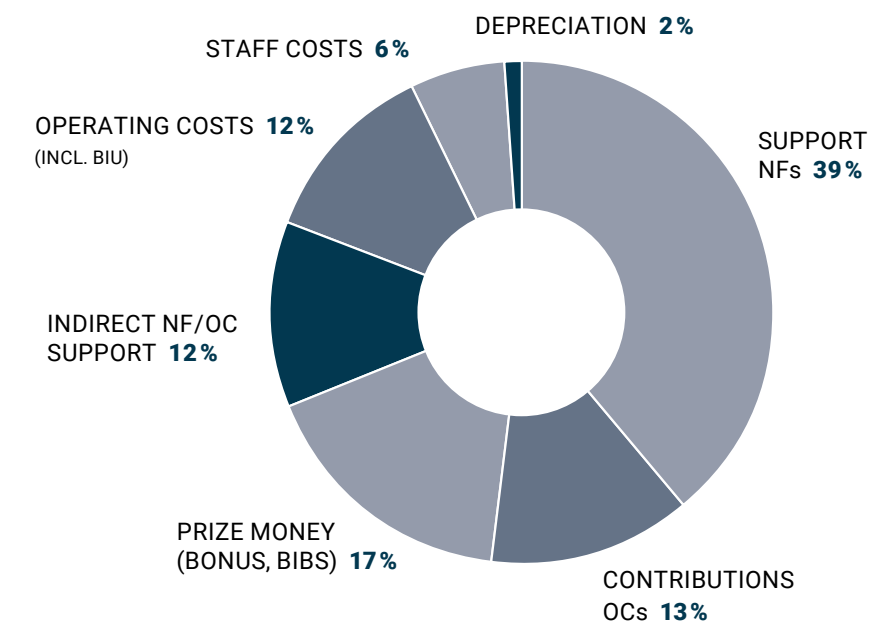
Despite the ongoing impact of the war in Ukraine on the sport of biathlon, with the National Federations of Russia and Belarus still suspended, the IBU achieved strong financial results in 2024/2025. Media and marketing revenues increased compared with the previous year, leading to total income of over EUR 56 million. On the cost side, inflation has eased compared to previous years but remains above the long-term average. As a result, an **operating surplus** of EUR 1.9 million was achieved.

The **financial result** was also exceptionally positive at almost EUR 2.6 million, driven by two key factors: higher interest rates on short- and medium-term deposits, which increased interest income, and the recovery of financial markets, which resulted in recoveries in the value of long-term securities. This is particularly encouraging, as the chosen investment strategy has proven effective - initial losses in prior years have now been fully recovered.

After income taxes, the **annual surplus** amounted to EUR 4.2 million. In line with the Congress decision, EUR 2.7 million was allocated to restricted reserves. Together with the accumulated surplus from the previous year of EUR 2.7 million, the **balance sheet surplus** at 30 April 2025 amounts to EUR 4.1 million.



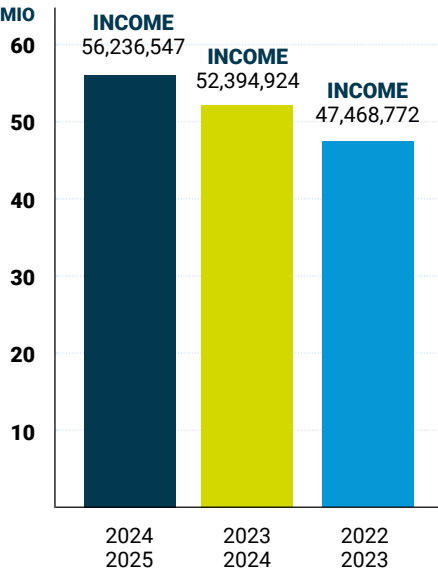
EXPENSES BY CATEGORY FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025



EXPENSE	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025
NF Support	€ 20,961,674
OC Contribution	€ 6,890,102
Prize Money	€ 9,387,900
Indirect NF/OC Support	€ 6,296,526
Operating Expenses	€ 6,577,513
Staff costs	€ 3,478,687
Depreciation	€ 752,300
Total Expenses	€ 54,344,702

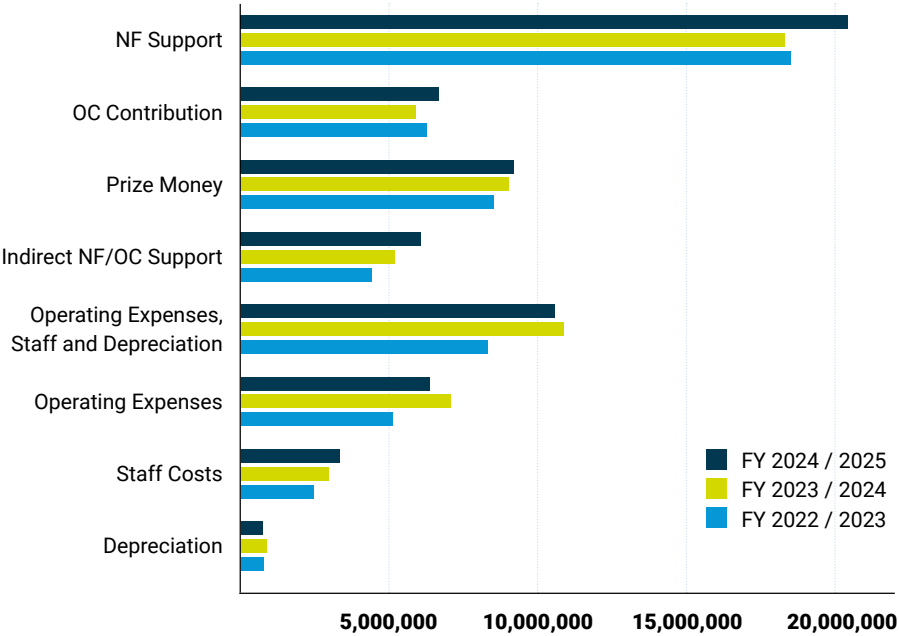
An analysis of expenses by category shows that **NF Support** and **OC Contributions** increased by EUR 3.1 million due to higher revenues. Together with **Indirect NF/OC Support**, they represent **64%** of total expenses. A further **17%** was allocated to prize money for athletes. The remaining **19%** was spent on overhead (operating expenses, staff costs and depreciation).

THREE-YEAR COMPARISON OF INCOME AND EXPENSES



The three-year comparison highlights a strong and consistent increase in total income, from EUR 47.5 million in 2022/2023 to EUR 56.2 million in

2024/2025. The additional revenues were primarily directed toward support for NFs, OCs and athletes.



Overhead costs - covering operating expenses, staff costs, and depreciation — have been kept under control despite the increased scale of operations.

EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT / EXPENSE	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025	FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024
Total Income (incl. IOC revenue)	€ 56,236,547	€ 52,394,924
Sport & Event (incl. payments NFs, OCs, Prize Money)	- € 35,506,904	- € 34,504,314
Communications	- € 3,551,154	- € 2,792,034
BIU	- € 2,801,000	- € 2,062,789
Development	- € 5,592,779	- € 5,974,529
Finance & Administration	- € 3,690,538	- € 3,172,193
Strategy & Sustainability	- € 3,202,327	- € 1,926,643
Total Costs	- € 54,344,702	- € 50,432,502
Operating Result	€ 1,891,845	€ 1,962,422

**Note:** Departmental income is shown in “Total Income” and is not deducted from the department’s expenses. NF Support and OC Contributions are allocated to departments based on their respective responsibilities.

This overview shows the expenses by department compared with the previous year. The increase in Sport & Event and Strategy & Sustainability is primarily due to higher NF Support allocations.

RESTRICTED RESERVES

The IBU maintains two types of restricted reserves as part of its prudent financial management.

**Restricted Reserves according to Congress Decision:** The Congress has decided that restricted reserves must be at least as high as the total expenditure for the respective financial year. Accordingly, the Executive Board allocated EUR 2.7 million in 2024/2025 to increase the reserve to EUR 54.3 million, in line with this requirement.

**Temporarily Restricted Reserves:** The Executive Board has further resolved to distribute IOC funds over the Olympic quadrennium, holding them in a temporarily restricted reserve. In 2024/2025, EUR 4.3 million of this reserve was released for use, leaving a remaining balance of EUR 6.2 million as at 30 April 2025.

RESTRICTED RESERVES		
30 Apr 24	Restricted Reserves according to Congress	€ 51,620,000
	Allocation 2024/25	€ 2,725,000
30 Apr 25	Restricted Reserves according to Congress	€ 54,345,000

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED RESERVES		
30 Apr 24	Temporarily Restricted Reserves	€ 10,460,000
	Release 2024/25	- € 4,300,000
30 Apr 25	Temporarily Restricted Reserves	€ 6,160,000



# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

## IT OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The IT security project - including cloud-based solutions and enhanced authorisation protocols - and the CRM implementation remain long-term initiatives. The CRM, together with the portal for National Federations (NFs) and Organising Committees (OCs) (IBU Scope 2.1), streamlines the processing of funding projects and can also be adapted for other purposes, thereby improving overall efficiency. In the future, the CRM is expected to interact with our Membercenter, reducing the need for updates, emails, and inquiries.

Microsoft 365 tools such as SharePoint, Teams, and OneDrive support fast communication, document management, and collaboration. To fully exploit their potential, usage concepts are continuously refined and new features integrated promptly.

Cyber security remains a priority, with ongoing updates and the development of an IT emergency manual for rapid crisis response. All PCs and notebooks have been upgraded to Windows 11, ensuring better performance, security, and software compatibility for the 2025/26 season.

Staff training in the reporting year focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Office 365. Tailored departmental sessions are being developed to enhance collaboration, project execution, and organisational efficiency.

## OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

In close collaboration with the IBU's Data Protection Officer, processes are continuously reviewed and adapted. The mandatory annual training sessions are an important part of improving our understanding of data protection.

The authorisation rules, along with all other internal guidelines, are regularly assessed and updated as necessary to reflect best practices and operational needs. Furthermore, the association's insurance policies are reviewed annually to ensure that all significant risks are adequately covered, while also seeking opportunities to expand coverage or secure more favorable premiums.

## IBU EVENT AND MARKETING GMBH

In preparation for the upcoming Loop One Festival to be held in Munich in October 2025, the **IBU Event and Marketing GmbH** was established as a wholly owned subsidiary of the association. The company is a limited liability company (GmbH) incorporated under Austrian law, with its registered office in Anif, and a share capital of EUR 100,000. Max Cobb has been appointed as Managing Director, with Daniel Böhm and Hannes Kleineisen serving as authorised signatories.

Establishing the company provides the most effective and advantageous framework for organising the event, while also creating additional operational flexibility. For example, certain procurement processes are now managed directly through the company.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEADERSHIP

Since February 1, 2025, Mr. Hannes Kleineisen has assumed the role of Director of Finance and Administration of the IBU.

Mr. Kleineisen joins the IBU from Molecular Devices, a leading company in bioanalytical measurement solutions in the Life Sciences sector, where he first served as Finance Manager for Austria and later advanced to Finance Director for Europe. Prior to that, he worked in the semiconductor industry, and before this he gained several years of valuable experience at an auditing firm. He holds a Master's degree in Business Education.

Over the years, he has developed extensive expertise in an international business environment. His leadership focus is on ensuring compliance across all areas and fostering a continuous improvement mindset to optimise processes and position Finance and Administration as a reliable, value-adding business partner within the organisation. Equally important to him is a culture of mutual respect and collaboration within the team, with the aim of contributing together to the positive development of the IBU.

Beyond his professional background, Mr. Kleineisen is a passionate biathlon fan and an avid outdoor sports enthusiast.







**BIATHLON  
INTEGRITY  
UNIT**



ABOUT THE BIATHLON INTEGRITY UNIT

Since its creation, the BIU has become essential to ensuring clean, fair and safe competition in biathlon. Over the past year, the BIU has enhanced its systems, partnerships and community support.

We've deepened our understanding of current pressures and risks in biathlon, leading to more targeted responses in anti-doping, ethical conduct, safeguarding and governance. Operating independently, the BIU manages testing, investigations, case management and prevention, with a strong emphasis on education for athletes, coaches, officials and support staff.

Collaboration with National Federations has improved, focusing on governance standards and capacity building. A new governance framework for these federations is under development to promote transparency and accountability.

The BIU has also expanded its external partnerships with law enforcement, anti-doping organisations and international safeguarding bodies, enhancing our ability to respond to risks.

Internally, the BIU has strengthened its structures to meet the sport's growing demands. Our Board provides independent oversight, and we have added expertise in safeguarding and intelligence. Our team, a mix of freelance experts and permanent staff, brings diverse skills, making us more agile and better equipped to support the biathlon community.

This year, the BIU has become more visible and active, yet our focus remains on protecting biathlon's integrity and supporting those who contribute to its success.



*Greg McKenna*

GREG MCKENNA  
HEAD OF BIU

GREG MCKENNA  
HEAD OF BIU

LUCAS HARRATI  
UNIT LAWYER

JULIA COOK  
GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR

LUCIE ROTHAUER  
PREVENTION MANAGER

FELICITAS TONG  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

LINN GUSTAFSSON  
TESTING COORDINATOR

KATHARINA GATTERER  
EDUCATION AND  
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

FIONA LANGLOIS  
INVESTIGATOR

CADRE INVESTIGATORS

OPERATIONAL INSIGHT



STRENGTHENING RULES AND GOVERNANCE

The BIU's rules review process remains central to ensuring that regulatory frameworks stay effective and fair. Insights from investigations and disciplinary cases feed into continuous updates, benchmarked against international standards. This approach led to tangible refinements in 2024 and supported wider governance efforts, including a dedicated workshop at the IBU Congress in Serbia.

NATIONAL FEDERATION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The formal launch of the NF Governance Framework marked a major step forward in supporting stronger, more consistent governance across the biathlon community. A new Governance Coordinator role was created to help NFs meet the framework's standards through tailored support and resources. The framework's introduction at the Congress workshop reflects the IBU and BIU's long-term commitment to raising governance standards for all member federations.

EXPLORING INNOVATION: VOICE ANALYSIS PILOT

In 2024, the BIU launched a pilot of AI-enabled voice analysis provided by ClearSpeed. Trialled at key IBU events with voluntary athlete participation, the project tested the technologies value in flagging potential doping-related risks. While the sample was limited and logistics presented challenges, the technology showed promise as a scalable tool to supplement intelligence gathering and vetting. The BIU remains open to further collaboration in this space.

At the same Congress, the BIU supported accreditation and piloted an electronic voting system (Votebox), which delivered increased speed and transparency. Although only one vacancy was filled, the success of this pilot means an electronic system will be fully implemented at the 2026 Congress.

TARGETING CLEAN SPORT THROUGH WHEREABOUTS DATA

The BIU continues to prioritise the athlete whereabouts system, not only for anti-doping testing but also as a strategic intelligence tool. Efforts in 2024 focused on refining how this data is monitored and cross-referenced to identify patterns, anomalies and early warning signs. This intelligence-led approach strengthens the BIU's ability to act swiftly and precisely.

CAS DECISION: ANDERS BESSEBERG

In 2024, CAS upheld multiple breaches of the IBU Integrity Code by former IBU President Anders Besseberg, confirming serious ethical misconduct including conflicts of interest and improper benefits. The ruling reinforces the importance of oversight, integrity and accountability in sports governance and highlights the value of the BIU's independent role.



MAY 2024  
RTP UPDATED

The BIU finalised the IBU Registered Testing Pool (RTP), including 50 male and 50 female athletes, based on a thorough risk assessment. RTP members must comply with WADA's whereabouts requirements.

JUNE 2024  
BIU BOARD MEETING IN LENZERHEIDE

Whereas most of the BIU Board meetings are held online, once or twice a year the meeting is held in person. On this basis, the BIU Board met on 11 June in Lenzerheide (SUI) to review the season and discuss strategies, projects and other important topics.

JULY 2024  
DEALING WITH THE HEAT AND PREVENTING OVERTRAINING

Dr Carolin Kilian, a specialist in sports medicine, shared advice on safe training in hot or humid conditions. Factors like hydration, fitness and acclimatisation affect how athletes adapt. Her key message: reduce both the intensity and duration of exercise on hot days to avoid overtraining.

AUGUST 2025  
BIU ATHLETE OUTREACH AT SBWCH IN OTEPÄÄ

Athlete Outreach was conducted at the Summer Biathlon World Championships in Otepää, creating valuable opportunities for dialogue between athletes and the Biathlon Integrity Unit. The team addressed key questions on anti-doping and safeguarding, reinforcing athletes' commitment to clean and fair sport.



**CONFLICT OF INTEREST – EXPLANATORY VIDEO**

In support of the requirements for all IBU employees and IBU officials to declare any relevant Conflict of Interest, please watch this short video. The video explains the concept of Conflict of Interest - along with the requirements for reporting and declaration.

**SEPTEMBER 2024  
CAS REJECTS SLEPTSOVA AND USTYGOV APPEALS**

The BIU and IBU welcomed the CAS decision in the cases of former athletes Svetlana Sleptsova and Evgeny Ustyugov. The Court dismissed their appeals, upholding the original rulings on their respective anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs).

**BIU'S GOOD GOVERNANCE ROLE AT THE IBU CONGRESS**

The BIU underlined its role in assisting the IBU in ensuring that good governance practices are developed by all NFs that are full members of the IBU. In practice, this means the BIU is there to help NFs in defining their good governance goals, and support them as they are implemented. Specifically, the BIU supported the IBU during the IBU Congress in Belgrade, overseeing the election processes and voting procedures

NOVEMBER 2024  
CAS REJECTS NEXT USTYGOV APPEAL

The BIU and IBU welcomed the CAS decision confirming Evgeny Ustyugov's Anti-Doping Rule Violation. The CAS Appeals Division upheld findings from the Anti-Doping Division, which determined anomalies in Ustyugov's Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) indicated an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

**BIU LAUNCHES BLOG**

To strengthen communication on integrity matters, the BIU aims to regularly engage with athletes, staff and the wider biathlon community. But with a small team and a big world, the BIU has launched a short blog series to share updates every month or two. The first post, by @gregmckenna-biu, covers his work at the IBU Congress in Belgrade.



Scan the QR code to access the BIU's blog and dive deeper.



**VALUES-BASED ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION AT THE IBU-IOC CAMP**

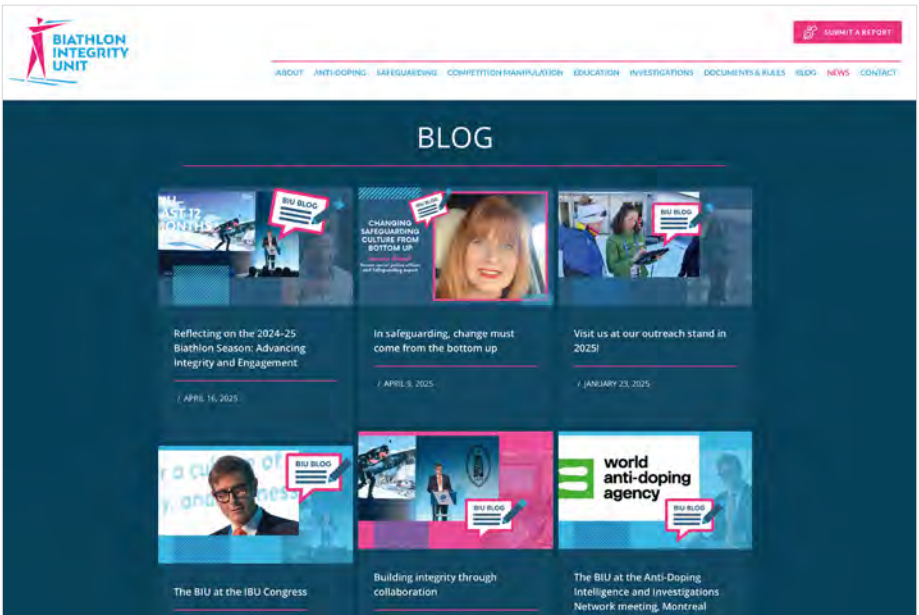
The BIU contributed to the IBU-IOC Camp in Martell, Italy, which gathered together 54 athletes and 14 coaches from 14 NFs for a week of training and knowledge exchange. The programme combined practical sessions with theoretical lessons, and the BIU delivered an anti-doping education session focused on how personal and sporting values guide athletes' choices.

DECEMBER 2024  
MONA BRORSSON ELECTED TO WADA ATHLETE COUNCIL

Olympic gold medallist Mona Brorsson was elected to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) Athlete Council Group 2 for 2025-2027. The Swede was amongst eight members to be elected following an election held virtually via an online voting platform between 10 and 12 December. The election was open to International Federation (IF) Athlete Commissions (ACs) and saw 55 out of the 60 IF ACs cast votes.

**GOOD GOVERNANCE PROJECT**

The BIU launched a new project to strengthen governance standards across biathlon's NFs. Good governance ensures transparency, accountability and ethical decision-making are embedded in organisational practices. The project includes assessing current NF practices and developing a comprehensive framework covering core principles, ethical standards and compliance guidelines.







**JANUARY 2025**  
**MENTAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP LAUNCHED**

An initial meeting of a newly-established Mental Health Working Group was held on 20 January as part of an initiative by the IBU and BIU to prioritise mental health in athletes, coaches and support teams. The working group aims to meet every two months until November to work on potential pathways, not only to enhance mental health services in the sport but also to promote overall wellbeing throughout the biathlon community.

**SAFE HARBOUR PROJECT**

The IBU, with BIU support, is one of only two International Federations participating in Safe Harbour - a project to strengthen safeguarding in European sport. Running until June 2027, it will assess current practices, identify gaps and help build a continent-wide response framework.

**FEBRUARY 2025**  
**BIU HANDLES INTEGRITY MATTERS AT IBU PARA BIATHLON WCHs**

The BIU oversaw all integrity matters, including the Anti-Doping Programme, at the IBU Para Biathlon World Championships in Pokljuka/SLO. This followed the IBU's decision to assume responsibility for organising and governing all Para Biathlon events from this season. Testing was conducted by SLOADO, Slovenia's anti-doping agency, on behalf of the BIU.

**BIU COOPERATES WITH SSI AT IBU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The BIU cooperated with Swiss Sport Integrity (SSI) on anti-doping and integrity matters during the IBU World Championships in Lenzerheide, Switzerland. The cooperation began in advance of the championships with a plan to implement and maintain a professional and effective anti-doping testing plan during the event.

**ENGAGING WITH YOUNG ATHLETES AT THE IBU YOUTH AND JUNIOR WCHs**

At the IBU Youth and Junior World Championships in Östersund, the BIU hosted outreach and seminar sessions on integrity topics. Athletes, coaches and team members visited the BIU's booth to ask questions, test their knowledge and learn how the BIU helps keep biathlon clean. It was encouraging to see young athletes actively engaged in our seminar on doping control because understanding the process is key to fair sport.

**MARCH 2025**  
**BIU ACKNOWLEDGES CAS AWARD IN BESSEBERG CASE**

The BIU acknowledged the CAS award in the case concerning former IBU President Anders Besseberg. The CAS ruling imposes a lifetime ban from all future elected or appointed positions within the sport due to severe breaches of integrity: prolonged unethical conduct, including the receipt of inappropriate gifts and benefits, and the failure to prevent or challenge unethical practices.

**WADA SYMPOSIUM**

The Annual WADA Symposium is a key moment for collaboration within the anti-doping community, bringing together experts and stakeholders from around the world. The BIU participated in great discussions and valuable exchanges, with Mona Brorsen representing athletes as a member of WADA's Athlete Council Group 2.



**APRIL 2025**  
**WADA PLAY TRUE DAY**

On #PlayTrueDay, we celebrated the true spirit of fair play and respect in biathlon. These moments of mutual recognition, shared celebration and support remind us that while we compete for different teams, we share the same values.



Scan here for the BIU's annual report.



BIU PODCASTS

Throughout the May 2024 to April 2025 period, the BIU prepared a series of podcasts exploring essential topics in biathlon and sports integrity. Each episode features expert interviews, providing valuable insights into key areas such as the doping control process, the essence of team spirit and the importance of maintaining good whereabouts habits. The series also covers crucial nutrition advice for biathletes and delves into critical conversations on safeguarding in sport. These discussions offer both expert perspectives and personal stories, emphasising the significance of athlete protection and support.



MAY 2024  
WADA LABS AND THE DOPING CONTROL PROCESS

Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes of anti-doping tests? The BIU sat down with Gunter Gmeiner, head of the WADA-accredited laboratory in Seibersdorf, Austria, to uncover what it takes to become a WADA-approved lab and walk through the fascinating step-by-step process of testing an athlete’s sample.



JULY 2024  
SUMMER OF TEAM SPIRIT

To kick off our Summer of Team Spirit, the BIU sat down with sports psychologist Katharina Albertin. She defined team spirit as “saying yes to a goal and pursuing it together” - and explained how clarity around roles, responsibilities and the path to that goal lays the foundation for a truly united team.



AUGUST 2024  
GOOD WHEREABOUTS HABITS

U.S. biathlete Chloe Levins shared why she believes strong athlete whereabouts habits are essential - not just for complying with the World Anti-Doping Code but for protecting fairness in biathlon. Once athletes reach a certain level and enter the testing pool, Levins explained, they take on a responsibility to uphold the sport’s integrity.



Scan the Code  
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on Spotify



OCTOBER 2024  
NUTRITION ADVICE FOR BIATHLETES

Sports nutritionist Judith Haudum offered valuable insights into the power of healthy eating. Drawing from her experience in team and endurance sports — and her current role at the University and State Sports Centre in Salzburg (a recognised Olympic centre as a premier training facility for elite athletes) - Haudum highlighted the essential role of nutrition: “A healthy body is the foundation of success.”



FEBRUARY 2025  
CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

The BIU caught up with Jessica Jislova, the athlete representative on biathlon’s new Mental Health Working Group, to talk about why mental well-being matters now more than ever in elite sport.



MARCH 2025  
ABUSE IN SPORT – THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFEGUARDING FOR NFS

In two powerful podcast interviews, we delved into the critical issue of safeguarding - through both expert insight and personal experience. Nicola Bithell, safeguarding specialist and head of safeguarding at Accrington Stanley Women FC, drew on her background as a former police investigator in high-profile abuse cases to stress the vital role NFs play in preventing abuse and protecting athletes. Meanwhile, Brazilian Olympian Joanna Maranhão shared her deeply personal journey — from surviving abuse by her coach at age nine to becoming a leading voice for change.

The BIU encourages anyone with information relating to any sort of wrongdoing, no matter how minor the information may be, to make contact. Information can be passed on anonymously via the whistleblower portal, which is accessible through the BIU website. Alternatively, access to a member of the BIU is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by calling +43 662 85 50 50 16. Again, anything discussed will remain in confidence with the BIU.



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